

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

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Ninety Third Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 15th January 2018, commencing at 6.30pm

Part One

Present

The Town Mayor, Councillor SL Moss and Councillors CL Bulman, J Eaton, MA Hunter (arrived at 6.45pm), JK Kingston, DJ Latham, JD Parry, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Council Officers:

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

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Councillors PJ Farrell (illness), SN McGrory (work commitments) and DA Williams (work commitments)

Feedback and Reports

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

The Town Mayor, Councillor SL Moss, advised that she had not attended any Mayoral events since the last Town Council meeting on 18th December. However, she notified the meeting that her next Mayoral fundraising event was on Thursday 1st February when she would be holding a Bingo evening at the Victoria Hall. The Middlewich Oscars was on Friday 9th March and nominations were now being invited and encouraged.

Resolved 8013

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 B Walmsley declared that she would be unable to give an opinion in relation to the 2 Planning applications on the agenda at items 14 and 15 as she was a Member of Cheshire East Council's Southern Planning Committee and therefore must keep an open mind until the applications were considered by Cheshire East Council; and
- Councillors J Eaton and W Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to the Wych Centre.

4. To consider any items raised during the Open Forum

Ms J Eyre raised the following queries:

- With reference to the line in the budget titled "relocation" what were the plans for the buildings owned by the Town Council? In response the meeting was advised that the budget amount was a proviso and enabled the Town Council to explore options. It was noted that the Victoria Hall was 50 years old this year. The Town Clerk advised of the differential between the Victoria Hall and the Victoria Buildings. The Council had tenants in the Victoria Buildings and there were still issues with décor; this may require temporary accommodation to be sought to enable redecoration to be carried out;
- Was the roof repair paid for out of this year's or the following year's budget? The Town Clerk advised that the roof repair was an urgent matter and had been paid for out of the current year's budget which included cover for emergency repairs. The Hall is used by many hirers including the High School for exams and the leak was over the link corridor where some pupils sat to take exams, which were to recommence shortly.
- Could the payment to "The Unthanks" as noted in the financial reports be explained? The Town Clerk explained that this was a pre FAB concert for which the Town Council had received the income and had paid the Agent. However, the cheque had not been cashed after a number of months and the auditor recommended it be written off. Subsequently the rules around the timescales for validity of cheques had changed and the payment was then made by BACS to the Artists;
- If the Town Council decided to fund additional PCSO resource would this be on a one or three year contract? The Town Clerk replied that this would be a three year agreement but would not be entered into without a meeting with Cheshire Police and an agreed Service Level Agreement. This sum (£33,000) had been included in the budget and would contribute to the council tax levied on Middlewich residents. The budget amount was under the heading of 'Community Safety' so could be used for additional CCTV if that was decided by the Town Council. If the sum was not used then consideration would be given at budget setting time for 2019-20 to returning the amount to the reserves.

As the questions were raised on the evening there were no decisions to be made. The Town Clerk was thanked for responding in detail to the questions raised by Ms Eyre.

5. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Meetings of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 18th December 2017 and Monday 8th January 2018

Resolved 8014

That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 18th December 2017 and 8th January 2018 be approved as correct records.

6. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Planning Committee held on 18th December 2017

Resolved 8015

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th December 2017 be received.

7. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 3rd January 2018

Resolved 8016

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Events and Communications Committee held on 3rd January be received.

(Note: In accordance with Standing Order 3 (o) a request was made for a named vote on this resolution and the voting was as follows:

For the Resolution: Councillors Bulman, Eaton, Kingston, Moss, B Walmsley and W Walmsley
Against the resolution: Councillors Hunter and Parry
Abstention: Councillor Latham).

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

Resolved 8017

That the report from Cheshire East Councillor B Walmsley be received and noted.

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

Members' items had been received as follows:

(a) Councillor Parry had submitted items regarding:

- Mayoral Code of Conduct;
- Grant from Cheshire East Council to the Middlewich Community Trust;
- Seeking financial information about the Middlewich Community and Youth Trust who received a regular grant from the Town Council;
- Standing orders, holding meetings in Part 2 and the budget process.

(b) Councillor DA Williams had submitted an item regarding the Living Wage Foundation.

Resolved 8018

That:

(a) the Town Clerk will research examples from other local Councils and submit proposed wording to the next meeting of the Town Council for consideration of a Mayoral Code of Conduct;

(b) the explanation regarding the award of a grant from Cheshire East Council to Middlewich Community Trust for refurbishment of the overgrown land at the rear of the Victoria Building be noted; and

(c) the financial information and verbal update regarding Middlewich Community and Youth Project be received.

(Notes:

(i) In accordance with Standing Order 3 (o) a request was made for a named vote on (a) above and the voting was as follows:

For the Resolution: Councillors Bulman, Hunter, Kingston, Latham and Parry

Against the resolution: Councillors Eaton, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Abstention: Councillor Moss.

(ii) Councillor Parry confirmed he was withdrawing his 4th Members' Item relating to the budget process but would like to see a more open process for 2018-19

(iii) In the absence of Councillor DA Williams, his Members' Item was deferred to the next meeting.

Finance

10. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the month of December 2017

Resolved 8019

That the Financial reports for December be received and approved.

(Note: In accordance with Standing Order 3 (o) a request was made for a named vote on this resolution and the voting was as follows:

For the Resolution: Councillors Eaton, Kingston, Latham, Moss, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Against the resolution: Councillors Hunter and Parry

Abstention: Councillor Bulman).

Policy Considerations

11. PCSO – to consider the update from the PCSO

Resolved 8020

That the update from the PCSO be noted.

12. Relocation of Post Office

Resolved 8021

That the Town Clerk respond on behalf of the Town Council that the extended opening hours are to be welcomed; however, the current location is well used and the existing staff are always pleasant and helpful and any loss of jobs is therefore to be regretted.

Highways and Transportation

13. Public Inquiry into the application by Ansa Environmental Services Ltd to vary the goods vehicles operator's licence

Resolved 8022

That the attendance at the Public Inquiry by Councillors Bulman, Latham and W Walmsley be noted.

Planning and the Environment

14. Application 17/6233C - Full planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of 29 no dwellings, a retirement living facility containing 50 no apartments and 3 no retail units

Resolved 8023

That consideration of this application be deferred to await the public meeting with the developers which is taking place on 24th January.

15. Application 17/6366C – outline proposal for a mixed use development including residential, commercial, retail, cafes, marina and other ancillary works (resubmission of application reference 16/3209C) Intertechnic UK Ltd, Road Beta, Middlewich

Resolved 8024

That consideration of this application be deferred until the Masterplanning exercise by Cheshire East Council Planning Officers for the whole of the Brooks Lane area has been carried out later in the year.

It was confirmed that the Town Council would be consulted fully on the Masterplanning exercise.

Part Two

There were no items to be considered in Part Two session.

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 19th February 2018.

The meeting concluded at 7.25 pm.

Councillor SL Moss
Town Mayor

Signed.....2018