

# **Middridge Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 6.30pm on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023  
in Middridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr H Howe (Chair),  
Cllrs T Towers and R Howe

**Official:** T Bellas (Locum Parish Clerk)  
  
Alan Jordan  
Members of the Middridge Village Association  
Member of the Public

## **84/23 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

## **85/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Carr and P Dicker.  
County Councillor T Stubbs.

## **86/23 DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **87/23 Matters of Public Interest**

A discussion took place on the time period for Appeal of the refusal of the planning application for Middridge Quarry.

**Resolved** that contact be made with the Planning Officer for an update on the Appeal process.

## **88/23 Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr T Towers and seconded by Councill R Howe and **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

## **89/23 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

## **90/23 Road Traffic**

Members were advised that a Speed Watch observation had been arranged to take place within Middridge Village on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

Concern had previously been expressed by the Parish Council and Members of the public at the speed of vehicles travelling through the village and the lack of speed traffic signage.

Concern was expressed by a member of the public relating to the amount of articulated vehicles travelling through the village and the possibility of traffic calming measures to be installed on the road through Middridge Village.

### **Resolved that:-**

1. contact be made with the County Councillors and Officers of Durham County Council to meet and discuss the above traffic and signage issues which are of a major concern to the parish council and residents.
2. contact be made with Durham County Councillors on the current position of the review of the roundabout near to the 'Eldon Whins' development.

At the discretion of the Chairman, item 15 was brought forward for discussion.

## **91/23 Christmas Event**

Members of the Middridge Village Association updated the meeting on arrangements for the Christmas Event to be held within the Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

The Christmas event to be held from 2-4pm and would involve families and this would be controlled by a wristband allocation. Evening entertainment to be for adults only.

### **Resolved that:**

1. the verbal report be received
2. a verbal update be provided at the Parish Council Meeting in November.

## **92/23 Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing**

There were no matters to report.

**93/23 “The Paddock” Wildflower Grassland**

Members were informed that the above project was no longer viable.

A discussion took place on Section 106 monies available to be allocated within the electoral division and on successful applications for the play area and allotment area.

**Resolved that:-**

1. the verbal report be received.
2. the latest information detailing Section 106 monies available across areas of County Durham be sought.

**94/23 Grounds Maintenance and General Repairs**

**a) Village Green**

Members were informed that the current contractor had completed the maintenance of the grassed areas.

**b) Parish Paths**

The Chair updated Members on the maintenance of Parish Paths

**c) Southside Bus Shelter**

The project to be deferred until 2024.

**d) Tree Maintenance**

**Resolved** that a date be agreed with the Contractor for a tree survey

**Resolved** that the verbal reports be noted.

**95/23 Children’s Play Area**

It was reported that the new play area had been installed and an official opening had taken place.

**Resolved** that the verbal report be noted.

**96/23 ‘Eldon Whins’ Development**

**Resolved** that the issue of the installation of Noticeboards within the new development be pursued.

## 97/23 Neighbourhood Plan

A general discussion took place on any further potential of housing development on land between Middridge Village and 'Eldon Whins' and an explanation was provided on the importance of the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

### Resolved that:-

1. the report on the Neighbourhood Plan be deferred.
2. a working party meeting be convened to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan report.

## 98/23 Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment was considered.

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Sum</b>
Zurich Town and Parish *	Extra Insurance (Play Area)	£237.11
Play Inspection Company Ltd *	New Play Area Inspection	£420.00
Woodham Community Assoc. *	Defibrillator Battery & Pads	£297.05
Donna Beal *	Xmas Face-painter Deposit	£50.00
HAGS-SMP Ltd *	New Play Area	£67,908.00
Hayfields Contracting	Parish Paths First Cut	£540.00
Planning Advice Plus	Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy	£2547.25
The Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway	Corporate Membership	£50.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£72,049.41</b>

**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 the Accounts awaiting payment and accounts paid in advance be approved.

**99/23 GAMP & CDALC**

An update was provided to Members on the current position relating to the future of policing in Newton Aycliffe following a notice to vacate their premises at the Newton Aycliffe Fire Station.

**Resolved** that the information be received.

**100/23 Planning Applications**

Members were informed of the refusal of planning application reference DM/21/00663/FPA land south of Little Hare Farm.

**Resolved** that the information be received.

**101/23 General Correspondence**

None received.

**102/23 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at 6.30pm.

Chair .....

Date .....