

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

**Minutes of the Four Hundred and Ninety Fifth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Wych Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, commencing at 6.30pm**

## **Part One**

### **Present**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W Walmsley ( in the Chair) and Councillors CL Bulman, J Eaton, PJ Farrell, MA Hunter, JK Kingston, DJ Latham, SN McGrory, JD Parry and B Walmsley.

Council Officers:

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

### **1. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

The Mayor Councillor S Moss (Family Commitments )

## **Feedback and Reports**

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

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W Walmsley, advised that he had visited Middlewich High School, attended an awards assembly at Cledford Primary School and represented Middlewich at Congleton Town Mayor's Ball

### **Resolved 8034**

That the Deputy Mayor's report be noted.

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

Councillor J Eaton declared an interest in any matters relating to the Wych Centre

### **4. To receive the letter of resignation from Mr David Williams**

### **Resolved 8035**

That the letter be received and noted.

## 5. To consider any items raised during the Open Forum

Mr Gareth Williams had submitted the following questions in advance:

(a) (i) Please can we have a commitment from Middlewich Town Council that all future budget meetings be held in "Part 1", meaning that members of the public can enjoy a meaningful part in the entire process, exactly as is the case in Sandbach. This commitment should, of course, allow for certain subjects, for example staff salaries, to be held in "Part 2". It is entirely reasonable that the public are properly involved in the budget setting process.

(ii) Cheshire East's new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which is specifically aimed at dog poo and dog control, was introduced in November 2017.

What evidence is there that Cheshire East is using these powers in Middlewich, and what can the Town Council do to encourage CEC to crack down on the very evident problem on Middlewich streets, and also help to get CEC's message out there?

Mrs Rachel Pendleton had submitted the following question in advance:

(b) Current council meeting start times discourage public participation:

The times of current town council meetings both at full council and committees are not in line with common local practice. The council should be aiming to encourage public participation and as a commuter town the council should consider having later meeting start times. Sandbach Town Council, Congleton Town Council, Crewe Town Council and Holmes Chapel Parish Council hold all their calendared meetings at 7pm. Alsager Town Council also holds most of its meetings at 7.15pm with Poynton starting most meetings at 8pm.

I am asking the council to immediately review the meetings times to allow more transparency in its operation.

Mrs Claire Armstrong asked on the night:

(c) That the Town Council request that Cheshire East Highways investigate and repair the large potholes around the town in particular Civic Way car park and Cheshire East/Tesco car park.

Mrs Rachel Pendleton also asked on the night:

(d) If she could be provided with an update on the planning application of Centurion Way.

### Resolved 8036

That:

(a,i) the Motion goes to the FPG Committee for review.

(ii) The Town Clerk writes to Cheshire East Council to request the evidence of how they are using the new Public Space Protection Order in Middlewich.

(b) Meeting times will be reviewed before the new Civic year in May .

(c) Councillor Hunter confirmed that he was happy for the issues raised by Mrs Armstrong to be added to his Members' Motion.

(d) the Town Clerk requests an update on Centurion Way from Cheshire East.

**6. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Resolved 8037**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**7. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Finance, Policy and Governance Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Resolved 8038**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 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, B Walmsley and W Walmsley  
Against the resolution: Councillors Parry  
Abstention: Councillors Bulman and Hunter

**8. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Planning Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Resolved 8039**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be received.

**9. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Events and Communications Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Resolved 8040**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Events and Communications Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 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, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Against the resolution: Councillors Hunter and Parry

**10. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of Middlewich Town Council's Community, Environment and Assets Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Resolved 8041**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community, Environment and Assets Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 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, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

Against the resolution: Councillors Hunter and Parry

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

**Resolved 8042**

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 Parry requested that the Town Council ask for a written statement from Cheshire East Council reassuring residents that any land acquisitions for the Eastern Bypass will be scrutinised and above board and within a two week time frame.
- Councillor Hunter asked the Town Council to write to the head of Highways both officer and portfolio holder regarding the state of the roads in Middlewich including a full survey and schedule of works.

**Resolved 8043**

That:

- (a) The Town Clerk to write to Cheshire East Council asking for a statement, reassuring residents that any land acquisition for the Eastern Bypass be scrutinised and above board.
- (b) The Town Clerk writes to Cheshire East Highways and Portfolio Holder to request a full investigation into the state of Middlewich roads and car parks, in addition Members would like a highways representative to come and meet with the Town Council for a question and answers sessions.

Cllr Parry requested a vote of No Confidence in the Chair Deputy Mayor Councillor W Walmsley

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

For the Motion: Councillors Hunter, Latham and Parry

Against the Motion: Councillors Eaton, Farrell, Kingston, McGrory, B Walmsley.

Abstain: Councillor Bulman

## **Finance**

**13. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the month of February 2018**

**Resolved 8044**

That the Financial reports for February be received and approved.

## **Policy Considerations**

**14. PCSO – whether or not to fund an additional PCSO for Middlewich and consider the update from the PCSO**

**Resolved 8045**

- (a) The Council debated and decided to wait and evaluate if the new systems works before committing to an SLA for an additional PCSO and also consider going out to public for consultation
- (b) The decision to be made was
  1. To fund an additional PCSO
  2. To not fund an additional PCSO
  3. To wait and evaluate the effectiveness of the new PCSO arrangements.

(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 McGrory

Against the resolution: Councillors Parry

Wait and Evaluate: Councillors Bulman, Eaton, Farrell, Kingston, Latham, Hunter, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

- (c) There was no report from the PCSO to be considered.

## **Highways and Transportation**

**15. Traffic in the vicinity of the school – to consider the letter from Middlewich High School Head Teacher Mr K Simpson**

**Resolved 8046**

Councillor McGrory declared a none pecuniary interest as a School Governor.

The Town Council had agreed to support the representation made by Mr Simpson. The Town Council would request an engineer's report which would include the wider area from Queen Street to Long Lane and also write back to Mr Simpson and inform him of the Town Council's support.

## **Planning and the Environment**

**16. To approve the Neighbourhood Plan**

**Resolved 8047**

The Town Clerk advised that the planning consultant was looking at the amendments made at the last meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and had not been able to complete the task in time for the Council Meeting, however it was noted in the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> March that the plan was approved in principle.

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 pm.

Councillor W Walmsley  
Deputy Town Mayor

Signed.....2018