

MIDDLEWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Victoria Building, Lewin Street,

Middlewich, CW10 9AT

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council's Community, Environment and Assets Committee, held on Wednesday 4th November 2015 in the Town Clerk's office at the above address, commencing at 6.45pm

PRESENT

Councillor S Moss (in the Chair), Councillors CL Bulman, D Latham, SN McGrory, B Walmsley and W Walmsley.

Officer Present:

JPA Williams, Town Clerk, DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk and J Jones, Facilities Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillors K Kingston and PJ Farrell

140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors S Moss and B Walmsley declared personal interests on the grounds that they were Trustees of the Middlewich Community Trust; Councillor S Moss declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Rail Station Campaign and Councillors B Walmsley and W Walmsley declared personal interests in any matters relating to advertising.

141 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 7th October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

142 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Following referral of the matter below by the Town Council, the Committee discussed the Terms of Reference:

Minute 7683 dated 19th October: Resolved: That

the Community, Environment and Assets Committee further review its terms of reference taking into account the transport and infrastructure issues raised at the meeting; and report back to the next meeting of the Town Council with a recommendation as to how these issues can be addressed through the Committee structure and the Neighbourhood Plan process.

The Town Clerk explained that the Terms of Reference outlined the powers available to the Council in relation to highways and transport. The Town Council had a role to work with the Highway Authority; in the past the Council had contributed to highways works such as the pelican crossing on Lewin Street; any such future contributions would need to be decided by the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee and full Council.

There were opportunities through the Neighbourhood Plan to influence highways, transport and infrastructure issues at an early stage. It was also important to ensure the Town Council's Planning Committee was aware of any policy requirements within the Neighbourhood Plan so they could make useful comments to Cheshire East Planning; for example, the Neighbourhood Plan might include a policy whereby new houses must have 2 off road parking spaces as well as a garage; cycle paths must be established within developments of a certain size etc. The Town Clerk explained that Cheshire East Council had made available to local Councils dedicated officer time to support Neighbourhood Plans which was very helpful.

The Committee felt that a separate Committee was not required to deal with highways and transport but rather the Terms of Reference should be amended to include reference to public transport, waterways and railways.

RESOLVED

That on the basis of the discussion at the meeting, the Committee recommends to the Town Council that there is no need to establish a separate Committee to deal with Highways and Transport matters but that the Terms of Reference of the Committee be amended to include public transport, waterways and railway matters.

143 QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR S MOSS – MIDDLEWICH RAILWAY STATION

Councillor S Moss had submitted the following question for the Committee's consideration:

Can the Town Council contact Cheshire East Council Leader Michael Jones in response to his quote in the local paper (The Guardian) calling the train project a complicated one, does that mean we are actually having a station and plans are afoot and if this is a project that has been started is there anything the Town Council can assist with?

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk write to Cheshire East Council Leader Councillor M Jones regarding a railway station for Middlewich.

144 MIDDLEWICH COMMUNITY TRUST

The Community Trust was progressing and an Action List was being developed. The Town Clerk suggested there was now a need for more sharing of information from the Trust to the Town Council. He also explained that through the budget process it was becoming clearer what the costs of running the buildings were. All offices were now occupied leading to increased rental income; the Function Suite was also showing increased rental income but investment was needed.

The anticipated timescale by which the Trust would take over the running of both buildings was April 2016; the preferred option was now that a management company be established rather than the Trust taking on a lease.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

145 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Town Clerk advised that the Christmas lights would be erected on 15th and 16th November. He was still trying to arrange a meeting with Blachere and Cheshire Highways regarding lighting columns and infrastructure. He would also raise the issue of responsibility for lighting on the Bull Ring.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

146 TABLE CLOTHS AND CHAIR COVERS

The Facilities Officer had obtained table cloths which she has made available to a number of hirers; she had hoped that cloths, chair covers; table decorations could be offered as a package. However, laundering the cloths had proved very time consuming. Members discussed having preferred suppliers who could be offered to hirers as a package; and also about the possibility of providing circular rather than rectangular tables. Members also discussed advertising with a banner on the outside of the Function Suite building. The Facilities Officer was asked to investigate the options for all these matters.

RESOLVED

That an advertising banner be purchased for the wall overlooking the car park advertising the Town Hall Facilities to hire.

147 TRANSFER OF CAR PARKS

The Committee noted that there was no further information from Cheshire East Council on the potential transfer of car parks.

RESOLVED

That the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee is Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 6.30pm after Events and Communications Committee.

The Meeting concluded at 7.30 pm

S Moss

Chairman of the Committee

Signed.....