

## **MIDDLEWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council's Finance, Policy and Governance Committee, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016, commencing at 6.00pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor S Moss (in the Chair) and Councillors PJ Farrell, K Kingston, DJ Latham, SN McGrory, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Councillors CL Bulman and J Eaton

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

JPA Williams, Town Clerk and DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor MA Hunter due to a prior commitment and JD Parry and DA Williams due to work commitments.

### **167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Councillor W Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to advertising and as a Committee Member of the Middlewich Community and Youth Project;
- Councillor B Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to advertising; as a Trustee of Middlewich Community Trust; member of the Good Neighbours Scheme; Member of Cheshire East Council and the Cemetery Board;
- Councillor S Moss declared an interest as a Trustee of Middlewich Community Trust and Secretary of the Rail Campaign;
- Councillor PJ Farrell declared an interest as a member of the Good Neighbours scheme and Trustee of Middlewich Community Trust;
- Councillor J Eaton declared an interest as a Committee Member of the Middlewich Community and Youth Project;
- Councillor DJ Latham declared an interest in any matters relating to the Ansa site as a near neighbour consultee;
- Councillor K Kingston declared an interest as a member of the Cemetery Board.

## **PART TWO**

**RESOLVED: that the Meeting be moved into Part 2 session for the remainder of the business to enable an open and free debate on matters that are not appropriate for the public domain at this stage**

### **168 MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November be confirmed as a correct record.

### **169 DRAFT TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET**

The Town Clerk introduced the fourth version of the draft budget which had been amended in accordance with the recommendations of the previous meeting.

The Committee went through the detail of the budget and raised questions and issues on various matters:

- Income – Community Pride – now included the income received from hanging baskets - £1,200; in relation to Sponsorship income – Members asked that the budget specify what type of sponsorship this referred to;
- Expenditure on utilities – the gas figure was for both the Victoria Building and Victoria Hall so there would be an amount that would be recharged to the Middlewich Community Trust;
- Similar items to be grouped together eg photocopier lease with printing and photocopying costs;
- What's On Guide – to be put under Events expenditure;
- Election Contingency – add in the figure of £11,000;
- Staffing Costs – the confirmed figure had now been received to include provision for all staff to be part of the pension scheme in line with changes in legislation;
- Community Pride floral displays – expenditure reduced to £4,300 to reflect the income received – as outlined above;
- Community Safety – PCSO – figure remain as £12,000;
- Community Safety – CCTV – figure of £9,250 remain and the item be referred to as Community Safety and Security;
- Roman Festival – the figure of £9,250 be reduced to £7,500;
- Under the heading of Projects and Commitments the figure of £2,000 for professional fees be deleted along with the figure of £1,500 for the Makers Market Road Closure; the Contingency Fund be increased from £2,000 to £3,000.

The Town Clerk agreed to calculate the reserves total and advise all Councillors.

**RESOLVED:**

That:

(a) the draft budget as submitted be approved for further consideration subject to the following amendments:

- Add in election contingency of £11,000;
- Community safety and security – figure of £9,250 to be put back into the budget;
- Heritage – Roman Festival – figure to be reduced to £7,500;
- Professional fees – (legal) – Fountain Fields and Southway toilets, car park transfers – the figure of £2,000 to be removed;
- Makers Market Road Closure – the figure of £1,500 to be removed;
- Contingency Fund including Air Quality, Railway Campaign – increase figure to £3,000.

(b) the draft budget as amended be circulated to all Members.

**Date of next meeting – Monday 27 March 2017 at 6.00pm**

**Cllr S Moss, Chairman**

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