

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

Minutes of a Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Victoria Buildings, Middlewich on Thursday 1st October 2015, commencing at 6.30pm

Part One

Present

The Town Mayor, Councillor JK Kingston and Councillors A Brooks, CL Bulman, DJ Latham, SN McGrory (from 6.40pm after the resolution to move the meeting into Part 2), SL Moss, DA Williams, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Council Officer:
JPA Williams, Town Clerk

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors J Eaton, PJ Farrell and MA Hunter.

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

The following declarations were made in relation to item 3 - Application 15/2355W, planning application for the construction and operation of a waste transfer station and other matters for Ansa, land at Cledford Lane:

Councillor D Latham declared a disclosable pecuniary interest on the grounds that he owned property opposite the site and Councillor B Walmsley declared an interest on the grounds that she was a Member of Cheshire East Council and a Member of the Southern Planning Committee.

Part 2

3. To make a resolution to move into Part Two session and exclude the Public and Press from the Meeting due to the possibility of legal matters being discussed

Resolved 7670

That the meeting be moved into Part Two session for the remainder of the meeting.

Planning and the Environment

4. Application 15/2355W - The construction and operation of a waste transfer station and refuse derived fuel processing facility, the refurbishment of existing site buildings to provide offices, a vehicle maintenance workshop, an MOT Test Centre, environmental services accommodation and ancillary development including car parking. Ideal Standard, Cledford Lane, Middlewich, Cheshire – to consider the Town Council’s response to the granting of planning approval of the above application and to consider options available to register the concern of the Council about the manner and circumstances in which this decision was reached. There will be no discussion on the application itself

Resolved 7671

That the Town Clerk writes to Cheshire East Council and requests that this application be taken back to the Strategic Planning Board for further and more comprehensive consideration in accordance with a planning application of this scale and importance. There are a number of reasons for making this request:

- Very few of the planning conditions were discussed. These included issues of fundamental importance to an application of this nature and which should have had a major bearing on whether the application was approved or refused. The key issues that were ignored included odours; noise; landscaping; lighting; boundaries; travel plan; construction routing; ecological enhancements; pollution to the canal; Phosgene gas; biomass boiler. The failure to consider these key issues meant that the Board did not satisfy the requirement to be fair and impartial.
- The way that the meeting was conducted and the hurried nature of the decision making has led to concerns that Cheshire East Council’s own constitution, Code of Conduct 2012 and protocols were not adhered to. The conduct of the meeting called into question whether or not Members met their general obligations under the Code of Conduct, in particular point 3 Objectivity – “you should remain objective, listen to the interests of all parties appropriately and impartially and take all relevant information, including advice from the authority’s officers, into consideration.” This obligation was clearly not met at the meeting of the Strategic Planning Board.

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 19th October.

The meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.

Councillor JK Kingston
Town Mayor

Signed.....2015

