

APPROVED

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
2nd March 2020**

Time: 6.45 pm

Present: Cllrs H Howe (Chair), S Smith, W Mellors, H Alexander & P Makinson

In Attendance: Cllr J Clare & S Durham (DCC)

Official: A Jordan (Clerk)

21/20 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

22/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

23/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/20 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

25/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 6th January 2020 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

26/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

10/20 (a) Walkers Lane Road & Parking refers:-

DCC report that their Roadsweepers clean Walkers Lane about every 6 weeks.

Street Lighting – under the terms of the SLA, half the (priority) Street Lights were replaced in this Financial Year; the rest will be replaced in the 2020/21 Financial Year.

27/20 POLICING

The first of the new Middridge PACT Meetings will be held on 25th March, at 6.00 pm in the Village Hall.

28/20 “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENTS & THE COUNTY PLAN

Cllr J Clare has passed on the Parish Council's concerns about the new Roundabout. The DCC Highways Department Review Meeting is yet to be held.

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Parish Councillors again expressed concern about the amount of mud on the roads around the new Development, and queried whether the new Roundabout had been formally adopted by DCC. Cllr J Clare kindly agreed to deal with these matters.

Copies of the Notice to new Residents have been supplied to the Keepmoat Homes Sales Office at "Elder Gardens".

The Parish Council formally expressed their thanks to Cllr J Clare for his help with various DCC issues.

29/20 "THE PADDOCK" WILD-FLOWER GRASSLAND

Cllr J Clare pointed out that the Section 106 money could be used for any Biodiversity Improvement Projects in the Parish, and was not restricted to the proposed Wild-flower Grassland Project. One immediate suggestion was for further work to the Millennium Hedge on "the Dock". It was agreed that Councillors should consider this further, and Residents would be asked for their suggestions via the Village Facebook page.

Action: Cllrs H Howe & S Smith

It is reported that the Allotment Association are in contact with DCC regarding proposals for the use of the Section 106 money available for improvements to the Allotments.

30/20 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(a) Village Green Maintenance

Millennium Hedge – Jonathan Pounder has yet to respond to a query regarding the supply and cost of stakes to improve the Hedge.

Action: Clerk

Repairs to the Bench on the Village Green are now complete.

Ian Hayman has yet to put down a Salt Lick to prevent Deer from eating the bark of the trunks of the Trees on "the Dock".

Action: Cllr H Howe

There has been a complaint that the Bus Shelters are "deteriorating"; this is to be investigated.

Action: Clerk

(b) Parish Paths

It is reported that a significant amount of rubbish has been dumped at the Eldon Moor Lane end of Parish Path 1. It is believed that clearing this would be the responsibility of the Landowner, but Cllr J Clare kindly agreed to raise this issue with the DCC Parish Path Partnership.

There has been a further incident of Trial Bikes using Parish Path 7 ("the Tramway") and "the Paddock"; this has been reported to the Police.

31/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that the Parish Council' has no objection to the recent Planning Application related to 2, Middridge Farms.

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It is understood that a caravan has been sited on the Equestrian facility just off the Bridleway (Parish Path 5) which starts alongside 1, Middridge Farms. This may be being used by the two new Electors from "Little Hare Farm, Walkers Lane" who recently appeared on the Electoral Register. It is possible that Planning Permission would be required for this caravan; Cllr J Clare is to investigate.

32/20 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved.

33/20 ROAD-TRAFFIC

Following a number of problems, a revised Neighbourhood Budget Application for the proposed "Community Road Watch" Project has now been accepted by the GAMP office. The Application now goes for GAMP Board Approval, at the Meeting due on 24th March.

Action: Clerk

34/20 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Nothing to report due to pressure of other business.

35/20 ACCOUNTS

The Parish Council's Precept Request for the 2020/21 Financial Year has been submitted.

RESOLVED that Colin Gray again be appointed Internal Auditor for the Parish Council's 2019/20 Accounts.

Action: Clerk

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Sum
Hayfields Contracting Ltd	Xmas Tree Installation	£300.00
Hayfields Contracting Ltd	Incorrect Payment Correction	£80.00
Aycliffe Property Services *	Bench seat Repairs	£105.00
A. D. Jordan	Clerk's Jan -Mar Salary	£249.87
HMRC	Clerk's Jan -Mar Tax	£166.80
	TOTAL	£901.67

* Cheque already issued, so formal approval granted is retrospective.

36/20 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – the next Board Meeting is on 24th March.

CDALC – Cllr W Mellors is to attend an Executive Committee Meeting on 4th March.

37/20 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

38/20 OTHER MATTERS

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(a) **Village Website**

Despite the best efforts of the Clerk and Cllr W Mellors, it is proving impossible to resolve the issue whereby the Parish Council was charged last quarter for Cllr W Mellors' BT Telephone Services, rather than simply for the Village Website Hosting. Following discussion it was agreed that:-

- i. The Direct Debit paying for the Parish Council's BT Website Hosting will be immediately cancelled.
- ii. The Clerk will arrange for a new separate BT Account to provide Website Hosting.
- iii. The Parish Council will purchase new Website Software, which Cllr P Makinson will use to set up the Village Website under the new BT Account.
- iv. The Clerk will then arrange for the active Village Website to be transferred from the old to the new BT Account.
- v. Cllr W Mellors will then cancel the Website Hosting associated with his BT Telephone Services. Once he is satisfied with the charges made last quarter for these Services, he will refund the amount the Parish Council was incorrectly charged.
- vi. The possibility of transferring the Village Website Hosting to an alternative Internet Service Provider will then be investigated.

Action: Clerk, Cllr P Makinson & Cllr W Mellors

It was also agreed that the arrangements for the control of the Village Facebook Page be reviewed to ensure that no problems can arise due to the resignation or death of the Parish Councillor(s) concerned.

Action: Cllrs H Howe & S Smith

(b) **Encampment Consultation**

Cllr S Smith has collated responses to this Government Consultation from Councillors, and is to submit these shortly.

Action: S Smith

39/20 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(a) **Litter-picking**

The Clerk apologised for not having arranged for regular Litter-picking to restart on 1st March (although it would probably have been cancelled due to the weather).

The Clerk also mentioned that the Parish Council have apparently not been invited by DCC to participate in this year's "Big Spring Clean" Event. Cllr J Clare kindly agreed to investigate this, and arrangements will then be made for the Parish to participate.

Action: Clerk

40/20 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 11th May 2020, at 6.45 pm., preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.