

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

Minutes of a special Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in Room 3A, Victoria Building, Civic Way, Middlewich on Tuesday 26th November 2019, commencing at 7.15 pm

Part One

Present

Councillor Russell Watkinson (Chairman) and Councillors Carol Bulman, Pauline Hickey, David Latham, Graham Orme and Vicky Perez

Council Officers:

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

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Sean Boyle (illness), Mike Hunter, Helen Watkinson (illness) and Gareth Williams (work commitments)

Feedback and Reports

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

Councillor David Latham declared an interest due to his involvement with the Middlewich Community Pride Group

Community Safety

3. CCTV Cameras

Resolved 8271

That one of the Council owned CCTV cameras currently located at Fountain Fields park be relocated to a location at Warmingham Lane for a trial period of 2 months at which point the location will be reviewed.

4. Budget 2020-21

Sarah Morgan presented the draft budget. She explained that some figures were based on actuals, calculated to the year end, and some items had been added in such as the Town Ranger.

Members discussed the following points:

- (a) Air Quality – Members discussed whether there was merit in purchasing Air Quality monitoring equipment and were minded not to support this. Councillor Orme agreed to undertake investigations on Air Quality.
- (b) Community Pride – the sum of £16,000 had been included in the draft budget which was an additional £10,000 towards possible tree works to be joint funded with Cheshire East Council. This was to address the damage done to property in the location. Members noted that this issue was currently under review by CEC.
- (c) Salaries for Heritage Officer and Vision Action Plan Manager – the Financial Officer suggested the salaries for these 2 posts was not included with the general salaries but included on page 3 under the heading of ‘Grants’ as the staff did not directly report to the Town Council. The Vision Manager post was part funded by Cheshire East Council and the Heritage Officer came under the remit of the Heritage Trust.
- (d) Grants – the Financial Officer suggests that Grants from the Town Council could all be offered using the General Power of Competence subject to eligibility being retained. It was good practice to contact those who received grant funding to check the grant was being used in accordance with the terms of the award.
- (e) the Over 70s party would be moved from the heading of Grants to that of Events.
- (f) the Youth Projects funding under the Grants heading referred to the previous award made to the Wych Centre towards the Youth Club; as this had now ceased so had the funding. Members supported including some funding for youth provision in the budget.
- (g) the Town Ranger sum of £30,000 was based on the approximate sum to be recharged to Ansa for transport, equipment, training etc for a Ranger service.

Sarah advised the draft budget as circulated would require use of £62,477 from Reserves which was the same sum as used for the current budget. The total sum in Reserves at the start of the financial year was around £300,000. An appropriate sum to have in reserves was running costs for 6 months which would total around £240,000.

Sarah outlined the provisional Band D sum received from Cheshire East. If the precept remained the same as the current year, this would generate an additional £2,000; if the precept was raised by 5% this would generate an additional £18,000 in income.

The deadline for the precept request was 17th January 2020.

Members noted the pie chart showing priorities based on the current budget compared to residents’ priorities.

Resolved 8272

That the draft budget be received and considered further at the next meeting on 2nd December 2019.

PART 2

None

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

Councillor Russell Watkinson
Chairman

Signed.....2019

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