

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
6th July, 2015

Time: 7.15pm

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

In attendance: Cllrs J Gray, W Dixon & J Clare (DCC)

Official: A D Jordan (Clerk)

67/15 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

68/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

69/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All the DCC Councillors present serve full or part time on the DCC Planning Committee, and thus declared that they would be unable to speak on the Persimmon "Eldon Whins" Planning Application.

70/15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2015 were signed by the Chair as a true record, subject to three minor alterations.

71/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(i) 2014/15 Accounts (61/15 ii refers)

The Annual Financial Return has now been submitted to the External Auditors.

(ii) Stockton & Darlington Railway Conference (64/15 i refers)

Cllrs A Clarke & H Howe attended this Event, which proved very interesting.

(iii) Road Resurfacing (65/15 i refers)

The resurfaced Roads have now been swept. One Manhole in Eden Grove has been covered over by mistake; this has been reported to DCC.

(iv) Memorial Bench (65/15 ii refers)

John the Handyman has agreed to install the proposed new Memorial Bench for free.

72/15 PERSIMMON "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN

There has been no progress on the Persimmon "Eldon Whins" Planning Application since the last Council Meeting.

The County Plan has been submitted for Judicial Review.

73/15 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(i) Parish Paths Maintenance & Modifications

The Payment for the Path 7 Stile Modifications has finally been made. Tommy Walton has complained that these modifications could allow his Livestock to stray onto the Path.

RESOLVED that this Complaint be investigated.

Action: Clerk

Ian Hayman has completed the first of the two planned Parish Path Cuts. The Parish Council noted the excellent job he had done in preparing the Village Green for the Annual Middridge Fête.

Cllr A Clarke liaised to Tracy Bellas (Clerk to Shildon Town Council) regarding the state of the Pavements between Middridge and Shildon, overgrown Trees and Bushes forcing Pedestrians to walk too close to the Road. As a consequence, Tracy Bellas has arranged for DCC to deal with this problem.

(ii) Bus Shelters

There has been no progress with regard to:-

- (a) Clarifying the Quotation for repainting the North Side Bus Shelter.
- (b) Obtaining alternative Quotations for repainting the South Side Bus Shelter, and replacing the Putty.

Action: Clerk

(iii) Benches

There are now three Benches on the Village Green which need maintenance:-

- (a) Outside "Glenholme" - several of the wooden Slats need replacing.
- (b) On the Access Road to The Close – several of the wooden Slats need replacing.
- (c) Outside 8, Northside – this requires repainting.

RESOLVED that Quotations be urgently obtained from John the Handyman and Brian Mundell to undertake this work, which will be authorised after consultation with Councillors.

Action: Clerk

74/15

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The result of the Application for "The Paddock" to be registered as an Asset of Community Value is still awaited.

The Parish Council has applied to take over "The Paddock" as part of the DCC "Delivering Differently" Programme. A Meeting with James Bennett is being organised to discuss this.

Action: Cllr A Clarke & Clerk

75/15

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

76/15

CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

The work by GATC to replace the worn Bushes on the Chains of the large Swings is still outstanding.

Action: Clerk

77/15

C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

APPROVED

The Parish Council's Letter to the DCC Highways Department produced a lengthy response, but no action is planned.

There was a further accident involving a Motor Cyclist pulling out onto the C35 from the Meadows, which resulted in him being taken to Hospital.

RESOLVED that a Log of all past and future Road Traffic Incidents be prepared, with a view to putting further pressure on the DCC Highways Department to undertake Traffic Calming measures.

Action: Clerk

PCSO Mike Hutchinson has undertaken several exercises in the Village using the new Speed Guns, and has organised two Police "Scarecrows" to be erected in the Village in the near future. However, his Application to have Warning Signs displayed on the Village approaches has been refused by the DCC Highways Department, whose stated Policy is now to reduce the number of Signs on Roads in the County.

78/15

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Some progress has been made on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

However, it was agreed that another Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was urgently required, and possible Meeting dates were discussed.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

79/15

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Councillors considered a Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Sum
Anne Clarke	Chair's Dinner	£309.70
Alan Jordan	Clerk's Expenses	£72.29
Hayfields Contracting Ltd.	Parish Paths 1 st Cut	£504.00
J.W.S	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£36.00

80/15

GAMP & CDALC

The next GAMP Board Meeting is on Tuesday, 14th July in Aycliffe Village Hall.

Action: Cllr W Mellors & Clerk

It was noted that there are currently two Vacancies for Lay Members of the GAMP Board.

81/15

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

82/15

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(i) Police & Crime Commissioner Visit

Ron Hogg will be attending the regular PACT Meeting on Monday, 7th September.

RESOLVED that a Letter be sent to all Village Residents, inviting them to attend this Meeting, and ask questions. The Letter should indicate the current Police Priorities.

Action: Cllr A Clarke & Clerk

(ii) County Archives

It is proposed to arrange for as many of the historical Parish Council Minutes as practical to be supplied to the County Archives.

Action: Clerk

(iii) DCC Chair's Dinner

Cllrs J & A Clarke attended the Annual DCC Chair's Dinner at Beamish.

(iv) Credit Union

Notices regarding the new NEFirst Credit Union are to be displayed on the Village Noticeboards.

Action: Clerk

(v) Smith's Diamond Wedding Anniversary

RESOLVED that the Parish Council present a Bouquet of Flowers to the value of £10 - £15 on the occasion of the Smith's Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrations on 9th July.

Action: Cllrs J & A Clarke

(vi) Village Fête & Great Aycliffe Show

Although not strictly Parish Council business, it was noted that GATC have altered the date of the Great Aycliffe Festival so that it now clashes with the Annual Middridge Village Fête. It was decided to contact GATC and comment on the effects of this change on Fête attendance.

Action: Cllr A Clarke

83/15

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7th September 2015 at 6.45pm.

Chair _____