

MIDDLEWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Forty Ninth Annual Town Meeting of Middlewich, held in Victoria Hall on Thursday 28th April 2022, commencing at 7.15 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Jonathan Parry (Chair)

In attendance:

N Antoney, Acting Town Clerk

2022/1 To note the minutes of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting be noted

2022/2 To Receive the Annual Report and annual review of the Council Activities.

The Chair of the Council gave a report of the Council activities since the last Annual Meeting. Cllr Parry highlighted the vaccine clinic and the success of that and that we are seeing the last of restrictions being lifted. The Council had been trialling the Town Ranger for the last 6 months and how successful the trial had been to date. Civic Way car park had finally been resurfaced, but highlighted that the threat of car park charges were on the horizon. The waster and recycling centre threat of closure and the option Cheshire East went for, which meant the Middlewich site remained open, although the contract was going to be under review.

Cllr Parry spoke about the events that were held over the previous year including the Big Bug Hunt, the Easter Egg Competition, and the summer of activities for youngsters to name a few.

Cllr Parry spoke briefly regarding the up coming Middlewich FAB Festival and how it was going to date.

2022/3 To Invite Community Groups to make representations.

We had a representative from Middlewich Heritage Trust who highlighted some of the things they have done over the last year despite the restrictions and covid. The main objective and achievement was completing the restoration of the Murgatroyd Brine Pump and the opening of the Visitor Centre, including the open days, the pedestrian access footpath. The site now

has many visitors, and the Trust can now target schools and other education groups to come to the site. The Trust have also had a successful replanting of the War Memorial Garden on Brooks Lane, ongoing maintenance of Harbutts field including signage. The trust collection now has over 8000 objects, photos and films regarding Middlewich. The Trust has also now had signed over to them the collection that the former Heritage Society had. The Trust is still continually working towards museum accreditation.

We had representation from Middlewich Football Club who gave an update on the club, including that it was not for profit community-based club, that they had 19 junior teams with 278 members in total. They spoke of the matches played at the Football Club, the 3g pitch at the leisure centre and the cost in keeping this going. The Club also spoke in regards to lack of volunteer which is an on going struggle as with lots of other community groups. The Club advised they had raised over £2000 for defibs.

2022/4 Question from the public

Several topics were raised on the night including.

Could some S106 be used to improve the infrastructure including the repair of some of the crumbling roads?

The Bypass was raised and how one was needed to Winsford as well, and that Cheshire West was already looking into this as majority of the this needed bypass was in fact in Cheshire West but a partnership was required between Cheshire East and Cheshire West. Could funding be available from future S106 towards it?

The following issues were also raised by residents, campaign for air quality, cycling, improved working relationships. A lot of discussion was had regarding volunteering and the struggle to get and retain volunteers. And idea put forward perhaps a community day could be arranged.

A lot of issues were raised regarding highways, potholes, crumbling roads, including hedges, walls and bollards.

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Date of next meeting – TBC

Signed

