

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	<b>Full Council Meeting (2)</b>
	<i>Time &amp; Date</i>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 6.00pm</b>
	<i>Location</i>	<b>Neston Town Hall</b>
<b>MINUTES</b>		

**Present:** Cllrs: Davies (Chair), Adderley, Braithwaite, Davies, Griffiths, Hudspeth, Jones, Kynaston, Marple, Townsend, D. Ruscoe, N. Ruscoe and Wastell.

In attendance: CWaC Cllr M. Barker, CWaC Cllr K. Millar, Z. Dean (Locum Chief Officer).  
1 x member of the public.

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

<b>28</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the apologies from Cllr Warner – another meeting and Cllr Swaffer – holiday. Cllr Doughty was absent.
<b>29</b>	<b>Questions and Comments from Residents</b> No members of the public were present.
<b>30</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting</b> A minor grammatical error was corrected and signed by the Mayor. It was requested that any minor corrections are submitted via email to the Chief Officer in advance of the meeting. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept and sign the minutes from the Annual Council meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025, with the above amendment.
<b>31</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Cllr Marple declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 36, Highways item as a resident of this area.
<b>32</b>	<b>Presentation from CWaC Cllr Barker</b> Cllr Barker presented an update from the Market Town Regeneration Group. Brook Street in Neston had been subject to a housing needs survey and plans are afoot to transform the entire old Wetherspools site to accommodation with 1-2 bedrooms. Planning for this potential development could soon be on the horizon. The project could see a loss of a number of parking spaces on the Chester Road carpark which is adjacent to the site. However, this carpark is subject to a 125-year lease. Since the Brook Street site had been vacant since the closure of Wetherspools in 2007, the development could be transformative to this part of the town. The current timescale is 12 months; more news could be expected in December. Valuations and surveys are also in progress on the three Cheshire West & Chester buildings in the town – the Town Hall, Civic Hall and Library. A Business Plan for the Town Hall and Market was requested. Commercial value would be paramount in any decisions going forward as to the future of the buildings. NCYC currently has an agreement to operate the Civic Hall until January 2027. There is potential for one building to house multiple services, namely the Town Hall. Councillors thanked Cllrs Barker and Millar for the update.
	The Mayor requested that item 38 was brought forward.

<b>38</b>	<p><b>Co-Option</b></p> <p>a) No applicants had been received for the vacancy in the Parkgate Ward.</p> <p>b) Mr Christopher Martin Halford made a short presentation on his willingness to join the Town Council, representing the Neston Ward.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To co-opt Mr Christopher Martin Halford onto Neston Town Council.</p> <p>Cllr Halford signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which was witnessed by the Locum Chief Officer and he joined the meeting.</p>
<b>33</b>	<p><b>Committee Minutes</b></p> <p>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the HR Committee meetings held on 03/06/2025 and 17/06/2025.</p> <p>b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the Finance &amp; Administration Committee meeting held on 03/06/2025.</p> <p>c) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the Community &amp; Environment Committee meetings held on 10/06/2025 and 24/06/2025.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the Market &amp; Town Hall Committee meeting held on 17/06/2025.</p>
<b>34</b>	<p><b>Policies and Procedures</b></p> <p>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve and adopt the revised Website and Social Media Privacy Notice.</p> <p>b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve and adopt the revised Equality &amp; Diversity Policy.</p> <p>c) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To review and adopt the revised Safeguarding Policy.</p> <p>d) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To review and adopt the revised Market Policy Trader Licence T's &amp; C's.</p> <p>e) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve and adopt the new IT Access Control Policy.</p> <p>f) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To review the revised Information Security Policy.</p> <p>It was requested that future updates are highlighted to show changes within the policies.</p>
<b>35</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>It was noted that many of the Month 1 payments made in April relate to last year's March 2025 expenditure.</p> <p>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve current account expenditure of £119,576.11 net authorised by the RFO from 01/04/25 to 31/05/25 and Equals card payment of £868.75 net from 01/04/25 to 31/05/25.</p> <p>b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To note the current account income of £482,309.94 Net from 01/04/25 to 31/05/25.</p> <p>c) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To agree the reconciliation of the Council's three bank accounts to 31/05/25.</p> <p>d) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the current Full Council Committee budget/EMRs.</p> <p>A question was asked about PRS Licence Payments; their Chief Officer clarified that the two payments related to the Town Hall and Market.</p> <p>A question was asked about the bank, the Chief Officer confirmed that research was being undertaken and the Council continued to bank with Unity Trust Bank.</p>
<b>36</b>	<p><b>Proposed Parking Restrictions – Buggen Lane and Mill Street</b></p> <p>Members debated the proposal.</p>

	<b>It was RESOLVED:</b> That members were happy to support the proposed extension of parking restrictions (double yellow lines) for Buggen Lane and Mill Street.
<b>37</b>	<b>Councillor Surgeries</b> <p>Members debated potential changes to the current councillor surgery sessions, which currently operate jointly with the police.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> That the councillor surgery sessions will remain weekly.</p> <p>It was suggested that all councillors should sign up to a minimum of 1 or 2 sessions, with those with less availability signing up early, allowing for the regular volunteers, who are more flexible, to fill the remaining dates. New councillors to buddy-up with more experienced members.</p>
<b>39</b>	<b>Locum Chief Officer's Report</b> <p>Members congratulated the Locum Chief Officer, Zoë Dean, for the report. The Locum Chief Officer provided a further verbal update on the recent improvement works to the Main Hall.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> to receive the report.</p>
<b>40</b>	<b>Date of next meetings</b> <p>a) It was noted that an Extraordinary Full Council meeting would take place on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025, to receive a presentation from the Head of Planning regarding the CWaC Local Plan Consultation. All members were urged to attend.</p> <p>b) The next scheduled Full Council meeting would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 6pm.  The Locum Chief Officer left the meeting at this point.</p>
<b>41</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b> <p>To consider that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.</p>
<b>PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public</b>	
<b>42</b>	<b>Recommendation from HR Committee (17/06/25)</b> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve an extension to the Locum Chief Officer's contract to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 on the existing terms and conditions of employment.</p>

**Meeting closed at 19:15.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_