

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 6.30pm on **Monday, 10th March 2025**
in Middridge Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Harold Howe (Chair)
Paul Dicker
Lesley Moyle
Tony Towers
Avril Haines

Official: Glenn Gibson (Parish Clerk)

Others: DCC Cllr David Sutton Lloyd
2 x members of public

20/25 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

21/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive Apologies for Absence.

DCC Cllr Tony Stubbs.

22/25 DECLARATIONS

Cllr Avril Haines -- Middridge Village Hall Associated & Cllr Paul Dicker - Allotments if discussed within the meetings of the Parish Council

23/25 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr T. Tower and seconded by Cllr A. Haines

Resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 6th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

24/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the last minutes

25/25 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

A verbal report was received from DCC Cllr David Sutton Lloyd about an article in the Northern Echo paper in regard to transport/ traffic problems at Rushyford Roundabout. The continuing state of Middridge Roundabout. He also informed the meeting that Durham Police had now received a dedicated speed monitoring van and it is hoped that it is situated in the village more frequently.

Resolved – the that the verbal report be accepted.

A member of the public brought up the issue again of vehicles speeding and increased HGV vehicles through the village. The same member of the public also asked if any prices had been sought for traffic calming measures.

The member of the public was informed that DCC are awaiting a speed analysis report and the Parish Clerk has sent numerous emails regarding prices but have had no reply from DCC.

A small discussion took place reference land that is up for sale and the ownership of that land.

Resolved – that these concerns be noted.

26/25 ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment was considered.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts were presented and approved:

Name/ company	Purpose/ description	Amount £
*Croner	January & February	136.43 x 2
*Shildon Town Council	Summer 2024/ Spring 2025 bedding plants	120.00
*Aitkens	2 x bags lawn sand plus – moss on play area	77.28
*Darren Bonas	Mr Twister deposit for Christmas 2025	50.00
*Paul Dicker	Face painter deposit Christmas 2025	30.00
*Durham County Council	Walkers Lane SLA	472.60
*Colin Gray	Honorarium	75.00
*Shaun Hanson	Letter/ Neighbourhood plan	250.00
*Digital Edge	Website/ domain hosting due 5/3/25	222.00
Parish Clerk	Black printer cartridge	17.89
Glenn Gibson	Clerks quarterly pay	689.50
HRMC	Clerks quarterly pay/ income tax	172.40

Proposed – Cllr T. Tower & seconded by Cllr P. Dicker

The Council received another verbal update from the Parish Clerk and regarding the ongoing dispute with Barclays and due to his day job finding it difficult to ring up.

Also, that even though the Parish Clerk has been added to the Government Gateway for VAT reclaim he unable to access it if need be, phone HMRC.

Resolved – that the verbal report be accepted & Cllr H. Howe will try to contact CO-OP

Bank account as off 10th March 2025

Current Account -- **£1,045.13**

Reserve/ Business Account-- **£5,018.81**

27/25 ROAD TRAFFIC

No issues to discuss. (*Reference 25/25*)

28/25 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING

It was reported that police are aware of a group of youths in the area causing a lot of ASB & thefts.

It was reported that there was a disturbance in Elder Gardens.

Resolved – that these reports be noted.

29/25 PARISH ISSUES (both Village and Eldon Whins)

The meeting was informed that the s106 application has been submitted.

30/25 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The members were informed that the lawn sand to treat the moss was put down, unfortunately has stained the play surface as expected, but killed the moss and not damaged the safety surface.

One rung on the climbing frame was tightened.

31/25 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

An update was given by the Parish Clerk, that on instruction of the Parish Council has contacted DCC to proceed with the plan and likely the referendum will be in June 2025

Resolved – that the update be noted and await reply from DCC

32/25 VILLAGE SUPPORT

- The coffee mornings in the Village Hall are still ongoing and very successful.

33/25 GAMP & CDALC

- A written report was produced by Cllr A. Haines who attended the last CDALC meeting and submitted it on the evening.
- The last GAMP meeting will be held in the week commencing 17/3/25
- It was reported that GATC are trying to organise an initial meeting of Town & Parish Clerks to discuss the future of the new funding group/ name.

Resolved – that the report from Cllr A Haines be accepted.

34/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use: Use of land as a mixed residential and equestrian use. Land At The South Of Little Hare Farm Walkers Lane Middridge DL5 7JN.
Ref. No: DM/25/00411/CEU | Received date: Wed 12 Feb 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration.

Resolved-- There were no objections received

35/25 Clerks report

A verbal report from the Parish Clerk was given.

- That the applications for Parish paths will be opening soon and MPC will try for 4 seasonal maintenance cuts and also add an extra parish path no.8.
- The contractor has submitted his prices for any extra work for the leaves in Autumn, cut back wildflower next to play area and Parish Paths.
- The meeting was informed that the Middridge Parish Clerk attended an interview to become the new Town Clerk for Shildon Town Council and awaiting the outcome which is being resolved at their meeting presently and any confirmation will be received from Tuesday 11th March 25.

Resolved – that the clerks report be accepted

36/25 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.

A small discussion took place about accessing email accounts in the absence of the Parish Clerk over a prolonged period (holiday or ill health).

Resolved – that the Parish Clerk draft a protocol inline with GDPR.

37/25 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ ADDITIONAL ITEMS

No correspondents were received.

38/25 May 2025 Local Elections

Nomination packs were distributed alongside a pamphlet on how to complete

Potential Councillors were again informed that the nomination papers must be hand delivered to County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL from Friday 21 March 2025 to Wednesday 2 April 2025, between the hours of 10am – 4pm.

39/25 NEXT MEETING

The next **Parish Council Meeting** will be held on **Monday 12th May, 2025** immediately after the **Statutory Annual Parish Meeting** that begins at **6.15pm**.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm