

APPROVED

Midridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Midridge**

**Monday
5th September 2022**

Time: 6.45 pm

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

In Attendance: Cllrs D Sutton-Lloyd, T Stubbs & M Stead (DCC).
Mrs M Jeffery & Mr R Howe (Midridge Allotment Association).
Mr D Batey.

Official: A Jordan (Clerk)

76/22 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

77/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr R Carr.

78/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

79/22 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None.

80/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4th July 2022 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

81/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

82/22 MIDDRIDGE QUARRY

It is still not clear whether the Wards' repairs to the existing Quarry Fencing are acceptable to the DCC Planning Department; Cllr T Stubbs will investigate.

There has been a further incident of Arson damage to part of the Quarry Fencing.

No Wards Planning Application has been submitted to date, although there is some evidence that this is still being worked on. Mr D Batey argued that the Parish Council should have an Action Plan ready for when such a Planning Application was made. However, Cllr M Stead (who is a member of the DCC Planning Committee) said that there would be plenty of time for Residents to make objections before any Planning Application

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was considered. He stressed that the Planning Committee can only take notice of objections based on “material considerations”, which do not include the fact that Residents are opposed to the proposal. However, in his opinion any Wards proposal would be in breach of the County Durham Plan, which would carry considerable weight.

83/22 ROAD TRAFFIC

Mr D Batey asked what if any progress had been made with regard to the AutoSpeedWatch Scheme that he had brought to the Parish Council’s attention. The Clerk replied that the installation of this equipment, or the alternative of a permanent “Speed Matrix”, would require the permission of the DCC Highways Department, and he had been unable to make contact with them. Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd has kindly taken up this issue, but is having the same problem.

There is a difference of opinion as to whether AutoSpeedWatch Camera evidence can be used by the Police to issue Speeding Tickets; this needs to be resolved.

Action: Clerk

Our DCC Councillors are currently trying to organise the provision of a fully equipped Police Speed Monitoring Van, which would be dedicated for use in the GAMP area.

Presentations of the proposed GAMP Community Roadwatch Scheme have been held, and Residents have suggested a number of possible Signs. However, there are a number of questions regarding the installation of the proposed Signs, which need to be clarified with the DCC Highways Department, who cannot be contacted (see also above).

84/22 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING

Cllr E Hayman again raised the issue of bags of Dog Waste, which are a Health Hazard to operatives strimming the Parish Paths.

85/22 “THE PADDOCK” WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND

The Allotment Association reported that they have begun to receive Section 106 money to allow them to undertake some of their proposed improvements to the existing Allotment area. This is being done in £5,000 “chunks”, so as to avoid the necessity for providing three Quotations for the work, and initially involves necessary Tree maintenance.

There was some discussion of the desirability of more Middridge Residents holding Plots in the Allotments, and it was suggested that this be publicised in the Middridge Facebook Group and the “Eldon Whins” Estates. The possibility of a Community Garden Plot was also discussed.

The problem of the new Lease to cover the proposed extension of the Allotments is now close to resolution. This means that it will shortly be possible to arrange for Residents to be consulted about the proposed Windflower Grassland.

Action: Chair & Cllr P Dicker

86/22 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(a) Village Green Maintenance

The further damage to the Village Green by a lorry has been repaired.

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Responsibility for the maintenance of the various Village Green Tubs has been clarified, and this year's payments are in hand.

Action: Chair & Cllr T Towers

(b) **Parish Paths**

Payment for the First Cut of the Parish Paths has been received. Ian Hayman has undertaken the Second Cut, and the Clerk has submitted an Application to the DCC Parish Paths Partnership for the cost.

(c) **Southside Bus Shelter**

It has now been established that the Southside Bus Shelter is the Parish Council's responsibility, and options for its replacement are being actively investigated.

Action: Cllr T Towers & Clerk

(d) **Tree Maintenance**

What Tree Maintenance work is required, and possible sources of funding, are being actively investigated.

Action: Cllr T Towers & Clerk

87/22 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

A well-attended Presentation of the three required Proposals to replace the old Play Area equipment was held in the Village Hall, providing much useful feedback. Further information is being sought from Kompan; once this is available, the preferred Scheme will be agreed. It is apparent that the provision of Section 106 funding has been delayed, and further progress is unlikely until well into 2023.

Action: Cllrs P Dicker & T Towers

It has now been established that the Litter Bin in the Play Area is the Parish Council's responsibility, and options for its replacement are being actively investigated.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved.

88/22 ELDON WHINS DEVELOPMENTS

Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd has organised for the DCC Dog Wardens to regularly check the area where persistent Dog Fouling has been reported.

Cllr D Sutton-Lloyd has held a Meeting with Keepmoat, who have agreed the location of a Defibrillator (for which he has funding), and have agreed to provide a suitable Enclosure, and a Parish Noticeboard.

Cllr M Stead is applying pressure to the DCC Highways Department regarding the fitness for purpose of the Persimmon Roundabout, which has already required several repairs due to damage from vehicles failing to negotiate the Roundabout successfully.

89/22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

No progress to report.

Action: Clerk

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90/22 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Amount
FSDR	Annual Corporate Membership	£50.00
CDALC	3 Training Sessions	£30.98
Hayfields Contracting Ltd	Village Hall Car-park Gates	£990.00
Hayfields Contracting Ltd	Parish Paths Second Cut	£540.00
Harold Howe	Village Green Tubs Maintenance	£165.00
	TOTAL	£1175.00

91/22 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – Cllr T Towers has attended his first GAMP Board Meeting, and is slowly learning about his new role.

CDALC – nothing to report.

92/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Nothing to report.

93/22 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

94/22 OTHER MATTERS

(a) EV Charging Points – DCC have been contacted, but no report to date. The Middridge Village Association are to be informed, as it is their responsibility. However, it was emphasised that this is for a slow Charging Point, which may be of little value.

Action: Clerk

(b) Village Hall Gates – installed.

(c) Wally Mellors Commemorative Plaque – in hand.

95/22 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Parish Noticeboard Map – a suitable replacement is being actively investigated.

Action: Clerk

96/22 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7th November 2022, at 6.45 pm. The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.25 pm.