

APPROVED

## **Middridge Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Monday  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Time: 6.45 pm**

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr J Clare (DCC)

**Official:** A Jordan (Clerk)

#### **103/19 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

#### **104/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr H Alexander, and DCC Cllrs P Howell and Scott Durham.

#### **105/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None. Cllr S Smith provided an updated Declaration of Interests Form.

#### **106/19 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

None

#### **107/19 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### **108/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

#### **109/19 POLICING**

There was considerable Police activity last week, including the Helicopter. Cllr J Clare said this was due to the robbery of a local store.

#### **110/19 "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENTS & THE COUNTY PLAN**

Middridge Road is to be closed from 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November; in order to finally complete the new Roundabout; the Taxi Service will again be available. Cllr S Smith mentioned she had been unable to contact the Taxi Company on one occasion; this problem is to be reported.

**Action:** Clerk

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The reasons why the construction of the new Roundabout has taken so long are being investigated. Cllr J Clare mentioned that DCC currently have a Consultation on proposals to improve the process of handling Road Closures, including reducing how long they take.

### 111/19 “THE PADDOCK” WILD-FLOWER GRASSLAND

Tammy Morris-Hale of the DCC Ecology Department has produced the promised Survey of the existing Plant and Wildlife, and Report on the impact of the proposed Project on these; these documents have been circulated to Residents who have expressed an interest.

Arrangements for the first Meeting of the new Working Group are in hand. Following discussion it was agreed that Tammy Morris-Hale should be invited to attend this Meeting.

**Action:** Clerk

There have been problems establishing what Section 106 money is available, and whether some of this could be used for new Fencing and an Access Gate for “the Paddock”. Cllr J Clare explained where this information could be found, and that Section 106 money is generally allocated for specific purposes, and cannot be diverted. However there is a large sum available for improvements to the Allotments, and it should be possible to use some of this for a new Fence between the Allotments and “the Paddock”.

### 112/19 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

#### (a) Street Light Removal

The new Street Lights on Walkers Lane have been installed, with minimal disruption to local Residents.

#### (b) Walkers Lane Road & Parking

Following investigation, it appears there is no necessity for Parking Restriction Notices; the Double Yellow Lines are sufficient.

There was some discussion of the problem of some Village Hall users parking on adjacent Roads, rather than using the Public Car-park.

#### (c) Parish Paths

A Claim for Damages was received from Tommy Walton’s Solicitors regarding damage to crops allegedly caused by “Quad-Bikes” accessing part of his Land via where the “Kissing Gate” on Path 7 (the “Tramway”) used to be before it was destroyed by Arson. The Parish Council replied pointing out that the legal responsibility for the provision of fencing along, or adjacent to, Parish Paths lies with the respective Land-Owners, and not the Parish Council (who are not one of the Land-Owners)..There has been no further communication regarding this matter.

#### (d) Dog Litter

On investigation it was discovered that DCC have installed a new Dig Litter Bin on Parish Path 1 near Northside Close; rather the moving the Bin on “the Dock” (which remains in place).

#### (e) Village Green Maintenance

Following discussion, it was decided that the regular Village Litter-picks should be reinstated, but these should concentrate on areas not covered by DCC.

**Action:** Clerk

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Millennium Hedge – Jonathan Pounder has been chased regarding the agreed work.

### 113/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

### 114/19 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

“John the Handyman” is to be chased regarding the installation of the new Noticeboard for the Play Area.

**Action:** Clerk

Cllr P Makinson suggested that in future Aycliffe Property Services (who have done work on the Village Hall) should be considered for Parish Council maintenance work.

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved.

### 115/19 ROAD-TRAFFIC

Our three DCC Councillors have kindly agreed to fund the Parish Council's "Community Road Watch" Project from their Neighbourhood Budgets; the necessary Application Form is being prepared.

**Action:** Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that our DCC Councillors be formally thanked for this.

The DCC Highways Department were contacted regarding the regular flooding of Middridge Road near Blind Lane. Whilst some corrective action has been undertaken, it is considered that further work is required, and the proposal for a Meeting to discuss this matter is to be chased.

**Action:** Clerk

### 116/19 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Shaun Hanson has discovered a way the Parish Council may be able to receive additional Government Funding; this is being investigated.

### 117/19 ACCOUNTS

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

Payee	Purpose	Sum
Hayfields Contracting Ltd	Parish Paths - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cut	£504.00
Royal British Legion	Wreath & Crosses	£35.00
Philip Makinson	Compost for new Village Green Tub	£10.00
	TOTAL	<b>££549.00</b>

### 118/19 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – Project Proposals for the available Welfare Reform, Youth, and Older Persons Social Isolation Funds are being sought.

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CDALC – Cllrs H Howe and W Mellors attended the CDALC AGM, where the main focus was on Climate Change.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supports DCC's decision to declare a Climate Change Emergency.

### 119/19 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

An Email regarding a proposed Community Energy Campaign was considered, but no action is to be taken.

### 120/19 OTHER MATTERS

(a) **Remembrance Day**

The necessary arrangements for Remembrance Sunday are all in hand.

(b) **Notice to new Residents**

The proposed Notice to new Residents of the Keepmoat Homes "Elder Gardens" Development was discussed; the latest version is to be sent to Councillors. The Royal Mail Address for this new Development is to be investigated.

**Action:** Clerk

(c) **Parish Council Responsibilities**

There was further discussion regarding Residents lack of awareness of what the Parish Council is, and is not, responsible for. Cllr S Smith agreed to put something on the Middridge Facebook page she maintains. Cllr W Mellors will also include an article in one of the future editions of the "Middridge Mercury".

### 121/19 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(a) **FSDR**

Cllrs H Howe and S Smith attended the FSDR Dinner at the "Locomotion" Museum.

### 122/19 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at 6.45

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