

APPROVED

# **Middridge Parish Council**

## **Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Monday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Time: 6.45 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs H Howe (Chair), S Smith, W Mellors, P Makinson & H Alexander

**In Attendance:** Paul Howell MP, Stewart Smith, David Sutton-LLoyd

**Official:** A Jordan (Clerk)

**NOTE** – owing to the COVID-11 Pandemic, this Meeting was held using Video Conferencing, and was postponed for a week due to a Prime Ministerial broadcast.

### **01/21 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

### **02/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

### **03/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **04/21 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

None

### **05/21 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 were accepted, and will be signed by the Chair as a true record.

### **06/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

### **07/21 POLICING**

Nothing to report.

### **08/21 “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENTS**

The details of the proposed “Acorn Gardens” Sculpture have now been agreed, and Persimmon Homes have applied to DCC for permission to erect it on site.

More Flyers are needed for potential new Residents.

**Action:** Clerk

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### 09/21 "THE PADDOCK" WILD-FLOWER GRASSLAND

We have still heard nothing from the DCC Ecology Officer (Tammy Morris-Hale) regarding this matter, and a further attempt to contact her will be made.

**Action:** Clerk

It is understood that the Middridge Allotment Association (MAA) have been in contact with DCC regarding the details of the southern boundary of the Allotments, and have been referred to the Parish Council. The Secretary of the MAA is to be contacted with a view to opening discussions on this matter.

**Action:** Cllr S Smith

### 10/21 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

The problem of the muddy state of the extension of Walker's Lane to the Railway Bridge was discussed. This is primarily the responsibility of the Landowner, who is not known, although Anne Clarke may be able to help. Lacking this information, it is difficult to see how anything can be done.

**Action:** Chair

The PC have had a report from a member of the public raising concerns that during harvesting heavy tractors with trailers full of potatoes were crossing the Railway Bridge at Walkers Lane. It was agreed that Network Rail should be contacted, as it is believed this would be their concern and responsibility.

**Action:** Clerk

### 11/21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Planning Application for 35 South Side has been approved.

### 12/21 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Nothing to report.

### 13/21 ROAD-TRAFFIC

(a) The Clerk has received Level 2 Community Support Volunteer clearance (which will enable him to enter data into the Police National Computer). No further progress likely until the Spring.

**Action:** Clerk

(b) Nothing to report on the proposed reintroduction of "Rumble Strips" in the Village, or the possibility of extending the 30 mph Speed Limit all the way down Walkers Lane, and adding a 'No Through Road' Sign.

**Action:** Cllr J Clare

### 14/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Paul Howell stated that he and Cllr S Durham are kindly prepared to fund the £2000 required to complete the Middridge NP from their Neighbourhood Budgets. Victoria Grieves of GAMP is to be contacted regarding this.

**Action:** Clerk

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Stewart Smith mentioned that registered “Assets of Community Value” will be included in the NP, which has raised the (previously considered) issue of the Bay Horse having the Parish Council’s permission to place Benches on the Village Green. Owing to potential legal issues, no such permission is possible, and should not be mentioned in the NP.

The Registration of the Village Green should be mentioned in the NP, and details will be supplied to Stewart Smith.

**Action:** Clerk

### 15/21 ACCOUNTS

The repayment of last year’s VAT (£2,164.31) has been received.

The question of the Parish Council’s Precept for the forthcoming 2021/22 Municipal Year was discussed. Councillors considered that a balance had to be struck between the need to increase the Parish Council’s Financial Reserves following the significant expenditure on Walker’s Lane Street Lighting, and concerns for residents who might be suffering financial hardship due to COVID-19.

**RESOLVED** that the Precept be increased by 1.5% (the expected increase in Inflation).

**Action:** Clerk

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Sum</b>
Hayfields Contracting Ltd.	Village Green Maintenance	£2,280.00
Hayfields Contracting Ltd.	Parish Paths 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cut	£504.00
Derek Johnson	Christmas Tree	£240.00
A D Jordan	Clerk’s Oct-Dec Salary	£247.70
HMRC	Clerk’s Oct-Dec Tax	£164.80
A D Jordan *	Remembrance Sunday Wreaths	£50.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,486.50</b>

\* This Payment includes £20 for the MVA Wreath, for which the Parish Council have received a Cheque.

### 16/21 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – Project Applications on the theme of ‘Covid-19 Recovery are still being received and processed in preparation for Board approval at a Meeting to be held by Video Conferencing on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

CDALC – nothing to report.

### 17/21 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

### 18/21 OTHER MATTERS

(a) **Remembrance Sunday**

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Despite the fact that the proposed private Parish Council commemoration had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, individual commemorations were made, and the usual Wreaths laid.

(b) **Village Website**

Cllr P Makinson reported that he had discussed with Pixel Media their proposal for a revamped Village Website to meet the Government's new Regulations; and has confirmed that this would allow the Parish Council to maintain the Website in future themselves. This proposal would require that Website Hosting be transferred to Wix at a cost of £150 per annum; it is not clear whether the first year's payment is included in the Quoted cost of £1000, and this will be clarified. It was noted that this is more than we pay Zen Internet at present (but considerably less than we used to pay BT), but considered reasonable in the circumstances. Cllr P Makinson also confirmed that everything could be arranged "seamlessly", so that the Website would always be available during the changeover.

**RESOLVED** that the Pixel Media Quotation be accepted at a cost of £1000, with a 50% Advance Payment, plus £150 for Website Hosting if required.

**Action:** Cllr P Makinson & Clerk

(c) **Christmas Arrangements**

All went well.

(d) **Armed Forces Covenant**

It has been established that the Parish Council could sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant, at no cost. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision until the next Parish Council Meeting to allow Councillors time to investigate further.

**Action:** Parish Councillors

(e) **Defibrillator**

The DCC Street Lighting Department have reacted unfavourably to the idea that the Electricity Supply for the proposed future Defibrillator at "Elder Gardens" could be taken from one of their Street Light Columns. However, it is possible that they have misunderstood the requirements, and discussions are ongoing. An alternative Metered Supply might be possible, and will be investigated if necessary.

**Action:** David Sutton-Lloyd & Clerk

### 19/21 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Nothing to report.

### 20/21 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, at 6.45 pm., using "Zoom" Video Conferencing.

The Chair closed the Meeting at 8.30 pm.