

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 6.45pm on Monday, 13th May 2024
in Middridge Village Hall

Present: Cllr Harold Howe (Chair),
Cllrs Paul Dicker & Lesley Moyle

Official: Glenn Gibson (Parish Clerk)
County Councillors David Sutton-Lloyd, Tony Stubbs & Micheal Stead
Member of the Public

47/24 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

48/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive Apologies for Absence. Cllr T. Towers

49/24 DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations.

50/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2024/2025

Councillor Harold Howe was nominated to be chair.
Proposed - Cllr L. Moyle & seconded Cllr P. Dicker.

Resolved – That Cllr H. Howe was duly elected to become Chair of Middridge Parish Council for the ensuing year

51/24 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIR

Cllr H. Howe the newly elected Chair duly confirmed acceptance of office.

52/24 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2024/2025

Councillor Paul Dicker was nominated to be Vice Chair.
Proposed – Cllr H. Howe & Seconded Cllr L. Moyle.

Resolved – That Cllr P. Dicker was duly elected to become Vice Chair of Middridge Parish Council for the ensuing year

53/24 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

Cllr P. Dicker the newly elected Vice Chair duly confirmed acceptance of office.

54/24 COUNCIL MATTERS

A discussion took place about the resignation of Cllr Rebecca Carr due to ongoing health issues.

It was proposed by Cllr P. Dicker & seconded by Cllr L. Moyle to accept the email stating her resignation from Middridge Parish Council.

Resolved – That Rebecca Carr resignation was accepted by the parish Council.

Resolved – That Electoral Services be informed so a notice of Councillor Vacancy be posted.

55/24 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The member of the public asked about the ongoing issue with a property near to his residence. He was informed that DCC had issued a clearance enforcement.

A small discussion took place about Virgin Broadband works being carried out through the village.

The ongoing issues about speeding was mentioned and is to be noted in the **59/24** Road Traffic heading.

56/24 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr L. Moyle and seconded by Cllr P Dicker.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 4th March 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

57/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

58/24 ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the 2023/24 Accounts.

RESOLVED that the following be formally approved, and (where appropriate) signed by the Chair and the Clerk: -

(a) The Parish Council's 2023/24 Accounts, as approved by the Internal Auditor (who has completed the usual Annual Internal Audit Report).

(b) The Annual Governance Statement.

(c) The Accounting Statements.

The Council received two insurance quotes for their annual premium.

Zurich - £1,104.60 for one year. --- 3 Year (LTA): £1011.77. cover starts on 19/5/24

Callaghers - £1,145.84. for one year (next two years but cover starts on 1/6/240

It was proposed by Cllr P Dicker and seconded by Cllr L Moyle that the Zurich quote be the preferred option.

Resolved – that the Council use Zurich and its 3-year fixed term agreement.

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment was considered.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:

Name/ company	Purpose/ description	Amount
Olly Exterior Cleaning	Village green maintenance	£471.42
Zurich Insurance	Annual Premium (3-year fixed term)	£1011.77
Colin Gray	Honorarium	

The Council received an update from the Parish Clerk regarding the transition of account from the previous Clerk. Weekly meetings have halted and awaiting Barclays to send bank card and reader out to new Parish Clerk.

Noted – that previous Parish Clerk A. Jordan is still the main account holder for Middridge Parish Council finances to date.

A discussion took place regarding some Budgetary and precept issues in relation to 2024/25 financial year.

Resolved – That Parish Clerk contact Olivers Tree Service to organise Category C work to be carried out on Parish trees as per survey.

59/24 ROAD TRAFFIC

The parish Clerk updated the Council on the progress of the resident questionnaire and problems being encountered. County Councillors suggested an AI website which the Parish Clerk will investigate.

Cllr D S Lloyd produced a basic update on the Police speed monitoring van that has been visiting the village over the spring months. (please see attached sheet)

60/24 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING

There were no matters to report relating to ASB & Policing in the Parish.

61/24 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL REPAIR

Reports were received on the following

- (a) Village Green – New Contractor has started work and doing a good job.
- (b) Parish Paths – New Contractor is due to carry out first maintenance cut in May
- (c) Tree Maintenance – Contact to be made with Oliviers to carry out Category C work.

Resolved – that the reports be received.

There was further discussion regarding the funding bid for plants that was placed early in the year and Shildon Town Council supplying the plants for Village tubs and then invoiced by them.

62/24 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

It was reported that the Parish Council is awaiting delivery of cycle racks.

That the Parish Clerk send a link to all Parish Councilors in relation to a waste management company that Shildon Town Council use, for the purchase and supply of a new bin for the play area.

Noted – that is was agreed that each County Councilor indicated they would donate £50 each towards the cost of the new bin.

Resolved – That the Parish Clerk contact GAMP to request the donations.

63/24 "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENTS

County Cllr D S Lloyd updated the meeting about the defibrillator and issues in relation to a power supply.

County Cllrs also updated the meeting in regards to re-approaching the developers for a new notice board.

64/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was reported that it is now with Durham County Council and consultation. Progressing well.

65/24 GAMP & CDALC

It was reported that funding has opened for Capital Bids.

66/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To consider any previous ongoing and new Planning Applications received.

Aycliffe North and Middridge/ Middridge/ East South

DM/23/03684/FPA Groundwork NE & Cumbria

Middridge Allotments

Middridge Lane

Shildon

Development of unused land (former allotments) into 20 no. 6 x 25m allotment plots with new 27 x 23.5m car park and 3m wide access track. Allotments to have external 3m wide maintenance strip buffer (2m wide on southern parts) with new 1.8m high paladin boundary fencing (green coated weldmesh) installed. Car park to include; 20 no. 2.5 x 5m standard parking bays, 2 no. 2.5 x 5m accessible parking bays with 1.2m safety zone. Surfacing to be road planings over type1 hardcore sub base. Access route to be widened to allow for 3.5m wide vehicular access by moving fence line of west side of track. Visibility of site access to be improved by cutting back hedges for 30m either side of site entrance. Installation of 2 upstand water pipes located next to new allotments.

There were no objections from Middridge Parish Council.

67/24 Clerks report

Resolved—that the Parish Clerks be received

68/24 Exclusion of Press and Public

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council now excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public.

Resolved – that a further meeting be held between the Chair, Parish Clerk and outgoing responsible financial Officer.

69/24 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence were received.

70/24 OTHER MATTERS

A verbal report was received in relation to an incident at the quarry where a young person was injured, and awaiting update/ investigation from relevant authorities.

An update was given on the progress regard DCC and the path at the Bay Horse pub.

71/24 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Croner services. – Parish Clerk to contact once clarification of payments confirmed.

Viability of Middridge Parish Council domain and .gov.uk account.

Resolved – permission granted for Parish Clerk to pursue viability and prices

Fun run in Village

Resolved – That the organisers request permission and forward copies of their Public Liability Insurance before the next event and suitable parking be identified.

72/24 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 1st July, 2024 at 6.30pm.

Future meetings date for the coming financial year.

Parish meetings

2nd September 2024

4th November 2024

6th January 2025

3rd March 2025

Budget meeting

December 2024 – date TBC

Road Traffic analysis

March	Day	Time in village (minutes)	Detections
5 th	Tues	90	13
11 th	Mon	90	10
18 th	Mon	90	7
21 st	Thurs	92	6
25 th	Mon	90	9
28 th	Thurs	75	3
31 st	Sun	60	4
April			
10 th	Wed	90	7
12 th	Fri	60	6
16 th	Tues	93	17
17 th	Wed	117	7
20 th	Sat	90	13
23 rd	Tues	62	1
29 th	Mon	60	6