

APPROVED

Midridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Midridge
pm**

**Monday
3rd September 2018**

Time: 6.45

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

In Attendance: Cllr J Clare (DCC)

Official: A Jordan (Clerk)

80/18 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

81/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Howell (DCC)

82/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

83/18 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

84/18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 31st July 2018 were accepted, and signed by the Chair as a true record.

85/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

86/18 POLICING

The Police were not originally aware of the Fire at the Village Hall next to the Gas Pressure Reduction Station. Cllr J Clare stated that there have been 25 Secondary Fires in the Aycliffe North Ward over the Summer, and advised that any Incidents should be reported by calling 101.

It was also noted that there had been a Fire near the end of Path 6. There appears to some confusion as to whether this Path now extends into Shildon Parish, because of a Land-slip; this is to be investigated.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

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87/18 “ELDON WHINS” DEVELOPMENTS & THE COUNTY PLAN

Keepmoat Homes have now submitted a Full Planning Application for their “Eldon Whins” Site. Cllr W Mellors said he had been unable to locate this on the DCC Planning System; the necessary information is to be supplied, so Councillors can consider whether they wish to make an official Comment.

Action: Clerk

88/18 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(a) **Street Light Removal**

DCC have now finalised their Proposals for a possible 10 year Contract for the Parish Council to retain Street Lighting in Walkers Lane, based on new replacement LED Lights. Unfortunately the upfront Costs are beyond the Parish Council’s current Financial Resources; Cllr J Clare kindly offered to investigate whether these Costs could be spread over the Contract Period.

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

Walkers Lane has now been resurfaced. It was noted that a section of Road near the end of the Lane has not been treated; Cllr J Clare said this could be because this section of Road was not adopted, and kindly offered to investigate. Concern was also expressed that in places the new Road surface was beginning to crumble at the edges; Cllr J Clare suggested this should be monitored, and if necessary reported to DCC.

(c) **Parish Paths**

The Ruts in Path 6 have been filled in, but unfortunately the Water Drain-off was cut in the wrong place. In addition some of the Ruts in Walkers Lane were also filled in – an unexpected bonus.

The further Damage to the Path 7 Quarry Safety Fence has been reported to Peter Crinnion; his response to this, and other proposed Path Improvements, is awaited. The Payment for the First Cut of the Parish Paths has been received.

Dog Litter – there has still been no response to our suggestion that DCC move the exiting Dog Litter Bin from “the Dock” to Northside Close.

Action: Clerk

(d) **Tree Maintenance**

The Bark on the Trunk of the Disease-resistant Elm Tree on “the Dock” has been damaged by Wildlife; suitable means to protect the Trunk is being investigated.

Action: Cllr H Howe

A Cherry Tree has also been badly damaged, and it is feared this will die.

(e) **Village Green Maintenance**

Concern has been raised about the safety of Glyphosate Weedkiller, as used by Hayfield Contracting on the Village Green. However this is still officially approved, and only a small amount is used on the Village Green.

RESOLVED that the decision to use this Weedkiller be left up to the Contractor.

Action: Clerk

89/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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None

90/18 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved. "John the Handyman" has yet to repair the Bench Seat and Circular Table/Seat.

Action: Clerk

91/18 ROAD-TRAFFIC

Nothing to report

92/18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

The NPWG decided on proposed Vision Statement and Objectives, and these were circulated to Residents by means of a Flyer. No significant Comments were received, and hence the Vision Statement and Objectives have now been agreed, and Stuart Carter and Shaun Hanson informed.

An outline Proposal for NP Policies has been drawn up and subjected to Shaun Hanson's Comments, which have just been received. Further work is required before the Policies can be finally agreed.

A Proposal that the Adopted Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan can be used as the Model for the layout of the Middridge Neighbourhood Plan is being investigated.

Cllr J Clare has advised on the possible uses of Section 106 Money from the "Eldon Whins" Developments, and further advice is to be sought from the DCC Planning Department.

Action: Clerk

Cllr J Clare also stated that as discussed in the Draft County Durham Plan, there will be no Community Infrastructure Levy from the "Eldon Whins" Developments.

93/18 ACCOUNTS

2017/18 Accounts – the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect these Accounts expired without anyone asking to see the Accounts, which are accordingly now approved. A VAT Repayment Claim has been submitted to HMRC.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Amount
A. D. Jordan	Chair's Dinner Expenses	£271.30
Middridge Village Association	NPWG VTRaining Hall Rental	£30.00
A. D. Jordan	Clerk's Jly – Sep Salary	£240.00
HMRC	Clerk's Jly – Sep Tax	£160.00
	TOTAL	£701.30

94/18 GAMP & CDALC

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GAMP – a Survey is being held regarding 2018/19 AAP Priorities.

CDALC – Cllr W Mellors will attend an Executive Committee Meeting this week.

95/18 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

96/18 OTHER MATTERS

(a) Use of the Village Green by the Bay Horse

Concern had been expressed that permitting the Bay Horse to place their Tables and Chairs on the Village Green could constitute a basis for an “Adverse Possession” Claim, and a Legal Agreement should be sought to regularise the situation (as had once been the case in the past). Legal Advice was obtained from the National Association of Local Councils NALC, who consider that the suggested Agreement would be illegal, as the use of the Village Green for Drinks and Meals in their opinion does not constitute “Lawful Sports and Pastimes”. Moreover, they consider the suggested Agreement is unnecessary, as in their opinion there is no basis for an “Adverse Possession” Claim.

RESOLVED that no action be taken.

(b) Armistice Day Arrangements

The Clerk will contact Tracey Bellas in order to arrange someone to take the Middridge Armistice Day Service, and order the Wreath and Crosses (and for the MVA as well).

RESOLVED that a Donation of £35 be made to the Royal British Legion.

Action: Clerk

Allan Wilson has a Battery-operated Music System, which means we will be able to produce Music and Bugle Calls ourselves.

Action: Cllr P Makinson

97/18 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(a) ICO Visit

It was agreed that the Clerk will attend the forthcoming CDALC Meeting with Representatives from the Information Commissioner’s Office.

(b) Partnership working re Enforcement Services

The Proposal from Ferryhill Town Council for Partnership working re Enforcement Services was discussed. However, Councillors considered that Issues to be the subject of the Enforcement Services were not of sufficient concern to justify the likely cost.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council not participate in the proposed Partnership.

Action: Clerk

98/18 NEXT MEETING

APPROVED

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 5th November 2018, at 6.45 pm.