

Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green

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Minutes

of the

Town Council meeting held 6th January 2020

In the Lower Council Chamber of the Town Council Offices

19/106 Present

Cllrs Malloy, Gardiner, Abel, Beswick, Coan, Dalzell, Forbes, Gray, McCulloch, Nicholson, Power and Robertson.

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

19/107 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fletcher (parliamentary business), Hamilton Coan (personal business) and Houghton (business).

19/108 To receive declarations of members' interests

Cllr Forbes declared a personal interest in 19/116 on the grounds of being disabled.

19/109 Public Participation

A resident spoke in relation to the Makers Market and an email received from Cllr Houghton and stated he felt that concerns in relation to the market have not been properly considered by the council. The Mayor stated he has spoken with Cllr Houghton and agreed the matter would be discussed at the next Events and Town Centre Management Committee meeting.

A resident stated he felt Cheshire East Council was being negligent in the performance of its duties to maintain areas it is responsible for and suggested a walkabout to identify issues. The Mayor suggested the resident contact the Cheshire East ward members directly about the issues.

A member of the public noted that permission had now been granted for the demolition of the War Memorial Cottage Hospital, asked what the plans were for the plinth from the Haron Baronian statue and the memorials within the building site.

A resident thanked the council for circulating the draft response to the community governance review consultation, supported the council's position in challenging Cheshire East Council on the housing data used for forecasting the electoral growth and noted that he had provided the Town Clerk with minor suggestions to improve the boundary logic of the proposed wards.

A representative of the Tatton Estate echoed calls for the electoral forecasts to consider all proposed housing, suggested that the proposal to include Tatton parish within Knutsford be thought through with the surrounding parishes and repeated support for the

development of a new Town Council strategy and affirmed the Estates' wish to be involved.

19/110 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held 4th November 2019

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

19/111 To note the minutes of committees which have been published since the previous ordinary meeting

The minutes were noted.

19/112 To receive reports from and raise questions to Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr Abel reported that he hoped that level two road repairs would be started by the end of January and that he was awaiting a complete list of the roads which would be included across the borough. Cllr Abel further reported that he was working to promote tree planting and hoped to have positive news to share on this shortly.

Cllr Gardiner reported that the recent Full Council meeting had discussed the council's meeting operations and structure with proposals on new committees planned to be tabled in February.

19/113 To receive reports from members

Cllr Gardiner left the meeting so as not to prejudice his position on the Cheshire East Council Strategic Planning Board. Cllr Forbes reported that he and other members had met with Redrow Homes to review iterative changes to its scheme for Northwich Road, noting that progress was being made to improve the scheme.

Cllr Forbes further reported he and other members had met with Tatton Estate to receive updated proposals for the Parkgate Lane housing development. Cllr Gardiner re-joined the meeting.

Cllr Malloy reported that he and Cllr Robertson had met with Tom Barton of Everybody Sports and Leisure to be briefed on initial proposals for a £4m investment in Knutsford Leisure centre and that a members briefing was being arranged.

Cllr Malloy further reported on attendance at a meeting with surrounding parishes in relation to speeding and that the issues raised were being raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Malloy reported that attempts to reignite the twinning link with Montmorency had elicited no response despite numerous different approaches to officials in the town.

Cllr Power highlighted the success of the Christmas events and positive comments he had received from the community. The council thanked officers for their work organising the events.

19/114 To receive an update in respect of the transfer of the council offices

The Town Clerk reported that the transfer was still stalled waiting for the Cheshire East

Council assets department to brief the legal department, due to them attempting to find deeds to the land.

19/115 To consider a submission to Cheshire East Council on the borough wide Community Governance Review

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the submission drafted by the working group.

19/116¹ To consider a recommendation from the Assets and Operations Committee with respect the public toilets

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Assets and Operations Committee to renegotiate the lease with Danfo and subject to the successful renegotiation be authorised to proceed with the works to convert the redundant spaces within the toilets to commercial letting units, with the funds being drawn from the council's capital receipts reserve.

19/117 To agree the 2020/21 council budget, reserves and precept

It was noted that due to the termination of the tenancy of 60 King Street, the precept had to be substantially increased but that it was expected that it would decrease in 2021/22. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and reserves as presented and set a precept of £511,118.

19/118 To consider the establishment of a Knutsford and District Youth Council

It was **RESOLVED** to support the establishment of a Knutsford and District Youth Council as proposed by the schools subject to the parish councils for the schools outside Knutsford giving approval. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Malloy as the link councillor.

19/119 To discuss improving communications with Police

It was noted that engagement with the police had been inconsistent and that previous Inspectors had shared some operational information to advise the council on issues in the town. It was agreed that communications should be improved and that an Inspector should attend Full Council twice per year.

19/120 To note payments

The payments were noted.

19/121 To receive a report of Mayoral Duties

The Mayor reported on attendance at events as detailed below.

19/122 Member questions to the Town Clerk

Cllr Forbes asked if there were any outstanding resolutions on the Full Council actions log, the Town Clerk undertook to respond by email.

19/123 Public Participation

A resident suggested the council issue a press release on the precept increase to properly

¹ Cllr Power left at the end of this item.

explain the increase.

A member of the public noted the darkness of the alley behind the Council Offices and suggested it be lit to increase safety of access, asked what was happening to the commemorative roses around the plinth at the War Memorial Cottage Hospital and whether a list of donors could be obtained.

19/124 To note date of next meeting

The date was noted.

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

5th November to 6th January

Date	Event	Attended By
07/11/2019	Silk FM Local Hero Awards Ceremony	Mayor
08/11/2019	Manchester Airport Festival of Remembrance	Deputy Mayor
08/11/2019	Knutsford and District Scouts Annual Dinner	Mayor
12/11/2019	Come Dine with the Mayor	Mayor
14/11/2019	Meeting with Primary Schools	Mayor
16/11/2019	Handel's Dixit Dominus Concert	Deputy Mayor
16/11/2019	Bollington Winter Ball	Mayor
21/11/2019	Knutsford Lions' Houghton Weavers Fundraising Concert	Mayor
22/11/2019	Dinner with Kings' Strings	Deputy Mayor
22/11/2019	Knutsford ATC Annual Dining-In Dinner	Mayor
23/11/2019	Brook St Chapel Xmas Fair	Mayor
26/11/2019	Opening of New KDR Recruitment Offices	Mayor
28/11/2019	Knutsford for the Homeless Sleepout Event	Mayor
28/11/2019	Manor Park School Christmas Fair Raffle Draw	Mayor
29/11/2019	Sharston House Christmas Light Switch On	Mayor
29/11/2019	Lord Mayor of Chester Charity Event	Mayor
30/11/2019	Best of the Market Raffle	Mayor
30/11/2019	Knutsford Christmas Lights Switch on	Mayor
03/12/2019	Canute Lunch Club Christmas Lunch	Cllr Forbes
03/12/2019	Knutsford and District Scouts Christmas Carol Service	Mayor
05/12/2019	Knutsford Late Night Shopping Night	Mayor
06/12/2019	Knutsford Tennis Club Junior celebration and presentation	Mayor
07/12/2019	Wendy Diddams Christmas Certificates Presentation	Mayor
07/12/2019	Knutsford Crib Service	Mayor
07/12/2019	Knutsford Mayor's Family Disco Night	Mayor
10/12/2019	West Side Story at Knutsford Academy	Mayor
11/12/2019	Gypsy Musical at Royal Exchange Theatre	Mayor
14/12/2019	Tatton Singers' Handel Messiah Xmas Concert	Mayor
15/12/2019	Brook St Chapel Christmas Carol Service	Mayor
16/12/2019	Knutsford Christmas Bake Off at Knutsford Market Hall	Mayor

22/12/2019	Lower Moss Wood Festive Afternoon Tea	Mayor
22/12/2019	St Cross 9 Lessons and Carol Service Reading	Mayor
25/12/2019	Knutsford and District Lions' Christmas Lunch	Mayor

FESTIVAL