

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
4 November 2013

Time: 6.45pm

Present: Cllrs W Mellors (Chairman), A Clarke, WJ Clarke, H Howe

In attendance: Cllr J Clare, Cllr J Gray, Cllr M Dixon and AD Jordan

Official: CA Stenger (Clerk)

60/13 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

61/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Makinson.

62/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Applications for dispensations were received from Cllr Mellor and Cllr J Clarke with regard to agenda items concerning Middridge Village Association, as both are current members.

RESOLVED that the dispensation applications be approved for the remaining terms of office.

63/13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

64/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) War memorial (48/13 v refers)

The Clerk had contacted WM Allinson and was awaiting a quote.

ii) Dog litter bin (48/13 iii refers)

The Neighbourhood Wardens had agreed to look into the matter of the missing dog litter bin.

iii) Damage to Village green (48/13 ii refers)

The damage to the green had not yet been repaired.

SIGNED

iv) Parish Walkabout (48/13 iv refers)

The Parish Walkabout had taken place – potholes and other issues were identified and reported.

v) Application by Church Commissioners (54/13 refers)

The Clerk had completed and sent off the relevant paperwork but no response had been received. Cllr A Clarke had checked with a resident regarding another application - they had not received any further response.

65/13 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

CDALC	'Local Councils Explained' book	£ 46.81
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Sunday Wreath	£ 25.00
Complete Weed Control	Parish Paths Maintenance 2013	£1476.00
Complete Weed Control	Play area moss/debris removal	£ 240.00
Complete Weed Control	Grass cutting 2013	£2160.00
Complete Weed Control	Supply/fit chain/padlock & branch removal	£ 180.00

The Clerk also reported that the 2012/13 Annual Audit undertaken by BDO had been completed and there were no issues to note.

66/13 BUDGET/PRECEPT SETTING 2014/15

The figures provided by DCC were discussed.

RESOLVED that the issue be discussed at the next meeting as DCC had indicated that the figures may change.

67/13 GRANT REQUEST – MIDDRIDGE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

A request for funding had been received from Middridge Village Association, towards the repairs and rendering of the Village Hall. The quotes received had been in the region of £12 – 14000 and an application to the GAMP Small Grants Fund had been made, with MVA providing some funding and the 3 County Councillors agreeing to consider providing funding also. It was agreed that the Parish Council have an obligation and duty to support MVA and the Village Hall.

RESOLVED that funding of £1500 be offered, with the matter being discussed again, if needed, once the outcome of the GAMP funding application was known.

68/13 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Millenium Hedge

The Clerk advised that Jonathon Pounder had expressed an interest in using the hedge in a training exercise.

RESOLVED that the training be agreed to and the Clerk contact L Beadle to book the Village Hall once dates had been organised, in order to provide toilet facilities and refreshments.

SIGNED

ii) Parking on Village Greens

It was reported that the sett stones looked as if they had been moved on the part of the green damaged by the refuse wagons, so that vehicles were now driving on the stones rather than the green.

Cllr Mellors had spoken to the resident who had parked on the Village Green.

iii) Grass cutting/Parish Paths maintenance

Requests for quotes for the forthcoming grass cutting contract and Parish Paths maintenance were discussed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact 3 contractors to request quotes for the grass cutting for 2014, and to contact Ian Hayman to request a quote for the Parish Paths maintenance.

69/13

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

Cllr Mellors had looked further into the history of the allotment land and had acquired further details.

Cllrs Grey, Clare and Dixon had met with Neil Foster, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration at DCC, and it was agreed that the Parish Council can apply to have the land at a reduced rate, an 'undervalue', for use as allotments etc. A case for the undervalue would need to be put together and submitted to DCC for consideration.

RESOLVED that a formal submission be drafted, incorporating all facts, with the involvement of the Allotment Association.

70/13

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no new applications to be noted.

71/13

CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the play area. The Clerk also reported that the moss had been removed and the flooring repaired. Ian Hayman, who had removed the moss, had recommended an annual clean of the flooring.

RESOLVED that the annual clean be approved, depending on the amount of the quote, and the Clerk to contact Ian Hayman to inform him.

72/13

C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

The speed visor post position had been agreed and the post ordered, to be installed when ready.

It was noted that the 'rumble' strips were showing signs of wear and needed renewing.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Keith Jameson to advise him of the need for the rumble strips to be renewed.

73/13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr A Clarke had attended the new Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting and reported on the issues discussed. Steve Ragg had provided further information on the process and the Working Group will meet once a month. The Clerk had not yet completed compiling the results from the questionnaires.

RESOLVED that the Clerk complete the questionnaire results and provide copies for the next meeting.

74/13 COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

Cllr A Clarke had viewed the draft plan at the local library and reported that it had gone back to the original specifications regarding number of houses etc, on the Eldon Whins land.

There was to be a consultation at Woodham Village Community Centre on Friday 8 November 2013, between 4pm and 8pm.

75/13 FUTURE EVENTS

i) Remembrance Sunday

Cllr A Clarke had organised the provision of wreaths from RBL and advised of the times of the memorial service. Cllr Mellors gave his apologies as he could not attend – Cllr Makinson would present the wreath as Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED that the Clerk organise a £10 voucher for the attending Bugler.

ii) Christmas

The quotes which had been received for the provision of the tree and the erection of the tree by DCC were discussed.

RESOLVED that the quotes be accepted and the Clerk contact the relevant organisations to confirm, and also co-ordinate delivery and erection, with the date of Monday 2 December 2013 being agreed.

76/13 GAMP – AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP - FEEDBACK

There is a GAMP Forum meeting taking place on Saturday 23 November 2013, between 11am and 4pm, when the outcomes of the applications for funding will be decided. Cllr Mellors had drafted details of the meeting in a copy of the Midldridge Mercury, for residents information.

77/13 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

i) Details of the annual 'Tree Week' had been received.

RESOLVED that no participation would take place this year.

ii) GATC invitations to Charity Cabaret Night and Civic Carol Service

RESOLVED that Cllr Mellors would attend the Civic Carol Service and that the Clerk inform GATC of his attendance.

78/13 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

i) Parish Boundaries

A GATC report had been received regarding the proposal to change the boundaries so that Eldon Whins fell within GATC parish boundary. An extraordinary meeting had already been arranged to discuss this issue in detail.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Collette Longbottom and CDALC to request advice/information on the process.

ii) Clerk's resignation

The Clerk submitted her resignation, with the required 2 months notice given.

RESOLVED that the resignation be accepted with regret.

79/13 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6 January 2014 at 6.45pm

Chairman _____