

Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 10th September 2018 In the Lower Council Chamber of the Town Council Offices

18/054 Present

Cllrs Coan, Malloy, Beswick, Dean, Forbes, Gray, Mrs Gray, Nicholson, Power and Wells-Bradshaw.

In attendance: A Keppel-Green (*Town Clerk*)

18/055 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Goodrich, Mrs Wells-Bradshaw (business), Farber, Hutchence and Gardiner (personal business)

18/056 To receive declarations of members' interests

Cllr Coan	Non-pecuniary	18/072	Known to complainant
	Pecuniary	18/064	Owns land adjacent to the playing field
Cllr Mrs Gray	Non-pecuniary	18/063	Member of Friends of the Heath
Cllr Gray	Non-pecuniary	18/063	Member of Friends of the Heath
Cllr Forbes	Non-pecuniary	18/065	Being disabled
Cllr Nicholson	Non-pecuniary	18/072	Known to complainant

18/057 Public Participation

A resident drew the council's attention to the pre-application planning advice on offer from Historic England which could be utilised for in planning for works to the Council Offices.

A representative of the Knutsford and District Neighbourhood Forum spoke in objection to the plans for the demolition of the War Memorial Cottage Hospital questioning the rights of the NHS to dispose of the building in 1995.

A representative of Knutsford Residents of Over Ward thanked the Town Council for its work on opposing the disposal of land at Longridge/Higher Downs and stating that the group was seeking a meeting with the Acting Chief Executive at Cheshire East Council.

A resident spoke in objection to the demolition of the War Memorial Cottage Hospital stating that the applicant would be required to make a s106 contribution regardless of the council's support and that changing the council's comments on this would set a bad precedent.

A resident thanked the Town Council for working with Friends of the Heath on its guidance

for events on the Heath.

A resident stated their objection to the location of the Makers Market and highlighted the disruption it caused to residents on Silk Mill Street. The resident expressed safety concerns about emergency access whilst the market was on.

18/058 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held 16th July

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes.

18/059 To note the minutes of committees which have been published since the previous meeting

The minutes were noted.

18/060 To consider supporting the Knutsford Lions Primary School Poetry Competition

The meeting was adjourned to allow a representative of the Knutsford Lions to address the Council. The meeting was subsequently reconvened and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council support the event as outlined and that the Lions apply for funding towards the competition through the Council Grants Scheme.

18/061 To consider planning application 18/0089M – Memorial House, Northwich Road

The meeting was adjourned to allow a representative of McCarthy and Stone to address the Council. McCarthy and Stone stated that it was not commercially viable to retain the existing building due to its position on site and the internal configuration and stated that taking on board local concerns they had offered a significant portion of their s106 contribution to be put towards the provision of new healthcare facilities. The meeting was reconvened.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council's previous objections stand.

It was requested that the vote be recorded:

<i>For</i>	Cllrs Malloy, Beswick, Forbes, Nicholson, Power and Wells-Bradshaw.
<i>Against</i>	Cllrs Dean, Gray and Mrs Gray
<i>Abstention</i>	Cllr Coan

18/062 To receive reports from members

Cllr Dean reported on attendance at a meeting of the Community Rail Partnership where it was noted that the poor performance of the line was mainly due to Network Rail.

Cllr Power reported that he had met with Esther McVey MP to discuss concerns about increasing air traffic at Manchester Airport and the impact on Knutsford residents.

Cllr Dean reported he had attended the council Makers Market stall where he noted that 7/10 visitors are from outside Knutsford. Cllr Dean requested the Council consider the stall at the market at the next meeting, noting that it was not being sufficiently staffed by councillors.

Cllr Malloy reported on holding a drop-in meeting at the Welcome Café to discuss bus services which was well attended by residents from across Knutsford. The consensus was

that residents wish to see a return of the Town Circular bus and concerns about D&Gs 'Hail and Ride' service.

18/063 To receive reports from and raise questions to Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr Dean reported he had met with the Portfolio Holder to discuss the proposed disposal of land at Longridge/Higher Downs and that the legal advice received was that it was not possible to proceed with overturning the covenant and that two of the major parties had refused to agree its release.

18/064 To consider adopting the Friends of the Heath guidance for events on the Heath

The Mayor read an email from the agents of the owner of the Heath requesting the item be deferred to allow them time to input on the guidance. The meeting was adjourned to allow a representative of Friends of the Heath to address the Council and provide a background to the development of the document. The meeting was reconvened and it was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of the guidance to the next meeting to allow for input from the owner of the Heath.

18/065 To consider matters related to the potential sale of Open Space land at Longridge/Higher Downs by Cheshire East Council

The Town Clerk reported that the application to register the land as an Asset of Community Value had been refused by Cheshire East Council on the grounds that it was not possible to demonstrate use of the asset by groups rather than individuals. The Town Clerk reported that a response had been sent to Cheshire East Council's latest consultation on the disposal of the land and that a meeting was being sought with the Portfolio Holder.

The meeting was adjourned to allow a representative of Knutsford Residents of Over Ward to address the Council. The representative expressed that should the decision be taken to dispose of the land that the group would be seeking to ensure that rather than a disposal that the road is facilitated through the planning system. The meeting was reconvened.

18/066 To consider a recommendation from the Assets and Operations Committee to amend the scope of the Council Offices refurbishment and project progression

The report was discussed briefly prior to a five-minute adjournment.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the revised scope of works for the refurbishment of the council offices subject to change once final costings are confirmed.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to a business plan detailing how the loan would be repaid that the capital works reserve be earmarked for the project and that approval in principle be given to borrowing to finance the balance of works.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Council Offices Sub-Committee to commission an architect to progress the project to tender.

18/067 To consider a recommendation from the Assets and Operations Committee to terminate the SLA for the management of Knutsford Cemetery and directly manage the cemetery from January 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that notice be given to Cheshire East Council to end the service level agreement and that the Town Council resume direct management of the cemetery with effect January 2020 in accordance with the review report.

It was **RESOLVED** to request that funding towards the purchase and landscaping of an extension to the cemetery be included in any s106 agreements Cheshire East Council progresses before Community Infrastructure Levy is introduced.

18/068 To consider the council's corporate risk register

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the register subject to reference to the public toilet works delaying the requirement for a quinquennial building survey.

18/069 To receive a report of Mayoral Duties

The Mayor reported on attendance at events as detailed in Annex A.

18/070 To note payments

The payments were noted.

18/071 Member questions to the Town Clerk

It was requested that the Makers Market be placed on the next Events Committee agenda and that the council stall at the Makers Market be placed on the next Council agenda.

It was requested that a meeting be arranged with the Police to discuss drug misuse in Knutsford.

18/072 Public Participation

A resident applauded the Council's decision to take on management of the Cemetery and suggested that the consideration should be given to merging part time roles to ensure that customers are not inconvenienced by the Cemetery Officer being part time. The resident further suggested that the Risk Register should include a risk relating to loan repayments.

A member of the public thanked the Council for its continued objection to the War Memorial Cottage Hospital application and suggesting that the Town Council interview the former councillor and the then CEO of the Health Authority who were involved in the decision to sell the building in 1995.

A resident clarified a statement made in the first public participation session and apologised if any offence had been caused.

18/073 To consider a complaint

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press on the grounds of the sensitivity of discussions.

The complainant was invited to remain to make a statement and take questions from members. The complainant then left the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** not to employ a third party to investigate the complaint.

It was **RESOLVED** to uphold the points raised in the initial response letter and to dismiss the complaint. It was agreed that a response letter be drafted by the Town Clerk and reviewed by the Mayor and council's solicitor and that it clarify that the council's complaints process has been exhausted.

It was **RESOLVED** to readmit the public and press.

18/074 To note date of next meeting

The date was noted.

FINAL

ANNEX A: MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

10 July to 4 September 2018

Date	Event	Attended By
11/07/2018	Mary Poppins student performance at Knutsford Academy	Mayor
12/07/2018	Celebration to mark 30 years of Stanley Day Centre	Mayor
12/07/2018	Market Hall Quiz Night	Mayor
13/07/2018	My World Graduation Event for Manor Park Primary organised by Great Places	Mayor
14/07/2018	Reward and Recognition Day – Barnardo’s Knutsford shop	Mayor
14/07/2018	Pankhurst Party organised by Tatton Conservatives	Mayor
15/07/2018	Poynton Town Council Annual Civic Service and Reception	Mayor
15/07/2018	Winsford Town Council Annual Civic Service	Mayor
17/07/2018	Manchester Airport 80 th Birthday Celebration at The Welcome Café	Mayor
18/07/2018	Knutsford in Bloom – Welcoming Judges to Knutsford	Mayor
19/07/2018	Business Networking Garden Party VIP Champagne Afternoon Tea at Sunrise Senior Living	Mayor
20/07/2018	Abbeyfield Knutsford Society Summer Party	Mayor
21/07/2018	Bollington Mayor’s Black-Tie Charity Fundraiser	Mayor
24/07/2018	Floral Walk Show Windows Competition Presentation	Mayor
26/07/2018	Front Gardens Competition Judging	Mayor
29/07/2018	Poynton Mayor Fundraising Tea Party	Mayor
30/07/2018	Presentation of Certificates for winning Front Gardens	Mayor
09/08/2018	Macclesfield Mayor’s Parlour Afternoon Tea	Mayor
10/08/2018	Opening of Jonty’s Fruit and Veg Stall at Market	Mayor
16/08/2018	Manchester Airport Group 8 th Birthday Stakeholder Reception	Mayor
26/08/2018	A Soldier’s Story and Cheshire East Reflects Event at Tatton Old Hall	Mayor