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|  | <i>Meeting (No)</i>    | <b>Extraordinary Full Council Meeting (3)</b> |
|                                                                                  | <i>Time &amp; Date</i> | <b>25<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at 6.00pm</b>  |
|                                                                                  | <i>Location</i>        | <b>Neston Town Hall</b>                       |
|                                                                                  | <b>MINUTES</b>         |                                               |

**Present:** Cllrs: Davies (Chair), Adderley, Dignam-Gill, Griffiths, Hudspeth, Jones, Marple, Warner and Wastell.

In attendance: Z. Dean (Chief Officer), A. Duncan (Community & Environment Manager), Cllr M. Barker (CWaC), Cllr K. Millar (CWaC) and 12 x members of the public.

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

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| <b>42</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b><br><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the following apologies for absence:<br>Cllr C. Braithwaite – work commitment<br>Cllr P. Kynaston – prior engagement<br>Cllr G. Swaffer – another meeting<br>Cllr D. Ruscoe – personal reasons<br>Cllr N. Ruscoe – work commitment<br>Cllr J. Jardine – work commitment<br>Cllr M. Halford – work commitment<br>Cllr P. Doughty was absent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>43</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b><br>None received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>44</b> | <b>Questions and Comments from Residents</b><br>A member of the public asked about councillor phone use at the meeting and it was clarified that some members use their smart phones for agenda viewing.<br>Twelve members of the public were present, five of whom wished to speak.<br>Cllr Barker spoke in favour of the Town Council supporting bunting for Neston, noting that business sponsorship could be obtained and wished to note that this could have been sorted sooner. The Parkgate Society will donate £1,000 towards new Christmas lights for the area.<br>A second resident, who wished to speak privately, noted that bunting is critical for local Civic pride and tourism. A petition was presented containing 336 signatures from residents, businesses and stakeholders who were all in favour of bunting.<br>Resident three spoke in favour of bunting for Neston, noting that the bunting is part of the town's heritage and brings people and the town together during activities.<br>Resident four expressed that bunting represents community events in Neston and it has been the one constant in the changing landscape of the High Street.<br>The fifth person to speak in favour of the bunting was representing local businesses as a hairdresser in the town, citing a film from 1912 which featured bunting and other décor. |
| <b>45</b> | <b>Bunting</b><br>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive the report on bunting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|           | <p>Cllr Marple spoke on the bunting item, noting that she had been bowled over by the passion and was amazed by the town's response. Therefore proposing,</p> <p>b) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> That Neston Town Council supports the installation of bunting for June – August 2027. All in favour.</p> <p>c) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To agree the environmental statement with the following amendment:</p> <p><i>Neston Town Council aims to avoid environmental damage and will endeavour to minimise the impact of plastic bunting by avoiding the use of any flexible PVC. The Town Council will explore the use of alternatives to PVC bunting that have a reduced environmental impact and be less resource intensive over the lifespan of such alternatives, whilst increasing the colourful impact on the high street over a longer time span. Whilst the Town Council acknowledges that alternatives such as polyester are still made from non-biodegradable plastic and have an inherently negative environmental impact, the least damaging option will be sourced and Neston Town Council commits to financing environmentally responsible disposal of the material when it is no longer usable.</i></p> <p>C&amp;E Committee to investigate options for possible alternatives to avoid crossing the highways and the associated dangers of this, i.e. lamppost flags with advertising opportunities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>46</b> | <p><b>Christmas Lights for Neston</b></p> <p>a) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To consider the report.</p> <p>b) Following a question from a councillor, the Community &amp; Environment Manager clarified that the new anchor bolts would be a permanent fixture in order to support more zig-zags for a new lighting scheme and should help to provide increased points for bunting.</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve the C&amp;E Committee's recommended lighting scheme as detailed in paper FC3/44a, approving the purchase of this lighting scheme from Blachere Illuminations.</p> <p>c) Members were asked for comment on the potential options for the Parkgate tree. It was noted that members of the Parkgate Society had expressed a preference for the green and gold 'Alps' tree on page 3 of the attached report (FC3/44a).</p> <p><b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the 'Alps' tree proposal.</p> <p>d) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To accept the total combined purchase price for the lighting scheme with the 'Alps' tree of £18,561.</p> <p>e) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To approve C&amp;E's recommendation to appoint Continuity Electrical Contractors Ltd continue to be NTC's contractor for the installation of all Christmas decorations provided by the Town Council for a three-year contract. Members noted that the supplier was very satisfactory.</p> <p>f) <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To delegate authority to officers to approve any unanticipated expenditure relating to the installation of the new lighting scheme, such as purchase of additional or replacement drivers, transformers or timers, in order to ensure the smooth-running of the installation process.</p> <p>Councillors understood the potential need to rapidly replace any faults during the Christmas period.</p> |
| <b>47</b> | <p><b>Date of next meetings</b></p> <p>The next scheduled Full Council meeting would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 6pm.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| <b>48</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>49</b>                                                              | <b>Appointment of LCC</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| a)                                                                     | <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive a proposal from LCC (Local Council Consultancy) for the Town Hall Vision Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| b)                                                                     | <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To appoint LCC to work with Neston Town Council on the terms specified within the above report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>50</b>                                                              | <b>Structural Survey</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| a)                                                                     | <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To receive a formal quotation from Fisher German.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| b)                                                                     | <b>It was RESOLVED:</b> To appoint Fisher German to undertake a structural survey of Neston Town Hall, allowing an additional allowance of up to £2,000 as a contingency.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                        | The Chair thanked Cllr B. Marple for her hard work on the Christmas lights project and budgetary cost savings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**Meeting closed at 19:00.**

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