

SIGNED

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
5 November 2012

Time: 6.45pm

Present: Cllrs A Clarke (Chairwoman), W Mellors (Vice Chairman), WJ Clarke

Official: CA Stenger (Clerk)

63/12 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

64/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Howe and Makinson.

65/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest to note.

66/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Gavin Scott, DCC Planning, was in attendance and gave information regarding the various stages in the Neighbourhood Plan process. He also made suggestions on how to proceed and which organisations could help, such as the Durham Rural Community Council. He suggested that members look at a questionnaire devised by Bishop Middleham to research issues in their neighbourhood and agreed to provide a copy of this. Members also discussed the recent public notice advising of Newton Aycliffe's Neighbourhood Plan intentions.

RESOLVED that the questionnaire be looked at in detail once received with a view to tailoring it to our parish and that the Clerk contact Gavin Scott to get further information about a public notice for the Parish of Middridge.

67/12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September were signed by the Chairwoman as a correct record.

68/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Circular walk (min 47/12 refers)

The Clerk had contacted Elaine Crow regarding the issue of a crossing at the stream bordering Middridge and Darlington Borough Council parishes - Elaine had contacted the relevant person at DBC but had not yet received a response and agreed to try again.

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ii) County Durham Plan (min 56/12 refers)
Cllrs A & J Clarke had attended the presentation of the County Durham Plan at Aycliffe Town Centre. After discussion a letter objecting to the development of the Eldon Whins site was sent to DCC in response.

iii) Land Registry/Church Commissioners (min 61/12 refers)
The Clerk had contacted the Land Registry and researched the issue online and it appears that the Church Commissioners are now attempting to properly register their existing interests and this should not change anything for property holders.

69/12 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

SE Landscaping	Grass cutting x 2 (Sept)	£ 212.50
Hayfields Contracting	Parish Paths maintenance	£1440.00
Royal British Legion	Wreath	£ 25.00
Carol Stenger	Clerk Wages (July-Sept)	£ 280.00
HMRC	Tax liability (July-Sept)	£ 70.00

70/12 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) 2012 Bulb Challenge - the Civic Pride Team at DCC supplied 200 free bulbs to plant.

RESOLVED that members meet to plant the bulbs on Saturday 10 November at 11am.

ii) Noticeboard
The Clerk had obtained details of various options and sizes of noticeboard. A size and style was agreed on but Cllr A Clarke had not yet spoken to Cllr Bowman to discuss the issue.

RESOLVED that Cllr A Clarke contact DB to discuss issue and gain approval.

iii) Grass cutting
It was proposed that quotes for grass cutting for 2013 be sought from 4 contractors. It was also agreed that there would be changes made to the schedule to include reduced maintenance of parts of the docks/play area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact 4 contractors to request quotes for grass cutting for 2013 to be submitted by 31 December 2012 for consideration at the January Parish Council meeting, enclosing the amended schedule.

iv) Parish Paths Partnership
The Parish Paths vegetation clearance work was now complete and had been invoiced.

RESOLVED that the Clerk complete and submit the relevant claim form for the refund of the cost of the works.

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71/12 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

The Clerk had requested an update from Fiona Bullen and received an email in response stating that there had been no progress but she would look into issue further after auction of 30 November. Cllr Mellors had not yet contacted the records office because it was not of value in the light of recent DCC documents.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Fiona Bullen again for a progress update before the next meeting.

72/12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning applications had been submitted for a single storey front extension to 28 Southside and a dormer window to the rear of 19 Northside. Members agreed that no objections to the applications would be made.

RESOLVED that the applications be noted.

73/12 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the Play Area and equipment - no issues were noted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

74/12 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

Cllr A Clarke's report/request regarding lowering the speed limits at both approaches to the village had been approved by the AAP and sent on to Keith Jameson. Mr Jameson had responded negatively and the Clerk had sent a further email requesting that Mr Jameson meet with members to discuss the issue in more detail. Mr Jameson had subsequently declined a meeting. Cllr A Clarke had updated GAMP on the progress as members are unhappy with this response.

75/12 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Council Tax Support Scheme was discussed and members agreed that no response to the consultation was needed.

76/12 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

Cllr A Clarke reported that the next board meeting was scheduled for 27 November 2012 at 6pm in Middridge Village Hall. The Forum meeting to decide priorities for 2013 was scheduled for 20 November at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, 5.30pm.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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77/12 FUTURE EVENTS

i) Remembrance Sunday - 11 November 2012

The wreaths/crosses had been obtained and the minister and bugler organised. Participants are to meet at the Village Hall at 11.45am, with the service at the Memorial at 12 noon.

ii) Christmas

The Clerk had obtained a quote for a tree from Lyndhurst Nurseries at a cost of £150 plus VAT. Neighbourhood Services had also quoted for the erection and dressing of the tree (£336 plus VAT). The costs were approved and a date agreed for the delivery/erection of the tree - Monday 3 December.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the relevant persons to agree the costs and arrange delivery/erection.

78/12 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Council considered the following correspondence:

Request for donation from Great North Ambulance Service.

RESOLVED that the Clerk check if a donation had been made last year and if not to add to next agenda for consideration.

79/12 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

No additional items for consideration.

80/12 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7 January 2013 at 6.45pm

Chairwoman _____