

SIGNED

## **Middridge Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Extended Council Meeting**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Monday  
5 March 2012**

**Time: 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs A Clarke (Vice Chairman), WJ Clarke, W Mellors, P Makinson

**Official:** CA Stenger (Clerk)

#### **PRESENTATION – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

A presentation on Neighbourhood Planning was given by Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning at Durham County Council.

#### **97/11 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

#### **98/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr H Howe (Chairman).

#### **99/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item dealing with the allotment transfer as a result of being a current allotment holder and also in respect of the agenda item dealing with flower tubs.

#### **100/11 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2012 were signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record.

#### **101/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

i) Parish Paths Partnership (min 77/11 ii) refers)  
Circular walk – the route still needed walking with Elaine Field as the previous date had to be cancelled due to sickness.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clarke contact Elaine Field to organise a date/time.

ii) Neighbourhood Plan (min 77/11 vi) refers)  
Cllr A Clarke had attended a Neighbourhood Planning presentation by Great Aycliffe Town Council (GATC), and also a local councils meeting. GATC had offered assistance with a Middridge Neighbourhood Plan.

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iii) Parish Precept (min 79/11 refers)

Due to an admin error by the Clerk the amount requested from DCC included an extra amount received the previous year for double taxation (£130). The error was noted too late to amend as the CT amounts had been ratified and published by DCC. Due to this error there would be a slight rise in the precept amount which would equate to approx £1.02 per household.

102/11

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

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

|                       |                                      |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| C Stenger             | Wages Jan - March                    | £230.10 |
| HMRC                  | Tax liability Jan - March            | £ 57.40 |
| JWS Power Wash        | Bus shelter cleaning                 | £ 30.00 |
| Olivers Tree Services | Village Green tree works             | £474.00 |
| Durham County Council | Christmas lights                     | £394.80 |
| Cllr H Howe           | Flower tubs honorarium reimbursement | £80.00  |

The issue of extra authorised signatures was complete, with all councillors now being authorised to sign cheques.

Correspondence had been received from BDO stating audit packs would be sent out during March and April.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk complete the audit pack when the necessary figures were available during April, and send all necessary paperwork to the internal auditor.

103/11

**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

i) Parish Paths Partnership

The grant application form for Parish Paths vegetation clearance had been completed, using the quote supplied by Mr Hayman, and emailed to the Partnership.

ii) Parish Paths Map

It was noted that the Parish Paths map in the notice board was starting to fade.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clarke discuss the issue with Elaine Field.

iii) Flower Tub Honorarium

It was agreed that an honorarium of £10.00 per tub was to be given. A cheque for £80.00 was to be given to Cllr Howe and he would personally contact each person/group responsible for the tubs.

iv) Grass cutting

The Clerk had researched the problem of mole hills but it seemed that there was no remedy that didn't kill the moles. It was suggested that a working party be formed to level the mole hills before the first cut, and then monitor the situation. A meeting between the PC and contractor was also needed to discuss issues and concerns from the proceeding year.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the contractor to enquire about the date of the first cut, and request a meeting beforehand.

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**104/11 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE**

The Clerk had contacted Fiona Bullen to get an update on the proposed disposal of the paddock. Ms Bullen had stated in an email that she was very busy with the current auctions and would be in touch when she had something to report.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Fiona again to further request progress details for the next meeting.

**105/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new applications. The planning application for 38 Southside had been granted.

**106/11 CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA**

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment – no issues were noted, although the moss still needed to be dealt with.

**RESOLVED** that a working party be arranged to deal with the moss at a suitable date/time.

**107/11 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING**

As no help or funding was forthcoming for traffic calming equipment, it was agreed to research costs of such equipment. Cllr A Clarke reported that Toft Hill/Etherley had a speed monitoring sign that would be suitable.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the clerk for Etherley/Toft Hill parish to enquire about the background of the speed monitoring sign, and that Cllr Mellors research costs.

**108/11 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK**

There was no feedback to report.

**109/11 FUTURE EVENTS**

i) Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Cllrs A & J Clarke had found a weathervane supplier, situated near Piercebridge, who could supply an engraved weathervane in the region of £200/250 plus VAT. It was agreed that the design would be a banner with engraving such as ER11 60 1952-2012. Cllrs A & J Clarke agreed to draw up a design for the supplier. The Clerk reported that the Royal Mint were now issuing £5 coins at face value, and could be ordered from their website with a postage cost of £2.95 per nine. It was suggested that banks may have supplies of the coins, which would save on the postage costs. Regarding an event to celebrate the Jubilee, it was agreed that the PC would not be involved but would support any event organised.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact local banks to see if £5 Jubilee coins are available, and that Cllrs A & J Clarke draw up a design for the weathervane.

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ii) Olympic Torch

It was agreed that an 'Events Committee' be formed for the Olympic Torch visit, with members from the PC and Village Association, plus any residents who wished to be involved.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask for volunteers at the next Village Association meeting.

**110/11 LOCAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Due to time restraints it was agreed that this item would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the issue be added to the next agenda for discussion.

**111/11 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council considered the following correspondence:

Durham County Council Community Buildings Review

**RESOLVED** that the correspondence be noted.

**112/11 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Big Spring Clean – it was agreed that the PC would again be involved in the Big Spring Clean. The dates are 16 April to 11 May 2012.

**RESOLVED** that this item be added to the next agenda in order to arrange a suitable date/time.

Website – it was suggested that the website registration be changed to the PC instead of Cllr Mellors. A formal email address could then be set up for the PC and directed to the Clerk. The purchase of an external hard drive for use by the Clerk was also suggested. This would remain the property of the PC and could hold all necessary documentation and files.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Mellors look for details of the website registration. Also for Cllrs Makinson and Howe to look into the purchase of an external hard drive.

PACT report – as the PACT meeting could not take place due to the Neighbourhood Planning presentation, PC Matt Stasiak had provided a written report on 2 incidents in the village – a suspicious vehicle witnessed near the allotments on 14 February, which was investigate but no signs of the vehicle or damage were found, and the theft of a bike trailer from Middridge Farms on 29 February for which enquiries were still ongoing.

**113/11 NEXT MEETING**

Parish Council AGM – Monday, 14 May 2012 at 6.50pm, or immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_