

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Eldon
Parish Church

Monday
5TH November 2007

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

42/07 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

43/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to reference being included to the earlier complaint received regarding the Play Area redevelopment and a further letter being sent to the complainant clarifying any remaining matters to be resolved.

44/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Childrens' Play Area (Minute 36/07 refers)

It was noted that SBC had confirmed that they had carried out inspections of the area with a view to identifying any incidents of dog fouling or allowing dogs to roam on the site whilst not on a leash. No additional incidents had been observed however, their officers intended to display warning stickers/notices and carry out a leaflet drop if further incidents made it appropriate.

It was suggested that it would be appropriate for an article to be placed in the Residents Newsletter urging all dog owners to be responsible at all times when walking in the area adjacent the Play Area; particularly given the safety concerns involved with young children also likely to be playing within this area.

RESOLVED that an appropriate article be placed in the Residents Newsletter urging all dog owners to be responsible at all times when walking in the area adjacent to the Play Area.

ii) Remembrance Sunday (Minute 38/07 refers)

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were confirmed following the Chairman's meeting with representatives from Shildon Town Council; with two wreaths having been ordered, one on behalf of the Parish Council and one for the Residents Association. Persons attending were requested to meet at the Village Hall at 11.45am.

iii) Dog Litter Bin (Minute 40/07 refers)

Members were advised that an application form for a replacement dog litter bin had now been received from Sedgefield Borough Council; and that it was now necessary to identify the preferred location for the bin. It was proposed that the bin be sited on the open space opposite No. 1 Walker Lane.

RESOLVED that the application form for a replacement dog litter bin be returned to Sedgefield Borough Council indicating the preferred location for its siting.

45/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with the following additional invoices:-

-CE Walker	Grasscutting August	£246.75
-Middridge Village Assoc	Middridge Mercury	£18.00

Members were also advised that an account reminder had been received from NPower (despite no earlier invoice having been received) requesting payment for energy used to the sum of £246.16. It was believed that this related to electricity used for Christmas Tree lights for the past two years. Members requested further details of this invoice prior to considering payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment, together with the additional invoices presented above from C.E.Walker and MVA:-

CE Walker	Grasscutting-June, Sept	
	November	£740.25
National Assoc of Cllrs	Affiliation 07/08	£76.38
JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter-Repair	£975.00
N.Hart	Salary	£175.00
N.Hart	Postage	£1.80

3. The Clerk contact Sedgefield Borough Council to discuss whether they had any plans to commemorate the Lottery Funding received for the redevelopment of the new play area facility.

48/07

PLANNING APPLICATION-DEMOLITION OF STORE BUILDING AND CREATION OF 2 NO DISABLED CAR PARKING BAYS-MIDDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Consideration was given to the above application submitted by the Middridge Village Association. It was believed that further consent would be required for the parking bays.

RESOLVED that no objections to the application be submitted.

(Councillors J.Clarke and Mellors each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the above item as a result of their membership of the Middridge Village Association.)

49/07

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Durham County Council-National Tree Week

Consideration was given to participation in the above event. It was suggested that a representative from DCC be requested to meet with members at the earliest opportunity to discuss options/preferred siting of any trees obtained via grant funding from DCC.

- (ii) Durham County Council-Budget Consultation
- (iii) Quality Parish Council

Members were invited to consider whether the Parish Council wished to express an interest in being considered as a Quality Parish Council, as proposed by the County Durham Local Councils Commission. Members expressed concern that the cost and time commitment required from such a process was not an appropriate use of resources for an authority of only some 268 constituents.

- (iv) Request for Financial Assistance-Victim Support

The request for financial assistance was noted.

50/07

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Arrangements for the delivery and dressing of the Christmas tree were noted. The supplier had however advised that he would be unable this year to supply as large a tree as normal, due to difficulties within the industry.

Confirmation had been received from the Residents Association that they did not wish to commemorate the refurbishment of the Village Hall and celebrate Christmas on the same occasion. It was therefore proposed that, should the Residents Association wish to host a Christmas event, the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute the sum of £50 towards the event.

RESOLVED that the arrangements for Christmas celebration be noted and the Residents Association be advised accordingly.

51/07

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(i) Road C35 Middridge Village-Traffic Speeds

It was suggested that Durham County Council (DCC) be contacted again regarding this Parish's concerns over traffic speeds on this stretch of road and asked whether it would consider installing, for a temporary period, a 'radar' sign illuminating and advising drivers of their speed as they approach and leave the Village. Alternatively, whether DCC had any other ideas in which the dangers of excessive speed on this road could be highlighted.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk contact DCC accordingly.

(ii) Parish Council Computer

The Parish Clerk advised of difficulties experienced in using the above computer. It was proposed that Cllr Howe contact a ICT Repair specialist with a view to a condition report being prepared on the computer; and at the same time, Cllr Makinson obtain an estimate for the cost of purchasing a new PC or Laptop.

(iii) Public Footpaths

Reference was made to the condition of the public footpath opposite Blind Lane. Councillor Mrs Clarke advised that, having recently spoken to the relevant officers at DCC re the Parish Paths Scheme, she would contact them again to raise their awareness of concerns regarding the condition of this particular footpath.

It was also suggested that Councillor Howe approach the Parish Council's existing contractor regards an invoice for works completed during 2007/8; as well as his future interest in quoting for works in 2008/9.

52/07

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7th January 2008 at 6.45pm.