

# **Middridge Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 6.30pm on **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
in Middridge Village Hall

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

**Official:** Glenn Gibson (Parish Clerk)

**Others:** DCC Cllr Michael Stead & Tim McGuinness  
1 x public

## **40/25 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

## **41/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

## **42/25 DECLARATIONS**

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

## **43/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR TO THE COUNCIL 2025/2026**

Councillor Harold Howe was nominated to be chair.

Proposed - Cllr A. Haines & seconded Cllr P. Dicker.

**Resolved** – That Cllr H. Howe was duly elected to become Chair of Middridge Parish Council for the ensuing year

## **44/25 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIR**

Cllr H. Howe the newly elected Chair duly confirmed acceptance of office.

Form signed & completed on acceptance.

## **45/25 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2025/2026**

Councillor Paul Dicker was nominated to be Vice Chair.

Proposed – Cllr L. Moyle & Seconded Cllr A. Haines

**Resolved** – That Cllr P. Dicker was duly elected to become Vice Chair of Middridge Parish Council for the ensuing year

#### **46/25 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr P. Dicker the newly elected Vice Chair duly confirmed acceptance of office.

Form signed & completed on acceptance

#### **47/25 COUNCIL MATTERS**

The Chair of the Council Cllr H. Howe gave a statement of thanks and appreciation to outgoing Cllr T. Towers for his dedication and service to Middridge Parish Council and the wider community.

A small discussion took place regarding the vacant position of Parish Councillor and the co-option process.

**Resolved** – that the position be advertised to attract suitable candidates.

#### **48/25 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr P. Dicker and seconded by Cllr L. Moyle

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### **49/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the last minutes.

#### **50/25 ACCOUNTS**

a. The Council considered the 2024/25 Accounts.

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

Proposed – Cllr P. Dicker & Seconded Cllr A. Haines

(1) The Parish Council's 2023/24 Accounts, as approved by the Internal Auditor (who has completed the usual Annual Internal Audit Report).

(2) The Annual Governance Statement.

(3) The Accounting Statements.

b. The Schedule of Accounts for Payment was considered.

**RESOLVED** that the following Accounts were presented and approved:

<b>Name/ company</b>	<b>Purpose/ description</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Olley, lawn & Green maintenance	Scheduled Village Green maintenance - March	319.00
CDALC	Subscription 2025/26	169.92

Croner	HR services - April	136.43
Olley, lawn & Green maintenance	Maintenance of parish Paths	510.00
Croner	HR services - May	136.43
CDALC	3 x copies of Good Councillor Guide	12.00
Olley, lawn & Green maintenance	Scheduled Village Green maintenance - April	319.00
Zurich Insurance	Yearly Premium	974.49
Colin Gray	Accounts – Independent examiner	100.00

A verbal report was given by the Parish Clerk and mentioned the retirement of the independent examiner of accounts – Colin Gray.

**Resolved** – that the report be accepted and that a formal letter acknowledging the Parish Councils thanks be wrote and sent to Colin Gray.

Bank account as off 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Current Account -- **£4093.61**  
Reserve/ Business Account-- **£23018.81**

## **51/25 ROAD TRAFFIC**

A verbal update was given by David Sutton Lloyd & County Cllr M. Stead regarding that the Eldon Whins estate roads are ready for adoption. Ongoing issues with the roundabouts and that the speed van has been in the village 3 times in the past month.

A verbal report was given by Cllr A. Haines regarding prices for a speed monitoring sign in the village and an incident that occurred involving a speeding vehicle.

**Resolved** – that both reports be accepted and that Cllr A. Haines to contact DCC to try and arrange a meeting.

## **52/25 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING**

There were no issues to report.

## **53/25 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL REPAIR**

A verbal report was given by the Parish Clerk on both issues of Village green and Parish paths and stated that work had commenced, including the extra Parish path and there were on areas of concern.

## **54/25 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the lawn sand used on the play surface was successful and the moss have been eradicated but has left a stain on the surface.

## **55/25 “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENTS**

Refer to item **51/25**

#### **54/25 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A discussion took place to clarify the points raised from the previous meeting with Durham County Council on 29/4/25 and the likely date for the referendum would be in June 2025.

#### **55/25 CDALC & (old GAMP)**

There have been no updates or correspondences on new set up to date.

Relevant CDALC information has been forwarded to members.

#### **56/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new planning applications.

**Noted** – refusal of the application relating to land at Walkers Lane by DCC.

#### **57/25 CLERKS REPORT**

A verbal report was given by the Parish Clerk.

- S106 money for the Parish has been granted but with the proviso that Middridge Parish Council investigate another supplier and their prices.
- Middridge Village Association have indicated they would like to order a bench from the same company.

**Resolved** – That the Parish Clerk investigate the alternative company and feedback to members and that the MVA bench be ordered but invoiced separately.

#### **58/25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no issues to address

#### **59/25 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

No other correspondence was received.

#### **60/25 OTHER MATTERS**

A verbal update on the progress of the allotment site extension was given by Cllr P. Dicker.

**Noted** – that the update be received.

#### **61/25 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

- The Chair informed members about a DCC review on the lighting along Walkers Lane and how it may affect the Service Level Agreement the Parish Council has with them regarding this issue, which includes possible higher cost, removal or switch off. County Cllr M. Stead stated that he will seek advice on the situation.

**Resolved** – That the Parish Council monitor the situation and await feedback from County Cllr M. Stead.

- Recent concerns have been raised and a discussion took place about the increase vehicle activity and work carried out by Wards around the quarry site. Is the planning application been re-activated even though it was deferred and appeal date passed? County Cllr M. Stead gave an update on the situation and stated Wards would have to submit a new application and that he would seek further advice.

**Resolved** – that the Quarry Action Group be re-activated in anticipation of any future developments.

## **62/25 NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2025** at 6.30pm

Meeting closed 7.54pm