

**Minutes of the Five Hundred and Tenth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council,
held in the Victoria Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 15th July 2019,
commencing at 7.15pm**

Part One

Present

The Chairman – Councillor Rachel Pendleton and Councillors Carol Bulman, Pauline Hickey, Chris Jones, Mike Hunter, David Latham, Jonathan Parry, Vicky Perez,, Russell Watkinson and Gareth Williams

Council Officer:
Jonathan Williams, Town Clerk

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Councillors Sean Boyle and Helen Watkinson, both of whom were unwell

Feedback and Reports

2. To receive a Progress report from the Chairman

The Chairman reported to Council on the progress of a number of matters that had been raised at the previous meeting of the Town Council.

These included:

The awarding of the School Swimming Grants to the 3 Middlewich Primaries, arrangements for the Nalaoxone training, the signing of the Town Council Charter, future Funfairs and the setting of a schedule for the Town Council Budget process

Resolved 8209

That the Chairman's report be noted with thanks

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

There were no Declarations of Interest to be noted

4. Open Forum

No questions had been submitted in advance and no questions were raised at the Meeting

5. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Five Hundred and Ninth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 17th June 2019

Resolved 8210

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th June 2019 be received and approved as a correct record, with the inclusion of Sean Boyle on the attendance list, the note that the date of the Internal Committee was held on Monday 1st July and that the Schools grants were to include any aspect of swimming costs, including transport

6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council, held on Thursday 13th June 2019

Resolved 8211

That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 13th June 2019 be received as a correct record.

7. To receive and adopt the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 24th June 2019

Resolved 8212

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Monday 24th June 2019 be received as a correct record, with the inclusion under Point 14 that the Town Council was to find out who owned what land in the town, and what was the maintenance regime/rota for maintenance around the town.

8. To receive the Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council's Internal Committee held on Monday 1st July 2019

Resolved 8213

That the Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council's Internal Committee held on Monday 1st July 2019 be received as a correct record

9. To receive the Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council's External Committee held on Thursday 4th July 2019

Resolved 8214

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council's External Committee held on Thursday 4th July be received as a correct record

10. To consider and Members' Items previously submitted in writing:

(a) Councillor Parry: After the Meetings with representatives from Cheshire East Council about Air Quality we are very pleased that they have finally agreed to make Lewin Street an Air Quality Management Area. This has taken constant pressure over a long time and is well overdue. Now we call on Cheshire East Council to provide us with a plan as to what measures they will put in place to reduce the dangerous air quality levels on Lewin Street

Chester Road was made an AQMA two years ago and the levels remain unchanged. This is an urgent matter and we need to see a plan which will make short term and long term impacts on these high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide recorded in these areas

(b) Councillor Bulman: It is proposed that MTC continue to fund both CCTV provision for the protection of selected areas in the town and any additional costs that may be necessary to protect our investment. The costs of weekend closure of Fountain Fields Park gates from 8.0pm until 8.0am on Friday and Saturday nights should be looked into

Resolved 8215

(a) That the request to Cheshire East Council to provide a plan for measures to reduce dangerous air quality levels on Lewin Street be made, with a two week deadline for a response, to include a short term impact report and a longer term plan. (A member of the public indicated his willingness to share his expertise in this field with Members, which would be taken up)

(b) That the Town Council resolves to make a commitment in the budget to enhance the CCTV coverage of Fountain Fields and other areas as required, with a mobile unit for greater flexibility. It was also agreed to look into the costs of locking the park as suggested in the Motion, at least on a trial basis. Additionally, it was resolved to request that the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner attend a meeting with the Town Council to discuss the drugs issues in the Town in a full and frank manner. Operationally, it may be that this meeting would have to be held privately, but that a public question and answer session be held if that were to be the case

11. To receive reports from Members of Cheshire East Council

Members reported on the Committees to which they had been appointed. Councillor Bulman is Chair of the Staffing Committee, and serves on the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee.

Councillor Parry is on the Appeals Committee and a Director of Transport Service Solutions, along with being a member of the Health & Adult Care & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Hunter is Chair of the Strategic Planning Board, and is a member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Environment & Regeneration Overview Scrutiny Committee

Resolved 8216

That the Members be thanked for their reports and congratulated on their appointments to several influential positions

12. To receive the notes from a Meeting of the Air Quality Group, held on Wednesday 26th June 2017

Resolved 8217

That the notes from a Meeting of the Air Quality Group, held on 26th June 2019 be received as a correct record

13. To receive an update from a Meeting of the Parks and Play Areas Group, held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Resolved 8218

That the update from the Parks and Play Areas Group, from 3rd July 2019, be received

14. To receive a verbal update on discussions with Middlewich Cemetery Joint Management Board

Resolved 8219

That it be noted that discussions had taken place and were on-going, and that it had been agreed that 3 Members of the Council would take a place on the Board. Members of the Public were encouraged to contribute towards the case being put together by Council Members, using the email address previously circulated, to be presented to the relevant Governing Body with regard to certain historic issues at the Cemetery

15. To receive a verbal update on the Pride of Middlewich initiative

Members were informed that an initial Meeting of Stakeholders with an interest in the Middlewich environment, community, provision of service had been arranged for Monday 22nd July, in order to set some benchmarks and agreements, and to take the initiative forward

Resolved 8220

That this news be welcomed

Finance

16. To receive and approve the Monthly Town Council Financial and Monitoring reports, Cashbook and Income & Expenditure reports for the month of June 2019

Resolved 8221

That the Financial Reports for June be approved. It was noted that payments to the Community & Youth Project were for the final Meetings of the Council that had been held in the Wych Centre, and for the one-off Annual Town Meeting, held in the same venue. Questions about the inclusion of the FAB Account within the Town Council's Accounts were answered and would also be raised with the new Internal Auditor. The Clerk was thanked for producing these accounts

17. To note and publish a timetable for the setting of the Town Council's Budget for 2020-21

Resolved 8222

That the Budget timetable be welcomed and advertised as widely as possible, to encourage public participation

Policy Consideration – Town Council Motions

18. That the Town Council looks into the provision of Section106 funding for Middlewich, held by Cheshire East Council, and to identify sums of money that could be spent to the benefit of the Community

Resolved 8223

That this be done. There were historic sums dating back to Congleton Borough days and also more contemporary funding, derived from recent and current developments. The key issue to understand is the legal agreements associated with each pot of funding. Discussion were already underway to seek to use S106 funding from Warmingham Lane developments to secure safer routes to schools, and in particular safer crossing of Warmingham Lane

19. To confirm the date of a Special Meeting of the Town Council to consider the role of Deputy Mayor: Tuesday 20th August 2019

Resolved 8224

That date be confirmed and noted

Highways and Transportation

None

Planning and the Environment

20. To make recommendation on Application 19/00652/REM. Land off Holmes Chapel Road, Sproston. Approval of reserved matters for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for light industrial, manufacturing and distribution, business and office, , cafe/restaurant, farm shop, veterinary practice and box park, with associated car parking, servicing and infrastructure

Resolved 8225

That the following recommendation be sent to Cheshirewestandchester Planning:

Middlewich Town Council expresses concern about the access/egress route onto the A54 Holmes Chapel Road, believing it to have minimal visibility splay, situated right at the centre of the development, and with a difficult right turn option for vehicles exiting the development and heading for Junction 18.

There seems to be a great deal of parking provision on the site, and the Town Council questions whether this is disproportionate to the scale of the overall development. There were originally, proposals for a lorry park/overnight stop with facilities and Members wonder if this facility could be reinstated.

On the wider issue of this application, Middlewich Town Council has clear thoughts and concerns on issues such as retail, capacity of the A54, affect on the town centre, but these matters will be raised at the appropriate point in the planning process

21. To receive the Minutes from the Meeting of the Ansa Community Liaison Group held on Thursday 6th June 2019

Resolved 8226

That the Minutes be received

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Monday 20th August at 7.15pm - Special Town Council - Victoria Hall
- Monday 2nd September at 7.15pm – Internal Committee - Victoria Hall
- Thursday 5th September at 7.15pm – External Committee - Victoria Hall
- Tuesday 10th September at 7.15pm - Special Council - Victoria Hall
- Monday 16th September at 7.15pm - Ordinary Town Council - Victoria Hall

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Councillor Rachel Pendleton

Chairman

Signed.....2019

Middlewich Town Council

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