

## Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
held at 6.45pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2023  
in Middridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr H Howe (Chair),  
Cllrs P Dicker, T Towers and E Hayman

**In attendance:** Cllrs D Sutton-Lloyd, M Stead and T Stubbs (Durham County Councillors)

**Official:** T Bellas (Acting Parish Clerk)

Middridge Action Group: S Smith, S Lowthian, and D Batey

### **21/23 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **22/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Carr

### **23/23 DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **24/23 MIDDRIDGE QUARRY**

Members from the Middridge Action Group provided an update on planning application ref DM/22/02110/WAS Middridge Quarry and of the refusal notice issued by the planning authority on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

Discussion took place on the timescale for the appellant to submit an appeal which would be within 6 months of the decision notice date and the average appeal process timescale.

The Middridge Action Group notified the Council of a discrepancy in reporting on the safety of a quarry site within a local newspaper which had indicated was Middridge Quarry instead of Aycliffe Town Quarry.

The Chair thanked members of the Middridge Action Group for their excellent work and response to the planning application.

**Resolved** that

- a. the above information be received.
- b. the Middridge Action Group review the points outlined within the refusal notification in case of an Appeal lodged by the Appellant.
- c. The Middridge Action Group provide an update to residents of Middridge on the refusal of the planning application and of the right for the Appellant to appeal.

**25/23 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Members discussed the renewal of a damaged dog bin and the lack of progress on the installation of speed signs within the village.

**Resolved** that the issue of the speed limit from Newton Aycliffe to Middridge be discussed with Durham County Council in order for this to be lowered.

**26/23 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr T Towers and seconded by Cllr P Dicker and

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**27/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters to discuss as all matters would be discussed under the relevant agenda item.

**28/24 ROAD TRAFFIC**

The delay with the road traffic signs was discussed and an update was provided by County Councillors on the installation of 'rumble strips' once other works had been completed on the road infrastructure

**Resolved that** the verbal update be received.

**29/23 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND POLICING**

Cllr E Hayman notified the Council of an increase in dog fouling on Walkers Lane

**Resolved** to contact the Neighbourhood Warden, Durham County Council, to advise of the increase of dog fouling incidents on Walkers Lane and to request a visit to the area.

**30/23 "The PADDOCK" WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND**

Cllr P Dicker informed the meeting that there was no further action on the issue of a new lease arrangement for the allotments.

**Resolved that**

- a) the information be received.
- b) that Durham County Councillors take this issue up with the relevant Portfolio holder at Durham County Council to bring this matter to a conclusion.

**31/23 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL REPAIRS**

- a) Village Green – Cllr T Towers reported that the damage to the village green had been repaired and the issue regarding the removal of the tree stump had been resolved and can now be removed.
- b) Bus Shelters – An update was provided on the replacement Northside bus shelter to incorporate a seating area and window and that work was to commence on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 with an estimated completion date by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Members discussed the possible replacement of the Southside bus shelter and the requirement to seek funding.

- c) Tree Maintenance – discussion took place on the duty of the Council to have a tree survey in place.

**Resolved that:**

- a) the verbal reports be noted.
- b) Quotations be obtained from a suitably qualified company for a tree survey on land in the ownership of the Parish Council
- c) £15 be granted for the maintenance of flower tubs by April 2023
- d) The 'Adopt A Tub' campaign be publicised to the community

**32/23 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

Members were updated on the funding bid for Section 106 funding and the outcome of the application was awaited

**Resolved that:**

- a) the verbal report be received.

- b) Thanks be extended to Durham County Councillors for their continued support and help with the funding application.

### 33/23 ELDON WHINS DEVELOPMENTS

Members were updated on the installation of new noticeboards and a defibrillator within the Eldon Whins development.

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

### 34/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was noted that a response was awaited from the Consultant.

### 35/23 ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Cllr P Dicker and seconded by Cllr H Howe and **resolved** that accounts awaiting payment and accounts paid in advance be noted and approved.

| <b>Payee</b>                  | <b>Purpose</b>                   | <b>Sum</b>      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| D. Batey *                    | Quarry Action Committee Expenses | £69.87          |
| Woodham Community Assoc. *    | Defibrillator Pads               | £55.89          |
| DCC *                         | Walkers Lane Street Lighting     | £459.55         |
| Planning Advice Plus          | Neighbourhood Plan               | £2027.90        |
| Hayfields Contracting Ltd     | Christmas Tree Erect & Remove    | £336.00         |
| Digital Edge Online Solutions | Website Hosting & Support        | £210.00         |
| Tony Towers                   | Tub Preservative                 | £12.00          |
|                               |                                  |                 |
|                               |                                  |                 |
|                               | <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>£3171.21</b> |

**NOTE** – with the agreement of Parish Councillors, Invoices marked \* have already been paid, so only formal approval is required.

### 36/23 GAMP & CDALC

Members discussed the independent review relating to Area Action Partnerships and funding to provide a Coffee Morning with the intention of attracting residents to a social gathering and possibly hold a Councillor Surgery to introduce serving Councillors and discuss issues of concern.

**Resolved that:**

- a) the verbal report be received.
- b) Groundwork be contacted to support with the funding and organisation of a Coffee Morning.

**37/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications to report.

**38/23 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to discuss.

**39/23 OTHER MATTERS**

- a) Christmas 2023 event – a discussion was held on suggestions for activities for Christmas 2023 to include families and residents.
- b) Kings Coronation (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May) – To liaise with the Middridge Village Hall Committee relating to any planned events within the Village Hall
- c) Chair's Dinner – The Chair announced that a Chair's Dinner would be arranged in March 2023 to thank members of the Parish Council and invited guests for their help and support during the year.
- d) Co-option – Members agreed to look at ways to engage residents to step up and become a Parish Councillor and invest in the future of the village
- e) Damage to Quarry fencing was discussed

**40/23 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

No additional urgent items

**41/23 NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at 6.45pm in the Village Hall.