

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
7th September, 2015

Time: 6.45 pm

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

In attendance: Cllrs J Gray & J Clare (DCC)

Official: A D Jordan (Clerk)

84/15 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

85/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Gray expressed apologies from Cllr M Dixon (DCC).

86/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

87/15 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

88/15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 6th July 2015 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

89/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(i) Road Resurfacing (71/15 iii refers)

The problem with the Manhole Cover in Eden Grove has been rectified.

(ii) Local Farmer's Complaint (73/15 i refers)

Following investigation, it was decided that this Complaint regarding the Path 7 Stile Modifications was not justified.

(iii) Smith's Diamond Wedding (82/15 v refers)

Cllrs J & A Clarke attended the Smith's Diamond Anniversary Celebrations, and presented a Bouquet of Flowers as agreed.

(iv) Village Fête & Great Aycliffe Show (82/15 vi refers)

Cllr A Clarke has written to the GATC Clerk regarding this matter.

90/15 PERSIMMON "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN

Nothing to report.

91/15 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(i) Parish Paths Maintenance & Modifications

APPROVED

Elaine Crowe has been forced to resign as Parish Paths Ranger due to her Husband's illness. She is not to be replaced, but her work will be undertaken by other Members of her Department.

RESOLVED that thanks be expressed to Elaine Crowe for her excellent work as Parish Paths Ranger in maintaining and improving the Parish Paths Network.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Bus Shelters

(a) North Side repainting – Order placed; complete.

(b) South Side repainting – unable to contact John Smith to obtain alternative Quote. After consultation with Councillors, the Quote from John the Handyman was accepted.

(iii) Bench Maintenance

Brian Mundell did not turn up to a Meeting to discuss the repairs to the three Benches. After consultation with Councillors, the Quote from John the Handyman was accepted; work due to commence imminently.

(iv) Memorial Bench

Fund raising has been successful; the Parish Council awaits future developments.

92/15

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The result of the Application for “The Paddock” to be registered as an Asset of Community Value is still awaited; to be chased.

Action: Clerk

A Meeting was held with James Bennett to discuss the Parish Council's Application to take over “The Paddock” as part of the DCC “Delivering Differently” Programme. This has been accepted as a possibility, but a more detailed Application will be required. Following discussion, Cllr's H Howe and P Makinson indicated that they were prepared to take on this work, assisted by the Clerk; this will need to involve the Allotment Association.

RESOLVED that a detailed Application be prepared, subject to establishing that the value DCC place on “The Paddock” is low enough to justify the work required.

Action: Clerk

93/15

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

94/15

CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

The work by GATC to replace the worn Bushes on the Chains of the large Swings has been completed. There are no other known problems with the Play Area Equipment.

It was reported at the preceding PACT Meeting that a Group of Youths has recently been using the Play Area for Drinking; this is to be investigated.

95/15

C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

A Log of all known past and future Road Traffic Incidents has been prepared.

The DCC Resurfacing Work on the C35 is now complete; this included an additional set of “Rumble Strips” in the Village.

APPROVED

PCSO Mike Hutchinson has undertaken further exercises in the Village using the new Speed Guns, and the DCC Speed Matrix has again been in evidence. The new Police "Scarecrows" will be ready in the near future.

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Mike Hutchinson for his excellent work as PCSO, and wished him all the best following his promotion to Police Constable.

96/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Some further progress has been made on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan; this is to be circulated to all Working Group Members.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

A Meeting was held with Stuart Carter and Michael Lowe from the DCC Planning Department to discuss progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. They are prepared to assist by vetting the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, and in preparing the proposed Housing Questionnaire. The Working Group will need to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with DCC; it was established that this involves no Cost, and does not impose any time constraints. Additional Funding to assist with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is now available, but this is not relevant to us at this stage.

Attempts to organise another Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group were unsuccessful due to absence on holidays. It was agreed that the Group will next meet on Tuesday, 15th September at 7.30 pm in Cllr W Mellor's House.

Action: Cllr W Mellors & Clerk

RESOLVED that in future the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will meet regularly on the first Tuesday of every month when the Parish Council does not meet.

Action: Cllr W Mellors & Clerk

97/15 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	Beamish Dinner Tickets	£44.00
Alan Jordan	Clerk's Salary	£217.70
HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax	£144.80
John the Handyman	North Side Bus Shelter Painting	£90.00

98/15 VILLAGE WEBSITE

A Complaint was received that the Village Website was not up-to-date; this Issue has been addressed. In future the Clerk will regularly check the Village Website every Sunday, and organise any necessary changes with Cllr P Makinson.

The Parish Council's Statutory Policies are now available on the Website.

The Agenda, previous Minutes and Accounts for Payment for this, and future, Parish Council Meetings are now displayed on the Website; this meets a new Legal Requirement.

99/15 GAMP & CDALC

The Clerk applied for one of the two Vacancies for Public Representatives on the GAMP Board. There were four excellent Applicants, and his Application was

APPROVED

unsuccessful. However, he has been placed on the Reserve List, which means he should be appointed as a Public Representative when a future Vacancy occurs.

The next GAMP Board Meeting is on Tuesday, 22nd September in the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk

Cllr A Clarke unfortunately missed the last CDALC Meeting. The next CDALC Meeting is the AGM, to be held in County Hall on 24th October at 10.00 am.

Action: Cllr A Clarke & Clerk

100/15 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Middridge Village Association have written to thank the Parish Council for providing a Raffle Prize for the Village Fête. The Raffle raised £736, which will be matched by a Donation from Barclays Bank.

101/15 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(i) Remembrance Sunday

Tracey Bellas has found a Bugler for this year's Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council organise a Wreath to the value of £30.

Action: Clerk

102/15 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 2nd November 2015 at 6.45pm.

Chair _____