

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE STATUTORY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MIDDRIDGE ON MONDAY 23rd MAY 2022 AT 6.45PM

All Electors in the Parish of Middridge are invited and may speak at this Meeting which will be chaired by Cllr H. Howe, the Chair of Middridge Parish Council. Members of the Parish Council will be present.

This Meeting is an opportunity for Electors to ask questions of the Parish Council regarding any aspect of their conduct of Parish affairs during the preceding year.

AGENDA

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2019.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Draft

MIDDRIDGE PARISH

Minutes of the proceedings of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Middridge on Monday 13th May 2019.

Present: Councillor W Mellors (Chair), and Councillors H Howe, P Makinson and S Smith.

In Attendance: Mrs Anne Clarke
Cllrs S Durham, P Howell & J Clare (DCC)

1/19 NOTICE OF THE MEETING

The notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

2/19 MINUTES

It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2017 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3/19 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported as follows:-

This year has been a fairly quiet year but there have been three significant matters that have affected the Parish Council.

The County Council have proposed removal of a number of lights along the main road and in Walker's Lane. The Parish Council strongly opposed this and have agreed to pay to retain those in Walker's Lane, which will be replaced by new ones.

Secondly, towards the end of last year, there were a number of arson events in the village, near the village hall and also on the footpath from the quarry. All were reported to the police who stated at the time that without any photographic evidence, they were unable to proceed. However it became evident that a man had been seen and identified near some of the events. Although there was not enough evidence for a prosecution, it appears that the police investigation has caused the problem to cease.

Finally, the Keepmoat homes development which was first described at a presentation to the Village in May at Eldon Whins has now commenced as most of you will have seen. We were all (including the Parish Council) surprised to see an announcement in the paper that the Village would be subject to a six week road closure to enable a roundabout to be built.

We made a strong protest about this and have been able to put a stop to it. In the process we have established a better relationship both with Keepmoat Homes and also with the part of the DCC responsible for road services.

The road will NOT be closed, and at present discussions are still going on as to the best way to build the new roundabout with the least possible inconvenience to the village. It is at present probable that traffic lights will be used.

Your Council would like to acknowledge the support that we have received from our County Councillors, John Clare, Scott Durham and Paul Howell.

The litter in the Village is much reduced, due to both the County Council and the regular litter pick arranged by the Parish. The general state of the Village Green and play area has been well maintained by Ian Hayman.

The Neighbourhood Plan is somewhat dormant at present as funding for the professional planner has been largely used up and priorities have changed with the development at present at Eldon Whins.

4/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Anne Clarke raised a number of Issues:-

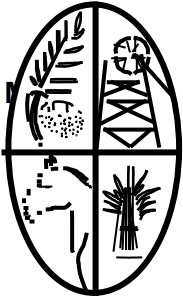
- (a) Road Closure – several Residents have expressed concern about the proposal to close Middridge Road at its junction with Greenfield Way, in order to build a Roundabout; this will be discussed further at the forthcoming Parish Council Meeting.
- (b) Village Green Flower Tubs – a replacement for Alice McGeechan was found, but the replacement has now left the Village.
- (c) Trees - Northumbrian Water are currently offering Grants for Environmental Projects, and she suggested the Council might like to apply for some new Trees. She mentioned the top right-hand side of the Play Area, which someone has used to dump Rubbish.
- (d) “Public Open Space” – the Owners of part of the “Public Open Space” in Eden Grove have complained about people trespassing to view and/or access the animals now using the adjacent field. She asked whether it could be clarified if this was actually trespassing? This was agreed.

Action: Clerk

- (e) Walkers Lane Street Lights – she expressed her concern at the Council using so much of their Financial Reserves to retain the Street Lights in Walkers Lane, and asked whether a Survey had been conducted to establish how many people would benefit? She was also concerned about the ongoing Maintenance Costs.
The Chair replied that this decision had already been taken, and a Legal Agreement signed. The Maintenance Costs are ~ £290 per annum, which the Council can easily afford.

She ended her Comments by thanking the Parish Council and DCC for their sterling work on behalf of the Village.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 7.30 pm.



Midddridge Parish Council

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Midddridge,
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DL5 7JD

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To all Members of Midddridge Parish Council

Dear Councillor,

You are duly summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council, which will be held **on Monday, 23rd May 2022, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, which starts at 6.45 pm.**

Yours faithfully,

Alan Jordan

Clerk to the Council

NOTE – Members of the Public have a **RIGHT** to attend this Meeting, but may **ONLY** speak at the invitation of the Chair.

AGENDA

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the Meeting was given as per Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive Apologies for Absence.

3. DECLARATIONS

Individual Councillors to declare any personal or prejudicial Interests in Agenda Items, and their nature.

4. COUNCIL MATTERS

To discuss changes to the Parish Council consequent on the resignation of Alan Jordan as a Parish Councillor.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2022/2023

To consider the election of the Chair of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

6. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIR

To invite the newly elected Chair to confirm acceptance of office.

7. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2022/2023

To consider the election of the Vice Chair of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

8. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

To invite the newly elected Vice Chair to confirm acceptance of office.

9. MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

In order to facilitate Public Involvement, the Chair will sympathetically consider any requests for particular Agenda Items of interest to Members of the Public to be considered out of sequence.

10. MINUTES

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th March 2022.

11. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To discuss any matters arising from the above Minutes **NOT** covered by this Agenda.

12. MIDDRIDGE QUARRY

To discuss any matters regarding the Wards Middridge Quarry Proposal, and the Parish Council's response.

13. ROAD TRAFFIC

To discuss any matters regarding Road Traffic, including the GAMP 'Community Roadwatch' Project.

14. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING

To discuss any matters relating to ASB & Policing in the Parish.

15. "THE PADDOCK" WILDFLOWER GRASSLAND

To consider any matters relating to the proposal to turn "The Paddock" into a "Wildflower Grassland".

16. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL REPAIRS

- (a) Village Green
- (b) Parish Paths
- (c) Southside Bus Shelter
- (d) Tree Maintenance

17. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

To consider any issues regarding the Play Area.

18. "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENTS

To consider any matters relating to the "Eldon Whins" Developments.

19. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To review progress regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

20. ACCOUNTS

To formally adopt the Parish Council's 2021/22 Accounts, as approved by the Internal Auditor.

To authorise Payment of any Accounts (Schedule attached).

21. GAMP & CDALC

To consider matters arising from the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Area Action Partnership (GAMP), and from the Council's Membership of the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC).

22. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To consider any previous ongoing and new Planning Applications received.

23. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

To consider any Correspondence received.

24. OTHER MATTERS

To consider any other seasonal or special matters not in the normal Agenda.

- (a) EV Charging Points
- (b) Village Hall Gates
- (c) Wally Mellors Commemorative Plaques

25. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

To consider, at the discretion of the Chair, any urgent matters not in this Agenda.

26. NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 4th July, 2022 at 6.45pm.