

Middridge Parish Council

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Minutes of Council Meeting
Monday
1st November 2010**

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

46/10 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

47/10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to Cllr Howe being added to the list of members present.

48/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Maintenance Issues (Minute 34/10 refers)

Cllr Clarke advised that he was awaiting a response to his e-mail request for information from the energy supplier, but had been advised that there appeared to be no formal record of an agreement or contract in place.

ii) Grounds Maintenance Issues (Minute 36/10 refers)

It was suggested that it would be appropriate for the issue of future planting of the Millennium hedge be discussed at the next meeting in January.

With regard to the deteriorating condition of the cement around the War Memorial, it was noted that a contractor had carried out an assessment of the necessary works and had indicated that these would be completed by Remembrance Sunday. It was proposed that a budget of £100 maximum be set asides for the works.

iii) Children's Play Area (Minute 39/10 refers)

Members wished to place on record their appreciation to Cllr Mrs Clarke and Cllr Mellors for their recent work maintaining the play area equipment.

iv) Village Hall-Lettings Policy (Minute 40/10 refers)

Cllr Clarke advised that the Village Hall Association had met and had agreed an appropriate lettings policy for the Village Hall.

49/10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with an additional receipt received for the sum of £9.34 from Cllr Clarke in respect of materials purchased for maintenance of one of the wooden benches.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

N.Hart	Salary	£191.67
N.Hart	Postage	£2.05
CE Walker	Grasscutting-September	£258.50
Complete Weed Control	Parish Paths Works	£1,410.00
Cllr J.Clarke	Materials-Bench Repairs	£9.34

50/09 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 Paragraphs 1,2 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1985.

51/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Grounds Maintenance or General Repairs Issues

Consideration was given to the invitation for contractors to submit quotations for the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2011/12.

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.

-S.E.

-TCW

The meeting then continued in public session.

Appreciation was extended to Cllrs Mr & Mrs Clarke, Cllr Makinson and his wife Libby, for their combined efforts in planting a large number of crocus bulbs within the Village that had been provided by GAMP.

- ii) Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11& Public Footpath No 5 at Walkers Lane

It was noted that following receipt of the final invoice from the contractor in respect of the completed works for the Parish Paths Partnership, a claim would now be made to DCC for reimbursement of the grant funding.

Regards on-going discussions in respect of the erection of a gate across public footpath No 5, near Middridge Farms, in order to alleviate problems of anti-social behaviour in the area, Lee Mowbray from DCC had confirmed that he had carried out full consultation regarding the proposal, including with adjacent landowners. The results of this consultation were awaited and Cllr Mrs Clarke indicated that she would contact Mr Mowbray for an update. No design details had as yet been obtained for the proposed gate. Confirmation of approval of this by DCC was required prior to the works commencing. It was hoped that the necessary material costs may be met from the County Councillors ward budget.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and further progress be reported to the next meeting.

52/10

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

The Clerk advised that Joanne MacLean from DCC Estates Division had verbally advised that the proposed disposal of the allotments would not be considered by their Cabinet, but would be the subject of an officer delegated decision. She expected that this decision would be made within the next 2-3 weeks. It was noted that should this be the case, the Parish Council would need to be consulted on the terms of the proposed disposal.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and an update be provided at the next meeting.

(Councillor Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the above item as a result of being a current allotment holder.)

53/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that on-line details from the DCC Planning website could not be obtained regarding the application for the Erection of a Two Storey Side Extension and Single Storey Rear Extension to Middridge Farms. Members advised that, having spoken to neighbours directly affected by the proposed development who had no objection to the development, they were mindful not to raise any comment on the application.

RESOLVED that no comments on the application be submitted, but DCC be advised of the unavailability of the on-line information regarding this application.

54/10 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 two compliments had recently been received from families using the facility.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

55/10 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

Consideration was given to the circumstances surrounding the recent vehicle accident that occurred in the Village on the 18th October 2010, reported in the local press, which had prompted concerns to be expressed by a local resident to both this Council and to the local M.P. regarding traffic speed through the Village.

Cllr Mrs Clarke advised that she had intended to raise the matter at the Police & Communities Together (PACT) meeting immediately prior to this meeting however, PC Stasiak was not able to be present on this occasion. Therefore, she would seek to e-mail him of the residents concern regarding this latest incident, and thereafter advise members of what further action the Police intended to take. The Clerk advised that he would inform DCC accordingly of this latest accident.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the matter be referred to PACT for consideration regards appropriate further action.

56/10 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted :-

- (i) Durham County Council-Co Durham Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Consultation;

Concern was expressed that, with regard to Land at Eldon Whinns, Sedgefield Borough Council had previously considered an application for proposed housing development at the site in 2008, and that at this time, Middridge Parish Council had expressed its objections to the application. The Parish Council was subsequently delighted that Sedgefield Borough Council refused the proposed development of 400 dwellings at Eldon Whins on the grounds that the development of housing on Greenfield land was contrary to PPS1 and PPS3-Housing & Policy RSS. This being the case, concern was expressed that the site appeared within the consultation document to be identified as green, and therefore potentially suitable for housing; which would appear to be at odds with the decision of the former Sedgefield Borough Council. Clarification was therefore requested of its current status. The Parish Council also maintained its previous objections to the land being considered potentially suitable for housing development. Clarification was also requested regards the methodology for list of Category 1 sites (RED) and what status these areas of land had.

- (ii) Durham County Council-Draft Sport and Leisure Strategy;
(iii) Shildon Town Council Mayor's Charity Evenings.

57/10 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

Councillor Mrs Clarke reported on the latest discussions held by GAMP. The next meeting of GAMP was to be held on 30th November 2010 at 6.00pm when future priorities would be reviewed .

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

58/10 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY-14TH NOVEMBER 2010

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were confirmed. Reference had earlier been made to the proposed works to be carried out to the War Memorial prior to the event.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

59/10 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2010

It was confirmed that Lyndhurst Nurseries would once again to provide an appropriate Christmas tree to be erected on the Village Green, to be delivered on Tuesday 30th November 2010. DCC would arrange dressing of the tree on Wednesday, 1st December 2011.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

60/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Flower Tubs

Cllr Howe advised that he had spoken to Bluebell Nurseries regarding their possible sponsorship of a flower tub in Middridge.

(ii) GATC & Middridge Local Councils Committee

An update was provided on matters discussed at the last meeting, including consultation regarding bus services in Co Durham.

(iii) DCC Mayor's Charity Dinner

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the above event on the 8th October 2010.

(iv) Great British Elm Experiment

Details had been provided to the organisers of the above initiative that Cllr Howe would be this Council's contact person regarding our participation.

61/10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 10th January 2011 at 6.45pm

Chairman _____