

## **Middridge Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 6.30pm on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
in Middridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr H Howe (Chair),  
Cllrs T Towers and P.Dicker & L. Moyle

**Official:** G Gibson (Parish Clerk)  
County Councillors D Sutton-Lloyd, T. Stubbs & M. Stead  
Member of the Middridge Village Association  
Member of the Public

### **24/24 Notice of meeting.**

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **25/24 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Carr.

### **26/24 Declarations**

Cllr H. Howe – Item 11- quotes for grounds maintenance

### **27/24 Matters of Public Interest**

The member of the public once again mentioned S106 money, which DCC explained situation.

Member of public bought up issues concerning the Neighbourhood plan regarding green space/ fields around the Parish and possibility of further development. Both Chair & DCC Cllrs explained the situation and currently there is no plan to build on these sites.

**Resolved** – that both items had been sufficiently discussed and explained.

### **28/24 Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr T Towers and seconded by Councill P Dicker and  
**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### **29/24 Parish Council Vacancy: Co-option**

Paperwork was completed by new Parish Councillor prior to Parish meeting by a Lesley Moyle.

Proposed by Cllr P. Dicker. Seconded by Cllr T. Towers.

**Resolved** – that MPC welcome Cllr Lesley Moyle as a new Parish Councillor and that all relevant paperwork and communications now be forwarded as per requirement.

### **30/24 Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **31/24 Road traffic**

A discussion took place about the new proposals of speed through the village which is to be targeted. Police & DCC report to come out after Parish meeting.

**Resolved** – that the report received from Durham County Council

**Resolved** – that the clerk draft a flyer/ questionnaire for Middridge Parish residents to encourage feedback and views

### **32/24 Anti-Social Behaviour & Policing.**

It was reported by DCC Cllr T. Stubbs that there have been 23 cases of ASB reported in and around Middridge. All pertaining to quads or off-road motorcycles.

### **33/24 Middridge Quarry**

**Resolved** – that confirmation was received from DCC on 31/1/2024 that no appeal regarding the quarry had been received. Therefore, it is outside the appeal deadline.

**Resolved** – that this item be removed from future agenda items.

**Noted** – to register and minute thanks to Middridge Village Quarry Action Group for all their work on this issue.

### **34/24 Grounds Maintenance & General Repairs**

(a) Village green – see below

(b) Parish Paths – application arrived 1/3/24. It was agreed that the recommendation -- that the clerk apply for £500 per path to cover maintenance costs

(c) Southside Bus Shelter – Agreed to be left off future agendas until such time it is viable.

(d) Tree Maintenance – Noted that Priority A+B tree work has been completed

- Two contractor quotes for Village green/ Parish path maintenance have been received for the coming 2024/25 year. Forbes Landscaping & gardening services and Olley exterior Cleaning.

- The Parish Clerk produced an analysis of the two quotes and it was agreed that Forbes be the preferred contractor on condition & clarification of price.

**Resolved** – that the Parish Clerk contact Forbes to clarify price and report back to Councillors if final price confirmed above budget.

### **35/24 Childrens Play Area**

Cllr P. Dicker reported a couple of issues - loose screws & possible bearing worn and has contacted the installer Hags to come out and fix under warranty.

**Recommended** -- that we await the visit by Hags before further action taken

### **36/24 “Eldon Whins” Development.**

Nothing to report

### 37/24 Neighbourhood Plan

A village consultation was carried out in the Village Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 where 5 people attended.

A small report was sent in by Alan Jordan (RFO).

### 38/24 Village Support

It was reported that the coffee mornings are going well and is funded until December.

A request from the Middridge Village Association to hold a family fun day was given and that Middridge Parish Council donate. Proposed by Cllr H. Howe & seconded by Cllr. P . Dicker that £25.00 be donate as a prize which was duly **passed**.

A request was made that Hot food be on Village green which was accepted.

### 39/24 Accounts

Alan Jordan (RFO) submitted the following for payment/ authorisation.

Payee	Purpose	Sum
EZ-Tech *	Clerk's Laptop	£155.00
DCC *	Walkers Lane SLA	£508.37
Planning Advice Plus *	Neighbourhood Plan	£500.00
Digital Edge *	Website Hosting	£210.00
Clerks	Clerks' Jan – Mar Salaries	£576.00
HMRC	Clerks' Income Tax	£144.00
A D Jordan	Clerks Expenses	£148.76
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,242.13</b>

**NOTE** – with the agreement of Parish Councillors, Invoices marked \* have already been paid, so only formal approval is required.

**NOTE** – with the agreement of the Parish Council, some payments for regular services are automatically made by Direct Debit, and thus do not appear in the Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

**Resolved** - That all payments agreed.

### 40/24 Budget 2024/25

The meeting was informed that the new Parish Clerk has been added to the Bank Account and working with the RFO for a smooth transition of responsibility in April 2024.

### 41/24 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – Nothing to report

CDALC – nothing to report.

**42/24 Planning Application**

No planning applications to report.

**43/24 Clerks Report.**

**Resolved** – that the Clerks report be received.

**44/24 Croner Services**

It has been agreed with Croner that the contract will reduce by 1 year and will terminate on  
That a reduction of £8.59 off the monthly rate be implemented in February 2024.

**Resolved** – that an update be given at the next meeting to confirm deduction.

**45/24 General Correspondents**

It was discussed with agreement that Middridge Parish Council use the Village Hall for its  
c/o postal address. Parish Clerk will arrange pick up of Council mail

**Resolved** – that all Middridge Parish Council correspondents be redirected to the Village  
Hall

**46/24 Next meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024** immediately after  
the statutory Annual Parish Meeting that begins at 6.15pm.

Meeting closed 8.05 pm.