

Middlewich Town Council

Community Environment and Assets Committee

Minutes of a Meeting the Community Environment and Assets Committee held on Monday 25th September 2017, in Room 3A, commencing at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors W Walmsley (in the chair) and CL Bulman, PJ Farrell, S Moss and B Walmsley

OFFICER PRESENT

DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk

168 APOLOGIES

Councillors SN McGrory (work commitments) and JD Parry (illness/medical appointment)

169 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor B Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to her role as a Cheshire East Councillor.

Councillors PJ Farrell, S Moss and B Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to their role as Members of Middlewich Community Trust.

170 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that there were a number of outstanding matters from the previous meeting; these would be addressed in time for the next meeting of the Committee. Members agreed that future meetings of the Committee would start at 5.30pm.

RESOLVED: That

the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Committee, held on Monday 26th June 2017 be approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to Minute 167 (a) to add words at the end so that the wording is as below:

“(a) the Town Clerk pursue investigations into alternative accommodation for the Town Council offices and staff and arrange a visit to Salinae for himself, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor within 2 weeks”.

PART 2

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be moved into Part 2 session and exclude the public and Press from the meeting, on the grounds that the matters to be discussed involved financial matters, contracts and issues affecting third parties.

171 VICTORIA BUILDING AND VICTORIA HALL

The Committee considered various matters relating to the Victoria Building and Victoria Hall:

- Flat roof replacement – following the decision at the Town Council meeting on 18th September 2017, to consider accepting a quote for the replacement of the flat roof;
- Future accommodation for the Town Council – to consider options including remaining in the Victoria Buildings and relocating to another existing building in the town;
- To agree to contact a letting agent regarding options around the Victoria Building;
- Pigeon nuisance – to consider the quote for dealing with the pigeon nuisance (previously circulated);
- New heating system – to consider quotes for a replacement heating system;
- Victoria Building roof – to agree to obtain estimates for roof renewal and guttering repair or replacement;
- To consider adopting a policy on emergency matters including budget.

Three quotes were circulated for the replacement of the flat roof between the Victoria Hall and the Victoria Buildings. The Town Council had agreed a maximum of £10,000 from reserves to contribute towards the roofing work together with the contingency amount of £10,000 making a maximum budget of £20,000 for the replacement roof.

Future accommodation for the Town Council – Members discussed contacting Cheshire East Council regarding possible options around alternative accommodation.

It was agreed to defer the other matters ie proposals to contact a letting agent; consideration of the pigeon deterrent methods; new heating system; Victoria Building roof and policy on emergency matters.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) Quote number 2 be accepted for the replacement flat roof at a cost which is within budget; subject to the roofing firm being contacted to confirm price, ascertain availability and timescales in which to carry out the work;
- (b) the Assistant Town Clerk contact Cheshire East Council regarding possible accommodation for the Town Council; and
- (c) all other matters be deferred for inclusion within a comprehensive report to the next meeting.

172 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Committee discussed 4 quotes received for the provision of Christmas lights. It was intended that for this 3 year contract, Christmas lights were not provided on the A54 but were focused on the town centre, Bull Ring/churchyard and Lewin Street.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Town Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Bulman and Moss, meet with the preferred Christmas lights provider to finalise the contract terms for a 3 year contract for the provision of the Christmas lights in accordance with the tender submitted and the budget amount of £14,000.

173 BRANDING

The Committee considered the issue of Branding which had been referred from the Town Council meeting of 18th September as set out below:

“to revisit the issue of Branding, especially as there is a possibility of funding from Cheshire East Council for new signage for the town’s boundaries and this matter be referred to the Community, Environment and Assets Committee for further consideration”.

Members discussed the role of branding which was to encourage visitors to the town. It was noted that a number of towns and villages in Cheshire East had benefitted from new signage. The Head of Asset Management at Cheshire East Council had confirmed to Ward Councillors that funding was available via the CEC Assets’ budget for tangible items such as signage.

Members discussed seeking quotes from suppliers and to consider examples of how signage may look, incorporating the current circular logo. At the next meeting consideration would be given to zoning different areas of the town.

RESOLVED: That

(a) the Assistant Town Clerk investigates signage design and costings with a supplier which incorporates the current logo and the words ‘Welcome to Middlewich’; for consideration by the Town Council; and

(b) the issue of zoning be referred to the next meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

The Meeting concluded at 7.00pm

Councillor W Walmsley.....Chairman