

APPROVED

## Middridge Parish Council

### Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,  
Middridge

Monday  
5<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

Time: 6.45 pm

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

**In attendance:** Cllrs M Dixon, J Gray & J Clare (DCC)

**Official:** A D Jordan (Clerk)

#### 80/16 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

#### 81/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr H Howe.

#### 82/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs M Dixon, J Gray & J Clare all declared an interest in Agenda Items 7 and 9, as they are Members of DCC Planning Committees; they would remain in the Meeting during the discussions thereon, but would express no opinions.

#### 83/16 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

#### 84/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### 85/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

##### **(i) Police Speed “Sculptures” (67/16 (i) refers)**

Some of the Police Speed “Sculptures” are in need of repair due to wear and tear. Concern was also expressed as to whether they should be left outside over winter; they could be stored in the Village Hall Container. The Director of Arts at the Greenfield Arts Centre (currently Sophie Lewis) is to be contacted.

**Action:** Clerk

##### **(ii) Livin Grass Maintenance (88/16 (ii) refers)**

The issues with regards to Grass-cutting and Flower-bed Maintenance in “the Meadows” have been satisfactorily resolved.

#### 86/16 PERSIMMON “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENT & THE COUNTY PLAN

The HCA “Eldon Whins” Outline Planning Application has yet to be considered. The Parish Council should write to the responsible Planning Officer requesting that they be invited to the Planning Committee Meeting to consider this Application.

**Action:** Clerk

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To date Persimmon have not submitted a Planning Application for their new proposed Development to the west of the proposed HCA Housing Development.

87/16

### GROUND MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

#### (i) Parish Paths Maintenance & Modifications

Nothing to report.

#### (ii) DCC proposed Street Light Removal

Efforts to contact DCC's Yvonne Edwards regarding the proposed DCC Street Light Removal Programme have failed. It was suggested that DCC's Head of Technical Services (John Reid) should be contacted about this matter.

**Action:** Clerk

#### (iii) Dog Litter Bins

A Meeting has been arranged with DCC's Steven Bennett to discuss this matter.

#### (iii) Village Green Trees

A Tree on "the Dock" seems to have died from some disease, and concern was expressed as to this spreading. Also, a number of other Parish Council owned Trees arguably require attention. Since any such works would require Planning Permission, it makes sense to request expert advice from DCC. Cllr M Dixon suggested contacting Members Services (on 03000-268824) with a view to discussing this matter with a DCC Tree Expert.

**Action:** Clerk

#### (iv) "Six Houses" Bus Stop

Following complaints from Jean Kidd of 16, Middridge Farms regarding the occasional failure of Buses to stop when travelling from Middridge to Newton Aycliffe, and difficulties for those of limited Mobility in alighting at this Bus Stop, and the involvement of the Clerk, DCC have agreed to provide a proper Bus Stop.

88/16

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A Planning Application has been submitted for 12, Northside Close, for the replacement of an existing Conservatory with a House Extension. Cllr W Mellors was not happy with this proposal, which involves a Flat Roof, which he considered out of character with other properties in the Village.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council has no Objection to make to this Planning Application.

89/16

### CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection report was approved.

A Quotation for cleaning the Moss from the Senior Swings Base is still being sought.

**Action:** Clerk

Following an Inspection, it was agreed that an appropriate laminated Notice for the Play Area can be attached to one of the Trees.

**Action:** Cllr P Makinson & Clerk

90/16

### C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

Nothing to report.

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### 91/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan is still being modified in line with the Yapton Neighbourhood Plan; this will be circulated prior to the next Working Group Meeting.  
**Action:** Cllr W Mellors

Following investigation, a possible Consultant to assist in developing the Neighbourhood Plan has been found, and a Meeting has been arranged to discuss his proposals.

### 92/16 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

There were no Accounts for Payment. DCC have written to the Parish Council, advising that as a result of changes to the Tax base and LCTRS Grant, next year's Precept will reduce by £50.43. Arrangements with the Pensions Regulator regarding compliance with the new requirements for Council Employee's Pensions are progressing.

**Action:** Clerk

### 93/16 GAMP & CDALC

DCC's Chief Executive is giving a Presentation on Medium Term Financial Planning at the forthcoming GAMP Board Meeting in the Village Hall, and as many people as possible are asked to attend; Brian Riley needs to be made aware of the limit on Hall Occupancy. Assistance will be required in preparing the Hall for the Meeting.

**Action:** Cllr P Makinson & Clerk

Cllr A Clarke will attend the forthcoming CDALC Executive Committee Meeting.

### 94/16 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Middridge Village Association have written to the Parish Council expressing their thanks for their donation of £40 for a Fête Raffle Prize.

### 95/16 OTHER MATTERS

#### (i) Christmas Tree & Lights

The question of the supply of this year's Christmas Tree was discussed in view of the damage to last year's Tree, and the advantages of arranging for both the supply and the erection of the Tree by DCC.

**RESOLVED** that the DCC Quotation (£258) for a Christmas Tree be accepted.

**Action:** Clerk

Possible replacement LED Christmas Tree Lights have been investigated in consultation with DCC; the agreed replacement Lights would cost £165. Our DCC Councillors kindly agreed to fund this expenditure from their Members Initiative Funds; Cllr J Clare will provide the necessary Application Form.

**Action:** Clerk

#### (ii) Village Website

The proposal to add information regarding local MPs, DCC Councillors, and Contact Details for Services likely to be of interest to Residents, to the Village Website was discussed and agreed. Cllr J Clare will provide details of relevant DCC Services.

**Action:** Cllr P Makinson & Clerk

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**(iii) Remembrance Day & War Memorial**

The arrangements for Remembrance Day on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November were discussed; the Service will be at 12.00am, with the Parade meeting at the Village Hall from 11.45 am. Tracey Bellas, Shildon Town Council Clerk, will be contacted.

**Action:** Clerk

**RESOLVED** that the usual Donation of £30 to the Royal British Legion for a Wreath and twelve small Crosses be made.

**Action:** Clerk

The Proposal by Historic England to consider adding the Village War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest was discussed.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will support this Proposal.

**Action:** Clerk

**(iv) Telephone Kiosk**

The Proposal by BT to remove the Village Telephone Kiosk on the basis of insufficient use was considered. Cllr W Mellors considered that in view of BT's Service Obligation to provide Public Telephones within a reasonable distance, and the problem in using common Household Telephones in the event of a Mains Power failure, this Proposal should be opposed. However others argued that in light of the low usage, and the widespread availability of Mobile Phones, this was not justified.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will not oppose the Proposal for the complete removal of the Telephone Kiosk, but the question of the making good of the Village Green after its removal needs to be investigated.

**Action:** Clerk

The possible use of the Kiosk to house a Defibrillator was also discussed. However, it was not clear whether BT would be prepared to allow the Parish Council to "adopt" the Village Kiosk for £1 (as is possible for the traditional Red Telephone Kiosks). In any case, the Kiosk was not considered an attractive feature of the Village.

Alternative locations for a Defibrillator, which needs a Mains Supply, were discussed; the Bay Horse and the Village Hall are possibilities, which will need investigating. The questions of Security, and the requirement for Training were raised. Cllr P Makinson stated that these Units were locked, but a Sign would be provided quoting Telephone Numbers from which the necessary Access Code could be obtained, and the Units are completely automatic, so that no Training in their use is required. Grants for the purchase of a Defibrillator may be available; this will need investigation. If necessary, Cllr W Mellors offered to donate a suitable Defibrillator.

**Action:** Cllr P Makinson & Clerk

**96/16 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**(i) Parking on Village Green**

A Vehicle has been seen regularly parking on the Village Green in front of 39, South Side; the Householder is to be contacted to see if they are responsible.

**Action:** Clerk

**97/16 NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016, at 6.45pm.

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_