

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

Minutes of a special Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Victoria Hall, Civic Way, Middlewich on Monday 2nd December 2019, commencing at 7.15 pm

Part One

Present

Councillor Carol Bulman (in the Chair) and Councillors Sean Boyle, Pauline Hickey, and Graham Orme

Council Officers:

Denise French, Deputy Town Clerk, Nicola Antoney, Administrative Assistant and Sarah Morgan, Financial Officer

1. To Appoint a Chairman for the Meeting

Resolved 8273

That Councillor Carol Bulman be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Mike Hunter, Chris Jones (family commitments), Jonathan Parry, Vicky Perez, Helen Watkinson (illness), Russell Watkinson and Gareth Williams (family commitments)

Feedback and Reports

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

Councillor Graham Orme declared an interest in item 4 on the grounds that his wife works for the Police and Fire Authority.

4. Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

Planning

5. Application 19/5163C – Middlewich Fire Station, Civic Way, Middlewich

Resolved 8274

That no objections be made subject to there being no detrimental impact on residential amenity.

6. Market

Resolved 8275

That the proposal from the external market company is not progressed at this stage as the Council wishes to retain running the Christmas market in-house in view of the success of the event over recent years; any future proposals regarding markets should involve consultation with the Vision Manager.

7. Budget 2020-21

Sarah Morgan presented the draft budget. She explained a number of changes to the latest draft:

Salaries for Heritage Officer and Vision Action Plan Manager would remain within the overall salaries budget as both postholders were paid by the Town Council.

The FAB 20 income had been increased to £80,000.

The income and expenditure from the Victoria Hall and the Bar had been included in the budget.

A new figure to cover Remembrance Sunday had been added in to cover items including the road closure, wreath, marshal and band.

She asked Members if they wanted to add in a figure for Youth Projects which Members supported. The Deputy Clerk noted there may be opportunities with the Connected Communities hub and funding towards initiatives.

Sarah explained that the current budget was based on a precept amount of £384,714 which would represent an increase of 5% on the Council tax.

Sarah asked Members to be aware of the risks of over reliance on reserves. The accounts currently showed that the FAB income and expenditure for 2019 had an overspend of £16,000. The VAT situation was yet to be clarified and advice was awaited.

Members discussed sponsorship and involving volunteers. The FAB Marketing Company would work to get business sponsorship. Members also discussed holding an event to encourage businesses to support Council events and activities.

Resolved 8276

That the draft budget be amended to include the sum of £4,000 for Youth Projects and the budget be considered further at the Town Council meeting on 16th December.

8. Committee Membership

Resolved 8277

That Councillor Graham Orme be appointed to both the Internal and External Committees and the membership of both Committees be increased by one; and he also be appointed onto the Multi Agency Group.

PART 2

None

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

Councillor Carol Bulman (in the Chair)

Signed.....2019