

## Middridge Parish Council

### Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,  
Middridge

Monday  
11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

Time: 7.15pm

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

**In attendance:** Cllr J Gray (DCC)

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

#### 42/15 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

#### 43/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

#### 44/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

#### 45/15 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2015/2016

Following discussion, Cllr H Howe proposed that Cllr A Clarke should continue as Chair, seconded by Cllr P Makinson.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clarke be elected Chair of the Council for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

#### 46/15 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIRWOMAN

**RESOLVED** that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed by Cllr A Clarke and received by the Clerk.

#### 47/15 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL 2015/2016

Cllr H Howe was proposed by Cllr WJ Clarke, seconded by Cllr W Mellors

**RESOLVED** that Cllr H Howe be elected Vice Chair of the Council for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

#### 48/15 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIRWOMAN

**RESOLVED** that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed by Cllr H Howe and received by the Clerk.

#### 49/15 THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIR

Since Cllr A Clarke continued as Chair, this was not considered necessary.

#### 50/15 MINUTES

APPROVED

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 were signed by the Chair as a true record.

**51/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters raised that were not covered by subsequent Agenda Items.

**52/15 PERSIMMON “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN**

There has been no progress on these matters since the last Council Meeting. The Council will await developments.

**53/15 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

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

The Council has still to receive payment for the Path 7 Stile Modifications, which was approved by Elaine Crow in January; she is now chasing this payment for the second time. Due to time constraints, when received this payment will appear in the 2015/16 Accounts.

We have been informed that the 2015 DCC Parish Paths Maintenance Budget has been reduced by 20%, which means that some Paths will only receive one Cut, and others two; this is being discussed with Ian Hayman.

**Action:** Clerk

**(ii) Parish Noticeboard**

The Clerk reported that we have received payment for the Parish Noticeboard Repairs.

Elaine Crow has been unable to find an Electronic Master for the Parish Paths Map and Description. It was considered that it would not be difficult to create this from information available when a replacement was to become necessary.

**(iii) Tree Management Policy**

Cllr H Howe and the Clerk have completed a Draft Middridge Tree Management Policy, which has been circulated to all Councillors.

**RESOLVED** that the Draft Middridge Tree Management Policy be adopted, subject to the correction of some spelling mistakes, and the addition of a missing Map.

**Action:** Clerk

**(iv) Bus Shelters**

An acceptable alternative Quotation for the new North Side Bus Shelter Fibre-glass Roof was obtained, and this work has now been successfully completed, and the Contractor paid; this payment will appear in the 2015/16 Accounts.

The inside and outside of the North Side Bus Shelter Rear Wall needs repainting; a Quotation of £90 for this work has been obtained from John “the Handyman”.

**RESOLVED** that this Quotation be accepted, subject to clarification.

**Action:** Clerk

The South Side Bus Shelter needs repainting, and the Putty replacing; a Quotation of £440 for this work has been obtained from John “the Handyman”. This was considered excessive, and an alternative Quotation is to be obtained; John Smith might be interested.

**Action:** Clerk

**(v) Millennium Hedge**

APPROVED

All work satisfactorily completed.

**(v) County Durham Spring Clean**

A successful event; many thanks to all those who took part.

**54/15**

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr W Mellors has obtained a Photograph which proves that “The Paddock” was previously used as Allotments, but would like to find a better quality copy.

There was considerable discussion of this topic, but given that there appears to be no viable way forward, and that there is apparently no intention by DCC to sell “The Paddock” at present, it was decided that no further action should be taken unless circumstances change.

**55/15**

**COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID**

The Application for “The Paddock” to be registered as an Asset of Community Value seems to have been lost. This was the first Application submitted, and was sent by post because at that time it was impossible to modify the PDF Application document; this problem was subsequently overcome. A new Application has been submitted, and we should expect to hear the result shortly.

**Action:** Clerk

**56/15**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None

**57/15**

**CHILDREN’S’ PLAY AREA**

Cllr W Mellors reported that the problem with the loose Top Panel on the Kompan Climbing Frame was believed to be due to a missing Bolt, which has been replaced.

GATC have kindly agreed to replace the worn Bushes on the Chains of the large Swings, billing us for new Bushes if necessary; this work is still outstanding.

**Action:** Clerk

**58/15**

**C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING**

It was noted there have been 3 Traffic Accidents in the last few months, involving 5 Injuries.

**RESOLVED** that in the light of these facts, a Letter be sent to the DCC Highways Department to request what action (if any) they plan to take, and to express the Residents concern regarding Speeding.

**Action:** Clerk

Our local Police are now trained in the use of the new Speed Guns, and as the issue of Speeding continues to be the PACT priority, we can expect to see more use of this new equipment in the Parish.

**59/15**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Another Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was held, and Cllr W Mellors is now working on the agreed changes to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr H Howe mentioned that John Morland had not received the Email notification of the last Meeting, for some unknown reason.

From a recent CDALC Meeting attended by Cllr A Clarke it is clear that the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Heritage Statement, and that all Policies in the Plan need to be evidence based.

APPROVED

From the general discussion that followed, it was clear that the Working Group needed advice on what should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, and the following was agreed:-

- i. To contact the DCC Officers concerned for help.
- ii. To contact Thomas Bennett for help.
- iii. To hold another Working Group Meeting a.s.a.p.

**Action:** Cllr W Mellors & Clerk

**60/15 GATC COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Nothing to report. It was decided that no further action should be taken on this matter unless circumstances change.

**61/15 SPECIAL FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**(i) Clerk's Salary**

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk's Salary be increased by £50 to £1450 per annum from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015.

The necessary arrangements to be made with the Thirsk Community Care Association, who handle the Council's Employment Tax affairs.

**Action:** Clerk

**(ii) 2014/15 Accounts & Annual Governance Statement**

The Clerk reported that the 2014/15 Parish Council Accounts would now show a deficit of £1,996.48 because we have not yet received the payment of £650 due from DCC for the Parish Path 7 Stile Modifications.

**RESOLVED** that the 2014/15 Parish Council Accounts, and the Annual Governance Statement, be adopted.

**RESOLVED** that the Internal Auditor (Colin Gray) be paid an Honorarium of £65.

**Action:** Clerk

**(ii) Parish Council Insurance**

The Council's Insurance Cover renews this month, and Quotations for 1, 3 and 5 year Contracts from our current Insurance Provider (Zurich) were considered.

**RESOLVED** that the one year Quotation from Zurich be accepted, but that the possibility of alternative Providers for next year's Insurance be investigated.

**Action:** Clerk

**(ivi) Letter from Village Association regarding Fête**

**RESOLVED** that the Village Association be given permission to use the Village Green for the Annual Village Fête.

**Action:** Clerk

**RESOLVED** that the Village Association be given a Donation of £40 for a Fête Raffle Prize.

**Action:** Clerk

**62/15 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Councillors considered a Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

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

Payee	Purpose	Sum
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APPROVED

Thirsk Community Care	2014-15 Clerk's Tax Admin.	£61.00
CDALC	2015-16 Subscription	£57.25
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£731.07
Colin Gray	Honorarium (Internal Audit)	£65.00
Alan Jordan*	Clerk's Salary (Apr-Jun 2015)	£215.13
HMRC*	Tax Liability (Apr-Jun 2015)	£143.20
Middridge Village Association	Fête Raffle Prize	£40.00

\* The exact amounts of these Cheques was determined once the effects of the approved increase in the Clerk's Salary had been calculated.

**63/15**

**GAMP & CDALC**

**(i) GAMP Board Meeting**

The Clerk attended the recent GAMP Board Meeting, at which a presentation was made by our Police & Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg. As a consequence of this, Ron Hogg will attend the PACT Meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September. This will give Resident's an opportunity to discuss any concerns, particularly Speeding.

**(ii) GAMP Small Community Grants**

GAMP are currently seeking bids for Small Community Grants. Cllr H Howe suggested that the possibility of clearing and widening Parish Path 7 (the Tramway) should be considered in future.

**(iii) CDALC Presentation**

Cllrs J and A Clarke, and the Clerk, attended a CDALC Presentation on the current efforts to establish Combined Authorities in the Region, which should facilitate the future Devolution of Economic powers to our area.

**64/15**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**(i) Stockton & Darlington Railway Conference**

Following receipt of a Letter inviting the Council to send representatives to a Conference of the Stockton & Darlington Railway Society, Cllr A Clarke will be attending this Event.

**(ii) LCTS Grant Presentation**

The Clerk is to attend a free CDALC Presentation on how DCC's Localisation of Council Tax Support (LCTS) Grant is calculated.

**65/15**

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**(i) Road Resurfacing**

It was noted that the Northside & Eden Grove Roads are currently being re-surfaced, and it is suggested that we should thank DCC in the planned Letter to the Highways Department (see **58/15** above).

**(ii) Memorial Bench**

The proposal to install a new Memorial Bench on the Village Green, discussed at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting, was noted.

**66/15**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 6.45pm.

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_