

**Middridge Parish Council**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Monday  
3<sup>RD</sup> November 2008**

**Time:6.45pm**

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

**Official:** N.Hart (Clerk);

**42/08 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

**43/08 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**44/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**i ) Civic Chains (Minute 32/08 refers)**

The Clerk advised that the Civic Chains had cost £385 at the time of purchase and, with the addition of links throughout the years, was estimated to be valued within the region of £2-3k.

**ii) Seat Adjacent Bus Shelter (Minute 32/08 refers)**

Thanks were extended to Councillor Howe for the photographic details provided of the seat/planter. Concern was expressed that such a facility would be expensive to maintain and, therefore, it was suggested that Councillors Clarke and Howe carry out necessary essential repairs to the existing seat. It was estimated that this could be done within a maximum sum of £50.

**RESOLVED** that the necessary repairs to the seat be carried out.

**(iii) DCC School Admissions Policy (Minute 32/08 refers)**

The Clerk advised of DCC's response to the request for a meeting with the relevant officer(s) regarding the Primary

Schools Admissions policy given the concerns highlighted by this Council following recent refusals to admit two pupils from Middridge Village to Byerley Park Primary School. Details were provided of the Admissions policy referred to in DCC's response.

Members maintained their concerns that action needed to be taken to address the real difficulty facing parents in the Village of securing access to Byerley Park; even if this meant the School increasing its Admission Number.

It was proposed that the Clerk write to the local M.P. to request a meeting to review the difficulties currently being faced; and that Councillor Mrs Clarke inform the relevant County Councillors of the Parish's concerns.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Phil Wilson M.P. to request a meeting to discuss concerns regarding the admission of children from Middridge Village to Byerley Park Primary School; and that Councillor Mrs Carke advise the relevant County Councillors of our concerns and proposed action.

**(iv) Construction of New Roundabout and Access Road, Middridge Road/Greenfield Way (Minute 37/08 refers)**

It was requested that the Clerk enquire regards the outcome of Sedgfield Borough Council's consideration of the above planning application; and advise accordingly.

**(v) C35 Road-Traffic Safety Concerns (Minute 40/08 refers)**

Councillor Mellors advised that it appeared that the local Police were not aware of the recent DCC traffic survey and he advised that he would speak to the local Constable to establish what the approach was of both the Police and DCC regards recent traffic surveys.

**45/08**

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with an additional invoice received from C.E.Walker for Grasscutting in October at a cost of £129.25.

The Clerk also provided members with written instructions for the completion of the necessary bank account mandate revisions for completion and return by Councillors Howe and Makinson.

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

CE Walker	Grasscutting-Aug/Sep/Oct	£646.25
CE Walker	Grasscutting-Oct	£129.25
JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter Cleaning-Aug	£30.00
BDO Stoy Hayward	External Audit of Accounts	£158.63
Co Durham Training	Chairmanship Training	£27.00
N.Hart	Salary	£183.33
N.Hart	Postage	£1.80

**46/08 EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/2008-ANNUAL RETURN**

The Parish Council was advised of correspondence received from BDO Stoy Hayward (External Auditors) confirming that their audit of the accounts for 2007/2008 was now complete; and that no matters had been found as requiring further attention. A copy of the Annual Return was presented to the meeting for confirmation.

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Return of the audit of accounts for 2007/2008, be confirmed.

**47/08 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

- i) Parish Paths Partnership-Proposed Further Work to Footpath No.2 at 6 Houses, Middridge

Further to the estimate received from the Council's contractor regarding the necessary works and cost to undertake essential works to remove soil, sticks and stone from the above footpath, it was proposed that an appropriate claim be submitted to DCC.

**RESOLVED** that an application for Parish Paths grant approval for undertaking the above works, be submitted to Durham County Council.

**48/08 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1985.

**49/08 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2009/2010**

Consideration was given to the invitation for contractors to submit quotations for the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2009/10.

**RESOLVED** that quotations be invited from the following contractors as per the existing contract specification; and submitted quotations be considered at the next meeting:-

-C.E.W.

-I.H.

**50/08 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2008**

Consideration was given to participation in National Tree Week, which ran from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

It was proposed that an appropriate application be submitted to DCC for grant funding in respect of a Mountain Ash or Willow tree to be sited adjacent the Village sign; and that an estimate be obtained from Lyndhurst Nurseries.

**RESOLVED** that an application to take part in the National Tree Week be submitted to DCC as outlined.

**51/08 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA**

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment.

It was noted that the tree branch caught up in the large Ash tree, had now been removed by Hamsterley Tree Surgeons.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**52/08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS SCHEME**

Consideration was given to the requirements of this Council to have in place a Publications Scheme by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, as required under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

Details were provided of the Model Scheme advocated for use by the Information Commissioner and it was proposed that this be adopted without modification.

Members also referred to the desire to have in place a suitable website for the Parish Council and it was suggested that the Clerk make contact with Sedgefield Borough Council to ascertain whether any suitable community website was available for use by the Parish Council. The Middridge Residents Association also similarly wished to have a website; and the matter would be discussed at their next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that:-

1. The Parish Council adopt the Model Publication Scheme in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act .
2. The Clerk enquire with Sedgefield Borough Council regards the availability of any appropriate website for use by the Parish Council in the future.

**53/08 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:-

- (i) NHS Constitution;
- (ii) Darlington Borough Council-LDF Core Strategy-Community and Stakeholder Consultation;
- (iii) DCLG Making and Enforcement of Byelaws-Consultation;
- (iv) DCC-Area Action Partnerships-Results of Public Consultation;
- (v) Co Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust-Seizing the Future-Consultation.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

**54/08 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Consideration was given to an application for financial assistance towards the Sedgefield Awards for Sensational Youth.

**RESOLVED** that the application be noted.

**55/08 PLANNING APPLICATION**

- (i) Erection of Dwelling, Land Adjacent 38 Southside, Middridge

Consideration was given to the above planning application received by Sedgefield Borough Council.

Members outlined their concerns on the grounds that the development was inappropriate due to it impeding access to the adjacent property; had the effect of reducing their parking

provision, and had insufficient shared pavement access to the rear.

**RESOLVED** that the objection of this Parish Council to the above development, as outlined above, be confirmed and Sedgfield Borough Council be advised accordingly.

**56/08 ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Confirmation of arrangements for Remembrance Sunday was provided.

Reference was made to the flower tubs in place on the site of the Memorial; and it was suggested that these be discussed at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed arrangements for Remembrance Sunday be confirmed and a cheque for £25 be authorised in respect of payment of the two wreaths required.

**57/08 CHRISTMAS 2008**

Confirmation had been received from DCC of the cost of dressing the Christmas tree; and it was proposed that an appropriate tree be ordered from Lyndhurst Nurseries. The tree was to be erected/dressed during the first week of December.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed arrangements in respect of Christmas celebration be approved.

**58/08 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

(i) Flower Tubs

It was suggested that an appropriate donation be made to each of the people responsible (6 in total) for the maintenance of the Parish's flower tubs.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £10 per tub be approved and the Chairman be requested to provide payment and seek reimbursement from the Parish Council at the next meeting.

**59/08 NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 6.45pm

