

APPROVED

## **Middridge Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Monday  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Time: 6.45 pm**

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

**In Attendance:** Cllrs P Howell & J Clare (DCC)

**Official:** A Jordan (Clerk)

#### **1/19 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

#### **2/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr H Alexander and Cllr S Durham (DCC)

#### **3/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **4/19 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Mr David Sutton-Lloyd gave a short presentation on the current status of Defibrillators in the GAMP area. There are now 8 Units available 24 hours (including Middridge), and 17 Units available during opening hours (locations were recently published in a Map in the 'Newton News'). Further Units are planned, with a view to ensuring there is a Defibrillator within 500 metres of any location in the GAMP area. There will be more Training Sessions (funded by GAMP County Councillors).

Following a Review, it is now recommended that as well as a First Aid Kit and Adult Defibrillator Pads (and Spares), every Defibrillator should also have a Set of Paediatric Pads (which automatically give a reduced Shock for treating young Children); these cost £81 plus VAT.

**RESOLVED** that a Set of Paediatric Pads be purchased for the Middridge Defibrillator.

**Action:** Clerk

#### **5/19 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record, subject to changing "Residents in 1 – 10 Middridge Farms" to "Resident in the Village" in Reference 101/18 (Declarations of Interest).

#### **6/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

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### 7/19 POLICING

There has been another Incident of Arson involving the Kissing Gate on Path 7 (“The Tramway”), but unfortunately the Police are still unable to identify the Culprit(s) because of a lack of Evidence. The Arson Attacks were also discussed at the November GAMP Board Meeting.

A Car was recently stolen from a House in Eden Grove. The same people then tried to break into another House, but were filmed on CCTV, and subsequently arrested. They were quickly brought to Trial, and are now serving Prison Sentences.

### 8/19 “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENTS & THE COUNTY PLAN

The Persimmon Homes “Eldon Whins Extension” Planning Application for their “Eldon Whins” Site, which included an additional 3 Houses (for a Total of 72 Houses), has been approved by the DCC Planning Committee.

A new Version of the County Plan should be released for Public Consultation this month.

### 9/19 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

#### (a) Street Light Removal

Thanks to DCC Cllr John Clare, DCC have now agreed to split the SLA Payments over two years, which means the Parish Council can afford the Cost without needing a Loan, and they have agreed to proceed on this basis. Although DCC have agreed to repair any damage to the replacement Street Lights, Cllr S Smith suggested that the Parish Council’s Insurance Cover should be investigated; this was agreed.

**Action:** Clerk

The SLA Legal Document is currently awaited from DCC; this will be circulated to Parish Councillors for their comments before being signed by the Chair.

**Action:** Clerk

#### (b) Tree Maintenance

Our Ward County Councillors kindly agreed to fund the proposed Tree Maintenance on “The Dock” and the Play Area from their Neighbourhood Budgets; this means this work can go ahead this year. GAMP will be contacted to raise the necessary Application Form(s).

**Action:** Clerk

#### (c) Walkers Lane Road & Parking

DCC have **AGREED** to Parking Restrictions on the Roads near the Village Hall, and the necessary Statutory Notices have been posted. It is not yet known when these Restrictions will come into effect.

#### (d) Parish Paths

Peter Crinnion of the PPP has responded to queries regarding the Arson Damage to the Path 7 Kissing Gate, but it is not clear what he is prepared to do. This, and other outstanding proposed Path Improvements, are to be raised again.

**Action:** Clerk

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Dog Litter – nothing to report.

### **(e) Village Green Maintenance**

Ian Hayman has now completed this year's Village Green Maintenance, and has submitted an Invoice.

### **10/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Planning Application for a small Extension to 11, Eden Grove has been approved.

### **11/19 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved. "John the Handyman" has found that it is impossible to remove the Circular Table/Seat for treatment indoors, and hence this work will have to await better weather later in the year.

### **12/19 ROAD-TRAFFIC**

Cllr H Howe is trying to contact Greenfield Arts Centre regarding possible replacement "Speed Puppets". DCC Cllr John Clare suggested that Aycliffe Fabrications should also be contacted, and it was indicated that our Ward County Councillors might be prepared to help with the Cost.

**Action:** Cllr H Howe

### **13/19 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)**

The NPWG have now agreed the basic Policies of the Middridge NP, apart from the 'Protected Rural Setting' Policy, which will require further assistance from Shaun Hanson. The next Stage will involve producing a Draft NP, and since the Government Grant Authority might wish to see this as proof that our final Grant had produced the desired result, it has been decided to delay raising this Grant until the start of the next Financial Year (1<sup>st</sup> April), which should provide enough time to produce the Draft NP.

NPWG Members will prepare Proposals for Sections of the NP, which will use the Great Aycliffe NP as a "Model". Members will share their Proposals by Email, and once agreed, the Clerk will collate them into a Draft Document.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council be given an opportunity comment on the Draft NP, and formally approve it, before it is released to the Public for their comments.

**Action:** Clerk

### **14/19 ACCOUNTS**

Councillors discussed the 2019/20 Precept, in the light of the decision to commit most of the Parish Council's excess Income and Financial Reserves for the next two years to the Walker's Lane SLA. It was agreed that an increase in the Precept would be justified, but that the Precept could be reduced in future once adequate Financial Reserves have been restored, and when new "Eldon Whins" Residents increase the Parish Council's Income.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's 2019/20 Precept be increased by 5%.

**Action:** Clerk

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Royal British Legion *	Wreath & Crosses	£35.00
Hayfields Contracting Ltd.	Village Green Maintenance	£2256.00
A. D. Jordan	Clerk's Oct – Dec Salary	£240.00
HMRC	Clerk's Oct – Dec Tax	£160.00
Derek Johnson	Christmas Tree	£18.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2871.00</b>

\* Cheque already issued, so formal authority given is retrospective.

### 15/19 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – the Project Applications to be funded from the Welfare Reform, Youth and Older Persons Social Isolation Funds have been agreed by the Ranking Panel, but will require final GAMP Board Approval.

Cllr W Mellors attended a GAMP Local Council's Committee Meeting, where Aycliffe Councillors raised the possibility of them holding the CDALC Executive Committee position in future. Parish Councillors discussed this suggestion, and it was agreed that in this case Middridge ought to have the GAMP Board Representative position.

### 16/19 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### 17/19 OTHER MATTERS

#### (a) Armistice Day Arrangements

These Arrangements generally went well. However, it was noted that the Police allowed two-way diverted Traffic around Northside, which caused problems, as this Road is really too narrow for this; this Issue is to be raised with the Police.

**Action:** Clerk

#### (b) Christmas Tree Arrangements

This year's Christmas Tree was considered to be of poor shape, and the Supplier agreed to reduce the Price. It was suggested that alternative Suppliers be investigated, but the Clerk stated he had been unable to find anyone suitable. The Tree Specification is to be altered to remove the current restriction on Trunk Diameter, which should help.

**Action:** Clerk

### 18/19 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

None

### 19/19 NEXT MEETING