

APPROVED

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
3rd July, 2017

Time: 6.45 pm

Present: Cllrs H Howe (Chair), W Mellors, P Makinson, H Alexander & S Smith

In attendance: Cllrs P Howell & J Clare (DCC)
David Sutton-Lloyd (Woodham Community Centre)

Official: A D Jordan (Clerk)

64/17 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

65/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

66/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

67/17 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

(i) Defibrillator

David Sutton Lloyd gave an update on the GAMP Defibrillator Project; the 6 Units have now been installed, and 86 People trained in their use. Further Training Sessions are planned, including at least one in Middridge (probably on a Saturday morning, in early August). Woodham Community Centre hold a spare Defibrillator which can be made available if necessary.

The Middridge Defibrillator is now installed and working, and will be formally handed over once the necessary "Keyholders" have been agreed. However, the Installation cost £245 more than budgeted due to unforeseen problems; unless additional Funds are provided, this can only be met by reducing the amount of Training to be provided (see also **81/17 (i)** below).

David Sutton Lloyd then left the Meeting.

68/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 15th May 2017 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

69/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(i) Transparency Fund Drop-in Session (61/17 (iii) refers)

As agreed, the Clerk attended the Transparency Fund Drop-in Session at County Hall. However, as expected, this did not provide any new information.

APPROVED

70/17 “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN

A Meeting was held with the DCC Case Officer for the Persimmon Planning Application (Laura Eden), which proved useful. Cllr S Smith has produced a Draft Letter giving the Parish Council’s Objections to this Planning Application, which has been circulated to Councillors for their comments.

RESOLVED that the proposed Letter of Objection is agreed, and is to be submitted as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr S Smith & Clerk

Cllr J Clare stated that he would not be sitting as a Member of the DCC Planning Committee when this Planning Application is considered, and will be objecting to it.

71/17 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(i) 2017 Parish Paths Maintenance

The Parish Paths Partnership have now agreed the budget for this year’s Parish Paths Maintenance; the First Cut has been undertaken, and the necessary Claim for Payment submitted.

Whilst carrying out the First Cut, Ian Hayman discovered that someone had illegally used Weedkiller on a section of Parish Path 2, and was concerned that his Company would be considered responsible. This matter was discussed, the Parish Council accepting that Ian Hayman was not responsible. Cllr J Clare kindly agreed to raise this Issue with DCC.

Action: Clerk

Cllr S Smith reported that Graffiti had been found on some of the Stone Stiles on Parish Path 7 (the Tramway); this has been removed.

(ii) DCC proposed Street Light Removal

As previously agreed, a Letter was sent to Yvonne Edwards of DCC regarding this matter, but to date no reply has been received.

(iii) Village Green Trees

Fortunately the large Ash Tree in the Play Area eventually came into leaf.

72/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Nothing to report.

73/17 CHILDREN’S’ PLAY AREA

The Clerk’s Monthly Inspection report was approved.

Ian Hayman has submitted a revised Quotation for £180 to remove the Moss from the Senior Swings Base.

RESOLVED that the Quotation be accepted.

Action: Clerk

74/17 ROAD-TRAFFIC

The two 30 mph Speed Limit Signs which were disfigured by Racist Graffiti have still not been replaced; Cllr J Clare kindly agreed to raise this Issue with DCC.

APPROVED

75/17 “THE PADDOCK”

Cllr J Clare has an idea as to how the proposed DCC Project to turn ‘the Paddock’ into a ‘Wildflower Grassland’ can be started without having to wait for funding from the Proposed “Eldon Whins” Section 106 Agreement. The first Stage is to clear the Land; the possibility of using Ian Hayman and/or a Local Farmer to do the necessary work has been mentioned, although exactly what is required is not clear.

Action: Clerk

The Parish Council have agreed in principle to cover the future Annual Maintenance Costs of the ‘Wildflower Grassland’. However, Cllr J Clare stated that a long-term License Agreement would be required to allow the Parish Council to work on this DCC-owned Land; a benefit of such a License is that it would exclude the possibility of the Land being sold for Housing Development.

It is proposed that our Ward County Councillors will meet to discuss this matter, and then arrange to discuss it with Stuart Priestley of the DCC Ecology Department.

76/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Following some problems with the Expression of Interest, a Grant Application for a second tranche of Consultancy Support has now been submitted.

Stuart Carter of DCC has raised concerns regarding the wording of some of the Questions in the proposed new Community Engagement Exercise; the Parish Council accept that these concerns need to be addressed. Shaun Hanson has agreed to redraft the relevant Questions, which will be considered by the NP Working Group at its next Meeting (when the new Grant has been approved).

Action: Mrs A Clarke & Clerk

77/17 ACCOUNTS

Councillors considered a Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Sum
Mrs H Alexander *	Plants for Village Green Tubs	£80.00
J Harron	Clerk’s Salary Admin	£15.25
A. D. Jordan	Clerk’s Jan – Mar Salary	£225.00
HMRC	Clerk’s Jan – Mar Tax	£150.00
Hayfield Contracting Ltd.	Parish Paths First Cut	£504.00
Blacksmiths Arms Leisure Ltd **	Chair’s Dinner	£200.00
	TOTAL	£1174.25

* this replaces the previously Authorised Payment to Mrs A Clarke.

** Cheque already issued, so approval is retrospective.

The President of the Middridge Village Association (MVA) apologised to the Parish Council for the fact that the Raffle Tickets for this year’s Village Fête incorrectly attributed the Prize provided by the Parish Council to the MVA.

John Harron of the Thirsk Community Association, who provide the necessary Administration for the Clerk’s Salary, is retiring, and the Community Association will no longer provide this service. However, they have arranged for a local firm of Chartered Certified Accountants, T P Jones & Co LLP, to provide this service at the same cost.

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RESOLVED that the Parish Council accepts these new proposed arrangements for the Administration of the Clerk's Salary, and that their thanks should be expressed to John Harron for his past services.

Action: Clerk

78/17

GAMP & CDALC

GAMP activities have been severely restricted due to "Purdah" for the Council and General Elections, but the process of inviting suggestions from Organisations for new Projects is now in progress. The GAMP Board will meet again on 18th July.

Cllr W Mellors attended the first Meeting of the new GAMP Local Councils Forum, and will produce a report once the Minutes of this Meeting are available.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

79/17

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

A Letter was received from Citizens Advice County Durham thanking the Parish Council for their £50 Donation.

80/17

OTHER MATTERS

(i) Unmetered Electricity Supply

The formal agreement with the Supplier (Northern Powergrid) has been signed, and the outstanding Bill paid; no further action required.

(ii) Chairs Dinner

There was general agreement that this had been a great success, the Clerk expressing Joan Gray's views. The Clerk also read out an Email from Anne and John Clarke giving their views, and thanking the Parish Council for their Presentation Gift.

81/17

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(i) Defibrillator

The £245 shortfall in the cost of the Installation of the Middridge Defibrillator was discussed. It was noted that although the Parish Council have agreed to fund the future Maintenance Costs of the Defibrillator, they have made no contribution to the cost of the Unit itself (the £1000 necessary was provided by Private Individuals). They were also concerned that amount of Training should not be reduced.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves the Payment of £245 to cover the shortfall in the cost of the Installation of the Middridge Defibrillator.

Action: Clerk

82/17

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 4th September, 2017, at 6.45pm.

Chair _____