

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
2nd November, 2015

Time: 6.45 pm

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

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

Official: A D Jordan (Clerk)

103/15 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

104/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

105/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

106/15 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

107/15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 7th September 2015 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

108/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(i) Village Fête & Great Aycliffe Show (89/15 (iv) refers)

The Great Aycliffe Show will be held at the end of July in future, and will thus not conflict with the Village Fête.

109/15 PERSIMMON "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN

Nothing to report.

110/15 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(i) Parish Paths Maintenance & Modifications

A Quotation is awaited from Ian Hayman for cutting back the Bushes obstructing Parish Path 7, before approaching the Parish Paths Partnership for a Grant.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Bus Shelters

The South Side Bush Shelter repainting is complete, apart from painting over the new putty, which needs to harden.

(iii) Bench Maintenance

The repairs and repainting of 3 Benches are complete.

APPROVED

Memorial Bench – the Concrete Plinth has been laid, ready for the Bench to be installed on 11th or 12th November.

RESOLVED that a Letter be written giving the Humphreys permission to erect the Memorial Bench on the Village Green.

Action: Clerk

(iv) 2016 Village Greens Maintenance Contract

A Quotation will be sought from Ian Hayman.

Action: Clerk

(v) DCC Walls and Lights

The Council expressed their satisfaction with the work undertaken by DCC in repairing Walls and Street Lights in the Village.

It was noted that although it was originally planned to replace **ALL** the Street Lights in the Village with modern ones, in fact a number of the old-style Lights remain. It was decided to compile a List of these old style Lights, to be supplied to DCC.

Action: Clerk

111/15

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The Council's Application for "The Paddock" to be registered as an Asset of Community Value was rejected, because there was insufficient evidence that the use of this Land "furthered the cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community".

Cllr W Mellors has found Maps and Photographs at the County Record's Office which clearly show that "The Paddock" was used as Allotments in 1939. The available evidence of this use of "The Paddock" is to be collated.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

After some discussion it was decided that the possibility of an Application to take over "The Paddock" as part of the DCC "Delivering Differently" Programme should be put into abeyance for the present.

112/15

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Planning Application has been submitted for Side and Rear Extensions to 20, Eden Grove. Concern was expressed that this may encroach on a area of Land which is a "Community Asset", and at the apparent size of the proposed Extensions, and it was agreed that the Planning Officer should be contacted.

Action: Clerk

It was noted that this Planning Application has been "delegated" to a Planning Officer. If the Council wish for this Application to be heard by the Planning Committee, they will have to ask for it to be "called-in".

113/15

CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

There have been a number of reports of Dog-Fouling affecting the Play Area, and other Green Spaces in the Village; these are all believed to be due to the same person. This is to be investigated with a view to the Neighbourhood Warden issuing a Caution to the person concerned.

Action: Clerk

Some of the Nuts holding one of the Junior Swing Seats onto the Chains have been removed, and a Bolt holding the Round Table Top in place is missing.

APPROVED

RESOLVED that the necessary repairs be affected by John the Handyman as soon as possible, and any consequent expenditure is authorised.

Action: Clerk

The Floor Area under the Junior Swings is badly affected by Moss, which needs to be removed, and treatment applied to minimise this problem in future. The Round Table and Bench in the Play Area are badly weathered, and will require treatment next year. The front support Posts of the Bench also require attention.

Action: Clerk

114/15 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

The new Police "Scarecrows" were judged a great success. Unfortunately their re-use has been held up by the lack of a suitably qualified Driver for the Delivery Vehicle.

115/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed Housing Questionnaire were supplied to DCC for their comment. However, it seems that they have yet to look at these documents, and need to be chased.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

It was noted that DCC refer to the Middridge Neighbourhood Plan as for a 'Residential' rather than an 'Agricultural' area; the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is to be modified to try to correct this.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

116/15 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED that the 2014/15 Parish Council Accounts as approved by the External Auditor be formally adopted..

Councillors considered a Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Sum
BDO	Annual Financial Return Fee	£120.00
The Royal British Legion	Remembrance Day Wreath	£30.00
Hayfields Contracting	Second Parish Paths Cut	£504.00
John the Handyman	Bench Repairs & Painting	£280.35
John the Handyman	Southside Bus Shelter Painting	£260.00
Hayfields Contracting	Village Greens Grass Cutting	£2160.00

117/15 GAMP & CDALC

The recent GAMP Board Meeting in the Village Hall was extremely well attended.

Cllr A Clarke and the Clerk attended the CDALC AGM in County Hall.

118/15 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

119/15 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(i) Remembrance Sunday

Cllr A Clarke has the Wreaths. The Parade will meet at 11.45 am in the Village Hall as usual.

APPROVED

(ii) Christmas Tree Arrangements

A Quotation of £180.00 plus VAT has been received from Lyndhurst Nurseries for the Christmas Tree; this is the same as last year. A Quotation of £309.72 plus VAT has been received from DCC for erecting, dressing, and taking down the Christmas Tree; this is the slightly less than last year.

RESOLVED that the Christmas Tree be organised on this basis; installation to be 1st or 2nd December if possible.

Action: Clerk

120/15

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 4th January 2016 at 6.45pm.

Chair _____