

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

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Eighty Ninth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 18th September 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:

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) and the Town Clerk, Mr JPA Williams (medical reasons)

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 Poynton Civic Service; opened the new hairdressing business at Cledford; attended the Holywell Civic Service, which was the Twin Town of Middlewich; attended the Town Council's Roman Festival; Crewe Mayor's Afternoon Tea; Cheshire East Council Mayor's 60s fundraising dance; the Winsford Salt Fair and Mayor's Civic Service; and hosted her own Civic Service.

Resolved 7965

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 any 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 their roles as Members of Middlewich Community Trust;
- Councillors B Walmsley and PJ Farrell declared an interest in any matters relating to Good Neighbours;
- Councillors J Eaton and W Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to the Wych Centre
- Councillor S Moss declared an interest in item 12 'Closure of Barclays Bank, Middlewich' as an employee of Barclays.

4. To consider any items raised during the Open Forum

R Pendleton raised an issue relating to the Eastern bypass, seeking information on the current position including when HM Government would confirm funding and asking that the Town Council request Cheshire East Council to provide information about any contingency plans.

C Jones raised the issue of HGVs accessing Nantwich Road, including whether there were sufficient signs, the location of such signage, whether SatNav information was accurate and could local residents be involved in any future proposals.

J Eyre asked whether the Town Council could receive a monthly report from the Middlewich Vision?

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that these items could be included on the following month's Town Council agenda if they were submitted in writing. She would investigate the position with the by-pass and Nantwich Road. The Town Council did receive a regular report from the Middlewich Vision on approximately a quarterly basis; increasing the frequency would be discussed with the Vision Manager and Town Clerk.

5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 17th July 2017

Resolved 7966

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

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

Resolved 7967

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 18th July 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: Councillors Hunter and Parry
Abstention: Councillor Bulman).

7. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 4th September 2017.

Resolved 7968

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 4th September be received.

8. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 7th September 2017.

Resolved 7969

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Events and Communications Committee held on 7th September 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 written reports from Members of Cheshire East Council

Resolved 7970

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

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

Members' items had been received as follows:

- Councillor Parry had asked that Cheshire East Council be contacted to undertake a full review on air quality test results;
- Councillor Parry had asked for the Borough Councillors to provide a statement regarding the additional funding awarded to ANSA from Cheshire East Council;
- Councillor Bulman had asked that representations be made regarding the recent introduction of car parking charges at Sandbach Railway Station;
- Councillor Williams had asked the Mayor to provide a statement regarding ensuring neutrality in the office of Mayor;
- Councillor Williams had submitted a query regarding the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Councillor W Walmsley had submitted an item on revisiting the issue of Branding in the light of the possibility of funding from Cheshire East Council for signage.

Resolved 7971

That:

- (a) the Town Council condemns the proven manipulation of air quality figures at Cheshire East Council and asks both Cheshire East Council and the Independent Reviewer to undertake a full reinvestigation and review into all the air quality test results for Middlewich since 2011 and to confirm to the Town Council which Air Quality diffusion tubes were monitored in Middlewich;
- (b) the Town Clerk writes to Cheshire East Council asking that they provide an accurate and truthful statement regarding the £2.4million funding awarded to ANSA from Cheshire East Council including confirmation as to whether or not the money is a loan and confirming the repayment arrangements;
- (c) the Town Clerk contacts Network Rail to protest at the parking charges recently introduced at Sandbach Station which risk pricing work out of the reach of many. Younger and other low waged workers are unfairly bearing the brunt of these charges. The letter be copied to Cheshire East Council for views and to Sandbach Town Council as a courtesy;
- (d) the Mayor's declaration of acceptance of office as read out at the meeting, be received and the matter be discussed at the next meeting to enable research to be undertaken;
- (e) the other items submitted from Councillor Williams be referred back to Councillor Hunter for clarification and resubmission if appropriate; and
- (f) the Branding issue be revisited 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 Community, Environment and Assets Committee for further consideration.

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

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

Against the Resolution: Councillors Hunter, Latham and Parry

Abstention: Councillor Bulman).

Finance

11. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the months of July and August 2017

Resolved 7972

That

(a) the Financial reports for July and August 2017 be received and approved; and
(b) the detail regarding Events expenses on page 159 be circulated by email to all Members.

(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: Councillors Hunter and Parry.

Abstention: Councillor Bulman).

Policy Considerations

12. Closure of Barclays Bank, Middlewich Branch – to consider the letter dated September 2017

Resolved 7973

That the Assistant Town Clerk write to Barclays Bank to object to the proposed closure of the Middlewich Branch of Barclays Bank.

13. PCSO – to consider the update from the PCSO

Resolved 7974

That the update from the PCSO be received and noted.

14. Air Quality Group

Resolved 7975

That Councillor JD Parry be appointed to the Air Quality Group

Highways and Transportation

None

Planning and the Environment

15. Waste Transfer Station Liaison Panel – to consider the report of Councillor W Walmsley on the meeting of the Panel held on 10th August

Resolved 7976

That

- (a) the report be received; and
- (b) the Assistant Town Clerk ascertain with Ansa whether minutes of previous Panel meetings have been received by the Town Council.

Notice of Future Meetings

16. To note the dates of forthcoming Meetings

Resolved 7977

That the dates for future meetings be noted.

Part Two

To make a resolution to move into Part Two session and exclude the Public and Press from the Meeting on the basis that the item to be discussed involves financial matters involving third parties

Resolved 7978

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

17. To consider the recommendation from the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 4th September 2017 regarding the Town Council buildings and set out below:

“RESOLVED: that

- (a) the repair or replacement of the flat roof at the Victoria Hall be considered at the Town Council meeting”.**

Resolved 7979

That the sum of £10,000 maximum be allocated from reserves to enable a complete re-roofing of the flat roof running from the Victoria Building to Victoria Hall. This amount to be added to the £10,000 held as a contingency item in the budget. The Community, Environment and Assets committee will determine which quote for the works will be accepted.

The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be on Monday 16th October 2017.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

Councillor SL Moss
Town Mayor

Signed.....2017

DRAFT