

KNUTSFORD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5 December 2011

11/0146 Present

Cllr S A Gardiner (Town Mayor)
Cllr Mrs V Davies (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr P D Coan
Cllr Ms B Emmett
Cllr N R Forbes
Cllr S G Hutchence
Cllr A Malloy
Cllr P S Raynes
Cllr Ms B H Coan
Cllr J Goodrich

Also in attendance

S. McQuade (Town Clerk)

11/0147 Apologies

Cllr G Lasham (Business)
Cllr C Nicholson (Pers Business)
Cllr Mrs J A Nicholson (Pers Business)
Cllr A Dean (Pers Business)
Cllr M J Houghton (Business)

11/0148 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

11/0149 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of 10 October be approved and signed, subject to the following amendments:

- 11/0122 – Cllr Goodrich be recorded as on Personal Business.

- 11/0136 – That the name of the Sub Committee be corrected in the terms of reference presented.
- 11/0141 – That ‘Clerk’s’ replace ‘Clerks’ in the item title.
- 11/0144 – That the item on the 11th October read ‘30’ not ‘£0’ and that on the item for 4th November ‘ANR’ be replaced with ‘ANPR’

11/0150 *Public participation*

Charlotte Peters-Rock provided an update on the KAFKA petition which had exceeded 3000 signatures and therefore had triggered the requirement for a full council debate at Cheshire east Council.

11/0151 *To receive a presentation from The Crown Estate*

Due to illness a representative was unable to attend and the item would be rescheduled for the meeting in February.

11/0152 *To receive a report from the Healthcare Working Group and to consider the Council’s response to the consultation*

Cllr Malloy provided an update and summarised the draft conclusions of the response.

Resolved: That the response be issued subject to minor presentational changes to be made by the Working Group.

11/0153 *To authorise the Chairman of the Events Subcommittee and the Town Clerk to enter into a dialogue with various partners and suppliers in connection with the Olympic Torch Relay*

The Mayor explained the reasons behind seeking a resolution.

Resolved: That authorisation be given to the Chairman of the Events Subcommittee and the Town Clerk to enter into the dialogue with various partners and suppliers in connection with the Olympic Torch Relay.

11/0154 *External events*

Cllr Davies provided an update with regard to three events:

- 1) LAP Meeting – Issued covered included Highways, contact with young peoples’ groups, feedback from the Area assembly and the use of ANPR systems.
- 2) Embrace the Games meeting – The focus of the meeting was o the arrangements around the Olympic Torch Relay which is due to pass though Knutsford on 31st May.
- 3) Town and Parish Council Conference – Matters raised included preparations for the

Jubilee, a budget presentation from Cheshire East, changes to Planning consultations, an update on the local plan and access to broadband.

11/0155 To consider a report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Forbes reported on the most recent meeting and indicated that:

- 1) Matters related to 60 King Street were discussed.
- 2) Grants in relation to two applications were considered, one of which would be resubmitted, the other application related to Knutsford in Bloom had received a favourable reception and would be formally considered again after setting of the precept. The Committee had recorded its thanks for their good work to date, and noted that Knutsford in Bloom's sustainable planting policy had resulted in a year on year reduction in the amount requested, it was resolved to agree the grant in principal subject to:
 - i. The suggested precept recommendation for the grants and donations total annual budget be agreed by full council in January 2012.
 - ii. The precept request being accepted by Cheshire East Borough Council and the first stage payment received in April 2012.
 - iii. Knutsford in Bloom together with its Town Council representatives clarify exactly how much CEBC will be charging Knutsford in Bloom for its watering service for 2012/13 as the amount had been the subject of some confusion and could result in a smaller grant amount being requested and given.
- 3) Budgets of the Committee and the Environment Committee had been reviewed and fed into an overall budget which at present indicated there may be a recommendation for a slight reduction in precept. This was based on the current position and excluded matters related to any asset transfer.
- 4) The policy on VAT had been reviewed and it was resolved to make no change to current ways of working.
- 5) Reports were received from the various working groups.

The **ICT** working group reported that it was seeking quotations from various suppliers for an improved website to meet an updated specification and that a Twitter account had been set up to aid the council promoting its activities

The **Economic Regeneration** working group reported that it was planning to meet with representatives from CEBC and the LAP to progress matters.

- 6) Spending was on track and the Committee had scheduled a special meeting for 19th December to consider further the budget and precept recommendations. This was necessary due to the delays regarding data requested from CEBC in connection with potential Asset Transfers from CEBC to KTC.

11/0156 To consider a report from the Planning and Licensing Committee

Cllr Raynes reported on the most recent Planning and Licensing Committee meetings. During that period 21 applications had been considered. The next meeting on the 19th December may include a presentation on the Local Plan by Cheshire East Council.

11/0157 To consider a report from the Environment Committee

An update from Cllr Nicholson was provided which covered Christmas events, provision of benches and the provision of Town centre signage.

Cllr B Coan provided a further update on matters related to the Christmas Lights, markets and Crib service which had successfully taken place over the previous weekend.

11/0158 To receive a report on the latest Councillor Surgery

Cllrs Davies and Emmet Reported that no Members of the public had attended the surgery.

11/0159 To receive an update from the Transfer of Assets Working Group

Cllr Forbes provided an update and resume of the recent history and key events over the past six months. The latest position was that the Working Group was unable to make recommendations to Council until such time as critically important data was made available by Cheshire East Council. Cllr Forbes explained the need to establish a Working Group comprising of the members of the Personnel Committee to undertake a review of what structures and roles may be required were transfer options to proceed.

Resolved: That a Working Group composed of the members of the Personnel Committee be established to consider structures and roles related to the potential transfer of assets.

The Mayor undertook to contact Cheshire East to press for rapid progress.

11/0160 To consider matters related to the provision of Town Centre Management

Members were made aware of the changes planned by Cheshire East that would result in the withdrawal of the Town Centre Manager from Knutsford. A number of options were available to address the circumstance should it be confirmed.

Resolved: That the Personnel Committee Working Group consider the matter as part of their deliberations on roles and structures.

11/0161 To receive a report relating to the operation of the Cemetery

Cllr Goodrich reported on the ongoing discussions related to cemeteries provision and

indicated that further information would be forthcoming in March.

11/0162 To receive and note the Town Clerk's Report

- 1) The schedule of payments was reviewed, those for note were noted and those for approval were approved by **resolution**.
- 2) A point of order was taken in relation to the engagement of professional advice, it was agreed that this item be debated under the item on the transfer of assets. It was **resolved** that authority be given to the Town Clerk and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee to approach potential suppliers to obtain cost estimates for the provision of professional services in relation to the transfer of assets.
- 3) The Clerk informed Members on the latest position with regard to ANPR systems in the Town and indicated that officers at Cheshire East were progressing the issue via other bodies due to the Council be ineligible to apply for funding.
- 4) The Clerk took questions in relation to the survey of benches in the Town and the use of a Twitter account.

11/0163 To receive a report from Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr Raynes updated Members in connection with matters related to the visitor economy, preparations for the Jubilee and preparations for the winter weather and festivities. For further information, see links below.

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/christmas for Christmas events.

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/winter for winter arrangements in Cheshire East.

11/0164 To receive a report on Mayoral duties undertaken

The Town Mayor reported on his attendance at the following events and meetings as follows:

- **11th November** - I held two minutes silence outside the Council Offices; to remember those who died in the Two World Wars and in conflicts since. I would like to thank all those who attended this event and Wilson Hamman for officiating.
- **13th November** - My Consort & I attended a number of events to mark Remembrance Sunday including early morning Communion at St Cross Church, wreath laying at the Over Knutsford Memorial, the Parade and Service at St John's and I laid wreaths at the Red Cross Hospital and the Paratroopers Memorial in Tatton Park.
- **14th November** - My Consort & I attended the Ceremony at the Lyceum in Crewe, creating 6 new Alderman for Cheshire East including Mr Tony Ranfield, a former

Mayor of this Town.

- **16th November** - I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Nether Knutsford Freeholders Association.
- **18th November** - I attended the Year 6 debate at the High School, where children from all Knutsford's state primary schools and those in neighbouring Parishes debated a wide range of topic including 'Do Zoo's do more harm than good?' and 'Are the Olympics a waste of money?'
- **19th November** - My Consort & I attended a Concert performed by the Robert's Bakery Brass Band and held on behalf of the Royal British Legion at the Methodist Church.
- **20th November** - My Consort and I attended the Mass of Christ the King at St Vincent's and had coffee with the Parishioners afterwards.
- **23rd November** - I held discussions with Mrs Val Bryant of the Knutsford Heritage Centre about future plans for the centre.
- **24th November** - The Deputy Mayor and I attended the Conference for Cheshire Town and Parish Councils in Congleton.
- **25th November** - I unveiled a Blue Plaque to Henry Royce, which is to be displayed on the outside of the new Show Room on Manchester Road. I was lucky enough to be transport to and from the event in a Rolls Royce car; the first time I have ever travelled in one.
- **26th November** - I opened the Christmas Bazaar at the Brook Street Chapel.
- **27th November** - My Consort and I attended the Advent Carol Service at St Cross Church.
- **1st December** – My Consort and I attended the Cubs & Beaver's Carol Service where we enjoyed a performance of a puppet show called Shepherd Spy – a new take on the Nativity Story.

- **2nd December** - I opened the Knutsford Christmas Market with Oli Webb – a Big Thank you to all involved in making the event such a great success. I also helped Jessica Pottle, our May Queen and George Osborne, our MP to turn on the Christmas Lights.

It was a great evening the Police estimate there were 3000 people in the square when the switch on occurred. Well done to all the performers; not one of whom was professional this year.

- **3rd December** - My Consort and I attended the Christmas Extravaganza at St Cross Church in the afternoon. I revisited the Market to thank the stall holders for attending. In the evening my Consort and I attended the Christmas performance by Opus 5 at the Brook Street Chapel.
- **4th December** - My Consort and I attended the Crib Service outside the Old Town Hall (formerly Allen & Appleyards.) My thanks go to Rev Paul Wilson, Mereside Brass and the Knutsford Star Choir.

The Deputy Mayor reported attendance at the Tatton Singers Concert on the 19th November.

11/0165 Public Participation

Denise Roberts asked why no Christmas Tree was in position outside the Council Offices. The Mayor replied that only one tree was provided and the best location for that was believed to be in Canute Place.

Mr Taylor asked if the Torch Relay would include disabled people. It was confirmed that this would be the case.

Charlotte Peters-Rock asked members to note the level of Police present at the recent consultation event and applauded Members of the Health Care Working Group for their work.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 20:40 and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.