

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
13th November 2006**

Time:6.45pm

Present: Councillor H.Howe (Chairman); Councillors W.J. Clarke , Mrs A. Clarke, W.Mellors and P.Makinson.

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

In Attendance:- Mr Taylor (Resident)

33/06 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

34/06 MINUTES

- i) The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- i) **C35 Shildon to Newton Aycliffe-Road Safety Concerns (Minute 26/06 refers)**

It was noted that the petition, containing the names of nearly all of the residents of the Village, had been submitted to Durham County Council (DCC) by Mr Bennett. Notification had also been received via County Councillor Mrs Bowman that DCC were to consider measures to illuminate the 'speed limit' signs, which would assist in encouraging drivers to slow their speed.

- ii) **Parish Paths-Map/Notice Board (Minute 26/06 refers)**

Advice was awaited from the DCC Parks & Countryside Officer regarding the financial costs associated with designing and producing leaflets to promote the Parish Paths. Once received, this would be included within the application to the Awards for All Lottery Fund.

Regarding access to the Board, it was noted that 2 keys were currently in the possession of Cllr Howe and Cllr J.Clarke. It was suggested that a further 3 keys be obtained by the Chairman for use by the Clerk and others.

iii) Condition of Bus Shelters (Minute 28/06 refers)

It was noted that suitable contractors were required that could be invited to provide additional quotations to the one already obtained regarding the condition of the two bus shelters in the Village. The Clerk was requested to attempt to identify whether there were any suitable contractors carrying out work within Stockton Borough; and whether DCC could recommend anyone from their approved list that could refurbish the metal shelter.

It was noted that no further developments had been received from DCC re the proposed relocation of the bus shelter. It was suggested that prior to considering further the condition of the existing bus shelter, Councillor Clarke clarify the reasons behind the application for its relocation with the person who had requested it.

iv) Sedgefield Borough Council-Road Signage and Litter Bins (Minute 28/06 refers)

It was noted that the road sign for Eden Grove had not yet been replaced; as originally promised by Sedgefield Borough Council (SBC). It was requested that progress on this matter be taken up with SBC. The Walker Lane sign had also disappeared from adjacent to the Village Hall; and this also required reporting to SBC.

Clarification was also required as to why the Dog Waste bin in Walker Lane had also been removed. SBC had also reported back on why they were unable to empty the litter bin adjacent to the play area due to legalities relating to the safety of play areas. Concern was expressed by members that this was unsatisfactory and that there should be nothing to prevent it being collected from, particularly as it had been sited by SBC. It was requested that the Clerk contact SBC to clarify the situation.

v) Play Area (Minute 29/06 refers)

The Clerk advised that Joanne King, Play Area Development Officer at Sedgefield Borough Council, intended to visit the play area on Monday 20th November 2006 at 3.30pm; and would meet with members to discuss the next stage of the proposed play area redevelopment application.

vi) Erection of Detached Timber Pergola Smoking Shed, Rear of Bay Horse (Minute 29/06 refers)

It was noted that this application had now been withdrawn by the applicant.

vii) Remembrance Sunday (Minute 30/06 refers)

A donation of £20 had been made on behalf of the Parish to the Royal British Legion by Councillor Mellors. It was therefore agreed that Councillor Mellors be appropriately reimbursed.

36/06 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------|
| N.Hart | Salary | £166.67 |
| N.Hart | Postage | £2.17 |
| Cllr Mellors | Wreaths | £20.00 |
| C.E.Walker | Grasscutting | £242.05 |
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| C.E.Walker | Grasscutting | £242.05 |

37/06 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) To consider the award of the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2007/2008

It was proposed that quotations be invited for the above works from the following contractors; who had previously expressed an interest in being considered for the works:-

-C.E.W.
-S.B.C.
-G.R.

RESOLVED that quotations be invited from the above contractors as per the existing contract specification; and submitted quotations be considered at the next meeting.

- ii) Parish Paths Partnership 2007/2008

It was requested that the existing contractor responsible for maintenance of the Parish Paths be invited to submit a quotation for carrying out the works in 2007/2008; subject to confirmation by DCC of funding availability.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the existing contractor to invite a quotation for works to the Parish Paths for 2007/2008.

38/06

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Durham County Council Local Transport Plan 1 2001-2006-5 Year Delivery Report
- ii) Durham County Council-Request for a Scoping Opinion for an Extension to Eldon Quarry, Eldon

Members requested that DCC be informed that the Parish Council reserved the right to comment on any traffic implications arising from the application; and to insist on the condition that none of the work would be carried out outside of normal working hours.

- iii) Sedgefield Borough Council-Register of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality-New Administrative Arrangements for Parish & Town Councils
- iv) Sedgefield Borough Council Draft Major Allocations Search Sequence and Detailed Assessment Approach
- v) Shildon Civic Carol Service-Sunday 10th December 2006
- vi) Sedgefield Borough Council-Mayor's Annual Carol Service-Sunday 17th December 2006

39/06

CAR PARKING PROBLEMS-NOS 46-59 SOUTHSIDE, MIDDRIDGE

Consideration was given to car parking problems experienced in the area of 46-59 Southside due to the parking of a large number of vehicles in the area; which had led to difficulties being experienced by emergency vehicles requiring access to properties.

It was requested that the Clerk enquire with the relevant local authority the legal position regarding obstructed access to properties; and contact Hurworth Parish Council who, it was believed, had recently introduced some form of Residents Parking scheme.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the relevant authorities regarding any powers in place to prevent the obstruction of access to properties; particularly to ensure that emergency vehicles had adequate access, and report back to the next meeting.

(Councillor Mellors declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item due to his residence within the vicinity of the area that had experienced parking problems.)

40/06 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2006

Further to previous discussions regarding Christmas celebrations for 2006, the article to be included within the Village Newsletter, offering residents the opportunity to have a party within the Village Hall, remained outstanding and would be included in the forthcoming Newsletter to be sent out shortly. The matter had however been raised at a Residents Association meeting.

The Clerk advised that arrangements were in place for the Christmas tree to be delivered and dressed and it was agreed that this be arranged for Wednesday 6th December at 9.00am.

RESOLVED that the proposed action in respect of Christmas celebrations for 2006 be approved.

41/06 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

i) Sustainable Energy

Consideration was given to a request from a resident of the Parish for advice and assistance regarding the Council's policy on green energy, such as bio-diesel fuel, solar panel heating and wind turbines. Details of any available grant assistance had also been requested and it was proposed that details of the Borough Council's policy on Sustainable Energy be requested from SBC.

ii) Possible Development adjacent East Thickley Farm

Enquiries had been received as to whether there was any intended development planned in the above area after portakabins had been located there and some excavation work had been undertaken.

Councillor Mrs Clarke had taken up the enquiry with both Shildon town and Sedgfield Borough Councils; and was awaiting a reply from the latter.

iii) Tree Works-Cumbank House

It was noted that the proposed tree works at Cumbank House had now been completed.

iv) Tree Works-Rear of Mrs Dent's Property

It was noted that the tree maintenance works in this area had also now been carried out; with the intended replanting scheduled to be carried out in the near future.

v) Parish Paths Noticeboard-Chairman's Hospitality

It was noted that Chairman's hospitality had been extended to persons present at the unveiling of the Parish Paths Noticeboard. It was therefore proposed that Cllr Howe be reimbursed the said hospitality to the sum of £26.65.

RESOLVED that the proposed reimbursement be approved.

42/06

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 8th January 2007