

SIGNED MINUTES

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
17th May 2010

Time:6.50pm

Present: Councillors Makinson (Chairman); Mrs A.Clarke, W.J. Clarke and W.Mellors.

Apology for absence: Councillor Howe.

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

In Attendance: Cllr Mrs D.Bowman

1/10 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

2/10 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that Councillor W.J.Clarke be appointed Chairman of the Council for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

3/10 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

RESOLVED that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received in due course.

4/10 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that Councillor Howe be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

5/10 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

RESOLVED that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be received in due course.

6/10 NOTIFICATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS/RECEIPT OF GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY

RESOLVED that the notification of personal interests be received.

7/10 THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Parish Council be recorded to the outgoing Chairman Councillor Makinson for the duties carried out during his term of office.

8/10 MINUTES

- i) The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

Min 81/09-delete 'rear' and insert 'south of' 10 Houses.

9/10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment, together with the proposed reimbursement of Cllr Makinson for £12 for the provision of compost for the flower tubs.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

Hoppers Jewellers	Additional Links- Chains	£310.00
JW Power Wash	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£30.00
CE Walker	Grasscutting	£258.50
Gt North Air Ambulance	Donation	£25.00
N.Hart	Salary	£191.67
N.Hart	Postage	£1.17
Mr C.Gray	Internal Audit	£65.00
Cllr P.Makinson	Compost	£12.00

10/10 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

Consideration was given to the finalised accounts for the period ended 31st March 2010 which had been the subject of internal audit and were now submitted for approval by the Council before submission with the Council's Annual Return to the external auditor by the 28th May 2010.

RESOLVED that the accounts and Council's Annual Return be approved and be submitted to the external auditor by the 28th May 2010.

11/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11

It was noted that the Parish Council's application to participate in the Parish Paths Scheme for 2010/11 had been approved by DCC and the Parish Council's preferred contractor had been advised and instructed to commence the works.

With regard to public footpath No 5 at Walkers Lane, it was noted that DCC had advised that the consent of all landowners would be required should a drop-down bollard be considered as a means of addressing unauthorised vehicular access along this footpath. DCC had some records of land owners in the adjacent area, but encouraged the Parish Council to identify all relevant parties. Councillor Mrs Clarke advised that Ian Hayman had indicated he would be willing to construct an appropriate lockable gate should its use be feasible.

It was proposed that as a means of moving things forward, the Parish Paths Rights of Way Officer be invited to meet with Parish Councillors, Mr Hayman and the Police and Community Safety Officer on site to consider the available options and determine an appropriate way forward.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the County Council's Parish Paths Rights of Way Officer be invited to meet with Parish Councillors, Mr Hayman and the Police and Community Safety Officer on site of public footpath No 5 at Walkers Lane to consider the available options and determine an appropriate way forward.

ii) Grounds Maintenance issues

It was noted that works to repair the seat adjacent to the bus shelter were continuing.

Works to the new barrels replacing the former flower tubs, had now been completed and placed on site.

The Parish Clerk advised of a complaint received from a member of the public regarding grass cutting carried out by the Council's appointed contractor on the Village Green immediately outside of the Bay Horse public house. The green itself was in the ownership of the Parish Council, although the public house had been allowed over a period of years to use the area for picnic tables for patrons using the Bay Horse.

The contractor had advised that all necessary safety guards and checks for his appliances were in place, and he did not carry out any grass cutting in the vicinity of the general public.

It was noted the complaint in question had occurred as a result of a patron of the public house attempting to gain access to a picnic table on the green at the time grass cutting was being carried out. The tables themselves made grass cutting more difficult and it was suggested that as a means of ensuring no further complaints of this sort were received, the Chairman speak to the landlady of the Bay Horse to obtain her consent that no patrons of the public house would be allowed to use the picnic tables when grass cutting was being carried out, and that prior to any works commencing, staff at the pub remove the picnic tables to allow the contractor easier access within the site for essential works.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Chairman be authorised to contact the landlady at the Bay Horse to discuss the issue surrounding grass cutting on the green and report back to the next meeting.

iii) Use of Electricity-Christmas Lights

The Chairman advised that he had contacted the electricity supplier regarding the demands received in respect of alleged electricity used by the Parish Council in respect of lighting for the Christmas tree supplied by the street column. DCC had, at the time of the first use of the electricity supply, advised that the amount of electric used would be negligible and therefore would not require payment by the Parish Council. A further response to this was awaited from the electricity supplier.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

12/10 VILLAGE FETE-3RD JULY 2010

Consideration was given to a request received from the Middridge Village Association for both permission to use the Village Green for the purpose of the fete; and for consideration to be given to the provision of a donation towards prizes offered as part of the event.

RESOLVED that Middridge Village Association be granted permission to use the Village Green for the purpose of the Village Fete on the 3rd July 2010 and a donation of £30 be provided towards the event.

(Councillors JW Clarke, Makinson and Mellors each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a result their membership of the Middridge Village Association.)

13/10 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DCC

The Clerk circulated a copy of a model agreement for the management of allotments and provided for Councillor Makinson in order that it could be compared against the terms of the existing agreement in place with the Allotments Association. Councillor Makinson advised that it was understood that some allotments were now being looked after by air cadets.

It was noted that no further progress had been confirmed by DCC regarding the proposed disposal and County Councillor Mrs Bowman indicated that she would contact DCC to chase up progress on the matter.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was noted that further to the last meeting, DCC had advised that no decision had been reached regarding the application in respect of 11-16 Middridge Farms, and that it was now the subject of further consultation.

In respect of the approval given in respect of 38 Southside, it was noted that no further work on site had been noted following press reports concerning the financial activities of the developer.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

15/10 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment.

It was noted that an order was to be placed for the provision of two junior swing seats, that had become frayed and worn.

Councillor Mrs Clarke advised on progress with regard to the environmental works authorised by GAMP to be carried out on the site.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16/10 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:-

- a. DCC-Admission Arrangements for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools within Co Durham-September 2011;
- b. ARRIVA-Co Durham & Darlington Bus Update-March 2010;

c. CDALC-Nominations for Executive.

17/10 GAMP AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP-FEEDBACK

Councillor Mrs Clarke advised on the completion of environmental works around the Village Hall and the on-going scheme of improvements at the Children's Play Area.

A small grants fund had been established by GAMP and it was suggested that the Allotments Association may be eligible to apply for funding for the provision of fencing. Councillor Makinson agreed to take the proposal back to the Allotments Association for consideration.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

18/10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 5th July 2010 at 6.45pm

Chairman _____