

SIGNED

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,
Middridge

Monday
3 September 2012

Time: 6.45pm

Present: Cllrs A Clarke (Chairwoman), W Mellors (Vice Chairman), WJ Clarke, H Howe, P Makinson,

Official: CA Stenger (Clerk)

43/12 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

44/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

45/12 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.

46/12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July were signed by the Chairwoman as a correct record.

47/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Circular walk - the chosen circular walk was attempted with Elaine Crow but was not possible as the stream bordering Middridge and Darlington Borough Council parishes was flooded and there was no bridge or crossing. Elaine Crow advised she would contact DBC Parish Paths Partnership section to investigate bridge/crossing possibilities.

RESOLVED that Clerk contact Elaine Crow to check on progress regarding contacting DBC and for Cllr A Clarke to contact Elaine regarding a different route for the walk.

48/12 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

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SE Landscaping	Grass cutting x 4 (July & Aug)	£425.00
National Association of Councillors	Membership fees	£ 78.00
BDO	Audit fees	£144.00
JWS Powerwash	Bus shelter cleaning	£ 60.00

49/12

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

The completed audit, response and invoice had been received from the external auditors, BDO. There were no matters of concern recorded. A further form was enclosed, requiring that the Council choose a date in 2013 for the external audit to be undertaken. The last available date had been again requested by the Clerk, to give enough time for the relevant end of year accounts to be completed and approved before submission to BDO. Colin Gray had agreed to undertake the internal audit again in 2013.

RESOLVED that the Council accept the approved annual return. Also that the Clerk complete the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and display copies in both notice boards as soon as possible.

50/12

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) 2012 Bulb Challenge - the Civic Pride Team at DCC was again offering 200 free bulbs for organisations to plant in their communities. Applications will be accepted from 1 October 2012.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact DCC to apply for the bulbs on 1 October.

- ii) Jubilee Oak - Cllrs Clarke have acquired a Jubilee Oak that is suitable for planting.

RESOLVED that the tree be planted in the 'docks' area in February 2013 and for Cllr J Clark to try and register the oak officially.

- iii) Cllr D Bowman had proposed to fund an item for the village. Options were discussed and a new external notice board for the Village Hall was agreed on, as the current one is in a state of disrepair.

RESOLVED that Cllr A Clarke discuss this with Cllr Bowman.

- iv) P3 celebrations invitation - an invitation had been received to attend the Parish Paths Partnership 20 year anniversary celebrations on Monday 19 November 2012 at Durham Town Hall.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Clarke, Mellors and Howe would attend. Also that the Clerk contact Ian Hayman to extend the invitation and then to contact Elaine Crowe to request the relevant number of tickets.

- v) Grass cutting - the number of cuts required per year was discussed and it was agreed that parts of the 'docks' and play area be cut less often, with the possibility of these parts being seeded with meadow flowers/clover.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Howe and J Clarke speak to Ian Hayman for advice, and draw up new specification/schedule for 2013.

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51/12 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

Cllr D Bowman had received information from DCC regarding the history of the allotment land but this was incomplete. The Clerk had sent a further letter to Gerard Derby and had received a response from Fiona Bullen stating she would look into matters further when she returned from annual leave.

RESOLVED that Cllr Howe scan the information and provide copies to all members, and that the Clerk contact Fiona Bullen for an update on progress. Also for Cllr Mellors to contact the Records Office to research the history of the land, with approval given for up to £50 of costs to be incurred if needed.

52/12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no new applications to be noted. Cllr Howe advised that the new Persimmon Homes housing development in Shildon was being marketed as 'West Middridge' even though it is not within Middridge Parish boundary.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Persimmon Homes to object strongly to the naming of the development.

53/12 CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the Play Area and equipment - no issues were noted.

The issues reported at the previous meeting had been resolved - Cllr A Clarke had cleaned the graffiti from the play equipment, Cllrs J Clarke and Howe had removed the rope from the goal and inspected the fences - these were agreed to be stockproof.

RESOLVED that Cllr J Clarke would look into costs for new fencing.

54/12 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

Cllr A Clarke had emailed a report to Brian Riley and the AAP regarding lowering speed limits at both approaches to the Village, for their approval and support.

55/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk had registered Middridge Parish as a designated Neighbourhood Area. Gavin Scott had offered to meet with members to discuss issues further.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Gavin Scott to request that he attend the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 5 November 2012.

56/12 COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

Information had been received regarding dates and locations to view the County Durham Plan - Local Plan Preferred Options. A hard copy of the publications would also be made available for all Parish Councils.

RESOLVED that members would attend any suitable locations to view the Plan.

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57/12 LOCAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The amended 'Code of Conduct' for Parish Councils was considered.

RESOLVED that the amended version of the Code of Conduct be adopted and a copy added to the website.

58/12 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

Cllr A Clarke reported that the next board meeting was scheduled for 25 September 2012.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

59/12 FUTURE EVENTS

Remembrance Sunday - 11 November 2012

RESOLVED that Cllr A Clarke liaise with Shildon Town Council regarding this year's event, and that the Parish Council once again make a donation of £25 towards the cost of a Remembrance wreath.

60/12 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Council considered the following correspondence:

Letter of thanks and receipt for donation of £60 received from the Salvation Army
Letter of thanks from Middridge Village Association for donation of £40 raffle prize

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.

61/12 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There was a further issue with the declaration of the wattage of the timer for the Christmas tree lights, with a request from Northern Powergrid to declare a specific code from the list.

RESOLVED that Cllrs J Clarke and Howe check the wattage of the timer and consider the listed options.

A resident had received correspondence from the Land Registry advising that the Church Commissioners were attempting to make an application to register the mines and minerals rights to their property.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Land Registry for further information.

62/12 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7 January 2013 at 6.45pm

Chairwoman _____