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Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Monday
6th September 2021**

Time:

6.45 pm

Present: Cllrs H Howe (Chair), A D Jordan (Vice-Chair), E Hayman & P. Dicker

In Attendance: Cllr Tony Stubbs (DCC), Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd (DCC),
David Batey

Official: T Towers (Acting Clerk) and F. Ford (new Clerk).

85/21 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

86/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R. Carr

87/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

88/21 COUNCIL MATTERS

- a) **Replacement Parish Clerk** – The Parish Council thanked Tony for his hard work, they were genuinely sorry to see him leave and offered good look for the future.
- b) **Individual Councillors responsibilities** – A discussion took place, and it was agreed the following areas of responsibility would aligned as follows:
 - Speed watch/speed related issues – Cllr Alan Jordan
 - Anti-Social Behaviour, which may expand into Parish Paths and Quarry area – Cllr Emma Hayman
 - Paddock Wildflower potential project – Cllr Paul Dicker to lead. It was noted Sue Smith who was championing the project has resigned
 - Play area matters – Cllr Paul Dicker
 - Village Green issues – Cllr Harold Howe to undertake in conjunction with Cllr Emma Hayman
 - Parish Path including the Quarry – Cllr Harold Howe and Cllr Emma Hayman
 - New developments – Cllr Rebecca Carr
 - Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Alan Jordan in conjunction with Consultant Sean Hanson
 - Community Roadwork project – Cllr Harold Howe and Cllr Alan Jordan. It was noted any artwork proposed for the village green may be contentious

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89/21 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None.

90/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5th July 2021 were accepted, and will be signed by the Chair as a true record.

91/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

92/21 ROAD TRAFFIC

A discussion took place and David Batey advised that approximately 4780 normal vehicles were counted during a 12 hour period, as well as 7.5 and 32 ton vehicles. It was noted the survey undertaken in 2013 stating approximately 6,000 vehicles and whilst a survey was undertaken in 2014, it could be verified by Michelle McIntosh at DCC.

It was noted the road between Heighington Village and Aycliffe has a 7.5 ton weight limit, although DCC have advised to have a 7.5 ton weight lift restriction would require too many vehicles using the road or a weak bridge. The installation of chevrons was also discussed

Action Point - TS and DSL to continue liaising with DCC. David Batey and Fiona Ford to liaise with DCC.

Community Speed Watch – It was noted Stephen Kipling, PCSO has the scheme up and running, however the equipment can only be used when the police can loan it. Cllr Alan Jordan advised he is looking into the cost of purchasing speed awareness equipment, the machine would be calibrated by the Police, the stats would then be inputted into the police database, after 3 warnings a fine is issued.

It may be that a speeding survey is undertaken in the village to determine what the village think of speeding, including possible solutions.

Action Point - It was agreed to defer discussion of the GAMP Community Roadwatch Project to the next meeting.

93/21 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING

It was noted, there had been a few social media posts about fly tipping in the quarry. It was also noted an off road bike red/orange colour had been spotted several times.

Action Point – everyone was reminded to ensure all incidents are reported to the Police, to ensure they have the full picture of incidents within the village.

94/21 “THE PADDOCK” WILD-FLOWER GRASSLAND

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It was noted Sue Smith has withdrawal as the liaison officer between the allotment association and the Parish Council. The allotment association have advised DCC are currently still developing the project.

A discussion then took place regarding the S106 allocation as from the £400k allocation, which is currently:

Middridge allotments £86,400

Wildflower meadow land £15,000

Eden Arms roundabout £92,920

Action Point – Fiona Ford to check the planning permission committee report to understand the S106 allocation

95/21 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- (a) Village Green – The repairs on the village green have now been undertaken. Appreciation to Northumbrian Water who have repaired the grass areas by vehicles. A bench has been erected to discourage vehicle access to the village green. The bin wagons responsible for the damage have now been asked to re-route the vehicles. 13 North Side access issues – now resolved. Proposal to have a bench erected in memory of Betty Cain, David Bloomer grandmother
- (b) Parish Paths – Path 7 the style – applied for the money from the Parish Paths Partnership and been allocated. Awaiting Ian Haymouth undertake the work. There were concerns about the diseased tree on Path 7, Wards have arranged to have it felled.
- (c) Middridge Quarry – Tommy Walton and Wards are now liaising on the proposed project to create a leisure area. It was noted access will be required via Tommy Walton's fields to access the Quarry with heavy machinery. It was further noted that reptiles, barn owls and bats occupy the site, so necessary surveys will need to be undertaken.
- (d) Tree Maintenance – Following the inspection of the village trees, it was noted several need attention/maintenance, Tony has been in contact with John Alderson Chief tree inspector from DCC, who have advised they will undertake the work, although they are unable to do it for a while, there will also be a charge for undertaking the work. It was noted (from a member of the public) that a street light moved to under a tree and is no longer works.

96/21 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

It was noted the climbing frame modifications and repairs have now been undertaken along with the soft standing underneath. An issue was identified with the picnic table, which has now been removed, a replacement recycled plastic table has been purchased however still needs to be installed.

97/21 ELDON WHINS DEVELOPMENTS

It was noted the road edge issue is ongoing. The public art will be a horses head (representing the Byerley Turk).

It was further noted a dog attack took place in the play area – the dog has now been rehoused.

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There is also an issue with parking, whilst the area has not been adopted yet, incidents can be reported the police who can attend and issue ticket.

98/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

It was noted there is currently no progress to report.

99/21 ACCOUNTS

Due to unforeseen expenditure on the climbing frame, slide and picnic bench, £3,000 has been expended from reserves. The following payments were then formally approved.

Payee	Purpose	Sum
Play Safety *	Play Area Inspection	£86.40
Complete Weed Control *	1st Cut of Parish Paths	£504.00
Northern Tubs Ltd. *	New Village Green Tubs	£87.86
Tony Towers	Clerk's Expenses	£47.50
	TOTAL	£725.76

With the previous agreement of Parish Councillors, Invoices marked * have already been paid, so only formal approval is required.

Given the current financial situation the Parish Council need to be mindful of any grants to charities. A payment of £50 to Great North Air Ambulance is currently in reserves. Clerk to look into paying it online.

100/21 GAMP & CDALC

It was noted Cllr Alan Jordan would represent the CDALC Local Council's Committee on the GAMP Board, and GATC represent it on the CDALC Executive Committee.

101/21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

102/21 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

103/21 OTHER MATTERS

- a) EV Charging Points – Village Hall Committee was unable to attend, Cllr Harold Howe advised there is a proposal to have a charging point adjacent to the village hall. Awaiting an official site survey.
- b) Village Hall Gates & Wally Mellor's Plaque – A suggestion to put gates across the car park has been made. The Association to liaise with County Councillors re their neighbourhood budget. Proposal to erect a plaque in memory of Wally Mellor to

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acknowledge his service to the village. Alternative Proposal to plant a tree in front of his house with a brass plaque on the tree. Discussion at the next meeting

9.15 pm Cllrs Tony Stubbs and David Sutton-Lloyd left the meeting

- c) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee -
- d) Proposed new Member's Code of Conduct – bring to the next meeting
- e) 6, The Meadows Access problems - resolved. Cllr Alan Jordan to contact Living and request a 'Do Not Restrict – Access Needed at all times' sign.

104/21 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

It was noted that Tony Towers has offered to be a stand in to support the Clerk.

105/21 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday, 1st November, starting at 6.45 pm, in the Village Hall.