

Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green

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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held 4th November 2019 In the Lower Council Chamber of the Town Council Offices

In advance of the meeting the Mayor reported that Knutsford had won Gold in the North West in Bloom competition and he thanked the volunteers of Knutsford in Bloom and council officers for their work in achieving this.

The Mayor highlighted the Pumpkin Path event, congratulating officers on a successful event and thanking the Knutsford Hosts and the councillors who volunteered on the evening.

19/085 Present

Cllrs Malloy, Beswick, Coan, Forbes, Fletcher, Gray, Hamilton Coan, McCulloch, Nicholson, Power and Robertson.

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

19/086 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gardiner (civic business) Dalzell (health), Abel and Houghton (personal business).

19/087 To receive declarations of members' interests

Cllr Malloy declared a personal interest in 19/104 on the grounds of being personally known to a member of staff.

In the interests of openness Cllr Coan declared a potential prejudicial interest in 19/097 on the grounds of owning property adjacent to the playing field.

19/088 Public Participation

A resident stated they would be attending a Cheshire East Council scrutiny committee meeting to receive further information on the proposed works to the leisure centre.

19/089 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held 9th September and 15th October

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes subject to a correction to 19/061 to refer to 'police area command' in place of 'local police'.

19/090 To note the minutes of committees which have been published since the previous ordinary meeting

The minutes were noted.

19/091 To receive reports from and raise questions to Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr Dean was invited to address the meeting, providing a report which included information on the council's budget consultation and investment at Knutsford Leisure Centre. Cllr Dean reported he was pressing the cabinet for information on what they would be doing following the declaration of a climate emergency.

Cllr Parkinson (High Legh ward) reported that she was pressing for greater investment in transport to meet targets for reducing emissions. Cllr Parkinson reported that there had been no progress on changing the speed limit on the A50.

Cllr Dean responded to a question on flooding stating that tree roots had been removed from the gullies at Higher Downs and that the recent flooding was likely due to leaves and was a gully cleaning issue.

19/092 To receive reports from members

Cllr Malloy reported on attendance at a public meeting with Northern Rail where it had been reported that 80% of the promised rail infrastructure improvements had been cancelled or delayed, affecting Northern Rail's ability to deliver the services set out in the franchise. It had been reported that Northern Rail have bought all available diesel trains and that the inability to deliver a twice per hour service is due to a lack of trains and the cancelled infrastructure improvements.

Cllr Malloy further reported on a meeting with school children discussing how to reduce use of plastic, outlining that the children were looking to develop a business sustainability award.

Cllr McCulloch reported on attending the Cheshire East Council Strategic Planning board where he spoke on behalf of the council in objection to the development at Northwich Road, outlining that the committee deferred the application pending further community engagement from the developer.

19/093 To receive an update in respect of the transfer of the council offices

The Town Clerk reported that he was still awaiting confirmation from Cheshire East Council's assets department that the transfer had been referred to its legal department and that he was continuing to chase for updates regularly.

19/094 To consider matters related to Knutsford Leisure Centre

The meeting was adjourned to allow a resident to address the meeting. It was stated that whilst an investment in the leisure centre was welcomed it appears Everybody Sport and Leisure are not proposing investment in the areas needed and without consultation. The meeting was reconvened.

Cllr Fletcher left the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Robertson and Malloy and the Town Clerk meet with Everybody Sport and Leisure to discuss the proposed works.

- 19/095 To receive an update on the development of a 2019-2031 Strategic Plan**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the risk assessment and note the planned consultation in January.
- 19/096 To receive an update from the Town Centre Masterplan working group**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the consultations to take place in January/February.
- 19/097 To consider matters related to the Cheshire East Council disposal of public open space at Longridge**
The Town Clerk provided an update on the meeting held with the Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council, explaining that the Town Council was awaiting a response to the suggestion made at the meeting that Cheshire East Council place the obligation of discharging the covenant on the owner of the development site.
- 19/098 To consider matters related to the borough wide Community Governance Review**
It was **RESOLVED** to raise initial concerns as to the process being followed with respect the electorate forecasts excluding the majority of planned housebuilding.
It was **RESOLVED** to establish a working group to develop an initial response to the consultation comprising Cllrs Forbes, Dalzell, Gray, Robertson and Houghton to the working group.
- 19/099 To review the council's co-option process**
It was **RESOLVED** to make no changes to the process.
- 19/100 To note payments**
The payments were noted.
- 19/101 To receive a report of Mayoral Duties**
The Mayor reported on attendance at events as detailed below.
- 19/102 Member questions to the Town Clerk**
No questions were raised.
- 19/103 Public Participation**
No members of public wished to address the meeting.
- 19/104 To consider a recommendation from the Personnel Committee with respect a revised staffing structure**
It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press on the grounds of the sensitive nature of discussions, the Deputy Town Clerk was invited to remain.
Cllr Malloy stated whilst he did not consider his interest prejudicial, he would be leaving the meeting in the interest of ensuring the process could not be open to criticism. Cllr Malloy left the meeting.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Forbes as chairman. Cllr Coan left the meeting.
The Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the implementation of the revised staffing structure subject to consultation with affected staff.

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

19/105 To note date of next meeting

The date was noted.

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

10th September to 4th November

Date	Event	Attended By
10/09/2019	Mayor's Tapas & Wine Night at Evuna	Mayor
11/09/2019	Knutsford Hosts Queens Award for Voluntary Service Presentation	Mayor
13/09/2019	Afternoon Tea at The Welcome for Volunteer Eleanor leaving	Mayor
14/09/2019	Market Hall Open Day event	Mayor
14/09/2019	10 th Birthday event for Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe	Mayor
14/09/2019	Glamorous shop 10 th Birthday event	Mayor
14/09/2019	Presentation of Front Garden Competition certificates	Mayor
15/09/2019	Civic Service for Mobberley Parish Council	Mayor
19/09/2019	K-Club Networking breakfast event with Andy Burnham	Mayor
23/09/2019	Mayor's Cycle Tour of East Cheshire	Mayor
24/09/2019	Blood donation at Mere Hotel	Mayor
25/09/2019	Everyday Superhero Awards event for Active Cheshire	Mayor
26/09/2019	Celebration of Mike Brown's 25 th anniversary at Market Hall	Mayor
26/09/2019	MacMillan Coffee Morning Event for Knutsford Bake Club	Deputy Mayor
27/09/2019	Autumn Quiz Night for Mayor of Macclesfield	Mayor
30/09/2019	Meeting with local Primary Schools to discuss various projects	Mayor
04/10/2019	Opening of the Story of Knutsford exhibition	Mayor
05/10/2019	Fundraiser for Lower Moss Wood	Mayor
06/10/2019	Civic Service for Mayor of Macclesfield	Mayor
09/10/2019	Fundraising event for Toft Cricket Club	Mayor
13/10/2019	Civic Service for Nantwich Town Council	Mayor
13/10/2019	Ways and Grove Park Garage Sale	Mayor
25/10/2019	Sound of the Sixties fundraising event for Mayor of Nantwich	Mayor
26/10/2019	Ghost the Musical for Knutsford Musical Theatre Company	Mayor
28/10/2019	Fundraising Dinner at Ciao for Mayor of Poynton	Mayor
01/11/2019	Britain in Bloom NW Awards presentation	Mayor
01/11/2019	Party with a Purpose for Kasupe	Mayor
02/11/2019	Christmas Launch opening for Barnardo's store	Mayor
02/11/2019	Certificates Presentation to Halloween shop windows winners	Mayor
04/11/2019	Best Kept Village Awards presentation event	Deputy Mayor