

Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green

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Minutes of the Town Council meeting held 13th July 2020 *Online, via Zoom*

19/178 Present

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

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

19/179 To receive apologies for absence

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

19/180 To receive declarations of members' interests

Cllr Forbes declared a personal interest in 19/186 on the grounds of being disabled.

Cllr Gardiner declared a personal interest in 19/191 on the grounds of using one of the contractors listed for payment.

Cllr Malloy declared a personal interest in 19/186 on the grounds of having been a former Chairman of the Town Plan Town Centre working group and being a serving committee member of Cycle Knutsford.

Cllrs Gardiner and Abel declared a personal interest in 19/187 on the grounds of being members of Cheshire East Council.

19/181 Public Participation

A representative of the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association highlighted the reduction in services on the line to a two hourly service and encouraged the council to make representations to Northern on increasing the service and to Cheshire East Council for them to appoint a councillor to represent rail users in the borough.

19/182 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held 15th June

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

19/183 To note the minutes of committees which have been published since the previous ordinary meeting

The minutes were noted.

19/184 To receive reports from and raise questions to Cheshire East Councillors

Cllr Gardiner reported that he has been lobbying to see parking charges removed from town centre car parks during the pandemic, noting that the current cash-less payments were resulting in shoppers leaving the town and that the requirement to use manual buttons on machines presented a potential virus contamination issue.

Cllr Gardiner reported that the council had resolved to ban pavement parking but that he had suggested that it will result in problems in historic urban areas and urged alternative solutions to be explored.

Cllr Gardiner reported that at a meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care overview and scrutiny committee it had been noted there was a significant improvement in the relationship between the new Clinical Commissioning Group and hospitals.

Cllr Gardiner further reported that the council was consulting on an Older Persons Housing Strategy but had failed to inform town councils and refused to extend the deadline for submissions to September to address this.

Cllr Gardiner responded to a question in respect of the proposed disposal of public open space at Longridge stating that as Vice Chairman of the Strategic Planning Board he did not involve himself in matters where a planning application was likely to be considered by that committee.

Cllr Abel reported that he too was raising the issues around the mechanism of payment of parking charges following their reintroduction and that he had been appointed to the board of Transport Service Solutions where he would be working to see if bus services can be reintroduced in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Cllrs Abel and Dean were thanked for their work stopping Network Rail from felling further trees along the railway and Cllrs Abel and Gardiner were thanked for their work putting forward the views of Knutsford residents with respect the reintroduction of parking charges.

19/185 To receive reports from members

Cllr Malloy reported on attendance at a meeting of the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership stating that it was transitioning to a community interest company, would shortly be recruiting a relationship officer, had republished the railway walks guide and that volunteers were being permitted back onto platforms. Cllr Malloy further highlighted the reduction in services which were dramatically greater on the Mid Cheshire line than others.

19/186 To consider recommendations from the Town Centre Working Group on the consultation on proposed traffic and parking changes in the Town Centre

The council recorded its thanks to Dr J Coffey for his work on the working group to date and to all the residents and businesses which took the time to respond to the consultation.

Dr J Coffey was invited to join the meeting to take questions from members on the report and recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED**¹ to endorse and take forward the recommendations of the consultation report subject to the requirements of cyclists being reviewed and integrated with the detailed proposals to be developed by Cheshire East Council.

The meeting was adjourned for a five-minute recess.

19/187² To consider the temporary restrictions introduced in the Town Centre to aid social distancing

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £2,500 for the Town Clerk and Town Centre and Marketing Officer to improve the aesthetic of the town centre. It was noted that proposals would be circulated to members for comment and that there was a preference for expenditure to be on items which could be used in future years.

19/188³ To consider the adoption of a CIL Framework

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the CIL Framework and approve the advisory committee terms of reference.

19/189 To consider the following matters related to railway services

- a) **To consider making representations to Northern on the current reduced railway services**
- b) **To consider making representations to Cheshire East Council to encourage the appointment of a representative to lead on supporting railway services**
- c) **To consider the appointment of a representative (director) to the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership CIC Board**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Make representations to Northern on the current reduced railway services
- b) Encourage Cheshire East to appoint a representative to lead on supporting railway services
- c) Appoint Cllr Malloy as the council's representative on the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership CIC Board

19/190⁴ To receive an update in respect of the transfer of the council offices

The Town Clerk reported that the majority of the transfer documents had been agreed in principle with two matters outstanding: clarity on the impact on the transfer of part of the title being held by Cheshire East Council as highway and amendments to the covenant on keeping the whole of un-built upon space forever un-built upon.

The government announcement of a £1bn Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme was

¹ Cllrs Beswick and Nicholson voted against the resolution.

² Cllr Power left the meeting during the discussion on this item.

³ Cllr Nicholson left the meeting during the discussion on this item.

⁴ Cllr Nicholson re-joined the meeting at the start of this item.

noted as a potential source of funding towards environmental improvements as part of a refurbishment.

19/191 To note payments

The payments were noted.

19/192 To receive a report of Mayoral Duties

The Mayor reported on attendance as detailed below.

19/193 To consider the Actions Log

The log was noted and it was agreed that the Emergency Plan coordinators determine a target date for the completion of the review of the plan.

19/194 Public Participation

A resident spoke in relation to the Town Centre Masterplan stating they did not support the proposed changes to traffic flow and that the percentage of the town's population responding to the consultation was poor compared to the 2010 Town Plan consultations.

A resident requested the council press Cheshire East Council to prioritise enforcement of parking on double yellow lines in the town centre.

19/195 Member questions to the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk responded to a question in relation to the proposed disposal of public open space on Longridge stating that the council could request Cheshire East Council consider the matter at the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee; this had the approval of the council⁵.

Cllr Malloy requested that he go paperless for service of summons from September.

19/196 To note date of next meeting

The date was noted.

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

4th May to 6th July

Date	Event	Attended By
06/05/2020	Bollington Town Council – Virtual Mayor Making	Mayor
11/05/2020	Blood Donation at Mere Hotel	Mayor
14/05/2020	Knutsford Scouts – Virtual AGM	Mayor
28/05/2020	Poynton Town Council – Virtual Mayor Making	Mayor
07/06/2020	Bollington Town Council – Virtual Civic Sunday	Mayor
02/07/2020	Opening of new Knutsford Admin offices	Mayor

⁵ Cllr Gardiner did not engage in the discussion on this matter so as not to prejudice his position as Vice Chairman of the Cheshire East Council Strategic Planning Board.

FENVA