

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
8th May 2006**

Time:6.50pm

Present: Councillors W.J. Clarke , Mrs A. Clarke and W.Mellors

Apologies:- An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Howe.

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

01/06 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

02/06 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that Councillor H.Howe be appointed as Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

03/06 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be forwarded to Councillor Howe for signature.

04/06 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs A.Clarke be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

(Councillor Mrs Clarke in the Chair.)

05/06 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was made by Councillor Mrs Clarke.

06/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

07/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Proposed Sale of Allotments, Middridge (Minute 56/05 refers)

No further news on the above development had been received; although it had been noted that the adjacent farm land now appeared to have been sold. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the County Council at the end of the month to enquire about progress on this issue.

08/06 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment. **RESOLVED** that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

N.Hart	Salary	£141.67
N.Hart	Postage/Admin	£15.20
Durham Assoc of Local Councils	Affiliation	£30.85
Zurich Insurance	Local Council Policy	£507.57
Zurich Insurance	Engineering Inspection	£293.75
Hamsterley Tree Surgeons	Tree Maintenance	£695.00
JWS Power Wash	Cleaning- Bus Shelters	£30.00
C.E.Walker	Grasscutting	£242.05

09/06 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2006

Consideration was given to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006; which had been internally audited by Mr C.Gray in readiness for submission to the external auditor as required by legislation.

RESOLVED that the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

10/06 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Parish Paths Partnership Application 2006/2007

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information regarding the financial affairs of a third party in accordance with paragraphs 7 & 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Consideration was given to the quotation received from T.C.W. regarding the cost of carrying out the necessary specified works to maintain the Parish Public footpaths; prior to an application being submitted to Durham County Council (D.C.C.) for grant funding for the works.

In addition to the works contained within the contract specification, T.C.W. had identified additional works to repair a wicket gate and remove tree limbs. It was proposed that these additional works be referred to D.C.C. for consideration of funding.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the quotation received from T.C.W. for works as part of the Parish Paths scheme be approved.
2. An application be extended to D.C.C. for approval of grant funding in respect of the works.
3. The additional works identified by T.C.W. be referred to D.C.C. for consideration.

The meeting resumed in public session

ii) Repairs/Maintenance of Bus Shelters

It was noted that J.W.S Power Wash had undertaken an inspection of the condition of the two bus shelters in the Village and had advised that they considered it necessary to renew all of the rotten wood on one shelter with prime undercoat and gloss. The metal shelter would also require grinding down where necessary; followed by priming with oxide paint undercoat and gloss. The internal beading may also need replacing in part.

It was proposed that members meet within the next two weeks to undertake their own inspection of the shelters prior to further consultation with JWS.

RESOLVED that members meet within the next two weeks to undertake their own inspection of the shelters prior to further consultation with JWS.

iii) General Maintenance

It was noted that a resident of the Village (Mr Bennett) had enquired whether he could take on responsibility for the maintenance of one of the flower tubs within the Parish. The efforts of the public in this regard were much appreciated and the Parish were delighted to be able to allow Mr Bennett to carry out maintenance of one of the tubs.

In previous years it had been the custom to offer a donation to each of the people who carried out maintenance of the tubs on behalf of the Parish and therefore it was suggested that a similar donation of £10 per tub (6 in total) be extended for this year to assist in meeting the associated costs of their upkeep.

RESOLVED that a donation of £10 be offered in respect of the maintenance of each flower tub and that Cllr Mrs Clarke be authorised to deliver the donation to each person.

iv) Parish Paths-Map/Noticeboard

It was noted that members had met with Victoria Lloyd (D.C.C.) to discuss the map and wording and that a finalised 'proof' would be sent to D.C.C. by Cllr Mellors in the next few days.

An appropriate noticeboard and map had been identified, made of oak frame, at a cost of £2,000. D.C.C. had confirmed they would meet half of this cost. It was suggested therefore that enquiries be made with Durham County Foundation and Awards for All to ascertain whether this would be a matter that would qualify for grant funding.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries with Durham County Foundation and Awards for All to ascertain the availability of grant funding to cover the cost of the Parish's contribution to the Parish Paths Map/Noticeboard.

11/06

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

It was noted that no further update had been received from Sedgfield Borough Council (S.B.C.) regarding the Parish's application for new play area equipment.

Consideration was also given to a concern expressed by two residents to the proposals on the basis that it would exacerbate problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the area. Members had regularly carried out inspections of the area and had found no evidence of such problems; and had had no incidents of anti-social behaviour problems reported to them. The facility was in place for any such problems to be reported to S.B.C. Neighbourhood Wardens or the local Police Constable. The development of the play area was carried out in consultation with local children; and was dependent upon grant funding being provided by S.B.C..

Cllr Mellors reported that a recent inspection of the area had revealed a need for the removal of an overhanging branch; and he undertook to carry out this work in due course.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12/06

PARISH COUNCIL-VACANCY

It was noted that, following statutory notice, no nominations had been received to fill the vacancy following Cllr Moreland's recent

resignation. Therefore, the Parish Council could now, if it so wished, co-opt a member of the public to fill the vacancy for the period up until the next Parish Elections.

It was suggested that any prospective candidates for co-option may wish to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

No further progress had been reported by Durham County Council regarding its proposals to dispose of the above allotment site. It was suggested that the Clerk maintain contact with the relevant officers regarding any subsequent progress.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

13/06

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Arrangements for the staging of the Village Fete on the 1st July 2006 were noted. It was believed that events were planned for use of the Village Green; which would require the permission of the Parish Council. To date, no application/further information had been received.

It was customary for the Parish Council to make a donation to the event and therefore it was proposed that a contribution of £30 be made for this years event.

RESOLVED that a donation of £30 be made.

Reference was made to the illegal parking of cars on footpaths/pavements within the Village; causing annoyance to residents and potential damage to pavements. It was suggested that any such instance be reported to Durham County Council for their action.

An invitation to attend the AGM Of Sedgefield Borough Council had been received. It was suggested that the invitation be offered to the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Consideration was given to the salary of the Parish Clerk for 2006/2007. It was proposed that the salary be increased from £850 to £1,000 per annum with effect from the new Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk's salary be set at £1,000 per annum with effect from the 2006/2007 Municipal Year.

14/06

NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd July 2006 at 6.45pm.

