

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
27th June 2006**

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

In Attendance:- P.Makinson

15/06 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

16/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record; subject to:-

- i) The date of the next meeting being brought forward to 27th June 2006 (Min 14/06 refers);
- ii) Min 13/06 to reflect that permission was given to the Residents Association for the staging of the Village Fete;
- iii) Min 04/06 to reflect Cllr Mrs Clarke's position as Deputy Chairwoman.

17/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Parish Paths-Map/Noticeboard (Minute 10/06 refers)

It was noted that application details for both the Durham County Foundation and Awards for All had been obtained with a view to applications being submitted for grant funding to assist the Parish Council in meeting the costs associated with the provision of the above Map/Noticeboard. Eligibility for the Durham County Foundation grant excluded applications from local Councils; and therefore it was proposed that the application be extended to the Middridge Residents Association for submission. The remaining application to Awards for All was to be pursued on behalf of the Council by the Parish Clerk.

Arrangements had also been made with the Parish Paths Officer for the Map/Noticeboard to be officially launched and sited on Wednesday 16th August 2006.

18/06 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

N.Hart	Salary	£166.67
N.Hart	Postage	£1.80
Nat Assoc of Councillors	Subscription	£76.38
Mr C.Gray	Internal Audit	£60.00
C.E.Walker	Grasscutting	£242.05

19/06 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Repairs/Maintenance of Bus Shelters

Members had inspected the condition of the two bus shelters in the village; which concurred with the earlier report of JWS Power Wash which found evidence of both rotten wood and 'flaky' paintwork. A job estimate for the required works was awaited from JWS and it was proposed that this be considered at the next meeting. It was also suggested that upon receipt of such quotation the Parish Clerk make enquiries with the Borough/County Council as to whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the costs of the works.

RESOLVED that the condition report on the two bus shelters be noted and, upon receipt of the invited quotation, the Parish Clerk be authorised to make enquiries with the respective Councils as to whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the costs of the works.

ii) Public Footpaths-Maintenance

It was noted that the Parish's application for funding from the County Council in respect of the above scheme had been approved. The appointed contractor was scheduled to commence works on the maintenance of the footpaths in the next few days. It was hoped that, subject to the necessary approval procedures, the contract for 2007/8 could be awarded and the works commenced earlier in the year in order to combat the early Spring growth .

iii) Road Signs-Eden Grove

It was noted that the road signs in Eden Grove had deteriorated to the extent that they had become unreadable. It was proposed

that the Parish Clerk contact the relevant officers at Sedgefield Borough Council to request that the signs be repaired.

iv) 'Finger' Signage, Eldon Crossroads

It was noted that previous attempts to identify grant funding to restore the condition of the 'Finger' Signage at Eldon crossroads had proven to be unsuccessful. It was proposed that the Parish Clerk raise the issue of the necessary restoration/repair works with officers at Durham County Council.

20/06

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Details were provided of an audit by Durham County Council regarding a County Durham Rights of Way Improvement Plan; which invited a submission by this Council on the condition, usage and maintenance of the Public Footpaths in the Parish. It was proposed that a Sub Committee of members meet to discuss the audit on the 13th July with a view to submitting a response to the audit.
- ii) DCC Building Schools for the Future-Noted
- iii) SBC Local Development Framework-Residential Extensions Supplementary Planning Document-Reference was made to the condition of properties at Middridge Farms with regard to debris left over from previous extensions. It was proposed that Cllr Clarke speak to County Councillor Hall regarding this issue.

21/06

PROPOSED SALE OF ALLOTMENTS, MIDDRIDGE

It was noted that the Parish Clerk had informed Durham County Council that the Parish Council were opposed to the lease options presented to them regarding the future maintenance/ownership of the allotment site due to the grounds previously expresses to them; namely the land should have been formerly transferred to the ownership of either Middridge Parish or Sedgefield Borough Council, as provided by the 1972 Local Government Act. Members also considered that the lease option was did not secure the long term future of the site.

Cllr Clarke had subsequently informed the Allotments Association of the Parish Councils views on this matter; and the Allotment Association had indicated that were also opposed to the presented lease option.

22/06

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- i) Play Area, Charles Row

Reference was made to several environmental issues concerning the above play area.

Members had been advised, and had observed themselves, that the litter bin situated in the play area did not appear to be regularly emptied making it difficult to control the amount of litter in the area. It was requested that Sedgefield Borough Council be requested to confirm the collection arrangements for this facility; and if it was only collected from on an infrequent basis, give consideration to a more regular collection particularly over the Summer months.

Of additional concern was reported incidents of dog fouling on the grassed area of the play facility. Members therefore proposed to take action to write to all residents of the Village to remind them of their responsibilities in this regard in the hope that whoever was responsible would cease to allow their dog to foul on the area without cleaning up afterwards. It was also suggested that the Borough Council carry out an appropriate inspection of the area and give consideration to the siting of an appropriate sign at the entrance of the play area, advising persons of the penalties of dog fouling, in the hope that this would go some way to alleviating the problem.

In addition, it was noted that garden waste appeared to have been dumped on the play area and again it was suggested that this be reported to the Borough Council in order that it be removed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk contact Sedgefield Borough Council accordingly and members write to all residents within the Village to remind them of their responsibilities in curbing incidents of dog fouling.

ii) Co-option of Member

Following the advertisement of a vacancy to the membership of the Parish Council, and the subsequent receipt of no nominations to fill such a vacancy, the Parish was invited to consider its future options.

Mr Phillip Makinson of 6 Eden Grove had expressed an interest in becoming a co-opted member of the Parish Council until the period of the next Parish elections, with full voting rights, and was present at the meeting.

RESOLVED that Sedgefield Borough Council be advised that the Parish Council wished to co-opt Mr Phillip Makinson of 6 Eden Grove, Middridge as a member of the Parish Council until such time as the period of the next Parish elections.

iii)Date of November 2006 Meeting

It was requested that the date/time of the above meeting be considered at the September meeting.

23/06

NEXT MEETING

Monday 4th September 2006 at 6.45pm.