

SIGNED MINUTES

**Middridge Parish Council**

**Minutes of Council Meeting**

Village Hall,  
Middridge

**Monday**  
**7 November 2011**

**Time: 6.45pm**

**Present:** Councillors H Howe (Chairman); A Clarke, WJ Clarke, P Makinson, W Mellors

**Official:** CA Stenger (Clerk)

**56/11 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

**57/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies.

**58/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item dealing with the allotment transfer as a result of being a current allotment holder.

Cllrs J Clarke, Makinson and Mellors declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item dealing with planning permission for the village hall as a result of being current Village Association members.

**59/11 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record

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**60/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

- i) Maintenance of the Millennium Hedge (min 44/11 i) refers)  
It was proposed that the clearing of undergrowth be undertaken by members of the Council, with help from volunteers if there were any forthcoming.

**RESOLVED that** all members of the council meet on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 10am at the Docks area.

- ii) Parish Paths Partnership (min 44/11 ii) refers)  
The Clerk had contacted Elaine Field regarding a suitable circular walk to be included in a published guided walks programme. Elaine had advised that any circular walk would be suitable. It was proposed that the village handyman be asked about a walk he had previously planned to see if it was suitable.

**RESOLVED that** Cllr Howe contact John, the handyman to discuss the walk.

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61/11

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment, with additional invoices received from SE Landscaping for grass cutting in October, Complete Weed Control for clearing vegetation during the year, JWS Powerwash for bus shelter cleaning in October, and reimbursement of the Clerk for a Tesco voucher purchased for the Bugler for Remembrance Sunday.

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

C Stenger	Reimbursement for voucher	£ 10.00
SE Landscaping	Grass cutting - September	£188.00
SE Landscaping	Grasscutting - October	£188.00
BDO	External Audit – re-issued cheque	£180.00
JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£ 30.00
CDALC	3C's Training Event – Clerk	£ 27.00
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Day Wreath	£ 25.00

The issue of authorised signatures was discussed. The Clerk had looked into having all Councillors authorised and had been told that, although the maximum is usually 3, it is possible to have more at the account manager's discretion. The necessary forms had been received but the Clerk had received conflicting information from staff at the Newton Aycliffe branch of Barclays. It was proposed that the Clerk visit the Bishop Auckland branch to speak to an account manager to discuss the issue further.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk attend the Bishop Auckland branch of Barclays to speak to a Community Account manager.

62/11

### GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) Village Green Trees  
Cllr Clarke reported that Durham County Council had given permission for the crown lifting of the trees on the village green. It was proposed that the Clerk contact three contractors to gain quotes for the work to be carried out.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact 3 contractors to request quotes for the crown lifting work, to be submitted by 31 December 2011 for consideration at the January Parish Council meeting.

- ii) Grass cutting  
It was proposed that quotes for grass cutting for 2012/2013 be sought from three contractors.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact 3 contractors to request quotes for grass cutting for 2012/13, to be submitted by 31 December 2011 for consideration at the January Parish Council meeting.

- iii) Parish Paths Partnership  
The Parish Paths vegetation clearance work was now complete and had been invoiced. The Clerk was requested to contact Elaine Field to request a form to complete for the refund of the cost of the works.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Elaine Field to obtain and complete the relevant paperwork.

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### **63/11 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE**

An emergency meeting had been held with Fiona Bullen to discuss the intended disposal of the paddock behind the allotments, after an email had been received stating Durham County Council's intention to auction the land, and also the transfer of the allotments themselves. Members made clear their view that all the land should be transferred to the Parish Council and Fiona agreed to look into matters further. However, there had been no further progress reported to date and no contact from Fiona, despite requests. It was proposed that the Clerk try again to contact Fiona to get an update.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Fiona again to further request progress details.

### **64/11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

A planning application for the installation of solar panels to the Hall roof had been submitted by Middridge Village Association. Members agreed that no objections to the application would be made.

**RESOLVED** that the application be noted.

### **65/11 CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA**

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment. There were no major issues but one of the toddler swing seats seemed to be developing a crack. It was proposed that Cllr Clarke investigate further. A delayed copy of Zurich's 2011 annual inspection had been received and showed no defects or issues, but did mention strimmer damage to the wooden structures housing the swings. It was again proposed that Cllr Clarke inspect this.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Clarke inspect the Play Area with respect to the above issues.

### **66/11 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING**

At the PACT meeting PC Matt Stasiak had advised that Mr Straugheir had reported that the outcome of the traffic monitoring, coupled with the fact that there had been no accidents, meant that the village did not warrant speed signs/monitors. PC Stasiak was to request that Mr Straugheir attend the next PACT meeting to discuss the issue further, and also going to research the possibility of getting funding for a 'speed visor'. There was going to be more traffic monitoring with visible police cars. It was noted that rumble strips had been installed on the western approach – there was no consultation regarding this but the installation was welcomed.

### **67/11 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK**

Cllr A Clarke reported that there was a GAMP Forum on Tuesday 22 November at 6pm, at the Youth Centre, Newton Aycliffe, in order to decide the three priorities for coming year. There was also a GAMP Board meeting scheduled to be held in Middridge Village Hall on Tuesday 29 November.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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### FUTURE EVENTS

i) Remembrance Sunday

Cllrs Clarke apologised in advance as they could not attend the service. It was proposed that Cllr Howe, as Chairman, lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. A gift voucher had been obtained to be presented to the bugler for attending. Thanks were given to Cllr Makinson for cleaning the war memorial.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Howe lay the wreath.

ii) Christmas Celebrations

The Clerk had contacted Lyndhurst Nurseries to order a cut tree for erection on the green, and completed the relevant order form for Durham County Council Neighbourhood Services to dress the tree at the appropriate time.

Cllr J Clarke had completed a Tree Week application form for funding for a permanent fir tree after contacting Lyndhurst Nurseries for information and a price - £150 for a 3 metre tree and a further £50 to plant up. If successful, the tree would be sited very near to the current site.

iii) Queen's Diamond Jubilee

After further research regarding the purchase of an outdoor clock it was proposed that a simpler option was the purchase of a weather vane for mounting on the roof of the Village Hall. It was also proposed that all children aged 16 and under resident in the village be provided with a souvenir to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, possibly a commemorative coin.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk research the purchase of a suitable weather vane and design a form to gain information on the number and names of children in the village in order to purchase souvenirs.

iv) Community Cinema

The film showing at the Village Hall was well attended and was deemed a success.

69/11

### DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998 – COUNCILS AND COUNCILLORS

Information had been provided by CDALC that suggested some Parish Councils should be registered with the ICO due to holding personal information regarding residents etc. After discussion members deemed that Middridge Parish Council did not hold such information and there was therefore no need to register at present. However, it was proposed that Cllr Mellors look into the matter further.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Mellors look into the issue of the Data Protection Act further.

70/11

### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Council considered the email log, detailing all emails received by the Clerk, and the following correspondence:

- Shildon Civic Carol Service – invitation

**RESOLVED** that the invitation for the Chairman to attend be accepted.

- Registered Traders Scheme – request for help with advertising scheme.

**RESOLVED** that the scheme be advertised and for the Clerk to contact to request posters and leaflets.

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- NALC – Supporting Communities & Neighbourhoods in Planning - event

**RESOLVED** that at least 1 member attend the event if possible.

**71/11            ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Boundary Commission – Constituency Electorate Table  
After discussion it was agreed that no official response would be made.

**72/11            NEXT MEETING**

Monday 9 January 2012 at 6.45pm.

**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_