



### **Minutes of the Town Council meeting held at the Town Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 @ 7pm**

#### **Prayers**

Apologies were received from Rev Nancy Goodrich.

**Present:** Town Mayor Cllr John Stewart (JCS)

**Cllrs;** Ken Edwards (KE), Helen Ellwood (HE), David Kent (DK), Ken Larby (KL), James Nicholas (JN), Judy Snowball (JS), Amanda Stott (AS), Angela Williams (AW).

**Town Clerk:** Julie Mason

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr JN due to being Chair of the CEC Northern Planning Committee.

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Miriat Naiga due to holidays, Cllr Sarah Butterworth due to work commitments, Cllr Jo Maitland due to a prior engagement.

#### **Public Forum**

No members of the public.

#### **140/22 To receive and resolve to confirm the Minutes of the Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 (Minute Nos 130/22 – 139/22)**

**RESOLVED** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate.

#### **141/22 To receive updates from the minutes**

Cllr KE asked the reason that the Civility and Respect Pledge was not on the agenda. The Clerk replied it was due to three members being absent.

#### **142/22 To receive the Town Mayor's announcements**

The following announcements were noted:

|  |          |              |
|--|----------|--------------|
| Facilities                               | 12/12/22 | 10am         |
| Community & Environment                  | 13/12/22 | 7pm          |
| Planning & Town Committee                | 22/12/22 | 7pm          |
| Personnel, Policy & Governance Committee | 21/12/22 | 10am         |
| Ward Walk                                | December | Cllrs KE& AW |

#### **133/22 To receive report from Cheshire East Councillors**

Cheshire East Council similar to other councils around the country, is under immense pressure from rising inflation, higher than expected pay awards and increased energy costs. The current forecast, from the original balanced budget, is now facing a shortfall of £8.7m to the year end. Each area of the council is being reviewed with the objective of reducing the funding gap. The Council receives almost £330m in council tax, but £750m passes through their accounts as they collect and distribute precepts for the Fire Authority, Police and Town & Parish Councils. The Council currently holds £14m in reserves, enough to cover the shortfall for this year but this would leave the council in a very vulnerable position and as the budget for next year could potentially be under even more pressure, we are aiming to take the minimum amount out of reserves. The Government's Autumn budget has given Local Authorities the ability to raise council tax from 1.99% to 2.99%, along with an increase to the Adult Social Care precept from 1% to 2%. Each 1% raises £5.2m. Adults' and children's' social care accounts for 70 pence out of every pound collected in council tax. The remaining 30% covers all other services.

**134/22 To resolve to accept the budget and agree the precept for 2022/23**

**RESOLVED** the Precept was set at £250,000 for 2023/24 which equated to £78.44 for a Band D property an increase of 15%.

**RESOLVED** the budget was accepted as presented.

**RESOLVED** the public toilets renovation at the Recreational Ground would be taken out in 2022/23 but reconsidered in 2023/24 if costed correctly and hence taken from reserves.

**135/22 To consider the reevaluated drafted Corporate Plan in 2022/23 by the Working Group**

The heads of the Committees had met to discuss and reevaluate the Corporate Plan 2022/23. Cllr KE thought the marking system was inadequate and asked for an explanation. He felt the red, amber, green and grey colour coding was not presented in enough detail and the grey color of marking was misleading. There should be clearer evaluations of dates when things would be achieved..

Cllr JS asked for the Council surgery evaluation to be changed as some had been very successful.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk will make sure that the Corporate Plan is placed on all the Committees agenda, and they can set targets for next year with the intention of the Working Group meeting again to collate the data.

**136/22 To accept the minutes and resolutions from the Council Committees:**  
**COMMUNITY & ENVIROMENT COMMITTEE 08/11/22**

**RESOLVED** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

To discuss the potential purchase of flood blocks to a value of £1000.

**RESOLVED** The Clerk would arrange for a visit to take place to Poynton TC.

**FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE 21/11/22**

**RESOLVED** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**RESOLVED** to accept the Internal Auditors 2022/23 report carried out by Account Ant on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**PLANNING & TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 22/11/22**

It was noted the Solar Panel Consultation had taken place in relation to the Section 106 monies. There had been a meeting with the Chair of Planning and the Clerk plus ANSA and they had agreed to take it forward and gain the tenders for the works.

The funds had also been requested to complete the Master Plan.

It was noted there had been a meeting with the Chair of Planning, the NPWG, the Clerk and Peaks & Plains in relation with the Affordable Housing planning application on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. It had been productive, and they needed a housing needs assessment, but it was a cost £5,000. They decided a meeting was need with Cheshire East planning department to seek their advice and it was agreed they would invite BTC.

It was noted they had been a pre application meeting with developers in relation to Ingersley Vale on 22/11/22.

To note the Footpath Officers meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in the Town Hall.

**RESOLVED** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**136/22 To receive the minutes from the Youth Task Group meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**RESOLVED** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The Chair feedback the first welcome meeting of the Youth Council the previous night and to note the first would be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.

**137/22 To note Deputy Mayor nominations will be accepted at the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

**RESOLVED** the proposed candidate would need a proposer and a seconder then will need to complete a three-minute presentation.

**138/22 To consider Planning Applications which require comments before the next Planning and Development Meeting**

**22/4633M**

**7 SANDY CLOSE, BOLLINGTON, SK10 5DT**

Demolition of existing side porch, rear bay window and garage structure, proposed two storey side/rear extension, single storey rear extension and alterations to front boundary wall to allow additional parking space to be created on frontage.

**RESOLVED OBJECTION**

**139/23 To note the balance of Accounts Co-op Current - £7,269.21 Co-op Savings - £20,075.40 Natwest - £170,609.32, Santander £70,000.00 = £267,953.93**

**RESOLVED** to approve the payments of accounts for Payment dated 01/11/22 £40,134.58 inc. VAT. Plus, Receipts = £12,063.95

**140/23 To note the payment for Town Hall works by J A Hyde Ltd = £4930.00 + £986.00 = £5,916.00.**

The financial regulations state “All members and Officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any *de minimis* provisions in Regulation 11 “

The initial quote was £2,780.00 for the works.

The Clerk explained the extra works were found within the job she had initially gone to the supplier under the de minimus but due to unforeseen circumstances it had cost more. There was no option to stop the works and obtain quotes from other suppliers.

**RESOLVED** the Council accepted there was no option to proceed with the works and not obtain three quotes

**PART B**

**Under Standing Orders 3d - Exclusion of the Public.**

**Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons.**

**The public's exclusion from part or all a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.**

It was **Resolved** to move to Part B

To accept the minutes from

PERSONNEL, POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 09/11/22

**RESOLVED** the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**RESOLVED** Cllr AS and AW will interview the new Town Warden.

**141/22 To note the next Full Council meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at the Town Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....