



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

5 January 2021 7.00pm
Using Microsoft Teams

Present:

Town Mayor Cllr John Stewart, Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Johanna Maitland.
Cllrs: Amanda Stott, James Nicholas, Roland Edwards, Angela Williams, Jon Weston, Mark Fearn, Ken Edwards and Sara Knowles.
David Naylor Town Clerk

Three members of the public were present. There were no requests to speak on any item.

8069. To receive and approve apologies for absence: Cllr Alex Douglas Kane

8070. To receive any declarations of Interest:

Cllr James Nicholas due to his membership of Cheshire East Council's Northern Planning Committee and his need to avoid predetermining his view on planning applications if they were subsequently called into the Northern Planning Committee.

8071. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting 01/12/20 (Minute Nos. 8057-8068).

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a true record.

8072. To receive updates from the Minutes:

Minute 8062: Cllr Jon Weston asked if the Town Council had received a response from Cheshire East Council concerning the Church Street Crown Public House planning application regarding the inadequacy of marketing and the need for a meeting. The Clerk advised that no such response had been received. The Deputy Mayor advised that she thought something had been added to the planning Portal in terms of marketing - that would be confirmed.

Minute 8065c: Cllr Jon Weston asked if Cheshire East Council's tree Officer had supplied a list of contractors to assess the amenity value of trees in conservation areas. The Deputy Mayor advised that she now had the list and would send it to the Clerk who would then send it out to everyone

Minute 8064: Cllr Roland Edwards raise the issue of Cheshire East consultations, such as the Budget, the Local Transport Delivery Plan and the Active Travel Plan. Who was going to take responsibility for delivering those three? He offered to respond to the Local Transport and Active Travel consultations. Councillor Amanda Stott advised that the responses received from towns and parish councils were most valued because they had a much broader view of their communities and their needs. She as Portfolio Holder for Finance read every submission and felt it was very

important to for the Town Council to respond to all consultations. Cllr Jon Weston advised that he would respond to the Budget consultation.

The Clerk advised that there was also the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) Review. The closing date was the day before this Council meeting. However, he had a contact email address and would submit a response tomorrow after first circulating to all members regarding its content. The thrust would be to retain both Bollington and Poynton HWRCs on environmental and cost-effective grounds due to the increased journeys, fly tipping and collection implications of closing them.

There followed a short discussion regarding the Councils need to respond to these consultations in a timely manner despite the busy workload of the Council at present time. This was agreed.

8073. To consider planning applications which required comments prior to the next Planning & Development Committee

[20/5662D](#)

6, Peak View, HIGH STREET, BOLLINGTON, SK10 5PF

Discharge of Conditions 4 &10 on 16/5137M

Consultation Deadline 11th January

Condition 4: The Site Completion Report detailing the conclusions and actions taken at each stage of the works, including validation works, shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the LPA prior to the first use or occupation of any part of the development hereby approved.

Condition 10: The approved access shall not be brought into use until visibility splays of 2.4m x 30m in both directions (measured down the centre line of the access road and the nearside channel line of existing highway) have been provided at each side of the point of access indicated on the approved plan.

There was a debate concerning the poor standard of work on the dry-stone wall and visibility splay. Cllr Roland Edwards advised that the builder had been unable to source a contractor who could rebuild this wall to the standard required. Cllr Ken Edwards pointed out that there were several dry-stone wall contractors in and around the Town. A good example of a rebuilt stone wall was the one at the Canal Side development on Hurst Lane.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the discharge of conditions 4 and 10: The visibility splay had been created but the wall in its current state was totally out of keeping with the conservation area and to the standard expected of the completed development.

[20/5388M](#)

1, RAINOW MILL COTTAGE, INGERSLEY VALE, SK10 5BP

Non-material amendment to approved application 13/5081M - First floor extension over existing garage and new windows to rear

The Council **RESOLVED** not to object to this application.

8074. To receive the Town Mayor's announcements

All meetings are to be held via Microsoft Teams during the COVID-19 pandemic unless otherwise stated.

- Community Services & Environment Committee 12/01/21 7.00pm
- Facilities & Infrastructure Committee 13/01/21 7.00pm

• Planning & Development Committee	19/01/21	7.00pm
• Personnel Committee	20/01/21	10.00am
• Strategic Planning Committee	26/01/21	7.00pm
• Council meeting	02/02/21	7.00pm
• Planning & Development Committee	16/02/21	7.00pm
• Audit Committee	17/02/21	1.00pm
• Community Services & Environment Committee	23/02/21	7.00pm

8075. Report from Cheshire East Councillors

It was **RESOLVED** that the written report provided by Cllrs Stott and Nicholas be accepted and its contents noted.

Cllr Jon Weston asked about the wording of the 20mph resolution made by Cheshire East Council. Cllr Nicholas advised that it was to maintain everything at 30 mph but if 20 mph was required in some areas these would need to be identified and progressed. In other words, it was not agreed to establish blanket 20mph areas.

Cllr Ken Edwards asked a question about the EVC project. Cheshire East Council had been asked to partner the Town Council in this project but had declined. Could Cllr Stott advise why when this supported their Environment Strategy. Cllr Stott advised that she was not involved right at the beginning of the project and could not answer for what went on at that point.

8076. Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC)

The Clerk had submitted a comprehensive report regarding the costs and risks of this project which was in the Enclosures document. Its contents were discussed at length. The Mayor advised that there were several decisions to be made including the acquisition of the land, the definition of the project in terms of the number of EVC bays and the necessary delegation from this meeting to progress the project to a completion.

Cllr Mark Fearn displayed the EVC Project plan and the Risk Log.

Questions asked with Cllr Weston's answers *in italics*:

○ **The expected legal costs what were the quotes?**

Quotations had been received i.e. £1000 in terms of Cheshire East's costs and £600 from our own solicitors plus disbursements such as land registry fees of £400

○ **Whether the Town Council had permission from Cheshire East to use their land**

When the Town Council approached Cheshire East for the use of the land they were asked would they partner the Town Council in this project, with the Town Council acting as responsible financial and contracting body. They had agreed to this in previous years in terms of the Skate Park, the Bowling Pavilion and the refurbishment of Adlington Road Children's Play Area. However, with this project they wanted to lease the land to the Town Council. They would also not accept a licensing arrangement.

If Cheshire East had accepted a partnership agreement it would have avoided a lease and legal costs. The Clerk had advised that he was still asking for a partnership arrangement, but a lease appeared to be our only option.

The Town Council had a letter from Cheshire East assets agreeing in principle to the land transfer, subject to the issue of a five-year lease, for the land to be used for this purpose. The Heads of Terms, which were essentially the lease conditions, were in the paperwork for this agenda item. A copy of the permission letter was in the OLEV bid and there is a hyperlink in the report to that document.

○ **What were the risks associate with leasing the land?**

There was a section in report entitled Risk Mitigation. The request for quotation was very specific about all the risks being loaded on the contractor and this would be fully reflected in the contract. These would be in relation to the repair of equipment the maintenance of the equipment, the maintenance of the site, any rectification of vandalism etc. The only liability the Town Council would have was for anything unforeseen under the car park such as a sink hole which was most unlikely. The project team had done everything possible to transfer the risk to the contractor.

○ **Confirmation of why there had been a reduction from the original eight EVC points to six.**

This had been because there was insufficient space to accommodate eight charging points without taking away a disabled parking space. A representative of Cheshire East's parking team who was present at the site meeting advised that it may have been possible to reduce from three disabled bays to two. However.it was felt that this would not be acceptable. Also, when the costings came in from Electricity North West it would have been over £8000 to provide an electricity connection for more than six charging points at 7kW each. Six points at 7kW could be supplied with a connection cost of £1800 utilising the existing electrical connection to the former automated toilet block at the entrance to the car park. The six spaces now suggested would also have load balancing and when only one vehicle was being charged it would receive the full availability of power and so on down to 6 vehicles which would all receive 7kW. A reduction from eight to six charging points was therefore the most deliverable option.

○ **What if the contractor went into liquidation?**

There was a high degree of interoperability between Connected Kerb's equipment and other operators and it would be a relatively simple operation for another undertaker to take over the project and install their charging posts.

○ **What happened to the £761 promised by Transition at the December meeting?**

The Clerk had not included this sum in the report to this meeting because at the last meeting, although a member transition had offered it, it became clear from other comments from other members of Transition that it had not been through the Transition decision process. Also, it was dependent on a settlement that Transition was trying to make with the Council concerning funding arrangement for the current year. If the funding was to be available, it could be provided.

○ **The project needed to be completed by 31 March what would happen if it had not been completed?**

The project plan submitted with the grant bid needed to show that the project "planned to complete by 31 March". If delays occurred during delivery OLEV would need to be notified and in such circumstances an extension could be agreed. The project plan submitted with the bid did plan to complete by 31st March and there was room for some slippage.

- **Written confirmation that Cheshire East Council had agreed to the former recycling wall being removed.**
The Clerk would supply written confirmation. As the report points out, the decision to create additional car parking spaces where the disused recycling bays were situated predated the EVC project and the walls would not have accommodated those extra spaces or the now proposed EVC bays.
- **The Clerk's name was against many of the items in the project plan was that not a risk in terms of his workload?**
The Clerk's name was against these items in terms of responsibility but not necessarily delivery work within the group which distributed so as not to overload anyone
- **Parking enforcement why is it in the state of the plan?**
Cheshire East parking enforcement had attended a site meeting and the question was asked of them would they enforce inappropriate parking in these bays, for example a non-EVC vehicle parked in an EVC space. The answer was yes subject to the signage being changed and a written agreement between the Town Council and Cheshire East because, as the Mayor pointed out, it would be Town Council land.

The Deputy Mayor advised of the need to sense check the forthcoming Communication Plan and not to jump into this, it needed to be well thought out and launched at the appropriate time.

Cllr Roland Edwards underlined the need to ensure the legality of removing the wall. The Mayor advised he was taking action to ensure this was the case.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the project on the understanding that the risks were monitored and mitigated at every stage. The Town Council should also pursue a partnering route with Cheshire East Council to see if this was possible.

It was **RESOLVED** that Connected Kerb be the Council's preferred supplier.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide delegated authority to the Town Clerk, the Mayor, the RFO and Cllr Mark Fearn to make the necessary contract award and delivery decisions in relation to the EVC contract within the approved budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the updated Heads of Terms in the report and to make the necessary legal arrangements to transfer the land if Cheshire East could not be persuaded to partner the Town Council and have a partnership agreement for the use of the land.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision to change from eight electric vehicle charging points to six because of space and power constraints as detailed in the report.

8077. Reports from Council Committees and Representatives

a. Community Services & Environment 08/12/20

The minutes of this meeting were received, and it was **RESOLVED** that their contents be noted.

Minute 5: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of this Committee to approve the Community Engagement Policy

Minute 7: Civic Functions and Events Working Group recommendations

- a) Minute 9: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the Civic dinner becomes a non-subsidised event with the number of complimentary tickets greatly reduced. Tickets would be advertised to the people of Bollington to allow those interested to purchase tickets on a first-come first-served basis.
- b) Minute 9: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the cost of the Mayor Making reception would be reduced by providing drinks only and not the usual buffet. The Civic Functions Working Group would also consider how to invite more members of the public.

Regarding Minute c) below: Cllr Jon Weston was concerned that the recommendation should be for the forthcoming year only.

The Deputy Mayor advised that the decision was reached because the Group had been asked by the Finance Committee to look in detail at the budgets. The events this year had not been deliverable in the traditional way, but the Mayor had thanked in person all of those that would have been invited to the Civic awards event or The Big Thank You. Also, there had been extensive social media coverage which had been very well received. She accepted the need to keep the matter under review but didn't think there was a need to have a resolution stating for one year only.

Cllr Weston proposed an amendment to Minute c) that it be for one year only. This was seconded and voted on. The proposed amendment was **NOT Carried**.

- c) Minute 9: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that The Big Thank You event - the organising group would be asked to look at other ways to thank volunteers rather than providing a buffet and drinks. Civic Awards and Mayor's commendations could be presented at Civic Sunday or by visiting the recipients in person which had worked well this year

It was **RESOLVED** that a), b) and c) would be in relation to the coming year and would not set a precedent for other years – this was to recognise that the coming year may be difficult, and that savings must be made. This would be reviewed each year with the Deputy Mayor in good time for budget preparation.

Cllr Jon Weston proposed an amendment to Minute 10 below that this should be for one year only and should be reviewed by Council each year. The amendment was seconded and voted on but was **NOT CARRIED**.

Cllr Jon Weston proposed an amendment to Minute 10 below that each outgoing consort be awarded a small metal commemoration medal funded by the Council. The amendment was seconded and when voted on and **WAS CARRIED**.

It was noted that the cost of this was not in the Council budget and would have to be found by the Finance committee.

Minute 10: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that one Youth Consort Pendant is purchased at a cost of £320.23 plus presentation box at £27.20 excl. VAT and carriage and this be passed on from Consort to Consort. The outgoing Consort be issued with a small metal commemoration medal.

Minute 15 EVC Charging Points Pool Bank Car Park

The three recommendations: the acceptance of the Heads of Terms, that Connected Kerb become the Council's preferred supplier, and the ratification of the change from eight to six charging points had all been **RESOLVED** in minute 8076 above.

b. Finance & Grants Committee (Budget) 10/12/20

The minutes of this meeting were received, and it was **RESOLVED** that their contents be noted.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Committee to approve the budget which included the provision for additional projects. The total sum required was £221,137. The precept would be set at £58 per band D property bringing in £185,743, reserves would be used £35,394. Approved Budget attached.

c. Planning and Development Executive Committee 15/12/2020

The minutes of this meeting were received, and it was **RESOLVED** that their contents be noted.

d. Personnel Committee 16/12/20

The minutes of this meeting were received, and it was **RESOLVED** that their contents be noted.

Minute 5: It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Town Clerks resignation letter and his retirement date which would be with effect from the 31st of April 2021. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for his long, successful and dedicated service to the people of Bollington.

Minute 8: Furlough of the Town Wardens

The Deputy Mayor advised that the lockdown had changed the existing furlough situation. Following a discussion with the Clerk and RFO. The co-ordinated Town Warden was now fully furloughed, and the co-ordinator Town Warden was currently part furloughed. This would be reviewed as necessary in terms of the workload. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this action and the delegation to the Clerk, Deputy May and RFO to review the situation in future as necessary, action it and report back to Council.

8078. Accounts for Payment - January

The list of accounts for payment were received in the sum of £26,086.11. The accounts had been scrutinised by Cllr Stewart Town Mayor and Cllr Weston Chair of Finance & Grants Committee. It was **RESOLVED** that the same be certified and approved for payment.

Councillor Stott raised the issue of an account from the planning consultant who introduced the Council to the barrister for the SADPD Counsel opinion. There had been a misunderstanding regarding this fee. It was thought that this £300 fee would have been split across the other three councils, when in effect that fee was £300 for each Council. There was concern about this misunderstanding although the work done to secure the other councils' participation had enabled the £2000 barristers fee to be shared four ways.

Cllr Jon Weston proposed that the Council ratify this decision on this occasion and following further debate. It was **RESOLVED** approve the payment but to be careful in future to ensure to avoid such misunderstandings.

8079. Secret Ballot for Deputy Town Mayor Elect 2021-2022

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr John Stewart as Deputy Mayor for 2021-2022

8080. GDPR Update

The GDPR options report was received and noted. After further debate it was **RESOLVED** to send this back to the personnel committee for a recommendation on the way to proceed

8081. 20mph Speed Limit Petition

Cllr Roland Edwards, in his role as a Town Councillor and not as a Governor of Dean Valley School, gave a short presentation regarding the traffic and parking situation on Albert Road and associated pedestrian safety concerns relating to the two schools and the pre-school.

He felt that Albert Road was potentially the most dangerous road in Bollington when the factories, Household Waste Site and the schools were considered. There were lots of HGVs in LGV's. There was an excessive number of cars parked on the roads with 300 children in that area each weekday and at weekends when school events were being held. It was, therefore, a road which required enhanced safety measures.

A petition of over 400 signatures was on its way to the Town Council and Cheshire East Council and the schools were in the process of designing and printing posters warning drivers of the dangers to children.

Specific actions were necessary and needed the support of the Town Council and Cheshire East Council - measures to slow traffic in terms of a permanent 20 mph limit and perhaps physical measures in the road to make drivers aware of the need to slow down. Times a day when HGVs would not be allowed for example at school drop-off and school collection times. Widening of pavements perhaps. He requested the SID machine to provide updated speed and traffic volume data and a survey of HGV and LGV vehicle use. The latter could be carried out by a community effort as had been done prior to the former Co-op relocation.

He accepted that this was a matter initially for the committees of the Town Council, but he wanted to make the Council aware that a petition reflecting the concern of all parents and staff at schools was on its way. He particularly would like the Council to request a 20mph limit on this road.

It was **RESOLVED** to thank Cllr Edwards. The Council would want to support appropriate recommendations from the Facilities and Infrastructure Meetings in connection with his report.

Date of Next Council Meeting: 2 February 2021 at 7.00pm

Signed

Date: 2 February 2021