

**Middridge Parish Council**

**Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Monday  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008**

**Time:6.45pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs A.Clarke (Chairman);, W.J. Clarke and H.Howe .

**Official:** N.Hart (Clerk);

**Apologies:** Councillors Makinson and Mellors.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Ms Hewitson (Sedgefield Borough Council)

**65/07 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

**66/07 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the addition of apologies submitted by Councillor Makinson and the venue for the meeting being amended to 'Village Hall, Middridge'.

**67/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**i) Dog Litter Bin (Minute 55/07 refers)**

It was noted that the Chairman had met with a representative from Sedgefield Borough Council's (SBC) Street Scene department to discuss our requirements in terms of a new dog litter bin to be sited within the vicinity of Walker Lane and the possibility of a further bin on the tramway between the allotment and the nearby houses. The Chairman advised that agreement had been reached with SBC for a dual purpose dog and litter bin to be sited near the Village Hall; which would be installed once the works to the car park were complete.

Members suggested that there had also been requests for a suitable bin to located near Middridge Docks. It was proposed that the situation be monitored pending the new bin at Walker Lane being installed.

**ii) National Tree Week (Minute 55/07 refers)**

It was noted that following confirmation of Durham County Council grant funding to the sum of £95 for participation in National Tree Week, Lyndhurst Nurseries were to carry out the planting later this week. It had also been necessary to replace the intended weeping birch tree with a silver birch; the latter of which would formally commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Middridge Parish Council.

**iii) Npower Invoice-Christmas Tree Lights (Minute 57/07 refers)**

Confirmation was awaited from Npower confirming that the presented invoice for outstanding payment did indeed relate to energy used in previous years for the Christmas tree lights; and was not related to some other energy use outside of the Parish's responsibility.

**68/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with the following additional invoice:-

-JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter Maint.	£60.00
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Reference was made to the recent donation made to Sedgefield Borough Council's Mayor's Charity (£20) and it was suggested that a similar donation should be now presented to the Mayor of Great Aycliffe's chosen charity.

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

N.Hart	Salary	£175.00
N.Hart	Postage	£3.00
JWS Power Wash	Maintenance	£60.00
Mayor's Charity-GATC	Donation	£20.00

**69/07 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

**i) Maintenance of Bus Shelter Seating**

The Clerk submitted details of JWS quotation for the replacement of the wooden bench seat adjacent to the stone bus shelter; which they had considered to be beyond reasonable repair. It was proposed that a decision on whether to proceed

with its replacement be deferred pending further inspection by Councillors Clarke and Howe.

ii) Parish Paths Partnership 2008/2009

It was noted that no decision had as yet been arrived at by Durham County Council regards confirmation of funding for the above.

**70/07 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

The Clerk advised that the play equipment contractor had now carried out all identified repairs to the newly installed play equipment following consideration of the Borough Council's inspection report.

Consideration was also given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report, which contained reference to fencing situated towards the far corner of the play area, near the football goal, which appeared to have been blown over slightly during the recent bad weather. Members also referred to the moss that had gathered on the swings; and suggested that they carry out attempts to clean the equipment, and at the same time inspect the reportedly damaged fencing.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and the appropriate action be carried out as outlined.

**71/07 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:-

i) Local Government Reorganisation-Invitation to Key Stakeholders

The Chairman had reserved two places for the event on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008, with a further place for the Village Association.

ii) Durham County Council-Summary of Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2011

iii ) Forthcoming Civic Events-Shildon Town Council/Sedgefield Borough Council

iv) Post Office Closures Notice

**72/07**

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

- i) Members were advised that volunteers had now carried out satisfactory works to the Millennium Hedge.
- ii) Further to Local Government Reorganisation, it was suggested that Durham County Council be contacted once again and asked for clarification regarding the future ownership of the allotments in Middridge.
- iii) A progress update was requested from DCC regards the previous suggestion that temporary 'matrix' speed restriction signs be deployed by DCC on the C35 Newton Aycliffe to Shildon road when approaching Middridge Village.
- iv) Members made reference to litter that had gathered in the hedgerow on the C35 road towards Shildon. It was reported that some recent works had been carried out to address this problem.
- v) It was suggested that further to the establishment of the new Unitary Durham County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008, the authority be requested to clarify its position in terms of the future responsibility of the allotments in Middridge; which it had previously sought to dispose of.

**73/07**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 6.50pm (or immediately following Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 6.45pm).

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_