

**Middlewich Town Council
Victoria Building
Lewin Street
Middlewich
CW10 9AT**

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Eighty Fifth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Victoria Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich on Tuesday 18th April 2017, commencing at 6.30pm

Part One

Present

The Town Mayor, Councillor PJ Farrell and Councillors CL Bulman, J Eaton, MA Hunter, JK Kingston, DJ Latham, SN McGrory, S Moss, JD Parry, B Walmsley, W Walmsley and DA Williams

Council Officers:

DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk, and N Antoney, Administrator

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from the Town Clerk, Mr JPA Williams, due to illness

Feedback and Reports

2. To receive any announcements to be made by the Mayor

The Town Mayor, Councillor PJ Farrell, reported that she had attended various events including the Winsford Town Mayor's Bavarian Ball, the Frodsham Town Mayor's Ceilidh, Scribe - the Middlewich Literary Festival, and the Transport meeting with Cheshire East Council outlining the results of the Transport consultation held in autumn 2016

Resolved 7919

That the Mayor's report be noted.

3. To note any declarations of Members' Interests on any agenda item

The following declarations were made:

- Councillors MA Hunter, D Latham, JD Parry and DA Williams declared interests in any matters relating to the Ansa Waste Transfer Station as members of the Action Against Ansa Group and near neighbour consultees;
- Councillor DJ Latham declared an interest in any matters relating to planning;
- Councillor B Walmsley declared an interest in any planning matters as a Member of Cheshire East Council and in any matters relating to advertising.
- Councillor W Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to advertising.

4. Rota for the Town Council Surgery to be held at the Makers Market

Resolved 7920

That Councillors B Walmsley and W Walmsley host the next Surgery on 29th April at the Town Council stall at the Makers Market.

5. To consider any items raised during the Open Forum

Mr G Williams asked 2 questions on behalf of Ms J Eyre:

- (i) regarding the level of Council Tax in Middlewich which was one of the highest in the Borough and requesting that the Town Council looks at ways to reduce the precept for future years; and
- (ii) regarding the emptying of waste bins on the canal side and a request to Ansa to recommence emptying these bins.

The Assistant Town Clerk agreed to take note of item (i) for when the Council begun the annual review of the forthcoming budget, from around September time. She advised that she would contact Ansa and the Canal and River Trust to try to address the issue of emptying bins on the canal side. She also advised that a meeting would shortly be set up with representatives of Ansa and Cheshire East Highways to discuss matters relating to grass cutting and general maintenance as part of the regular liaison arrangements.

6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 20th March 2017 and the Special Meeting held on 3rd April

Resolved 7921 That:

- (a) the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2017 be approved as a correct record; and
- (b) the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3rd April 2017 be approved as a correct record.

7. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Planning Committee held on 21st March 2017.

Resolved 7922

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21st March be received.

8. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 27th March 2017.

Resolved 7923

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 27th March be received.

(Note: In accordance with Standing Order 3 (o) a request was made for a named vote on this resolution and the voting was as follows:

For the Resolution: Councillors Farrell, Moss, Eaton, Kingston, Latham, McGrory, B Walmsley, W Walmsley
Against the Resolution: Councillors Hunter, Parry and Williams
Abstention: Councillor Bulman).

9. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 5th April 2017.

Resolved 7924

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Events and Communications Committee held on 5th April be received.

(Note: In accordance with Standing Order 3 (o) a request was made for a named vote on this resolution and the voting was as follows:

For the Resolution: Councillors Farrell, Moss, Bulman, Eaton, Kingston, McGrory, B Walmsley, W Walmsley
Against the Resolution: Councillors Hunter, Parry and Williams.
Abstention: Councillor DJ Latham).

10. To receive written reports from Members of Cheshire East Council

Resolved 7925

That the reports from the Cheshire East Councillors be received and noted.

11. To receive a written report from Middlewich Vision

Resolved 7926

That the report be received and the Vision Action Plan Manager be congratulated on the funding achievements and successful events referred to in her report.

12. To consider any Members' Items previously submitted in writing

Members' items had been received as follows:

- Councillor JD Parry had submitted two items: (i) requesting an update on the establishment of an Air Quality Group; and (ii) raising an issue regarding the sale of land leases resulting in ground rent increases;
- Councillor DA Williams had submitted two requests for updates (i) on the rebranding project; and (ii) on the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Councillor MA Hunter had raised two items: (i) raising an issue with pedestrian safety on Lewin Street; and (ii) asking for the timescale when the Audit Report for 2016-17 would be available to Members.

Resolved 7927

That:

- (a) the update from the Assistant Town Clerk advising that a meeting had been arranged with Cheshire East Council Environmental Health Officers to progress the setting up an Air Quality Group be noted;
- (b) the Assistant Town Clerk contact Cheshire East Council's Monitoring Officer and relevant Portfolio Holder regarding the issues raised whereby land leases may get sold by developers leading to increased ground rent and urging any action to address this issue;
- (c) the update on the Neighbourhood Plan be noted;
- (d) the Assistant Town Clerk email R Hibbert at Cheshire East Council seeking clarification of the actions agreed at the transport meeting held on 3rd April together with timescales; also request a prompt response to the email as these are matters of concern to councillors and local residents; the email to be also copied to the Portfolio Holder;
- (e) the question regarding the Audit Report be clarified outside of the meeting.

Finance

13. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the month of March 2017

Resolved 7928

That the Financial report for March 2017 be received and approved.

(Note: in accordance with Standing Order 3 (o) a request was made for a named vote on this resolution and the voting was as follows:

For the resolution: Councillors Farrell, Moss, Eaton, Kingston, Latham, McGrory, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Against the resolution: Councillors Hunter, Parry and Williams

Abstention: Councillor Bulman.

Policy Considerations

14. PCSO – to consider the update from the PCSO

Resolved 7929

That the update from the PCSO be received and he be thanked for his detailed report.

Highways and Transportation

None

Planning and the Environment

None

Notice of Future Meetings

15. To note the dates of forthcoming Meetings

Resolved 7930

That the dates for future meetings be noted.

Part Two

None

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Tuesday 16th May 2017.

The meeting concluded at 7.22 pm.

Councillor PJ Farrell
Town Mayor

Signed.....2017

