

# Knutsford Town Council

**Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green**

Council Offices, Toft Road, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6TA

01565 653929      www.knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

townclerk@knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



## Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 In the Lower Council Chamber of the Town Council Offices

### **18/080 Present**

Cllrs Coan, Malloy, Beswick, Dean, Gardiner, Mrs Gray, Gray, Hutchence and Power.

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

### **18/081<sup>1</sup> To hold a minute of silence in respect of the passing of Sheila O'Brien, former Mayor of Knutsford**

A minute silence was held in memory of Sheila O'Brien, Mayor of Knutsford 1979-1980, who passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### **18/082 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Forbes (personal business), Farber, Goodrich, Wells-Bradshaw and Mrs Wells-Bradshaw (business) and Nicholson (health).

### **18/083 To receive declarations of members' interests**

Cllr Gardiner declared a non-pecuniary interest in 18/089 on the grounds of being a former trustee of the Heritage Centre.

### **18/084 Public Participation**

A resident suggested moving the start of a new Strategic Plan back three months to avoid confusion with the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and adoption. Speaking on behalf of KROW she highlighted the decision made by Cheshire East Council to dispose of the public open space at Longridge and that KROW had requested ward councillors refer the decision to scrutiny which had been refused. The representative further commented on the proposals for residential development at Booths Park noting it was on safeguarded land.

A representative of the Nether Ward Community Group stated their opposition to removing the second public participation session.

A member of the public referred to an email sent to councillors regarding the Haron Baronian statue, objected to removal the second public participation session, highlighted the importance of councillor presence at the Makers Market and stated that a remembrance service would be held at the War Memorial Cottage Hospital at 11am on Remembrance Sunday.

---

<sup>1</sup> Cllrs Gardiner and Hutchence arrived at the end of this item.

A resident requested that the Mayor write to thank those who supported the council's First World War Centenary Commemorations and highlighted the importance of the Heritage Centre which was noted in the Neighbourhood Plan consultations.

**18/085 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held 10<sup>th</sup> September and 8<sup>th</sup> October**

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> September.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**18/086 To note the minutes of committees which have been published since the previous meeting**

The minutes of committee meetings were noted.

Cllr Malloy highlighted the upcoming Christmas Events and thanked Sylvia Chaplin for her work on the First World War Centenary Commemorations.

**18/087 To receive reports from members**

Cllr Dean reported on attendance at a meeting of the Community Rail Partnership stating that it was suggested that the proposed second hourly service terminate at Stockport due to the line between Stockport and Manchester being too crowded and that the partnership was lobbying in efforts to ensure it is delivered as promised. Cllr Dean confirmed that rolling stock upgrade was anticipated in November 2019.

Cllr Malloy reported on meeting with the new Great Places area manager. It was noted that 106 Longridge would be closing but that Great Places would operate out of the Welcome.

The Town Clerk reported on behalf of Cllr Forbes that Cllr Forbes had attended the Cheshire East Council Parish and Town Council conference, which he had circulated a report on, a meeting with KROW concerning the proposed disposal of land at Longridge and the Cheshire East Council decision meeting on the same. Cllr Forbes had also attended the Shaw Heath and Longridge Neighbourhood Partnership meeting and the council's Makers' Market stall.

Cllr Malloy reported that residents had raised the issue of the One Stop shop and Post Office on Mobberley Road being closed due to restructuring by Tesco and that he and the Town Centre Manager are to meet with Scottish Power Energy Networks concerning the power cuts in the Town Centre.

**18/088 To receive reports from and raise questions to Cheshire East Councillors**

In respect of the disposal of public open space at Longridge, Cllr Dean reported that the Portfolio Holder had decided to dispose of only as much land is required for the road, which would be determined by a planning application and that he was satisfied the covenant could not be overturned.

Cllr Gardiner reported that the council was in the early stages of preparing its 2019/20 budget which was likely to require an increase in council tax to meet increased costs of social care.

Cllr Gardiner answered questions on the number of children in care in Cheshire East,

explaining that the borough had around 500 children in care some of which are housed outside the area.

Cllr Dean answered questions on the disposal of public open space at Longridge, explaining that Manchester City Council had stated they would not be able to release the covenant without a significant payment due to its constitution.

**18/089 To consider a request from Knutsford Heritage Centre to provide core funding**

Cllr Gardiner left the meeting. The meeting was adjourned to allow the Chairman of trustees to address the council.

A motion to reject the request was proposed and seconded but failed.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide £5,000 core per annum with effect April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 for a period of four years on the condition of reporting of expenditure, evidence of continued fundraising efforts and subject to the Heritage Centre preparing a plan on how it will develop moving forward.

Cllr Gardiner returned to the meeting.

**18/090 To consider matters related to the Neighbourhood Plan**

The submission of the Neighbourhood Plan was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget overspend of £3,000, noting it was covered by an underspend in the previous financial year.

**18/091 To resolve that the council discontinue the manning of a stall on the Makers Market as from January 2019.**

It was **RESOLVED**<sup>2</sup> to discontinue the manning of a stall on the Makers Market as from January 2019.

**18/092 To resolve that the council removes the second public participation session from Council agendas.**

The motion was proposed and seconded but failed.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a five-minute recess.

**18/093 To consider matters related to the sale of open space land at Longridge/Higher Downs by Cheshire East Council**

The Town Clerk reported that he had spoken on behalf of the council at the decision meeting and that Cheshire East Council had determined to dispose of the land. It was explained that the Town Council was unable to seek to discharge the covenant without Cheshire East Council as the owner of the land seeking to do so.

---

<sup>2</sup> Cllrs Coan, Power, Malloy and Dean voted against this resolution.

**18/094 To consider consultation to begin the development of a 2019-2031 Strategic Plan**

It was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of developing a new Strategic Plan to the meeting following the Annual Council Meeting in 2019.

**18/095 To consider holding a 'be a councillor' evening to promote the 2019 elections**

A motion to approve the 'be a councillor' evening was proposed and seconded but failed.

**18/096 To receive a report of Mayoral Duties**

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

**18/097 To note payments**

The payments were noted.

**18/098 Member questions to the Town Clerk**

Cllr Dean asked if the Town Clerk was prepared to request that committee chairmen reviewed their budgets in light of a potentially significant rise in the precept; the Town Clerk explained that the process for budgets being set was established and that they should be reviewed by the Finance Committee before committees review them for a second time.

**18/099 Public Participation**

A resident highlighted the value of the Shaw Heath post office, noted that the bottleneck at Stockport has long been an issue, thanked councillors for their work and enquired whether there should be a standing item for councillors to declare a political whip.

A member of the public stated that councillors are representatives of the public and highlighted the importance of their engagement with the public.

A representative of Nether Ward Community Group thanked the council for retaining the second public participation session and suggested focus being on getting a train to Altrincham and changing to the Metro if a bottleneck at Stockport caused problems.

A resident suggested that Cheshire East ward councillors enquire as to the support Cheshire East Council can offer the Heritage Centre.

**18/100 To note date of next meeting**

The date was noted.

## ANNEX A: MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

5 September – 27 October 2018

Date	Event	Attended By
05/09/2018	Pub in the Park VIP Reception	Mayor
11/09/2018	Cheshire East Libraries Summer Reading Challenge Certificates Presentation at Knutsford Library	Mayor
12/09/2018	Inside Story WW1 Exhibition at Knutsford Heritage Centre	Mayor
12/09/2018	Mayor's Fundraising Gin Tasting Event	Mayor
13/09/2018	Knutsford Promenades Performance from Station to Station	Mayor
16/09/2018	Open Air Performance, Winsford Salt Fair	Mayor
18/09/2018	Tour of Alderley Park with Bruntwood	Mayor
20/09/2018	Taste Knutsford Tour	Mayor
21/09/2018	Medieval Banquet hosted by Mayor of Congleton	Mayor
23/09/2018	Civic Sunday Parade and Service for Bollington	Mayor
23/09/2018	Civic Sunday Parade and Service for Middlewich	Deputy Mayor
25/09/2018	Crewe Town Council Meeting to Unveil Mayoral Honour Boards	Mayor
27/09/2018	MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning Event organised by Knutsford Bake Club at The Courthouse	Deputy Mayor
27/09/2018	Photoshoot for Plastic Wise Knutsford	Mayor
04/10/2018	Come Dine with the Mayor Fundraising Dinner at Gusto	Mayor
06/10/2018	Dedication of Knutsford Centennial War Memorial	Mayor
07/10/2018	Mayor of Cheshire East's Civic Service	Mayor
12/10/2018	Big Hill Distillery Opening of new Distillery	Mayor
13/10/2018	Mayor of Poynton's Fundraising Quiz Night	Mayor
14/10/2018	Mayor of Nantwich's Civic Service	Mayor
14/10/2018	Welcome Service for Revd Neal Stanton at Methodist Church	Mayor
16/10/2018	They Shall Not Grow Old Screening and Satellite Q&A at The Curzon	Mayor
17/10/2018	All Shook Up Performance by Knutsford Musical Theatre Company	Mayor
20/10/2018	Unveiling of New Names on Middlewich Town War Memorial	Mayor
27/10/2018	Thank You 100 for Royal British Legion Altrincham at Altrincham Blades Ice Rink	Deputy Mayor