

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

**Minutes of the Four Hundred and Seventy Third Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, commencing at 6.30pm**

## **Part One**

### **Present**

The Town Mayor, Councillor JK Kingston and Councillors CL Bulman, DJ Latham, SN McGrory, SL Moss, B Walmsley, W Walmsley and D Williams

Council Officers:

JPA Williams, Town Clerk, DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk and NL Antoney, Administrative Assistant

### **1. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

Apologies for Absence were received and approved from Councillors J Eaton, PJ Farrell and MA Hunter; and SN McGrory (for lateness)

## **Feedback and Reports**

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

The Mayor updated on a number of events he had attended since the last meeting including:

- February 24<sup>th</sup> – celebration of 20 years' service of Manager, Bembridge Court;
- February 26<sup>th</sup> – Crewe Civic Reception;
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – judging World Book Day Bake-off and Art Displays, Middlewich High School;
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – Middlewich Oscars;
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Congleton Mayor's Ball;
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – Northwich Mayor's Ball;
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Middlewich Community Day; Middlewich and District Concert Society;
- March 21<sup>st</sup> – presentation of World Book Day prizes, Middlewich High School.

### **Resolved 7758**

That the Mayor's report be noted.

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

The following declarations were made:

- Councillor D Latham declared an interest in any matters relating to the Application 15/2355W, for a Waste Transfer Station;
- Councillor B Walmsley declared an interest as a Member of Cheshire East Council.

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

**Resolved 7759**

That Councillors SN McGrory and S Moss host the next Surgery on 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Town Council stall at the Makers Market.

**5. To consider any items raised during the Open Forum**

(a) Mr G Williams made reference to a previous question raised during the Open Forum regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (minute 7711 dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015 refers) and requesting that consideration be given to a number of measures including shutting and locking Southway car park overnight; locking Fountain Fields park; and introducing CCTV in those areas. An update was requested.

The Town Clerk updated that he had made contact with the Anti-Social Behaviour unit who had referred him to the PCSO. The PCSO was taking this forward. It would also be picked up through the Fountain Fields project as would the issue of locking the gates to the Park. Contact had been made with Tesco regarding the barrier onto the car park but this had not been resolved at this stage. Reference was made to the original planning permission and whether there were any conditions regarding closing the barrier – this would be checked. The issue about CCTV coverage was a longer term issue; for progressing in partnership with Cheshire East Council. The Town Council had fairly recently decided to make a financial contribution towards CCTV and this would be kept under review including where CCTV cameras were located.

(b) Mr J Parry requested that copies of the Cheshire East Councillors reports be made available and was advised that these could be put onto the website.

**6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Resolved 7760**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February be received and adopted.

**7. To consider any written Members' questions on the Minutes**

Councillor DA Williams had submitted a list of questions on the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The Town Clerk had circulated his written responses to these issues at the meeting, as set out below:

- Resolution 7743: Can we have an update on a grant to the Action Against Ansa Group? A completed application form had been received and would be submitted to the next meeting of Finance, Policy and Governance Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> March;
- Resolution 7753: Can we have an update on Brooks Lane bridge? The Town Clerk had spoken to a representative of the Canal and River Trust and was awaiting further information about publicising issues on the bridge;
- Resolution 7756: Have we had any response to our objections to planning application 15/5840C? The Town Council's objections had been received by Cheshire East Council (CEC) on 25<sup>th</sup> February; the decision had not been made at this stage and the Town Council had not received a response from CEC regarding our comments; we would not expect to receive any response.

Councillor Williams had also submitted a list of questions relating to minutes of previous meetings and the Town Clerk had circulated his written responses to these issues.

**Resolved 7761**

That the list of answers to the questions raised on the minutes be received and noted.

**8. To receive the Minutes of Meetings of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016**

**Resolved 7762**

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Events and Communications Committee be received as a correct record.

**9. To receive the report of the Town Clerk and any correspondence for information**

Councillor DA Williams had asked some questions in relation to the Town Clerk's report. The Town Clerk agreed to respond to the issues raised by email outside the meeting and circulate to all Councillors. He would also respond to a question raised regarding FAB finance.

**Resolved 7763**

That the Town Clerk respond by email to the questions raised by Councillor Williams and circulate the answers to all Councillors.

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

**Resolved 7764**

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

**11. To receive a written report from Middlewich Vision**

**Resolved 7765**

That the report from Middlewich Vision be received and noted.

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

Members' items had been received as follows:

- Councillor DA Williams had submitted a Member's Item on the subject of a timetable for the budget process including public participation;
- Councillor D Latham had submitted Members' Items on –
  - requesting the production of a statement for members of the public with an explanation regarding the Town Council's budget and precept;
  - whether the Town Council had received any further updates on progress with addressing the highways issues on Lewin Street.

**Resolved 7766**

That

(a) the item regarding a proposed timetable for the budget process be referred to the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee for consideration, including involving the public in the process, and the matter be brought back to the Town Council for decision;

- (b) the Town Clerk produce an explanation of the budget and precept to be available to anyone to whom it would be helpful; and
- (c) the Town Clerk and Councillor Latham work together on a letter to Cheshire East Council seeking information on what action is to be taken to resolve the highways issues on Lewin Street and seeking an explanation for the lack of information coming forward on this matter.

## **Finance**

**13. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the month of February 2016**

**Resolved 7767**

That the Financial reports be received and approved.

## **Policy Consideration**

**14. To receive any update from the PCSO**

The written report from the PCSO was considered.

**Resolved 7768**

That the report of the PCSO be considered in Part 2 of the meeting on the grounds that operational matters may be discussed.

## **Highways and Transportation**

None

## **Planning and the Environment**

None

## **Notice of Future Meetings**

### **15. To note the dates of forthcoming Meetings**

#### **Resolved 7769**

That:

(a) the dates for future meetings be noted; and

(b) the full Town Council meeting in June be moved from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June to take account of the Middlewich FAB Festival which is 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Part Two**

### **16. Report of the PCSO**

The Council discussed the report of the PCSO. Members had previously noted the lack of detailed information in the reports compared to the detail contained in previous reports from a few years ago. There had been some discussion in the past, about this matter, with the PCSO's Sergeant. It was noted that in some towns the PCSO held surgeries and it was felt that this may be useful.

#### **Resolved 7770**

That the Town Clerk and one representative from each of the political groups of the Council meet with the PCSO and Sergeant to discuss future working and reporting arrangements.

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

Councillor JK Kingston  
Town Mayor

Signed.....2016

