

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
9th January 2006**

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

43/05 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2005 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

44/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Additional Works to Footpaths (Min34/05 refers)

The position regarding Durham County Council (DCC) being unable to carry out further footpath works was noted. It was suggested that, at the next meeting, consideration be given to the Parish Paths scheme for 2006/7; including the identification of a suitable contractor.

Finger Signage (Minute 34 /05 refers)

It was noted that DCC had began enquiries to identify any suitable funding for carrying out restoration work to the finger sign located at the Eldon Crossroads, west of the village on the Shildon road near the 40mph sign.

C35 Rushyford 'Middridge' Road Signing (Minute 34/05 refers)

Councillor Mrs Clarke reported that despite many efforts, including advising both County Councillors for the area, the requested road signage to the newly set out C35 road, had not been put in place. It was suggested that, if necessary, the local press be informed in the hope that this would prompt the required action.

Millenium Hedge (Minute 34/05 refers)

It was requested that Sedgefield Borough Council's relevant officer be contacted with a view to visiting the hedge once more

to identify what further action should be taken to maintain the hedge.

DCC Proposed Sale of Allotments, Middridge (Minute 37/05 refers)

The Parish Clerk advised that no further correspondence had been received from DCC regarding their proposed disposal of the allotment land, despite verbal indications that the matter would be considered by their Cabinet in the early part of December or January. No information had been posted on their website to this effect either. It was requested that information be reported to members as and when any further information was received.

Christmas 2005

Consideration was given to the Christmas events, which included the provision of selection boxes, on behalf of the Parish Council, to all children in the village who participated. The Christmas festivities included a tree provided on the Village Green, and particular mention was made of the excellent tree received from Lyndhurst Nurseries and decorated by Durham County Council. The Bay Horse Public House had also placed their own tree outside their premises.

45/05 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

BDO Stoy Hayward	External Auditor fees	£141.00
Mrs A.Clarke	Selection Boxes	£41.72
N.Hart	Salary	£141.67
N.Hart	Postage	£2.70
T.Walton	Parish Paths Contract	£1,151.50

46/05 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

It was noted the deadline for return of expressions of interest in the contract for grounds maintenance works on behalf of the Parish was due to close on the 20th January 2006. Consideration of the award of the contract would therefore be given at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the contract for the Grounds Maintenance contract be considered at the next meeting.

47/05 PARISH PRECEPT 2006/2007

Consideration was given to the setting of the Parish Precept for 2006/2007. It was noted that expenditure during the last year had considerably exceeded the £3,300 income from the Parish precept, and therefore it was proposed that the precept be increased for 2006/7 to £4,000.

RESOLVED that the Parish Precept for 2006/2007 be set at £4,000.

48/05 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Consideration was given to the following correspondence received:-

-Durham County Council-Local Transport Plan 2006-2011-
Consultation Response

-Sedgefield Borough Council-Neighbourhood Wardens Report-
April-June 2005

-Sedgefield Borough Council-Fixed Play Investment Strategy
2006/7

It was proposed that a Sub Committee of the Parish Council meet to consider the future needs of the play area with a view to submission of an appropriate bid to the Borough Council for any available funding in 2006/7. The views of the children in the Parish would be sought to enhance the project submission.

RESOLVED that the content of the above correspondence be noted.

49/05 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Reference was made to the need to inform Sedgefield Borough Council of the need to carry out maintenance to the public footpath from Blind Lane to Byerley Park; which was now well worn and in need of repair.

Archiving was also required of all minutes of the Parish Council and it was requested that the Clerk provide electronic copies to Cllr Mellors in order that that process could be carried out.

50/05 NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th March 2006 at 6.45pm.

