



<i>Meeting (No)</i>	<b>Full Council Meeting (8)</b>
<i>Time &amp; Date</i>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 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, Jones, Kynaston, Swaffer, D. Ruscoe, N. Ruscoe and Wastell.

**In attendance:** Z. Dean (Locum Chief Officer).

1 x member of the public.

The Mayor opened the meeting with some housekeeping notes:

The Mayor's Civic Service will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 2pm for 2.30pm in the church of St Mary & St Helen. Please can councillors RSVP to this event as soon as possible in order for numbers to be planned for refreshments.

We have also been notified that there is a public meeting taking place regarding the Civic Hall on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm which members are encouraged to attend.

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

##### **92 Apologies for Absence**

**It was RESOLVED:** To accept the following apologies from councillors:

Cllr Hudspeth – prior engagement

Cllr Halford – personal reasons

Cllr Warner – another meeting

Cllr Marple – no reason given

Cllr Doughty was absent.

##### **93 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

##### **94 Minutes of the Meeting**

**It was RESOLVED:** To accept and sign the minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**It was RESOLVED:** To accept and sign the minutes from the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

##### **95 Questions and Comments from Residents**

No members of the public wished to speak at the meeting.

##### **96 Committee Minutes**

a) **It was RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes from the Community & Environment Committee meetings held on 03/02/26.

b) **It was RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes from the Finance & Administration Committee held on 17/02/26.

c) **It was RESOLVED:** To accept the minutes from the Market & Town Hall Committee held on 10/02/26.

##### **97 Correspondence from the Police**

	<b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the correspondence regarding updates to the changes of the number of PCSOs in the Cheshire area.
<b>98</b>	<p><b>Co-Option Vacancy</b></p> <p>An application for co-option had been received from Mr James Jardine.</p> <p>Mr Jardine made a short speech about himself and his suitability to be considered as a candidate for co-option. Members asked relevant questions.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To appoint James Jardine as a councillor for the Neston Ward.</p> <p>Mr Jardine signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form in the presence of the Chief Officer, who witnessed the document.</p>
<b>99</b>	<p><b>Stage Project</b></p> <p>a) The Mayor introduced the item, noting that a recommendation had been received from the Finance &amp; Administration Committee. The work can be scheduled to take place early in the 2026/27 financial year. Members discussed the proposal. It was noted that the footprint of the stage will not change and the aim of the project is to enhance what the building already has.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To allocate £5,000 from the special project fund for the stage project work (unanimous).</p>
<b>100</b>	<p><b>Policy Renewal</b></p> <p>The newly updated Subject Access Request Complaint Policy was received. The Chief Officer noted that the policy had been updated as per advice received from the Council's internal auditor and to comply with Assertion 10 regulations.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the updated policy.</p>
<b>101</b>	<p><b>Council Risk Assessment 2025/26</b></p> <p>Members debated the item. The Chief Officer clarified the purpose of the document. Concerns were raised over the acoustics and hearing accessibility of the Main Hall.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the Risk Assessment 2025/26, actioning an investigation into a potential hearing system for the Town Hall, via the Market &amp; Town Hall Committee.</p>
<b>102</b>	<p><b>Assets and Insurance</b></p> <p>Members discussed the asset list. Taking into careful consideration the items raised by the Chief Officer, chiefly the new handrails on Market Square and the damaged bike bump. A question was asked regarding the value of the Mayor's chain, it was noted that the chain is predominantly gold-plated.</p> <p>Following a proposal,</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To not insure the new wooden handrails on the Market Square, as these constitute fixtures and fittings.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To remove the second, damaged bike bump from the asset list.</p> <p>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve the fixed asset list up to 31/03/26.</p> <p>b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To agree that the selected items meet the Town Council's insurance needs.</p> <p>It was noted that following an inspection of the conference sound system equipment, via the M&amp;TH Committee, this item may need to be removed at a later date.</p>

<b>103</b>	<b>Request for Legislative Changes to Firework Sales</b> <p>A request from Nantwich Town Council had been received to consider supporting legislative changes to the sale of fireworks, limiting sales to those only for public display events.</p> <p>Members debated the positives and negatives of the proposal, noting that there is currently a bill going through parliament to amend the Firework Regulations 2004, with proposals to limit the noise levels of fireworks.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To write to the local MP, suggesting that they support the proposed changes to the legislation, controlling and amending the sale of fireworks. 1 x abstention.</p>
<b>104</b>	<b>Locum Chief Officer's Report</b> <p>Members noted that this was the last meeting that the Locum Chief Officer's title would contain "Locum". The Mayor offered congratulations.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the Locum Chief Officer's Report.</p>
<b>105</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> <p>Members noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6pm. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm.</p>
<b>106</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>107</b>	<b>HR Contract Service</b> <p>Councillors discussed and debated the above item.</p> <p>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the report from the Chief Officer.</p> <p>b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To appoint Elcons for a three-year period as per details contained within the report.</p>

**Meeting closed at 19:13.**

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