

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	<b>Full Council Meeting (6)</b>
	<i>Time &amp; Date</i>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.00pm</b>
	<i>Location</i>	<b>Neston Town Hall</b>
<b>MINUTES</b>		

**Present:** Cllrs: Davies (Chair), Adderley, Braithwaite, Dignam-Gill, Griffiths, Halford, Jones, Kynaston, Marple, Swaffer, D. Ruscoe, N. Ruscoe and Wastell.

**In attendance:** Z. Dean (Locum Chief Officer), T. Godfrey (Finance Manager/RFO), 1 x member of the public (6.15pm).

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

<b>72</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the following apologies from councillors: Cllr Swaffer – personal reasons Cllr Warner – another meeting Cllr Doughty was absent.
<b>73</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None received.
<b>74</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting</b> <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept and sign the minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2026. The Chair signed the minutes. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept and sign the minutes from the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2025.
<b>75</b>	<b>Questions and Comments from Residents</b> No members of the public wished to speak at the meeting.
<b>76</b>	<b>Committee Minutes</b> a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 28/10/25, 25/11/25 and 16/12/25. b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the Finance & Administration Committee held on 11/11/25 and 09/12/25. c) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the HR Committee held on 11/11/25. d) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the minutes from the Market & Town Hall Committee held on 18/11/25.
<b>77</b>	<b>Correspondence from the Police</b> Members discussed this item at length. It was agreed that the link to the Police & Crime Commissioner's online Precept Survey would be re-shared to the Council's social media pages and emailed directly to members. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To write to the Chief Constable expressing Neston Town Council's concerns about the potential loss of much-valued PCSOs who serve Neston, whilst thanking them for their service.

<b>78</b>	<b>Co-Option</b> No formal applications had been received for the vacancy in the Neston Ward. The Chair thanked the member of the public present who had been observing the meeting and asked them to contact the Chief Officer to discuss the vacancy in more detail.
<b>79</b>	<b>Budget Setting</b> a) The Mayor introduced the item. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the following reports: the Budget Report, EMRs and Precept Summary Report 2026/27. b) Members considered the Committee Budget Proposals and Band Rate Increases (options 1 – 3), debating the impact of the three options. Council emphasised the need for a detailed press release explaining the reasonings behind the decision and priorities for the year ahead. c) Following a proposal to accept Option 3, a vote took place, 9 – For and 4 – Against. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the accept the precept rise of 7.9% from option 3 Council thanked the RFO for the hard work involved in preparing the budgets and the additional options.
<b>80</b>	<b>Precept Request 2026/27</b> The Mayor read out the requirements for the 2026/2027 precept. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve the precept request from Cheshire West & Chester Council of £499,646 (7.86%), in order to fund Neston Town Council for 2026/2027.
<b>81</b>	<b>Neston Town Hall</b> a) The Mayor introduced the item, noting that a number of councillors had come forward to volunteer for the Town Hall working group. The Mayor made a proposal. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To appoint the following councillors to the Town Hall working group: Cllrs C. Braithwaite, S. Jones, P. Kynaston and G. Swaffer, with Cllrs N. Ruscoe and S. Davies being appointed as reserve members. <i>The vote was unanimous.</i> Upon a question being asked, the Chief Officer noted that business planning work would be undertaken alongside this group to create a vision. This would be a stepping stone towards exploring the future of the Town Hall, prior to consulting residents and investigating what the Council wishes to do.
<b>82</b>	<b>Locum Chief Officer's Report</b> The Locum Chief Officer introduced the report. <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the Locum Chief Officer's Report, congratulating the LCO for the excellent report which keeps the members updated on the detailed activities of the Council and its team.
<b>83</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Members noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6pm.
<b>84</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b> 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.
<b>PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public</b>	
<b>85</b>	<b>Insurance Provision</b>
	Councillors discussed and debated the above item.
a)	<b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the report from the Chief Officer and RFO.
b)	<b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To proceed with the recommendation from the RFO to accept a three-year fixed term insurance renewal with Zurich Municipal.

**Meeting closed at 19:05.**

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