

## **Middridge Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 6.45pm on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
in Middridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Harold Howe (Chair),  
Cllrs Paul Dicker  
Lesley Moyle  
Tony Towers

**Official:** Glenn Gibson (Parish Clerk)  
County Councillors Micheal Stead  
Members of the Public  
including Avril Haines who was invited by the Chair to observe.

### **73/24 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### **74/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive Apologies for Absence.  
County Councillors David Sutton Lloyd & Tony Stubbs

### **75/24 DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations.

### **76/24 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

The member of the public updated the Council about another visit by a Neighbourhood Warden on the property of 53 Southside.  
The member of public informed the Council that the speed van presence in the village has significantly dropped in the last 4 weeks.  
A member of the public updated the Council on the progress of the upcoming Village Fete with all going well and 13 stalls and attractions.

**Resolved** – That the Council have noted the updates

### **77/24 MINUTES**

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

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### **78/24 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY:**

THE Parish Clerk informed the meeting that due process of informing Electoral Services of the resignation of Rebecca Carr. Electoral Services requested that notices of Councillor vacancy be placed in the Village and were subsequently informed that two were placed in each noticeboard in the village.

Parish Clerk informed the meeting that Electoral Service have informed Middridge Parish Council that no nominees were received by the allocated time.

**Resolved** – That Middridge Parish Council are now in the position to Co-opt someone as a Councillor onto the Parish Council.

#### **79/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

#### **80/24 ACCOUNTS**

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment was considered.

**RESOLVED** that the following Accounts be approved for payment:

| <b>Name/ company</b>     | <b>Purpose/ description</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Middridge Parish Council | Clerks Salary               | £656.95       |
| Income Tax – HMRC        |                             | £164.00       |
| Colin Gray               | Honorarium                  | £75.00        |

The Council received an update from the Parish Clerk and Cllr T. Towers regarding the transition of account from the previous Clerk.

Another form had to be filled in and authorised and a phone number forwarded with the Clerk to wait 5 days before ringing Barclay to complete.

**Noted** – that previous Parish Clerk A. Jordan is still the main account holder for Middridge Parish Council finances to date.

The meeting was informed that an application for County Councillor funding has been submitted to offset the cost of a new bin for the play area.

#### **81/24 ROAD TRAFFIC**

There was no reports or updates received.

#### **82/24 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING**

There were no matters to report relating to ASB & Policing in the Parish.

#### **83/24 PARISH ISSUES (both Village and Eldon Whins)**

The Clerk updated the meeting regarding the reply from DCC regarding a request to install another dog bin along Parish Path no.7. A discussion took place where it was noted that Middridge Parish Council were disappointed with the outcome.

**Resolved** – that it be noted the disapproval of the outcome.

It was reported that the damage to the Village green had been repaired by D. Bloomer and a new flower tub has been placed.

It was reported by the Parish Clerk the reply and outcome from DCC regarding DCC staff attitude in relation to an incident involving a Parish Councillor.

**Resolved** – that the reply and outcome be accepted and fair.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that any possible trip rail fence to be put up on the green would need planning and initial application needs to be submitted at a cost.

**Resolved** – that the Parish Council not to proceed with this subject.

No Update was received on Eldon Whins notice board.

#### **84/24 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

It was reported to the meeting that the new bike racks have arrived and will need installing in and around the play area.

**Resolved** – It was agreed that the Parish Council accept the offer from Shildon Town Council to install them and recharge Middridge Parish Council staff time.

The Parish Clerk reported to the meeting that a small grant application has been submitted to offset the cost of a replacement bin in the play area.

**Resolved** – Agreed that Shildon Town Council install the new bin and recharge Middridge Parish Council for staff time.

It was reported that the time of the Parish meeting a yearly ROSPA inspection had been carried out on the play equipment and awaiting the report.

A discussion took place about the issue of dog fouling in and around the play area and how to address the problem.

**Resolved** – that the Parish Council look at the feasibility of the cost of fencing around the play area either by funding or part of the 2025/26 budget.

#### **85/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

It was reported to the meeting that a few updates regarding wording had been received and in the closing stages prior to submission to DCC.

#### **86/24 VILLAGE SUPPORT**

It was agreed by the Chairman that £75.00 been used from his budgeted Chairs account to help fund raffle tickets for the Village Fete.

It was discussed that GAMP be contacted regarding the wording on the coffee morning.

It was reported that the Christmas Party Committee will recommence sometime in July 24 for the Village Hall

#### **87/24 GAMP & CDALC**

It was reported by Cllr T. Towers that 23 applications for requests had been submitted and in the process of being sorted.

#### **88/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A report was given about the upcoming planning application starting 15/7/24 in relation to the proposed tree work.

A planning application was received regarding proposed 2 x new play areas in the Eldon Whins development.

**Resolved** – that a site visit by parish Councillor's and the Parish Clerk take place on 5/7/24 to look at the proposed locations.

#### **89/24 Clerks report**

A verbal report from the Parish Clerk was given

It was reported that all actions from last meeting carried out and Cllrs updated.

#### **90/24 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.

There was nothing to discuss.

#### **91/24 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

There were no further correspondents or additional items to report.

#### **92/24 NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024** at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.45pm