

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
4th September 2006**

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

In Attendance:- P.Bennett (Resident)

24/06 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

25/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record; subject to:-

- i) The additional reference to discussion that took place regarding the concerns raised by Mr Bennett requesting that the County Council once again consider the introduction of 40mph speed limits either side of Middridge Village. The Clerk advised that a response had now been received from the County Council and would be considered as an additional item to this agenda.

26/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Co-opted Member-Mr P.Makinson

Further to the last meeting, Sedgefield Borough Council had confirmed that it was in order for this Council to formally confirm the co-option of Mr Philip Makinson as a co-opted member of this Parish Council until such time as the next Parish Council elections in May 2007.

Councillor Makinson was invited to sign the declaration of office accepting this appointment.

ii) C35 Shildon to Newton Aycliffe-Road Safety Concerns

The Clerk advised of the response received from Durham County Council in reply to the concerns raised by the Parish on behalf of residents following a number of recent

accidents on the road. The Area Traffic Engineer acknowledged the historic correspondence between both Councils on this issue and referred to the Department of Transport's current review of guidance for Highway Authorities on the setting of credible speed limits (a copy of which was circulated).

The officer however advised that this guidance did not however favour, in his opinion, a 40mph speed limit as proposed as he deemed it 'not credible to the average motorist due to the lack of built-up development between Shildon and Middridge and the short length of sporadic development between Middridge and Blue Bell Corner'. He went on to advise that there was a requirement for all Highway Authorities to review all speed limits on 'A' and 'B' classification roads before 2011; and that therefore such a review by DCC would take into consideration other known speed limit requests such as this one.

DCC had also undertaken an investigation of the known accidents that had occurred on the road and reported that, for the period between 2003 to June 2006, a total of 6 'personal injury' accidents were recorded on Durham Constabulary's database; with the common factor in 3 of those accidents being the loss of control of motorbikes at bends on the road. Only one accident had made reference to a causation factor of 'excessive speed'.

Mr Bennett, who had raised these most recent concerns, reiterated the fact that to his knowledge there had been 4 accidents that had occurred on this road in the past 4 months and that something should be done before a fatality occurred. Now that the Parish Council had formally set up and promoted the Parish Path network, encouraging public use of the public paths surrounding the Village, there was an even greater need to control speeds on this road to allow the safe crossing of the public. Mr Bennett advised that it would be his intention to raise a petition on behalf of the Village highlighting the need for measures to be taken to introduce a 40mph speed limit; and that he would submit such a petition to the attention of the local County Councillors, Borough Councillors and local M.P..

The Chairman of the Parish Council advised that the petition would be welcomed and supported by this Council; who had campaigned unsuccessfully for a number of years on this issue. It was hoped that the support of the local press could also be sought.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) The response to the road safety concerns received from DCC be noted.
- ii) The Clerk once again write to DCC reiterating the Parish Council's concerns on the matter, and include reference to the fact that as the Parish Council had now formally set up and promoted the Parish Path network, encouraging public use of the public paths surrounding the Village, there was an even greater need to control speeds on this road to allow the safe crossing of the public.
- iii) Mr Bennett be supported in his campaign to petition the County Council, Borough Councillors and the local M.P. on this issue.

ii) Parish Paths-Map/Notice Board (Minute 17/06 refers)

It was noted that DCC Parks & Countryside Officer had confirmed that the Notice Board had now been ordered and should be available to allow an unveiling either before the 27th September; or held over until after the 9th November 2006. The Durham County Foundation had advised that the Parish Council's application for funding assistance with this matter had been refused.

The Clerk completed the application to the Awards for All Lottery Fund organisation and would advise members of any response to this application once known.

iii) DCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Members advised that the above audit had been completed and returned to DCC by the required deadline.

iv) Middridge Farms

County Councillor Hall had advised that planning permission for development at the above properties had been granted some three years previously. Further details would be requested from Cllr Hall regarding what development had been approved.

v) Proposed Sale of Allotments, Middridge

DCC had advised that no further progress could be reported on the above issue except that the matter would be considered by the Council's Cabinet in the near future and that this Council would be kept fully informed of

matters and be given access to any reports generated on the matter.

27/06 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

N.Hart	Salary	£166.67
N.Hart	Postage	£2.70
Local Council Review	Subscription	£10.26
C.E.Walker	Grasscutting	£242.05
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J.WS Power Wash	Bus Shelter-July	£30.00

28/06 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Repairs/Maintenance of Bus Shelters

The Clerk advised members of the submitted quotation received from J Ltd regarding the estimated cost of carrying out repairs to the two bus shelters in the Village. Members were advised that there may be alternative contractors interested in the works and it was proposed that enquiries be undertaken by Cllr Makinson in the hope that 2 or 3 estimates for the work could be considered.

RESOLVED that further enquiries be undertaken to acquire additional estimates for the above maintenance works.

ii) Road Signs-Eden Grove

It was noted that Sedgefield Borough Council had confirmed that they would carry out the repair and replacement of the road signs in Eden Grove.

iii) Dog Litter Bin-Walker Lane

It was requested that an explanation be sought from Sedgefield Borough Council as to why the dog litter bin in Walker Lane had been removed. The Parish now had 4 bins, as opposed to the previous 5.

iv) Parish Boundaries

It was requested that maps of the Parish Boundaries be sought from Sedgefield Borough Council to clarify the areas for responsibility, including those identified at the Eldon Crossroads, where the finger signage was found to be in need of repair. DCC had confirmed that any repair of these signs would be dependent upon budget availability.

29/06

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Members were advised of Sedgefield Borough Council's decision to invest in the second phase of the redevelopment of play equipment within the Borough following the submission of applications by Parish Councils, including Middridge. This Council had been unsuccessful for this phase of investment but would be eligible to be considered for the remaining investment of £39,500 should it be able to progress its scoring rate as identified by SBC. Any schemes not receiving monies through the Borough Councils investment would then be considered for the SBC's play strategy application to the Big Lottery's Play Initiative scheme in November 2006, where £230,000 of funding was available, with successful applicants advised in March 2007.

Councillor Mrs Clarke expressed concern that SBC had advised the Parish that it did not need to cost its application, however, it appeared to have lost out in the scoring mechanism as a result.

- ii) Sedgefield Borough Council-Corporate Plan 2006/7 & 2008/9
- iii) SBC Local Development Framework-Core Strategy-Alternative Options Report-Pre-Production Consultation
Members agreed to meet as a working party on the 5th September 2006 to consider the above consultation document and respond.
- iv) DCC Adoption of the County Durham Statement of Involvement
- v) Sedgefield Awards for Sensational Youth
- vi) Local Strategic Partnership Stakeholder Group
Cllr Mrs Clarke attended meetings of the Community Forum. It was requested that the Clerk enquire as to the Parish's representation on the other LSP groups.
- vii) SBC Mayor's Civic Service-24th September 2006
Cllr Howe to attend.
- viii) Erection of Detached Timber Pergola Smoking Shed, Rear of Bay Horse, Middridge
Members were advised of the above planning application submitted on behalf of the Bay Horse for a detached timber pergola in the car park to the rear of the public

house. Concern was expressed by members that the application should be objected to on the grounds of the likely noise and smoke pollution affecting property Nos 46,47 and 48 Southside and No. 28 Eden Grove.

30/06 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY-12TH NOVEMBER 2006

It was proposed that two wreaths be purchased to commemorate the above event and that Cllr Mellors arrange the appropriate order via Shildon Town Council offices.

31/06 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2006

Further to previous discussions regarding Christmas celebrations for 2006, it was proposed that residents of the Village be invited to host a party in the Village Hall should they so wish; and that the Parish Council offer to cover the cost of entertainment/refreshments/disco once known. It was proposed that an appropriate article be placed in the Village Newsletter and that the Village Association be requested to consider the matter at their meeting on the 6th September 2006. Councillor Makinson agreed that he would co-ordinate activities should the proposal be taken up by residents.

The Clerk reported that an order had been placed with DCC for the erection and dressing of a Christmas tree at a cost of £265. It was proposed that an order be placed to Lyndhurst Nurseries for a tree in line with the order placed for last year; which was well received.

RESOLVED that the proposed action in respect of Christmas celebrations for 2006 be approved.

32/06 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 13th November 2006