

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

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Seventy Fifth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Victoria Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich on Tuesday 17th May 2016, commencing at 6.30pm

Part One

Present

The Town Mayor, Councillor PJ Farrell and Councillors CL Bulman, MA Hunter, JK Kingston, DJ Latham, SN McGrory, S 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 received. The Town Clerk reported that Alan Brookes had not attended any meetings for a six month period. He had therefore ceased to be a Member of Middlewich Town Council and the Council now had one vacancy.

Feedback and Reports

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

The Mayor, Cllr Pam Farrell, thanked everyone who had attended the AGM the evening before. She outlined her charities for her Mayoral year which were: the Epilepsy Paediatric Unit, Leighton Hospital, the local Stroke Ward, Macmillan Nurses and local uniformed groups. She referred to a number of forthcoming events in the town, including the Makers Market on 28th May and the FAB Festival from 17th – 19th June, all of which would promote the town. She referred to the various groups and organisations in Middlewich all working for the good of the town and hoped everyone would continue to work together for the good of Middlewich. She reminded Members of the provisions of the Code of Conduct which all Members had agreed to adhere to. She was looking forward to her year as Mayor.

Resolved 7786

That the Mayor's report be noted.

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

The following declarations were made:

- Councillor D Latham declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matters relating to the Waste Transfer Station as well as an interest as a near neighbour consultee;
- Councillors MA Hunter and DA Williams declared interests in the Waste Transfer Station as near neighbour consultees; and
- 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 7787

That Councillors J Eaton and MA Hunter host the next Surgery on 28th May at the Town Council stall at the Makers Market.

5. To consider any items raised during the Open Forum

(a) Mr J Parry asked the following question:

“After attending the last Cheshire East Cabinet meeting, Cllr David Brown said there would be a strong possibility of Middlewich being a location for a rail freight terminal. This would add a huge amount of congestion to our already extremely congested town along with numerous other problems. I would like to call on Middlewich Town Council to object to the siting of a rail freight terminal anywhere in Middlewich.”

Members discussed this matter, noting that it was dependent on HS2 and there were no firm proposals at this stage. Any freight terminal would need supporting infrastructure.

(b) Mr G Williams asked the following question:

“I am deeply concerned at the state of the road surface on Chadwick Road. It has been repeatedly "fixed" by Cheshire East over the course of the last 12 months, in a substandard manner that only lasts as long as the rain holds off. Please can the Town Council contact Cheshire East and insist that they fix the road properly?”

Members discussed the design of the road humps which were felt to cause damage to the road surface including pot holes.

Resolved 7788

That:

(a) the concern regarding a potential rail terminal for Middlewich be noted and taken into account should any firm proposals come forward for consideration; and

(b) the Town Clerk writes to Cheshire East Council to request that Chadwick Road is looked at, to ensure it is fit for purpose and the design of the speed humps is investigated to ensure they are compliant with current standards and if not, are redesigned.

6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 18th April 2016

Resolved 7789

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 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 18th April. The Town Clerk had circulated his written responses to these issues at the meeting, as set out below:

- Resolution 7778: When will the Clerk respond to questions asked before the April full council and will he set a timetable for response to questions that he believes need to go to a committee? This email response is part of the process. The calendar of committee meetings will set the timetable for responses to questions that need to go to a committee.
- Resolution 7780 (b): Have we had a response from Cheshire East Borough Council and the Canal and River Trust about grass verges on Booth Lane? No – see answers to 1 and 2 above, set out as follows - We have had an email from an officer of CEC Highways who is compiling answers to the various highways issues raised to him via email; he hopes to be able to send a composite response next week.
- Resolution 7780 (c): Has Cheshire East Council provided a programme of works for substantial repairs to potholes? See above answer.
- Resolution 7780 (f): What progress has been made to improve safety on Croxton Lane? Jim Gibbins, CWAC, has offered to facilitate a meeting of key stakeholders and we are awaiting his follow up. The Town Council has offered to help facilitate and provide a venue.

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 7790

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 Planning Committee held on 19th April and 10th May 2016

Resolved 7791

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee be received as correct records.

9. To receive the minutes of a Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 4th May 2016

Resolved 7792

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

10. 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 had provided a response by email which had been circulated the previous week and was also circulated at the meeting. A query was raised about whether a Clerk's report would be submitted to future meetings and the Town Clerk confirmed that there would be no Clerk's report for the time being.

Resolved 7793

That the responses from the Town Clerk be noted.

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

Resolved 7794

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

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

Members' items had been received as follows:

- Councillor CL Bulman had submitted the following item:

"In order to demonstrate that MTC encourages and values the participation of the public, could the Town Clerk provide a code of conduct that ensures:

1. that the public are welcomed and treated with respect
2. that they can both be heard and hear the contributions of others via the provision of a microphone
3. that their questions get a full answer and that actions are taken upon issues raised - and duly reported back to the individuals who raised them."

- Cllr MA Hunter had submitted the following item:

"Middlewich Town Council congratulates David Keane on his election as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire Constabulary and cordially invites him to attend a special full council meeting, at a mutually convenient time, to discuss future policing in Middlewich."

- Councillor DA Williams had submitted the following item:

Cross Lane

“Middlewich Town Council calls on Cheshire East Borough Council to tackle speeding along the pavement on Cross Lane by bringing forward traffic calming options for residents and town councillors to consider”.

- Councillor DJ Latham had submitted items relating to:

(i) Wheelock Street Parking; and

(ii) Lewin Street and White Horse issues.

Councillor Williams asked for an explanation as to why 2 Members' Items he had submitted had not been included in the agenda pack. In response, the Mayor explained that one item related to the cemetery and was therefore not a Town Council matter; the other item related to a matter that was to be considered at the next meeting of Finance Policy and Governance Committee on 6 June.

Resolved 7795

That

- (a) the Town Clerk drafts a Code of Conduct for when members of the public attend meetings of the Town Council to ensure that they are welcomed and treated with respect; can both be heard and hear the contributions of others via the provision of a microphone; and that their questions get a full answer and that actions are taken upon issues raised - and duly reported back to the individuals who raised them;
- (b) Mr David Keane be congratulated on his election as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire Constabulary and be invited to attend a special full council meeting, at a mutually convenient time, to discuss future policing in Middlewich;
- (c) The Town Clerk contacts Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Police regarding the issue of cars mounting the pavement on Cross Lane and what action could be taken to resolve this matter including redesigning the junction with Booth Lane;
- (d) The Town Clerk contact Cheshire East Council to request that a consultation is undertaken into increasing the parking time on Wheelock Street from 1 hour to 2 hours; and
- (e) The Town Clerk contact Cheshire East Council to ask for information on road safety schemes that have been considered for Lewin Street.

Finance

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

Resolved 7796

That the Financial reports be received and approved.

Policy Considerations

14. To receive any update from the PCSO

The written report from the PCSO was considered.

Resolved 7797

That the report of the PCSO be received with thanks.

Highways and Transportation

None

Planning and the Environment

None

Notice of Future Meetings

15. To note the dates of forthcoming Meetings

Resolved 7798

That the dates for future meetings be noted.

Part Two

None

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 27th June.

The meeting concluded at 7.25 pm.

Councillor PJ Farrell
Town Mayor

Signed.....2016

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Middlewich Town Council.....

