

## Middridge Parish Council

### Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,  
Middridge

Monday  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010

Time:6.45pm

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

**In Attendance:** I.Robinson

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

#### 76/09 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

#### 77/09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 78/09 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

##### i) Parish Precept 2010/11 (Minute 65/09 refers)

It was suggested that a summary of the Parish Council's expenditure based on the Parish Precept raised, be included in a future edition of the Residents Newsletter.

#### 79/09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with additional invoices received with regard to the cost of Allotment training for the Parish Clerk, the provision of the Christmas tree for 2009, and reimbursement for Cllr Makinson in respect of the new flower tubs (Min 66/09 refers).

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

N.Hart	Salary	£191.67
N.Hart	Postage	£1.17
Cllr Makinson	Flower Tub	£226.00
JWS Power Wash	Maintenance of Bus Shelters	£30.00
Co Durham Local Councils	Allotment Training	£27.00

80/09

## GROUND'S MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Ground's Maintenance or General Repairs Issues

It was noted that the repairs to the public seat were on-going.

Reference was made to the collection of litter in the cultivated verge on the outskirts of the Village towards the Eldon crossroads, which remained a recurring problem. It was suggested that DCC be asked to consider what practical solution could be deployed to prevent this problem reoccurring.

It was also apparent that there appeared, on occasions, to be a collection of discarded cigarettes on the path and grassed area in front of the Bay Horse. It was suggested that Cllr Clarke speak to the Manager at the pub to discuss the situation.

81/09

## EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1,2 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1985.

ii) Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11

Consideration was given to the award of the contract for the Council's participation in the Parish Paths Partnership scheme for 2010/11 following the receipt of a quotation received from one of the invited contractors, with the other having chosen not to offer a quotation.

Reference was made to public concern regarding anti-social behaviour to the south of 10 Houses; the issue being raised at a recent PACT meeting. It was therefore suggested that the Police support for action to be taken in this area be reported to the Parish Paths Officer at DCC.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Paths Partnership scheme contract be awarded to IH in accordance with the submitted terms, and subject to confirmation from DCC of the receipt of the available grant funding.

**The meeting then continued in public session.**

**82/09**

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE**

No further progress had been from DCC regarding the proposed disposal.

The Parish Clerk briefly summarised the main elements covered within the recent Allotment training course he attended and hosted by the Co Durham Assoc. of Local Councils, and advised that he would seek to obtain and provide a model agreement advocated by many councils for the management of allotment facilities so that this Council could consider its preferred model of agreement in advance of any disposal being completed.

**83/09**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (i) Application to Regularise Unauthorised Building Works Including Longer projection, Increased Width of Rear Projection and Altered Roof Pitch- 38 Southside, Middridge.

Members considered the background leading up to the current application that was due to be considered by the DCC Area Planning Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 regarding the application to Regularise Unauthorised Building Works Including Longer projection, Increased Width of Rear Projection and Altered Roof Pitch- 38 Southside, Middridge.

Mr Robinson (member of the public) was in attendance at the meeting and outlined a summary of his objections and discussions with DCC regarding the application, which had culminated in his request that consideration of the application be again deferred until such time as the content of his objections had been responded to. Should DCC proceed with consideration of the application, it was noted that the comments of this Parish Council objecting to the application and previously provided to the Planning Committee, would be considered.

It was noted that Cllr Mellors would be in attendance at the meeting to put forward once again this Council's concerns regarding the application. Members requested that it be reiterated to the Committee that Middridge Parish Council had, from the outset, repeatedly expressed its objections to this application and that DCC's consideration of the application had

been poorly managed; a fact admitted to in part by the Head of Planning Services in correspondence to Mr Robinson and to County Councillor Mrs Bowman.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Mellors be authorised to represent the Parish Council at the forthcoming Area Planning Committee to reiterate the Council's concerns previously expressed regarding this application and to request that the Committee refuse the application and take the necessary enforcement action.

- (ii) Siting of Portable Cabin for Feed and Equipment Store and Portable Cabin for Toilet and Shower Block for Caravan Site-Middridge Meadows, Land to the Rear of 11-16 Middridge Farms, Middridge

Members had no objections to the above development application but requested that its appearance be in keeping with the surrounding rural area.

#### **84/09 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA**

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment. The Clerk advised that he would seek to place an order for the required replacement swing seats in due course.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **85/09 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:-

- (i) NHS Co Durham & Darlington PCT Stakeholder Events- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010;
- (ii) Durham County Council-Contaminated Land Strategy- Public Consultation;
- (iii) Durham County Council-County Durham Plan- Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document;
- (iv) Durham County Council-Mayor's Evening of Classical Music-12<sup>th</sup> March 2010;

**RESOLVED** the Chairman and escort be authorised to attend should they be able to do so.

- (v) Shildon Town Council-Mayor's Charity Evening-15<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**86/09                    APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance received from the following organisations:-

- Victim Support ;
- British Red Cross;
- Great North Air Ambulance;
- Spinal Injuries Association.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £25 made towards the Great North Air Ambulance Association.

**87/09                    GAMP- AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP-FEEDBACK**

Councillor Mrs Clarke advised on feedback arising from the last meeting of GAMP. It was noted that the environmental works within Middridge were progressing, with a contractor appointed for the Millennium Hedge and a start made on the area to the rear of the Village Hall.

Reference was made to the availability of small grant funding via GAMP and it was noted that this funding applied to non Council organisations that were properly constituted and may be available to the Village Hall Association. It was suggested that the matter be discussed at their next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**88/09                    ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Reference was made to discussions held at an earlier PACT regarding both illegal parking in front of the Village Hall and the removal of the 30mph derestricted sign entering the Village. Both matters were being addressed by the Police and DCC respectively.

**89/09                    NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 6.50pm or immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 6.45pm.