

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

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Ninety First Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 20th November 2017, commencing at 6.30pm

Part One

Present

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

Council Officers:

JPA Williams, Town Clerk, DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk, and N Antoney, Administrator

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor 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 attended the Remembrance Sunday service, a charity quiz organised by the U3A, the Over 70s' party and the High School Awards evening. She advised the meeting that she had a Mayoral event later in the evening that also concerned a number of other Members and she would be closing the meeting at 7.55pm.

Resolved 7991

That the Mayor's report be noted.

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

The following declarations were made:

- Councillors MA Hunter, DJ Latham and JD Parry declared interests in item 11 Members' Items in relation to the matters relating to the Ansa Waste Transfer Station as members of the Action Against Ansa Group and near neighbour consultees;
- Councillors PJ Farrell, S Moss and B Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to Middlewich Community Trust;
- 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 Eyre had raised 2 items:

- (a) relating to the level of Council tax for Middlewich; and
- (b) seeking information on the profit made at FAB17 and what any profit would be used for.

The Town Clerk outlined that the budget was still in draft format at the moment but the current thinking was that there was a possible reduction of £40k at this point. It was intended that a public meeting about the budget would take place prior to the next Town Council meeting including presentation of the budget and an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. Consideration could be given to holding more of the budget discussion in public in the future.

The Town Clerk explained that figures for FAB 17 were still being finalised but the current figures showed FAB expenditure was £73,680 and income was £78,993 subject to all income being received. This led to a surplus of £5,313 and the Town Clerk's recommendation was that this be earmarked as a deposit towards the FAB18 headline artist. The Town Clerk clarified that staff did not receive overtime for working at FAB but received time off in lieu. The Town Council had always made a commitment to FAB even when the Council was not responsible for running the event. Ms Eyre noted that FAB did not bring in much expenditure over income to the Town Council but was advised that it contributed to the overall economy of the town. It was noted that there were overlaps between financial years and the Clerk agreed to look into the possibility of coding items to the relevant year. He advised that the Performing Rights Society invoice was always paid in arrears.

5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 16th October 2017

Resolved 7992

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

6. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Personnel Committee held on 23rd October 2017.

Resolved 7993

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 23rd October be received.

7. To receive the Minutes of Meetings of Middlewich Town Council's Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 26th October and 6th November 2017.

Resolved 7994

That the Minutes of Meetings of the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 26th October and 6th November 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 Eaton, Farrell, Kingston, Latham, McGrory, Moss, B Walmsley and W Walmsley
Against the Resolution: Councillor Parry
Abstention: Councillors Bulman and Hunter).

8. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 1st November 2017.

Resolved 7995

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Events and Communications Committee held on 1st November 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, Farrell, Kingston, Latham, McGrory, Moss, B Walmsley and W Walmsley
Against the Resolution: Councillors Hunter and Parry).

9. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Community, Environment and Assets Committee held on 14th November 2017.

Resolved 7996

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community, Environment and Assets Committee held on 14th November be received.

(Note: Councillor DJ Latham voted against the above resolution)

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

Resolved 7997

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

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

Members' items had been received as follows:

- Councillor Parry presented an item on the Ansa Public Liaison Committee;
- Councillor Parry presented an item regarding Air Quality;
- Councillor Latham had submitted an item regarding policing in the town;
- Councillor Farrell had submitted an item regarding Cledford Primary School;
- Councillor W Walmsley submitted an item regarding to the bypass;
- Councillor Parry had submitted items regarding: Mayoral Code of Conduct; grant award given to Middlewich Community Trust; and seeking financial information about the Middlewich Youth and Community Project.
- Councillor Hunter had submitted items regarding: the Living Wage Foundation hourly rate increase; the bypass; information sharing with Councillors; and the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War One in 2018.

Resolved 7998

That:

(a) in relation to the item relating to commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War One, the Town Clerk liaise with Councillor Kingston and the Royal British Legion and the Cheshire Constabulary regarding planning for the event including road closures and resources and support from the Town Council; and the Town Clerk write to Cheshire East Council asking that the Bull Ring area be inspected and cleaned in preparation for Remembrance Sunday;

(b) the Town Clerk writes to Ansa regarding the Environmental Hub Liaison Group questioning the Group's commitment to the public of Middlewich; urging that the Group communicate more closely with the Town Council and in a more timely manner. In the meantime, those questions raised by Councillors Hunter and Latham that have not been answered be submitted to the Town Clerk to forward onto Ansa for a response;

(c) the Town Council's Air Quality Group meet as soon as possible to progress the matters raised in the information from Cheshire East Council and to clarify the matters raised by Councillor Latham;

(d) the Town Clerk writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable outlining the Council's concern about the apparent increase in property thefts and seeking a greater police presence to be visibly shown around the town and industrial estates through winter and around the Christmas period

(e) the Town Clerk writes to Cledford Primary School congratulating the school on receiving the Primary Science Quality Mark in recognition of excellence in Science Teaching and Learning;

(f) Eastern By Pass – the items submitted by Councillor Hunter and W Walmsley that related to the Eastern By Pass were discussed together. After a lengthy debate the matter was not resolved and the Mayor decided that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

Note: At this point in the meeting the Mayor determined to close the meeting and all remaining matters would be deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

(Note: in relation to minute 7998 (a) and (c) above, Councillor DJ Latham declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the room during the debate and as such did not participate in the discussion and did not vote on either matter)

(Note: in relation to minute 7998 (c) and 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, Hunter, Kingston, Moss and Parry
Against the Resolution: Councillors Eaton, Farrell, McGrory, B Walmsley and W Walmsley
The motion was carried on the casting vote of the Mayor, Councillor SL Moss)

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 18th December 2017.

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm.

Councillor SL Moss
Town Mayor

Signed.....2017