

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

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Seventieth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 21st December 2015, commencing at 6.30pm

Part One

Present

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

None.

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:

- 21st November – hosted the Over 70's party for Middlewich residents;
- 25th November – attended the Over Sixty's Club sixty-fifth celebration lunch;
- 28th November – attended the Christmas Fayre celebrations;
- 14th December – attended the High School Music Department's Christmas concert;
- 17th December – attended Middlewich Community Choir's Christmas concert.

Resolved 7709

That the Mayor's announcements be received.

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

The following declarations were made:

- In relation to item 12, (b), (ii) Members Item regarding Application 15/2355W, for a Waste Transfer Station - Councillor D Latham declared a disclosable pecuniary interest on the grounds that he owned property opposite the site; and Councillors MA Hunter and D Williams declared interests as near neighbour consultees.

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

Resolved 7710

That Councillors A Brooks and J Eaton host the next Surgery on 30th January at the Town Council stall at the Makers Market.

5. To consider any written questions submitted to the Open Forum

Mr P Melody asked the following questions:

(i) Back in 2008 - 2009 there were plans in place to have the roundabout on Centurion Way have a depiction of a Roman arch to improve the image of one of the major routes to the town which was quoted by the Heritage Officer as "In its current state it's just a rough piece of grass with dandelions on it.". Funding of £22,000 was unlocked by the former Congleton Borough Council with half the money spent on workshops and design costs. The project was abandoned in 2011 due to departure of project leader, local government reorganisation and increased costs with issues of maintenance. A number of residents on the estates surrounding the roundabout agree now as well as in the past, that the roundabout is an eye sore and needs some attention to make it an attractive entrance for the town. Will the Town Council consider reviewing the plans and get the program up and running again with Cheshire East the established council have already spent a large amount of money on the initial plans in the past?

(ii) The St Michaels Way / Lewin Street Junction in the heart of the town has only one designated button control crossing with two other road crossings with tactile paving and no traffic control crossing for residents for a safe route across. Tactile paving is to assist the visually impaired and blind for hazard warnings or directional guidance when crossing the road however feel the need for a Pelican Cross is needed for all residents. This area of the town has been named as "seriously unsafe" by a Middlewich Cheshire East Councillor in 2014 along with other infrastructure issues. Will the Town Council pursue options for a traffic button control crossing (Pelican Crossing) for the remain two roads on the Junction outside Town Bridge Motors and adjacent which will provide greater safety to cross in the future.

Mr G Williams has submitted the following question:

(iii) In order to address anti-social behaviour, will Middlewich Town Council arrange for the following three measures to be undertaken?

- 1) Shutting and locking Southway car park overnight when Tesco is not open
- 2) Shutting and locking the gate to Fountain Fields park overnight
- 3) Introducing CCTV to cover these areas.

Resolved 7711

That

(a) the Town Clerk reviews the original consultation results for the Centurion Way roundabout project; considers any ways to make the project easier to manage and maintain and contacts Cheshire East Council to ascertain how the project could be re-progressed;

(b) the Town Clerk contact Cheshire East Highways to ask that they work with the Town Council to provide a solution to the pedestrian crossing issues at the St Michael's Way/Lewin Street junction;

(c) the Town Clerk consults the Cheshire East Council Anti-Social Behaviour Unit regarding issues at Southway car park and on Fountain Fields Park;

(d) the Town Clerk asks Tesco to consider locking the gates to the Southway car park overnight when the store is closed, as was the case a few years ago; and

(e) CCTV be considered as part of the Fountain Fields Park project; and Tesco and Cheshire East Council be involved in discussions; and consideration be given through the budget process regarding allocating some pump priming funds for extra CCTV coverage for Southway car park and Fountain Fields Park.

6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 16th November 2015

Resolved 7712

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2015 be received and adopted.

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

None received.

8. To receive the Minutes of a Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 2nd December 2015

Resolved 7713

That the Minutes of the Meeting 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

Resolved 7714

That the Town Clerk's report be received and noted.

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

Resolved 7715

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

11. To receive a written report from Middlewich Vision

Resolved 7716

That the report from Middlewich Vision be received and noted.

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

Resolved 7717

That

(a) the Town Clerk arranges a joint meeting with GHA Coaches, the current provider of the X20 bus service, Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Middlewich and Winsford Town Councils, to seek a way forward. The meeting will be open for any bus service users to make their views known;

(b) the Town Clerk contacts Cheshire East Council to insist that the Town Council is provided with the engineer's report relating to the junction at Town Bridge/Leadsmithy Street with the A54 and also provides information about a scheme to resolve the footpath issues outside the White Horse Public House;

(c) the Town Clerk seeks advice about the costs of legal action to challenge the grant of planning permission for Application 15/2355, Waste Transfer Station, prior to the Town Council considering the matter further.

(d) the Town Clerk writes to Mr K Simpson, Headteacher, Middlewich High School, on behalf of the Town Council to congratulate all staff, pupils and Governors on the wonderful achievement of receiving a "Good" grading following the recent Ofsted Inspection.

(Note: Councillor D Latham left the meeting during the discussion and decision on item (c) above)

Finance

13. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the month of November 2015

Resolved 7718

That the Financial reports be received and approved.

14. Reports from Middlewich Youth Theatre and Middlewich Town Football Club

Resolved 7719

That the reports from Middlewich Youth Theatre and Middlewich Town Football Club be received and the grant of £500 be provided to each organisation.

Policy Consideration

15. To receive any update from the PCSO

Resolved 7720

That the update from the PCSO be noted.

Highways and Transportation

None

Planning and the Environment

None

Notice of Future Meetings

16. To note the dates of forthcoming Meetings

Resolved 7721

That the dates for future meetings be noted.

2150

Part Two

None

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 18th January.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm.

Councillor JK Kingston
Town Mayor

Signed.....2015

