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Midridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Midridge**

**Monday
23rd May 2022**

Time: 7.25 pm

Present: Cllrs H Howe (Chair), P Dicker, E Hayman, T Towers.

In Attendance: Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd (DCC)

Official: A Jordan (Clerk)

29/22 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

30/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs R Carr and T Stubbs (DCC).

31/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

32/22 COUNCIL MATTERS

For a variety of reasons Alan Jordan resigned as Parish Councillor, and has formally been reappointed as the Parish Clerk.

DCC Electoral Services were informed of this situation, and the Vacancy was duly advertised as legally required. There was no request for an Election to be held, and consequently the Parish Council agreed that Tony Towers should be co-opted to serve as the replacement Parish Councillor, and he has signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr H Howe welcomed Tony Towers to his new position.

33/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2022/23

RESOLVED that Cllr H Howe be appointed Chair of the Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

34/22 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIR

Cllr H Howe signed a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chair in the presence of the Clerk.

35/22 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2022/23

Following discussion there was no clear candidate to be appointed Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year. Cllr R Carr is a possibility, but the situation with regards to her health needs to be clarified. Accordingly it was agreed to defer making this appointment.

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However, it was pointed out that someone would need to act as Chair for any Parish Council Meetings where Cllr H Howe was unable to be present (a function normally undertaken by the Vice-Chair).

RESOLVED that Cllr P Dicker be temporary Acting Vice-Chair until a permanent Vice-Chair is appointed.

36/22 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE-CHAIR

Not applicable.

37/22 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None.

38/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 7th March 2022 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

39/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

40/22 MIDDRIDGE QUARRY

DCC have issued a Notice to Wards requiring them to repair the existing Quarry Fencing to an acceptable standard; it is not yet clear whether this work has been done. It was pointed out that it would be very useful for the Parish Council to know what DCC considered an acceptable standard; Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd kindly said that he (or Cllr T Stubbs) would try and establish this.

Cllr E Hayman has recently visited the Quarry, and noticed the presence of protected plant species, and a multitude of birds; this could be used as evidence against the Wards proposal. She also mentioned that there have been more Arson attacks.

No Wards Planning Application has been submitted to date. It is believed they may be looking at alternate routes to access the site.

41/22 ROAD TRAFFIC

The DCC Highways Department have now confirmed that they are not prepared to impose any Weight Restrictions on the C35 Middridge Road. Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd suggested that it would be extremely useful if the Parish Council were to organise more Traffic Surveys, perhaps covering shorter time periods on a variety of different days. This would provide additional evidence that the Highways Department need to do something to address this problem. This suggestion was agreed in principle.

Action: Clerk

Cllr H Howe said that the Parish Council should have record of all the Accidents which have occurred on the C35 Middridge Road.

Action: Clerk

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The Clerk said that he would try and organise more Police Speed Monitoring in the village via the Police Community Speedwatch Group (which is independent of the Parish Council).

Action: Clerk

42/22 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING

Cllr E Hayman reported a suspicious vehicle in the Hall Car-park to the Police. The Parish Council were astonished to be informed that the Police suggested that, as a young woman, she should investigate personally, which was potentially dangerous. Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd said that this would be raised at the regular Liaison Meeting between DCC Councillors and the Police.

43/22 "THE PADDOCK" WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND

The amount by which the Allotments are to be extended has been agreed. This requires that the Allotment Association sign a new Lease, which is being delayed by DCC legal issues. Until this is resolved, it is not possible to progress "the Paddock" Wildflower Grassland proposal any further.

The possibility of using thorny shrubs, which would need to be removed in clearing "the Paddock" Wildflower Grassland area, to block off access from Parish Path 7, is being considered. It is hoped to arrange a Meeting with Tammy Morris-Hale to discuss this.

Action: Cllr P Dicker

44/22 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(a) Village Green Maintenance

Ian Hayman is now undertaking the usual grass-cutting.

(b) Parish Paths

The DCC Parish Paths Partnership have approved the annual budget for maintenance of the Parish Paths. Ian Hayman will undertake this work at the appropriate times.

(c) Southside Bus Shelter

The Southside Bus Shelter is beginning to be badly affected by rust; this issue has been reported via the DCC "Do-it-online" System, which clearly shows this Bus Shelter as a DCC "asset". DCC's response is awaited.

This Bus Shelter is now some 50 years old, and clearly approaching the end of its life. A possible replacement will be investigated depending on DCC's response to the current issues.

(d) Tree Maintenance

OJM Tree Services are being contacted with a view to inspecting the Trees on the Village Green, and providing a Quotation for their recommended work (which would include obtaining the necessary Planning Permission).

Action: Clerk

45/22 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Two out of the three required Proposals to replace all the old Play Area equipment have been received. Once the third is available, it is intended to organise a display in the Village

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Hall, so that interested parties can express their views on which Proposal they prefer. Once this is agreed, the Parish Council will be in a position to apply for Section 106 funding (from the "Eldon Whins" Developments).

Action: Cllrs P Dicker & T Towers

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved.

46/22 ELDON WHINS DEVELOPMENTS

The issue of the lack of Dog and general Litter Bins in the Eldon Whins Developments was discussed; Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd said that this was because these Developments had not yet been adopted by DCC, and were still owned by their builders. Since Dog Fouling is a potential Health issue, he is organising a Meeting with the DCC "Clean & Green" Team to see what can be done in the meantime.

Cllr R Carr is dealing with issues regarding Car-parking and the proposed Play Area.

Parish Noticeboards are required in both the Eldon Whins Developments. Meetings are to be organised with the builders to see whether they are prepared to assist with the provision of suitable Noticeboards.

Action: Clerk

47/22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

No progress to report. Shaun Hanson is to be contacted with a view to his completing the agreed funded work.

Action: Clerk

48/22 ACCOUNTS

The Parish Council considered their 2021/22 Accounts.

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

- (a) The Parish Council's 2021/22 Accounts, as approved by the Internal Auditor (who has completed the usual Annual Internal Audit Report).
- (b) The usual Annual Governance Statement.
- (c) The usual Accounting Statements.
- (d) The Certificate of Exemption, which means the Accounts will not be externally audited.

Councillors considered a Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

| Payee | Purpose | Amount |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| T P Jones LLP | Clerk's Payroll Services | £73.20 |
| Zurich Municipal | 2022/23 Insurance | £645.50 |
| CDALC | Annual Subscription | £61.74 |
| Colin Gray | Internal Auditor Honorarium | £70.00 |

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| Digital Edge Online Solutions Ltd | Website Domain Name Renewal | £60.00 |
| Harold Howe Electronics Ltd | Christmas Tree Lighting Repairs | £287.84 |
| Harold Howe | Tracey Bellas Bouquet | £35.00 |
| Christmas Direct | Replacement Christmas Lights | £105.97 |
| | TOTAL | £1339.25 |

49/22 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – Alan Jordan is no longer a Member of the GAMP Board, as he was serving as the Councillor representative of the GAMP Local Councils Forum, but he is no longer a Councillor. The Forum are aware of this situation, and will be arranging a Meeting to discuss their GAMP Board and CDALC Executive Committee representatives shortly.

50/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Planning Application has been received for a Single Storey Rear Extension and Garage Conversion for 16, Eden Grove. Cllr H Howe said that this looks acceptable, but details of this proposal are to be circulated to the rest of the Parish Council for their comments.

Action: Clerk

51/22 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

52/22 OTHER MATTERS

(a) EV Charging Points

No progress to report. The Village Association are to be contacted to establish what is happening.

Action: Cllr H Howe

(b) Village Hall Gates

Ordered, but installation delayed due to Ian Hayman's recent Operation.

53/22 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Cllr H Howe reported the recent death of Wally Mellors. He said that Wally had been a founder member of the Parish Council, and had served the community as a Parish Councillor for some 40 years, and will be sadly missed.

RESOLVED that a commemorative brass Plaque be erected near the Rowan tree recently planed outside his house. The Village Association will also be approached with a view to mounting a Plaque in the Village Hall acknowledging his long serving commitment to the Village.

Action: Cllr H Howe

54/22 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 4th July 2022, at 6.45 pm. The Chair closed the Meeting at 9.15 pm.