



*Meeting (No)* **Planning & Environment Committee (No 7)**  
*Time & Date* **6.00 pm 24 January 2017**  
*Place* **Town Hall**  
*Document* **Minutes**

Present: Cllr Chambers (Chair), Griffiths, Montgomery, Pilley and Wilkie and Miss Duncan (Governance & Operations Manager).

In attendance: Cllr Shipman, two CWaC Officers (Mrs Nicholson, Senior IES Manager and Mrs McGee, Senior Practice Leader), and seven residents.

## **PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public**

### **98 Questions and comments from residents:**

Mr Hadley spoke in relation to agenda item 107 and raised issues of road safety at the junction of the B5134 and A540.

Mr Williams, Mr Mills and Mr Smith spoke in relation to agenda item 101 supporting the safety assessment and its recommendations.

Ms Barber (planning consultant representing the planning applicants) spoke in relation to agenda item 106a and stated that the application complied with the existing policy framework in that an applicant must demonstrate beyond doubt that an enterprise is an economically viable agricultural business. Ms Barber read out a letter of support from CWaC Councillor Andy Williams.

The Chair thanked residents for their contributions.

### **99 Apologies for absence**

**RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Cray (business) and Roberts (business).

### **100 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**RESOLVED** to temporarily suspend the meeting for the duration of agenda item 101 in order to facilitate further discussion with residents.

### **101 Neston cycle route safety assessment**

The Committee considered CWaC's road safety assessment of cycle routes - audit number 1427 (review of the existing cycle route from Church Lane at the end of cycle route 568 to the Wirral Way via Bridge Street and Station Road and examination of any potential alternative routes).

Mr Mills (resident) was concerned about the methods employed to ensure appropriate representation of cyclists when formulating consultation responses. The Committee members noted that consultation with cyclists would have formed a part of CWaC's assessment process.

**RESOLVED** to notify CWaC that Neston Town Council supported the alternative route as detailed in the assessment report.

The meeting resumed.

### **102 Community safety**

- a The Committee received an update report from Cheshire Constabulary relating to concerns raised by a local resident regarding crime levels in Neston.

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- b** CWaC Officers Mrs Michelle Nicholson (Senior Integrated Early Support Manager, Community Safety) and Mrs Cathy McGee (Senior Practice Leader, Community Safety) gave a presentation on the work of the Community Safety team which works closely with the Police to tackle both environmental and nuisance anti-social behaviour. Mrs Nicholson agreed to forward further information about the work of the team and referral procedures.

The Chair thanked Mrs Nicholson and Mrs McGee for an informative presentation.

Mrs Nicholson and Mrs McGee left the meeting.

- c** In light of the information supplied by CWaC Officers, it was agreed that it would not be necessary to request a report of the effectiveness of CWaC Community Safety Wardens in Neston.

### **103 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** to approve minutes of the meeting held on 08.11.16. The Chair signed the minutes.

### **104 Governance & Operations Manager's report**

The Committee received the Governance and Operations Manager's report.

Committee members were also reminded that there would be a CWaC planning update event on 30 January.

### **105 Strategic objectives**

The Committee reviewed progress to date of the committee's annual objectives. No updates were made to the document.

### **106 Planning applications**

- a** The Committee reconsidered application 16/04511/FUL (land between Hinderton Nursing Home and Shell Garage, Chester High Road, Neston – siting of a caravan as agricultural worker's dwelling for three years) in light of information that was not available when the application was considered on 08/11/2016.

**RESOLVED** to inform CWaC that, in the light of the additional information received, Neston Town Council no longer objected to this planning application.

- b** The Committee noted the Borough Council planning decisions.
- c** The Committee noted comments submitted to planning applications.
- d** The Committee noted recent changes to the procedures for calling in planning applications.

### **107 Highways safety and Transport**

- a** The Committee received an update on requests made to Cheshire Highways.

The Committee agreed that a letter should be written to CWaC's Chief Executive and CWaC Councillors regarding the lack of response to requests made to Cheshire Highways.

The Committee agreed that the notes submitted by Mr Hadley (Neston resident) should be submitted to CWaC's Principal Engineer in advance of the meeting scheduled to discuss A540 safety issues.

- b** The Committee considered the notes of the Transport Working Group meetings held on 16.11.16 and 16.01.17 and the accompanying paper produced Mr McClelland (resident).

The Committee agreed to convey the concerns raised by Mr McClelland to CWaC Highways along with those raised by the Lees Lane residents at P&E on 04.10.16

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**RESOLVED** to inform CWaC that the Town Council will not attend any further meetings of the Transport Forum until CWaC is able to present clear proposals to improve public transport in the town in line with the Town Council's Transport Standard.

**RESOLVED** to write to CWaC stating that Neston Town Council considers that CWaC should either make Hooton car park free or use the profit from it to provide bus services to the station from Neston.

Cllr Shipman left the meeting.

#### **108 Neighbourhood Plan Community Steering Group**

- a The Committee considered notes of the Community Steering Group meeting held on 14.12.16
- b **RESOLVED** to approve the revised terms of reference and membership for the Neighbourhood Plan Community Steering Group as set out in report PE7/108b.
- c **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Wilkie as a member to serve on the Community Steering Group.

The Committee agreed to request Council to nominate a further member for the Community Steering Group.

Cllr Shipman returned to the meeting.

#### **109 Wirral track renewal works – impact on Neston rail users**

The Committee considered paper PE7/109.

**RESOLVED** to write to Merseytravel and its partners advising that insufficient attention has been given to the needs of Neston passengers and that immediate action should be taken to remedy this.

#### **110 Parking Strategy consultation**

**RESOLVED** to respond to CWaC's Parking Strategy consultation as detailed in the draft response (paper PE7/110).

The Committee also agreed to write to the four local CWaC councillors asking for their assurance that they would oppose any proposal by CWaC to introduce car parking charges in Neston and Parkgate.

#### **111 Community Pride competition**


- a The Committee considered a feedback report from the Parkgate Society on the 2016 competition and agreed to make the Town Centre Committee aware of the feedback relating to allotments.
- b The Committee received information from Cheshire Community Action and noted that the competition would not be running in 2017.

The Committee agreed to inform both Neston Civic Society and Parkgate Society that, should they consider running a community pride competition in 2017, they could approach the Town Council for financial assistance.

#### **112 Gateway Walls**

- a The Committee noted that quotations had been sought for construction of two walls and that the submission closing date was 01.02.17.
- b The Committee agreed to submit a request to Council that that £4,902 from 16/17 budget line 4208 (Gateway Walls) be earmark reserved for construction work in financial year 17/18.

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### **113 Tree planting**

- a** The Committee noted that the total cost of additional tree planting on Drake Road would be £4620.
- b** The Committee agreed to submit a request to Council that £633 from 16/17 budget line 4211 (floral arrangements/maintenance) be earmark reserved for tree planting work in financial year 17/18.

### **114 Police Community Support Officers**

The Committee noted Council's recommendation for P&E to investigate the costs and benefits of paying for a PCSO allocated to Neston.

Committee members were informed that there would be insufficient time to make any changes for the financial year 17/18 and that the Council Manager suggested the Committee should consider options for the financial year 18/19. Further information was being sought by the Council Manager regarding the financial implications as well as information from parishes that currently funds PCSOs.

### **115 Marsh dredging**

The Committee noted that a contractor had been appointed to clean 850 meters of ditching in Parkgate at a cost of £5,400+VAT and that a Rural Support grant of £2,700 had been secured towards the cost.

### **116 Neston Looking Better Group**

The Committee received the notes of the Neston Looking Better Group meeting held on 09.11.16.

### **117 Press release**

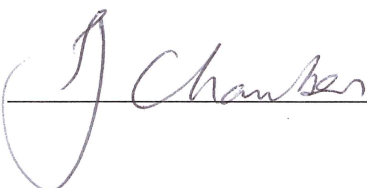
The Committee agreed to issue a press release relating to agenda item 110 – that the Town Council had written to local CWaC Councillors asking for their assurance that they would oppose any proposal by CWaC to introduce car parking charges in Neston and Parkgate.

### **118 Other items:** none.

### **119 Next meeting**

Noted as Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7.3.17