

## **Middridge Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Monday  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Time:6.45pm**

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

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

#### **51/05 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to:-

Min 44/05 Christmas 2005

Reference was made to the future involvement of the Residents Association in the Christmas party and it was suggested that they be advised that the Village Hall could be made available to them for a party in 2006; and that the Parish Council would endeavour to support their efforts.

Min 49/05 Additional Items

Delete 'Sedgefield Borough Council' and insert 'Durham County Council'

#### **52/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

##### **Finger Signage (Minute 44 /05 refers)**

No notification had been received regarding any progress of Durham County Council to identify suitable funding for carrying out restoration work to the finger sign located at the Eldon Crossroads, west of the village on the Shildon road near the 40mph sign. It was requested that they be contacted once more to establish whether such funding was available.

##### **C35 Rushyford 'Middridge' Road Signing (Minute 44/05 refers)**

It was requested that a further reminder be sent to Durham County Council regarding the need for the above signage.

### **Parish Precept 2006/2007 (Minute 47/05 refers)**

It was suggested that residents be advised in the next edition of the Village Newsletter of their opportunity to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006 to comment on the Parish Council's plans/priorities for 2006/2007.

### **General Correspondence (Minute 48/05 refers)**

Reference was made to the work of the Sub Committee of members of the Parish in consulting upon; and preparing, proposals for submission to Sedgefield Borough Council regarding the Village's Play Area as part of a bid for funding from the Borough Council's Fixed Play Investment Strategy Fund 2006/2007.

It was noted that the submission had been made to the relevant officer by the required deadline and included proposals for a picnic table, chairs, monkey ladder, ramps, 5 a side surface, roundabout etc.. A report on progress with regard to the bid would be submitted as soon as any progress was known.

## **53/05 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

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

JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£27.00
Durham County Council	Christmas Tree Dressing	£290.23
N.Hart	Salary	£141.67
N.Hart	Postage	£2.70
Lyndhurst Nurseries	Supply of Xmas Tree	£70.00

## **54/05 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information regarding the financial affairs of a third party in accordance with paragraphs 7 & 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **55/05 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

- i) Consideration was given to two quotations received in respect of works on behalf of the Parish Council to carry out its Grounds Maintenance requirements for 2006/2007.

**RESOLVED** that the Grounds Maintenance contract for 2006/2007 be awarded to C.E.W. in accordance with the submitted quotation.

- ii) The Chairman advised that estimates had been invited from suitably qualified tree surgeons to carry out an inspection of the required tree maintenance works to trees on the Village Green; following several residents reports of concerns regarding their safety. Consideration was given to two quotations received. It was noted that Sedgfield Borough Council had advised that whilst they were content for the above works to be carried out to the trees; which were situated within the Conservation Area, the Borough Council itself did not have any funding available for the works. It would therefore be a matter for the Parish Council to fund the works.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed works in respect of tree maintenance be carried out by H.T.S. in accordance with the submitted quotation of £695 on the basis that the proposed 10% crown thinning works be not carried out; and instead, the Poplar tree be removed.

#### **The Meeting then resumed in public session**

- iii) Consideration was given to participation by the Parish Council in the Durham County Council (DCC) Parish Paths Scheme for 2006/2007.

**RESOLVED** that an application be extended to DCC for participation in the Parish Paths Scheme for 2006/2007, in accordance with the existing specification, and that quotations be invited.

**56/05**

#### **PROPOSED SALE OF ALLOTMENTS, MIDDRIDGE**

No further progress had been reported by Durham County Council regarding its proposals to dispose of the above allotment site. It was suggested that the Clerk maintain contact with the relevant officers regarding any subsequent progress.

**57/05**

#### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

An invitation had been received for a representative of the Parish Council to attend Shildon Town Council's 40's/50's Ball

on Easter Sunday. It was suggested that Cllr Morland and guest be authorised to attend.

A report had been received that the Dog Litter bin, situated at Walker Lane, had disappeared. It was suggested that the Clerk raise the matter with the relevant officers at Sedgefield Borough Council.

Councillor Morland tendered his resignation as a member of the Parish Council. On behalf of both the Council, and all of the Village residents, the Chairman thanked Councillor Morland for all of his efforts on behalf of the Parish during his time in office.

**58/05**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 6.50pm.