

MIDDLEWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Victoria Building
Lewin Street
Middlewich
CW10 9AS

Minutes of the Four Hundred and Fourteenth Meeting of Middlewich Town Council, held in the Council Chamber at the above address on Monday 21st February 2011, commencing at 7.15pm

Part One

Present

The Mayor, Councillor MJ Parsons, Councillors KN Bagnall, J Eaton, TCJ Eaton, PJ Edwards, S Edwards, CH Harrison, PJ Hirst, SN McGrory and W White

- 1. The meeting was opened with a prayer read by the Town Clerk**
- 2. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor PJ Farrell.

- 3. To receive and note the resignation from the Council of Mr JW Basford**

The Town Clerk reported that resignation from the Council had been received from Councillor JW Basford.

Resolved 6725

- (1) That the notice of resignation be received with sadness.
- (2) That the Town Council's appreciation of the work carried out by Mr Basford during his time as a Town Councillor be placed on record.

FEEDBACK AND REPORTS

- 4. To receive any announcements to be made by the Mayor**

The Mayor reported that, since the last meeting, he had attended the following engagements:-

- Sandbach Town Council Civic Dinner
- Patrol with Middlewich Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Matinee Gang Show at the Grange Theatre in Hartford

He also reported that he is due to attend the following functions within the next month:-

- Alsager Town Council Civic Dinner
- Congleton Town Council Civic Dinner
- Northwich Town Council Civic Dinner
- Winsford Town Council Civic Dinner

The Mayor reported the following events that were due to be held in aid of the Mayor's Charity:-

- Mayor's Charity Quiz at the White Horse, Tuesday 1st March
- Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale at the Wych Centre, Saturday 19th March
- Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, Sunday 10th April
- Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner and Ball, Saturday 16th April

Resolved 6726

That the Mayor's announcements be received.

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

Councillors PJ Edwards, SN McGrory and MJ Parsons as members of Cheshire East Council declared a personal interest in any items which related to Cheshire East Council.

Councillor MJ Parsons declared a personal interest in agenda item 17.

6. Reminder of the rota for the next surgery to be held on 5th March 2011 – Councillor SN McGrory

The Town Clerk requested a volunteer to replace Mr Basford who was on the rota for that day.

Resolved 6727

- (1) That the rota be received and noted.
- (2) That Councillor CH Harrison would attend the Surgery alongside Councillor SN McGrory.

7. To consider any written questions submitted to the Open Forum

No questions had been submitted.

- 8. To receive and approve the Minutes of the 413th Meeting of Middlewich Town Council held on Monday 17th January 2011 and of the Special Meetings of the Town Council held on 11th and 12th January and 2nd February, 2011**

Resolved 6728

That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

- 9. To consider any written Members' questions on the Minutes**

No questions had been submitted.

- 10. To receive the Minutes of the Employment and Operations Committee held on 2nd February, 2011**

Resolved 6729

That the Minutes be received.

- 11. To receive the Clerk's report and any correspondence received for information**

The Town Clerk submitted a report on the meetings and events he had attended since the last Town Council meeting, together with recent correspondence which had been received, for information.

Resolved 6730

That the report be noted.

- 12. To receive written reports from Cheshire East Councillors**

A report was submitted by Councillor MJ Parsons. Councillors PJ Edwards and SN McGrory apologised for not submitting their monthly report.

Resolved 6731

That the report be received with thanks.

- 13. To receive written reports from Outside Bodies**

The following reports from Members or Officers attending Meetings of outside bodies were submitted:-

- Middlewich Vision Periodic Report for December 2010/January 2011
- Minutes of the Community Pride Group held on 11th January 2011 and 8th February 2011.
- Town and Parish Council Planning Seminar Presentation and notes held on 13th January 2011

Resolved 6732

That the reports be received.

14. To consider any Members' Items previously submitted

a. National Referendum

Councillor PJ Hirst raised an item regarding a national referendum to change the voting system at General Elections to the Alternative Vote system.

On consideration of a suggestion by a Member that it was inappropriate to consider this item because it is making a political statement it was:-

Resolved 6733

That the item not be debated.

b. Middlewich Partnership

Councillor PJ Hirst raised an item regarding whether Middlewich should have a Partnership similar to the other towns in the old Congleton Borough. Councillor Hirst reported that he felt this necessary, as whilst there is the existence of Middlewich Vision, it is mainly dominated by the Town Council and Cheshire East Council and therefore should include a wider range of organisations representing the community.

A Member referred to the fact that Middlewich had one of the first "partnerships" and many of the other towns in the old Congleton Borough followed its example. It was suggested that it is the role of the Vision Partnership and Steering Group to review the membership of the same and not the Town Council.

Resolved 6734

That those members of the Town Council who sit on the Vision Steering Group present this matter at the next meeting of the Steering Group as an item for the upcoming AGM.

c. Highways

Councillor PJ Hirst raised an item regarding the state of the highways throughout Middlewich, and in particular Rolt Crescent/Hayhurst Avenue. He reported that a lot of the pot holes had been attended to along Rolt Crescent and Hayhurst Avenue since raising the item. However, the general state of roads throughout Middlewich needed attention.

It was noted that any areas of concern could be placed onto the Ward list via any of the Ward Members and these would be given a priority for resurfacing and major repairs.

It was also noted that Cheshire East Council had received a sum of money to improve highways following the bad weather over the winter but currently only potholes were being repaired quickly.

Resolved 3735

That any areas in need of scheduled resurfacing works be forwarded to a Cheshire East Ward Member for inclusion on the Ward List.

FINANCE

15. To receive and approve the monthly financial and budget monitoring reports

The Town Clerk presented the monthly financial and budget monitoring reports to the Council.

Resolved 6736

That the reports be received and approved.

16. To consider a letter from RBS Software Solutions in respect of the year end close down

The Town Clerk presented a letter from RBS Software Solutions, detailing the date and cost of carrying out the year end close down on the accounting software.

He reported that the cost of the service was comparable to that of the previous year's cost.

Resolved 3737

(1) That the letter be received.

(2) That the cost of the year end close down be approved.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

17. To review and make considerations to the amendments to Cheshire East Council's Draft Policy on the Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues

The Town Clerk presented the amendments that had been made to the draft policy on the Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues by Cheshire East Council.

Resolved 6738

That the amendments be received and noted.

18. To adopt the amended Media Relations Policy in accordance with the Employment and Operations Committee

The Assistant Town Clerk presented the Media Relations Policy which had been amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Employment and Operations Committee.

Resolved 6739

That, subject to the removal of clause 4.2(b), the Policy be adopted and that the item be referred to the Employment and Operations Committee to consider including in the document a reference to sanctions.

19. To consider the Community Resilience Plan for Middlewich

The Assistant Town Clerk presented the Community Resilience Plan for Middlewich, together with an email received from the Planning and Exercising Officer with the Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team suggesting some minor amendments.

Resolved 6740

- (1) That, subject to the amendments recommended, the Plan be adopted.
- (2) That Councillor PJ Edwards and the Assistant Town Clerk discuss the detail of the document with a view to recommending any improvements
- (3) That the Plan be regularly taken to the Employment and Operations Committee for continual reviews.

20. To consider quotations received for Surveys of Victoria Building and Middlewich Civic Hall

The Assistant Town Clerk submitted a report on three quotations received from Surveyors for the carrying out of condition surveys of Victoria Building and Middlewich Civic Hall in preparation for discussions with Cheshire East Council regarding Transfer of assets.

Resolved 6741

That the quotation from Clive Pritchard & Co of Middlewich be accepted.

21. To consider a report from the Town Clerk regarding Love Local Life Promotion

The Town Clerk presented a report on the Love Local Life promotion and requested that the Council consider whether they want to be involved in the joint venture with Cheshire East Council and Middlewich Vision.

Resolved 6742

- (1) That the recommendations of the Town Clerk be adopted.
- (2) That progress be made to move the project forward.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

22. To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8th February 2011

Resolved 6743

That the Minutes be received.

23. To receive a letter from Congleton Ramblers Footpath Survey Officer regarding Middlewich Footpath Report and consider any further action

The Town Clerk presented a letter from the Congleton Ramblers Footpath Survey Officer in respect of a recent survey of paths in Middlewich. The Ramblers were recommending a diversion to Footpath 19 due to the current poor conditions of one section of the footpath.

Resolved 6744

- (1) That the Report be received with thanks.
- (2) That the Town Clerk forward the report and recommendations to the Public Rights of Way Officer, informing her that the Council supports the guidance given.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION OR DELEGATION

24. Community Pride Competition

The Town Clerk presented a letter from Cheshire Community Action regarding entering this year's Community Pride Competition.

Resolved 6745

That the Council enter the competition.

25. To receive and consider a letter from Fiona Bruce MP regarding Street Parties

The Town Clerk presented a letter received from Fiona Bruce MP with information from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the organisation of street parties.

Resolved 6746

That the information be included on the Town Council website.

26. To consider participation in a Heritage Crime Initiative being led by English Heritage

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the project involving protecting local Heritage sites in conjunction with other community agencies and local residents.

Resolved 6747

That approval be given to the Town Council's participation in the initiative.

27. To note work sheets for schools prepared by the Heritage Development Officer

The Town Clerk presented a selection of work sheets that had been prepared for schools in relation to heritage projects recently undertaken as an example of the high level of work being produced by the Heritage Development Officer.

Resolved 6748

That the work sheets be noted.

28. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved 6748

That the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that the business is confidential and publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm

Councillor MJ Parsons

Town Mayor

Signed.....2011