

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
2 September 2013

Time: 6.45pm

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

In attendance: Cllrs J Clare & J Gray

Official: CA Stenger (Clerk)

42/13 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

43/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies to note.

44/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item dealing with the allotment transfer as a result of being a current allotment holder.

RESOLVED that Cllr Makinson's declaration be noted.

45/13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

46/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The 'Middridge Vale' signs (40/13 refers) had been removed within the given time frame.

47/13 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

Npower	Electricity 2011/12 + 2012/13	£00.36
JWS Powerwash	Bus shelter cleaning	£36.00
Carol Stenger	Clerk wages July - Sept 2013	£280.00
HMRC	Tax liability July - Sept 2013	£ 70.00

48/13

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Herbicide treatment of greens

The issue was discussed and agreed that only the main green and docks area would be treated.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Ian Hayman to confirm decision.

ii) Damage to green by refuse lorries

Cllr A Clarke had contacted 2 officers from the 'refuse' department who were happy to comply with the request not to use that part of the road. Cllr A Clarke also requested reparation of the damage caused and this was agreed, but no action had been taken to date.

RESOLVED to monitor the issue.

iii) Dog litter bin

Cllr A Clarke had contacted DCC regarding a damaged dog litter bin in the Docks area. This bin has now gone altogether. The Neighbourhood Warden who attended the preceding PACT meeting, Rachel, had agreed to chase this issue up.

iv) Parish Walkabout

Cllrs Clare, Grey (along with Cllr Dixon who was not present) suggested a parish 'walkabout' with members and residents to view any issues.

RESOLVED that the Clerk inform members and residents of date and time once it was confirmed

v) War memorial

The issue of obtaining a grant to clean/restore the war memorial was discussed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact relevant organisations to request quotes for general cleaning/restoration, with a view to applying for grants in the future.

vi) Millennium Hedgerow

Cllr A Clarke provided details of a contact for the Durham Hedgerow Partnership. The Clerk also had contact details for Groundwork Trust and Jonathon Pounder.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact all and provide details, maps and request quotes.

49/13

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

Cllr A Clarke had attended a meeting with Keith Batey from DCC, members of the Allotment Association and Cllrs Grey and Dixon regarding the issue of ownership of the allotment entrance.

Cllr Mellors had requested information on history of allotments and was informed that there were allotments on the rear land until 1960's. Cllr Mellors stated that this information changes the status of the land.

Keith Batey, DCC, had sent an email detailing the options available regarding the rear land, which didn't include anything new. Cllrs Grey and Clare stated they would contact Gerard Darby, Deborah Jobling and Keith Batey to discuss the issue further.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Keith Batey, informing him of members' disappointment with his response.

50/13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no new applications to be noted.

51/13 CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment. The lifting of the corner of the flooring was still an issue. The quote for cleaning of the moss was considered and agreed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Ian Hayman to confirm the moss removal and ask that he also look at repairing the flooring.

52/13 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

Keith Jameson had responded with a negative email. However, Cllr Grey had spoken to the team and Middridge had been added to the speed visor rota.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Keith Jameson to advise that members were disappointed with his response and were intending to pursue the issue further, and that Cllr Mellors look into the legal issues of road speeds.

53/13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Progress of the Neighbourhood Plan was considered – questionnaires had been delivered by hand to all residents and a collection plan was agreed. Steve Ragg, CDALC, had suggested a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Information on applying for funding from Locality was discussed.

RESOLVED that a separate meeting would be held to complete the Locality funding application, and that the Clerk would contact Steve Ragg to confirm interest in the Working Group.

54/13 APPLICATION BY CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

The application by the Church Commissioners to enter a unilateral notice for land in the 'Docks' area was discussed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk complete UN4 form to dispute the application.

55/13 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was agreed to purchase the usual wreath.

RESOLVED that Cllr Clarke organise the wreath and service.

56/13 GAMP FEEDBACK

The next forum meeting is to be held at the Youth Centre, Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 23 November.

SIGNED

57/13 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following correspondence be noted:
DCC – stopping up of public bridleway
DCC – 2014/15 budget setting
NHS Sedgefield Patient Support Group
Middridge Village Association – letter of thanks.

58/13 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The issues of parking on the Village green and stationary caravans had been discussed at the preceding PACT meeting.

RESOLVED that the issues be monitored.

59/13 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 4 November 2013 at 6.45pm

Chairman _____