

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Eldon
Parish Church

Monday
7th January 2008

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

53/07 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

54/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Min 44/07-Paragraph 1-Delete reference to dogs not 'on a leash' and insert 'under control'.

55/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) **Childrens' Play Area (Minute 44/07 refers)**

It was requested that the Clerk contact Sedgefield Borough Council regards the latest position at the play area; and to establish whether there had been any further incidents of concern regarding dogs being not under control in the vicinity of the play area.

ii) **Remembrance Sunday (Minute 44/07 refers)**

Members expressed their appreciation for how well the Remembrance Sunday Service had been conducted; and paid special tribute to the part played by the representative from the Spennymoor Town Band.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Spennymoor Town Band to express thanks for their participation in the above event.

iii) **Dog Litter Bin (Minute 44/07 refers)**

Members made reference to the dog litter bin sited at Middridge Docks, which in its present location could be seen as encouraging unauthorised use across private land. It was therefore suggested that it be relocated beyond the boundary of the nearby houses by Councillor Howe; and that the Clerk thereafter advise Sedgfield Borough Council.

iv) National Tree Week

The Clerk advised that the Council's participation in National Tree Week had been approved by Durham County Council; who had confirmed that the Council would be eligible for grant funding in the region of £95 provided all associated paperwork/claim forms were complete by the year end. It was requested therefore that the Clerk confirm with Lyndhurst Nurseries an order for three Holly Trees and a Weeping Birch; to be planted some time in February or at least before the financial year end.

The Chair suggested that the Weeping Birch would be a fitting commemoration of the celebration of 25 years of the Parish Council (see later item on the agenda).

RESOLVED that the Clerk arrange the appropriate order with Lyndhurst Nurseries and that arrangements for the tree planting be done in consultation with the Chairman with regard to their preferred location for planting.

v) Computer Repair

Councillor Howe advised that he had received an invoice for £50 in respect of repair of the Parish's computer. It was proposed that this invoice be added to the approved accounts for payment schedule (item 6 on the agenda).

56/07

PARISH PRECEPT 2008/2009

Consideration was given to the Parish Precept for 2008/2009 based on the latest available financial information with regards to the Parish Council's accounts.

RESOLVED that the Parish Precept for 2008/2009 be set at £5,500.

57/07

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with the following additional invoices:-

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------|
| -I.Wood | Computer Repair | £50.00 |
|---------|-----------------|--------|

Members referred to the presented invoice from Npower and requested clarification as to whether the invoice did relate to electricity used for Christmas tree lighting; or whether it could relate to street lighting columns which could in fact be outside of the Parish boundary. It was therefore proposed that payment of this invoice be deferred pending confirmation from Npower as to the exact energy source of the presented invoice.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The following accounts be approved for payment, together with the additional invoice presented to Councillor Howe from Mr I.Wood in respect of computer repairs :-

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| T C Walton | Parish Paths | £1233.75 |
| Lyndhurst Nurseries | Supply of Xmas Tree | £55.00 |
| N.Hart | Salary | £175.00 |
| N.Hart | Postage | £3.00 |

2. Payment of the invoice received from Npower be deferred pending confirmation from Npower as to the exact energy source of the presented invoice.

58/07

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) Grounds Maintenance Contract

Consideration was given to the award of contract for the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2008/9.

RESOLVED that the contract be awarded to C.E.W. in accordance with the submitted terms and conditions.

- ii) Maintenance of Bus Shelters/Adjacent Seating

The Clerk advised that JWS had carried out an inspection of the condition of the wooden bench seat adjacent to the stone bus shelter; and had reported that they considered the seat to be beyond reasonable repair. It was possible that they may be able to locate a reasonable replacement bench seat and it was requested that the Clerk obtain details and report back to the next meeting.

iii) Parish Paths Partnership 2008/2009

Consideration was given to participation within Durham County Council's Parish Paths Partnership for 2008/2009 following receipt of the contractors quotation for the works.

The Chair referred to the condition of footpath no. 20 (Eldon) which had not as yet been reinstated satisfactorily. It was noted that indication had now been received that Alice Gull (DCC Enforcement Officer) would be now looking into the matter.

RESOLVED that an application for grant funding be submitted to DCC in respect of participation in the Parish Paths Partnership for 2008/2009 based on the estimated costs received from the Council's contractor.

59/07 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:-

- i) Sedgefield Borough Council Arts Development Grant Scheme
- ii) County Durham Fire and Rescue Service-Consultation Event
- iii) Sedgefield Borough Council-Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012

60/07 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to planning applications received since the last meeting; summarised as follows:-

- i) Creation of 2 No. Disabled Car Parking Spaces Adjacent Village Hall.
- ii) Siting of Temporary Tractor Storage Container, 11 Middridge Farms

RESOLVED that no objections to the application be recorded.

61/07 MIDDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL-25 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Consideration was given to commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Middridge Parish Council during 2008. The Chair suggested that the Weeping Birch (ordered as part of National Tree Week) would be a fitting commemoration of the celebration of 25 years of the Parish Council.

Members also made reference to the need to carry out the required maintenance to the Millennium hedge; and it was suggested that the Clerk contact Roger Lowe at Sedgefield Borough Council to enlist the volunteer rangers support.

62/07 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to receipt of the Borough Council's inspection report of the Children's Play Area facility.

It was proposed that the play equipment contractor be contacted with regard to the findings in relation to the multi play facility. Members referred to the monthly inspection carried out of the facility and the fact that there had been no reported accidents on site.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the appropriate action be carried out as outlined.

63/07 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- i) Members were advised of the recent discovery, and subsequent action, taken by Councillor Makinson upon being alerted to discarded syringes to the rear of the Village Hall.
- ii) Action taken by Councillors Howe and Makinson to obstruct unauthorised access of the footpath at Middridge Docks was noted.
- iii) Reference was made to the desire, but inherent difficulties, in securing improvements to the Christmas lighting with due regard to associated financial costs and other practicalities.

iv) Byerley Park-School Governor

A request had been received from DCC for Councillor Howe's nomination to the above School Governorship to be re-confirmed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Howe be nominated to the above School Governorship.

- v) Reference was made to the Mayor of Sedgefield Borough Council's charity fund raising. It was suggested that a donation of £20 be made to the Mayor's charity.

64/07

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 3rd March 2008 at 6.45pm.

CHAIRMAN -----