

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
5th July 2010**

Time:6.45pm

Present: Councillors Clarke (Chairman); Mrs A.Clarke, Makinson and W.Mellors.

Apology: An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Howe.

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

19/10 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

20/10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following:-

Min 13/10- Last sentence, first paragraph-delete 'school children including some disabled children' insert 'air cadets' . .

21/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Grounds Maintenance Issues (Minute 11/10 refers)

Cllr Clarke updated members on his on-going discussions with the electricity supplier regarding alleged electricity used by the Parish Council in recent years respect of lighting for the Christmas tree supplied by the street column. Cllr Clarke indicated that he would continue his discussions with the supplier and request a certificate of un-metered supplies from the period August 2004 onwards. The Clerk also indicated he would review previous accounts to ascertain previous payments, if any, made in respect of electricity used for Christmas tree lighting.

ii) Planning Applications (Minute 14/10 refers)

Members referred to the recent press coverage regarding the financial activities of the developer in respect of 38 Southside. No further work had been undertaken on site,

and it remained incomplete with scaffolding and other construction equipment in situ.

iii) Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2010 (Minute 10/10 refers

The Clerk advised that notification had been received from the external auditors that no matters had come to their attention during their audit of the Parish Council's accounts. An invoice for the cost of their audit would be presented as part of the Accounts for Payment item.

22/10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with additional invoices received from B.D.Hoy Stayward for £141.00 in respect of the external audit, the Co Durham Local Councils Association in respect of £49.64 in respect of continued subscription, and from CE Walker for £258.50 in respect of grasscutting for June .

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

N.Hart	Salary	£191.67
N.Hart	Postage	£1.60
Sutcliffe Play Equipment	2 x junior swing seats)	£377.41
Sutcliffe Play Equipment	2 x infant swing seats)	
Co Durham Local Councils As.	Subscription	£49.64
BDO Hoy Stayward	External Audit 09/10	£141.00
CE Walker	Grasscutting-May	£258.50
CE Walker	Grasscutting-June	£258.50

23/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11-Public Footpath No 5 at Walkers Lane

Cllr Mrs Clarke advised of discussions held between PC Stasiak, Peter Crinnion (DCC Rights of Way Officer) and Ian Hayman regarding the proposed development of a gated access across public footpath No 5 in order to alleviate problems of anti-social behaviour in the area, particularly by youths riding motor cycles and other motor vehicles.

It was necessary for all landowners consent to be obtained and confirmation was required that the path was a Right of Way, as well as the suggested location for the bridleway. Discussions were to continue amongst the above parties and it would be necessary to establish with the proposed contractor whether any construction costs would be incurred for the proposed gateway and its siting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and further progress be reported to the next meeting.

(ii) Grounds Maintenance Issues

The Clerk advised that the problems of overgrown hedgerow on the C35 road to Shildon had been reported to DCC and works would be undertaken in the next 2-3 weeks.

24/10 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

The Clerk referred to the advice received from Paul Irwin at DCC, following his recent visit and meeting with members of the Parish Council.

It was noted that following the visit, he had discussed the proposed disposal with Joanne MacLean from DCC Estates Division, who confirmed she was in the process of making sure the site was not required for any other purpose and would be producing a report for their Cabinet meeting in September seeking approval to transfer the land.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Councillor Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the above item as a result of being a current allotment holder.)

25/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that there had been no planning applications received.

26/10 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment.

It was noted that there was evidence of some graffiti on both the new picnic table and the main apparatus.

The Clerk advised that the new replacement infant and junior swing seats had now been received and Cllr Mellors indicated that he would take receipt and ensure the seats were installed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

27/10 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted :-

- a) Planning for the Future of Co Durham-Core Strategy Issues and Consultation Paper.

Members indicated that they would generally favour Option A as the preferred development option for Co Durham, but indicated that they wished that the plan would acknowledge that Aycliffe Industrial Park offered itself as a prime development opportunity and that Newton Aycliffe town centre requires regeneration as a matter of urgency. No development at Eldon Whinns should be considered as part of any future development options.

- b) GAMP Annual Report
- c) Shildon Town Council-Future Civic Events.
- d) Link2-New Dial a Ride Minibus Service

28/10 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Mrs Clarke advised that Councillor Bob Fleming had been appointed to the AAP Local Councils Committee which was responsible for securing the interests of local councils in discussions with the Unitary Authority.

The next meeting of GAMP was to be held on 20th July 2010 at 6.00pm .

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

29/10 VILLAGE FETE-3RD JULY 2010-FEEDBACK

Members advised on a very successful Village Fete event held on 3rd July 2010, which raised in the region of £1,800.

Particular thanks was extended to the band that provided first class entertainment. However, it was disappointing to note that very few residents from the Village were in attendance.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

30/10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Media Coverage re Comprehensive Spending Review

The Clerk advised members of an approach made to him regarding obtaining the views of the Parish Council in respect of the likely effects of the Government's forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

It was agreed that any request for the views of the Parish Council be referred to the attention of the Chairman in the first instance.

(ii) Traffic Speeds in the Village

Cllr Mrs Clarke referred to proposals being considered by County Councillor Mrs Bowman to possibly utilise her ward based funding allocation to acquire traffic speed display signs to be sited on entrance to the Village.

(iii) Charity Event at Bay Horse Public House

Members referred to the recent charity event held at the public house on the 19th June 2010, which entailed vehicular access being required adjacent to the premises to allow equipment to be erected, which in turn caused a degree of nuisance to adjacent properties.

It was noted that the Parish Council received virtually no notice from the public house of the event, and therefore could do very little to ensure that the interests of residents were safeguarded.

The Chairman advised that the public house would be instructed to ensure that any future events did not happen without full and proper consultation with the Parish Council and that this assurance be included in an appropriate letter to be drafted and sent to residents affected by disturbance caused by the recent charity event.

31/10

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6th September 2010 at 6.45pm