**Crewe Town Council**

**Town Council Meeting**

1 Chantry Court

Forge Street,

Crewe

CW1 2DL

[www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.crewetowncoucnil.gov.uk)

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**Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2019**

The Mayor called for a minutes silence in memory of Jonathon Williams the Clerk of Middlewich who had acted as interim Clerk on the establishment of the Town Council in 2013. Members expressed their sympathy to all those that had known Jonathon.

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| ***19/3/01*** | Present |
|  | Cllr Buckley, Cllr Cosby, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr Faddes, Cllr Flude, Cllr Hogben, Cllr Houston, Cllr Howes, Cllr Toth, Cllr Messent, Cllr B Minshall, Cllr Morrissey, Cllr Jill Rhodes, Cllr John Rhodes, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Toth and Cllr Walton. |
| ***19/3/02*** | To receive and consider apologies for absence |
|  | Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Coiley, Palin and Keefe. |
| ***19/3/03*** | To note declarations of Members’ interests |
|  | Cllr Minshall declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the payments schedule (Element) and Mayor’s allowance.  Cllr Dunlop declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the Deputy Mayor’s allowance. |
| ***19/3/04*** | To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2019 |
|  | The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record. |
| ***19/3/05*** | Public Participation A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments   * Mr Deeley raised an issue with regard to the Camm Street Gym and its search for a new home. Members asked that the matter be taken through Committee. * Rev Edwards and Diane Parish provided members with an update on the Always Ahead Project (Flag Lane Baths). Firstly thanking the Council for its initial seed funding. The Council was asked to nominate someone to sit on the project group/board. Members also asked that the matter is taken to Committee. * Mr Cunningham from Ford Lane allotments provided a written question/request to resolve some legacy fencing issues utilising the balance of support funding. He also updated members on work at Hulme Street using s106 monies. Members asked that the matter go to Committee. |
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| ***19/3/06*** | To receive a report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor in relation to civic engagements attended  Cllr Minshall updated members on civic engagements undertaken since the previous meeting. Cllr Dunlop provided a resume of the engagements he attended while deputising for the Mayor. |
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| ***19/3/07*** | To receive updates from Committee Chairs in relation to meetings held since the previous Town Council meeting:   * Finance and Governance (Cllr Jill Rhodes) – Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September (Draft). Items for Council consideration: * Recruitment of Clerk and Strategic Review - That the Clerk organise an opportunity for nominated members to meet prospective suppliers and for those members to appoint the chosen supplier to undertake both tasks or to split the work[[1]](#footnote-1).   Members noted the minutes and asked that the matter be dealt with at the item further down the agenda.   * Operations and Improvement (Cllr Messent) – Minutes of the meeting held on 13th August (Draft). Items for Council consideration: * Council is asked to adopt the draft Heritage Strategy, to agree to it being published for consultation and to note the likely resource implications that may arise as part of the budget process to enable the delivery of the strategy once the consultation period has ended. * To record Council’s thanks to those who served and continue to serve on the Heritage Working Group for the considerable effort in putting together a document of such quality and depth.   Members adopted the Heritage Strategy and authorised consultation on its content. Members noted the budgetary implications and formally thanked the Working Group and the lead officer for producing a strategy of such quality.  Cllr Messent updated members on work to provide short term visual improvements at the bus station.   * Marketing and Events (Cllr Cosby) - Minutes of the meeting on 12th September (Draft). Items for Council consideration: * That Council authorise additional budget to cover unexpected costs on the Christmas light scheme due to the town redevelopment project[[2]](#footnote-2). * To consider a proposal from ArtReach to extend Lumen 19 over 2 days and allocate an ad hoc budget to cover the costs of the second day of approximately 9k. * An update on the Crewe Place brand project and appointment of supplier. * To allocate an additional budget of £5,000 toward the BBC One Show – Children in Need.   Members approved the expenditure on bullets 1, 2 and 4 (above) and welcomed the appointment of a supplier to support the place branding project.   * Planning Committee (Cllr John Rhodes) – Minutes of the meetings held on 16th July (Final) and 10th September (Draft). Items for Council consideration: None   Members noted the minutes presented.   * Community Plan Committee (Cllr Dunlop) – Minutes of the meetings held on 15th July (Final) and 9th September (Draft). Items for Council consideration: none |
|  | Members noted the minutes presented. |
| ***19/3/08*** | To consider urgent grant applications (Cllr Dunlop)  There were no urgent grant applications. |
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| ***19/3/09*** | To note any updates from members having attended external meetings.  Members provided the following updates:  There were no member updates.  It was noted that Cllr Messent had attended the Bus Users Group Executive meeting. |
| ***19/3/10*** | To note, consider and approve payments since the previous meeting as set out in the schedule below.  Members approved the payments. |
| ***19/3/11*** | To note and consider the year to date financial summary  Members noted the financial update. |
| ***19/3/12*** | To consider an update in relation to policing in Crewe  Members noted the Police update and asked what connections there are with British Transport Police. |
| ***19/3/13*** | To note the completion of the 2018/19 Audit and receive the report of the External Auditor  Members noted the satisfactory completion of the audit for 2018/19. Members thanked the Clerk for the work in this area. |
| ***19/3/14*** | Member questions to the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.  The following matters were raised:   * Whether an internal audit had been completed. Cllr Buckley replied that it had been done the previous week and would be reported to Finance and Governance Committee. * Members asked how monies donated in relation to the Beechmere fire would be distributed. The Clerk indicated that he was meeting with Cheshire East at a senior level to negotiate how a single fund would be managed and how the monies held by the Town Council would be transferred to that fund. This would require Council to agree the transfer and the conditions attached to the transfer at the next meeting.   There were no questions asked. |
| ***19/3/15*** | To receive an update from the Leader in relation to the strategic review and the recruitment of a Proper Officer/Responsible Financial Officer on matters not already covered on the agenda. |
|  | The Leader provided a short resume of progress. It was agreed that the named members in the footnote above perform the functions described.  Members then ***resolved*** that the remaining matters be dealt with in closed session due to the commercial and contractual nature of the discussions.  Members ***resolved*** that the sub group identified above be tasked with commissioning the supplier and for the work to commence once the supplier is selected. |
| ***19/3/16*** | To note the date of the next meeting |
|  | Members noted the date of the next meeting as 19th November. Cllr Houston tendered her apologies. |

**Meeting closed: 20:47**

1. Nominated members to consist of Committee Chairs plus, Cllrs Toth, Houston, Morrisey and Hogben. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Costs - £3,038 for removal prior the demolition works start of the lights scheme in Queensway and Victoria Street *including* £2,078 cost for alternative power supply in Market Square. Note, these numbers may change depending on the evolution of the Royal Arcade project or unforeseen operational complications. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)