

MIDDLEWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Victoria Building, Lewin Street,

Middlewich, CW10 9AT

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the Five Hundred and Fourteenth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, which will be held in the Victoria Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 18th November 2019. The Meeting will commence at 7.15pm

Yours sincerely

Denise French

Deputy Town Clerk

7.10pm - prayers

AGENDA

Part One

1. To receive and approve Apologies for Absence

FEEDBACK AND REPORTS

2. To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman
3. To note any Declarations of Members' Interest on any agenda item
4. Town Council Casual Vacancy - to agree the appointment to fill the casual vacancy on the Town Council
5. Open Forum: To consider any questions received in advance (below) and to discuss any matters raised on the night.

(a) Alison Roylance-White has asked:

As a local resident and as a Management Committee Member of The Wych Centre, I find it disturbing and alarming that not only are the ownership and title details of a well-loved local charity being discussed at various Town Council meetings, but that a budget of £500 as a minimum is being spent on "uncovering" that information.

Not only is this a waste of time and effort of Council staff members, it is a complete waste of Council Tax paid by local residents when the Town Council have not even asked the Wych Centre if this information really required for purposes unknown.

Would the Council please explain why they are interested in the ownership of the Wych Centre and why they are wasting public money?

(b) Laura Flaherty has asked for an update on the Multi Agency Meeting and possibility of moving the CCTV camera to the Cledford area of Middlewich.

(c) A resident has asked:

Could we have an update on progress on the Middlewich Neighbourhood Plan e.g. when will the next public consultation be held (the last was held well over a year ago

now), and when do we expect to be in a position to adopt a Plan for the town? As we do not currently have the protection of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, there is concern that Middlewich is open to speculative development resulting in an inability to shape our own future.

(d) A resident has asked:

In May a question was asked regarding when new boundary signage will be installed. This question was asked again in October. The same answer was received – the Town Council is obtaining three quotes. As the signs were purchased using money obtained from Cheshire East Council for new signage and the signs have been bought, paid for and kept in storage for over a year now, could we have an update on progress please, especially as some existing boundary signs are showing severe signs of wear?

(e) A resident has asked:

On 14th September 2019 and following a multi agency meeting about the level of anti social behaviour in Middlewich, Cllr Gareth Williams posted the following announcement on the Middlewich Community Group and the Middlewich Forum facebook pages:

Antisocial behaviour in Middlewich is to be prioritised by Cheshire Police with immediate effect. On Thursday, councillors met with representatives of ANSA, Cheshire East, Street Pastors, Middlewich High School and Cheshire Police.

As a result of this excellent meeting, we are delighted to announce the following:

- Ollie, our PCSO, is now permanently based in Middlewich
- A full-time, permanent Police Officer will also be based in Middlewich
- A "Task Force" of 1 Sergeant and 3 PCs will be based in Middlewich to tackle our ASB issues

This is an excellent development, and with our new police force working in parallel with our new CCTV capabilities, we should all start to see an improvement.

This announcement just seemed far too good to be true (especially as Middlewich doesn't pay towards the costs of our existing PCSO) so just two days later I sent an email questioning these 'facts'. My email was copied to Cllr Williams, our three borough councillors as well as David Keane the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Despite the councillors signing the Middlewich Charter which promised the residents that they would be open, transparent and accountable my email asking for clarification of the promised police resources was ignored.

1) Can our elected councillors confirm if the following statements made by Cllr Gareth Williams are true:

- a) That a full-time, permanent Police officer will be based in Middlewich.
- b) A "Task Force" of 1 Sergeant and 3 PCs will be based in Middlewich to tackle our ASB issues.

2) Did either Cheshire Constabulary or the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner contact Middlewich Town Council or any individual councillor to challenge or correct the information announced by Cllr Gareth Williams?

3) If the statements about the promised police resources made to residents by Cllr Williams via Facebook are incorrect/misleading/false then why didn't he or any of the other councillors who attended this meeting fail to admit a mistake had been made, and release a new statement to residents explaining the truth about the actual police resources the town would be getting?

4) If Cllr Williams statement made to Middlewich residents about the promised police resources turn out to be incorrect/misleading/false will Cllr Williams/Middlewich Town Council explain to residents:

- a) how such a mistake could have been made, and
- b) what measures will be taken to ensure all future claims from Cllr Williams/MTC are factual?

(f) A resident has asked:

Councillor Parry is asking the council to declare a climate emergency but such a declaration is surely beyond the remit of a town council. If Councillor Parry wants CEC to declare a climate emergency in Cheshire East then as a ward councillor why doesn't he take this up directly with his borough colleagues.?

As a member of the Middlewich Air Quality Group if the environment was so important to him why hasn't he provided residents with the AQ monitoring data for Middlewich in the time he has been on the AQ group.?

In the time Councillor Parry has been on the town council what measures has he introduced or suggested that the town council or residents take to lessen their environmental impact and contribution to the climate emergency.?

6. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Five Hundred and Thirteenth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 21st October 2019
7. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Internal Committee held on 5th November 2019
8. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the External Committee held on 7th November 2019
9. To consider any Members' Items previously submitted in writing:

Councillor V Perez - Middlewich Town Council publicly declares a climate emergency
MTC fully supports CEC in declaring a climate emergency in Cheshire east and calls on the cabinet to urgently prioritise combatting climate change and its adverse effects at a borough level as promised at their meeting on 22nd May 2019, as well as empowering and supporting Town and parish councils in initiatives.

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

FINANCE

11. Financial Regulations – to consider the draft Financial Regulations
12. Folk and Boat Festival 2020 – to consider the budget provision for the proposed Headline Acts for Folk and Boat Festival 2020 and to consider whether to delegate to External Committee the authority to spend on artists for Folk and Boat Festival 2020 up to a total budget of £75,000

13. Standing Grant – to consider the Annual Report and accounts for the Middlewich Clean Team and to consider releasing the Standing Grant of £500

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

None

PLANNING

14. To make a recommendation on the following application:

19/5071C - Conversion of existing bed and breakfast accommodation & wine bar operation to residential apartment (retrospective), Alhambra, 33, WHEELOCK STREET, MIDDLEWICH, CW10 9AG

ENVIRONMENT

15. New Homes Bonus – to consider the letter from Holmes Chapel Parish Council (attached)

PART 2

None

FUTURE MEETING DATES

To note dates of forthcoming meetings:

Budget Meeting — Monday 2nd December 2019 at 7.15pm

Internal Committee – Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 7:15pm

External Committee – Thursday 5th December 2019 at 7:15pm

Ordinary Meeting of Town Council – Monday 16th December 2019 at 7:15pm