

## Midridge Parish Council

### Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,  
Midridge

Monday  
4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

Time: 6.45 pm

**Present:** Cllrs A Clarke (Chair), W Mellors, W J Clarke, P Makinson, H Howe

**In attendance:** Cllrs M Dixon & J Clare (DCC)  
Carol Trotter of "Four" Houses (just outside the Parish)

**Official:** A D Jordan (Clerk)

#### 62/16 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

#### 63/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Gray (DCC)

#### 64/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Clare declared an interest in Agenda Items 7 and 9 as a Member of the DCC Planning Committees; he would remain in the Meeting during the discussions thereon, but would express no opinion.

#### 65/16 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

#### 66/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### 67/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

##### (i) Police Speed "Sculptures" (49/16 (i) refers)

Following various representations, all the Police Speed "Sculptures" are now in place; it is understood they are likely to be permanent.

##### (ii) DCC Councillors Ward Inspection (51/16 (iii) refers)

Cllr H Howe questioned why Crown Lifting would not help with the DCC owned Trees in the small triangular Copse adjacent to 28, South Side. He was advised that although this would provide a temporary reduction in shading, the replacement growth would eventually make the situation worst.

#### 68/16 PERSIMMON "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN

The Parish Council's Objection to the HCA Outline Planning Application has been submitted. The Council await to hear when this Application will go before the DCC Planning Committee, when they will have a chance to argue their case.

Carol Trotter said that she, and many Residents of Byerley Park, were also concerned about the proposed "Eldon Whins" Developments. She was advised that

APPROVED

they would also be allowed to argue their case, but owing to limited time, it would be better if they arranged for one or two people to speak on their behalf.

A Meeting was arranged so that Persimmon could present their new proposed Development to the west of the proposed HCA "Eldon Whins" Housing Development to the Parish Council. Contrary to their expressed intention, no Planning Application has yet been submitted.

The first stage of Consultation on the new Draft County Plan is now in progress, and Cllr W Mellors has circulated the Consultation Document to the Parish Council. This is concerned with Strategic matters and questions, and does not include details of possible Housing Development Areas such as "Eldon Whins".

Carol Trotter expressed an interest in this, and it was agreed that details of the Consultation Venues would be sent to her.

**Action:** Clerk

69/16

**GROUND MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

**(i) Parish Paths Maintenance & Modifications**

The Parish Paths Partnership's (PPP) response to a query about the proposed Parish Path 7 (the Tramway) Improvements has been sent to all Councillors. Essentially no work is possible due to Budget limitations.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cut has been completed, and an Application having been submitted, the PPP's payment has been received.

**(ii) DCC proposed Street Light Removal**

DCC's Yvonne Edward's response to a query regarding the status of the proposed DCC Street Light Removal Programme for the Parish has been sent to all Councillors. Essentially this is delayed, but is still planned for the future.

Cllr W Mellors again expressed his view that it would be better to let this matter lie, but Cllr J Clare said that the Programme will definitely go ahead, and the Parish Council would be foolish to ignore it. He also stated that the only chance of having the Proposals altered would be to provide new information not considered by the Consultants in their individual Street Light Assessments.

**RESOLVED** that Yvonne Edwards be contacted with a view to arranging a Meeting to discuss the rationale for these Proposals.

**Action:** Clerk

Cllr A Clarke stated that she believed she had seen in one of the weekly Roadworks Reports that Street Light Replacement was planned in our area, and expressed her concern that some of the Street Lights which were due to be removed might be first replaced! Cllr J Clare said that Replacement work was indeed planned; it was agreed that the details should be investigated.

**Action:** Clerk

**(iii) Dog Litter Bins**

No action to date. Cllr H Howe queried whether a new Bin could be located further up Parish Path 7 (the Tramway), so as to be well away from the existing Bin on the Play Area. However, concern was expressed regarding DCC's access to such a Bin location for emptying

**Action:** Clerk

**(iii) Roads & Pavements**

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The Council expressed their thanks to Cllr J Gray and our other County Councillors for DCC's excellent and speedy repairs to the South Side pavements. Cllr J Clare noted that the damaged Bollard adjacent to 59, South Side has also been replaced.

**70/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Ian Hayman's Planning Application for a new Access Road to his Buildings off Walker's Lane was discussed. It was stated that following the death of George Hayman, his Property has been divided between his three sons. They have been advised by Solicitors that they should ensure that they have appropriate Right of Access to their new Property so as to avoid any future problems if any of the Land should be sold off; this explains Ian Hayman's Planning Application.

**RESOLVED** that the fact that the Parish Council has no Comment to make about this Planning Application should be recorded on the DCC Planning Website.

**Action:** Clerk

**71/16 CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA**

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection report was approved.

No further progress on cleaning the Moss from the Senior Swings Base. It was agreed that owing to the approaching School Holidays, this work was now urgent.

**Action:** Clerk

The planned Inspection to investigate the feasibility of providing Notice Board(s) in the Play Area is still to be undertaken.

**Action:** Cllr A Clarke & Clerk

**72/16 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING**

Owing to the Parish Council's Objection, the Proposal to move the 40 mph Speed Limit on the C35 at the western edge of Shildon towards Middridge, so that Traffic Lights can be installed on the staggered Cross-Roads, has been referred to the DCC Highways Committee. This will allow the Parish Council to argue that the opportunity should be taken to extend the 40 mph Limit up to the 30 mph Limit at the western edge of the Village. The Council await to be notified of the date of this Hearing.

This, and other matters relating to Speeding were discussed with our new PCSO, Christine O'Brien, in the PACT Meeting which immediately preceded the Parish Council Meeting; she has agreed to investigate.

**73/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr W Mellors reported on the Meeting held with DCC to discuss their comments on the latest version of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, which was then discussed at a subsequent Working Group Meeting.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan is to be further modified in line with the Yapton Neighbourhood Plan, including a number of agreed changes.

**Action:** Cllr W Mellors

Suitable possible Consultants to assist in developing the Neighbourhood Plan are being investigated. Once such a Consultant has been agreed, an Application for Funding will be made.

**Action:** Clerk

**74/16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

APPROVED

The Parish Council's approved 2015/16 Accounts and 2015/16 Annual Return Form have been sent to the External Auditor. The Statutory Notices regarding the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect these Accounts have been posted; this ends on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

The Parish Council's annual Insurance Policy has been renewed.

Councillors considered a Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

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

Payee	Purpose	Sum
CDALC	Subscription	£59.33
Hayfields Contracting Ltd.	Parish paths 1 <sup>st</sup> Cut	£504.00
Alan Jordan	Clerk's Salary	£217.70
HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax	£144.80
NAC	Subscription	£78.00
Anne Clarke	Queen's Birthday Expenses	£162.00
Anne Clarke *	Village Green Tub Payments	£80.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1245.83</b>

\* See 78/16 (i) below

**75/16 GAMP & CDALC**

The annual Meeting of the Local Councils Committee of Great Aycliffe and Middridge has taken place.

**76/16 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**77/16 OTHER MATTERS**

**(i) Queen's Garden Party & Birthday Celebrations**

Cllrs J & A Clarke attended the Queen's Garden Party, which they much enjoyed. An Article on their experiences was published in the recent CDALC Magazine. It was agreed that something similar should be added to the Village Website.

**Action:** Cllr P Makinson

**78/16 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**(i) Village Green Tubs**

The annual Payment of £10 to those Villagers who maintain the 7 Tubs on the Village Green, and the War Memorial, was discussed.

**RESOLVED** that a payment of £80 should be made to Anne Clarke, who will distribute the individual payments.

**Action:** Clerk

**Note** – Cllrs P Makinson and H Howe Declared an Interest in this matter, as they are both responsible for a Tub. They took part in the discussion, but did not vote.

**(ii) Livin Grass Maintenance**

Following initial problems, Livin are now regularly cutting the Grass Areas around "the Meadows" which they own. They are also responsible for the Flowerbed adjacent to 8, North Side, but this is not being maintained, because the Contractors they have appointed are only responsible for Grass Cutting.

**RESOLVED** that Livin should be contacted and asked about their intentions with regard to this Flowerbed i.e. to maintain it, or grass it over.

**Action:** Clerk

**(iii) Vehicles & “the Meadows”**

There have been further reports of Vehicles driving onto the Grass in the centre of “the Meadows” to load and unload. This is a recurring Issue, and the possibility of installing Bollards across the Pavement and Grass between North Side and “the Meadows” to block the access was discussed. However, this would be complicated, because some of the land is owned by DCC, and some by Livin, and might also be expensive. Cllr M Dixon said that if occasional, but not frequent, access was required, DCC would be unlikely to consider such expenditure. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored.

**Action:** Clerk

**79/16**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016, at 6.45pm.