

Consideration was given to the Parish Precept for 2011/2012 based on the latest available financial information with regards to the Parish Council's accounts.

RESOLVED that the Parish Precept for 2011/2012 be set at £6,500.

(Cllr Howe wished it to be recorded that he opposed the proposed increase to the Parish Precept for 2011/2012).

67/10 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1,2 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1985.

68/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Grounds Maintenance or General Repairs Issues

Consideration was given to the quotations received from contractors invited to submit quotations for the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2011/12.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Subject to the receipt of the promised reference, the contract for the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract FOR 2011/2012 be awarded to S.E.L.
2. CEW be appointed as reserve.

The meeting then continued in public session.

Appreciation was extended to Cllrs Mr & Mrs Clarke, Cllr Makinson and his wife Libby, for their combined efforts in planting a large number of crocus bulbs within the Village that had been provided by GAMP.

ii) Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11& Public Footpath No 5 at Walkers Lane

Further to the consultation undertaken by DCC with adjacent landowners etc with regard to the proposed gate across public footpath No 5, near Middridge Farms, members noted the objection received from Traffic Headquarters at Durham Police

on the grounds that they did not have sufficient evidence of anti-social behaviour in the area to suggest that the problem required the proposed solution. PC Stasiak intended to meet with Insp. Straughier from Durham Constabulary next week to discuss the situation further and provide evidence of problems experienced in the area; and it was hoped that this would alleviate any grounds for objection.

With regard to the funding options in respect of the material costs, it was suggested that this could be funded from either Cllr Bowman's Area Budget; or via DCC Parish Paths Funding for 2011/12. The estimated cost was likely to be in the region of £250. It was suggested that Cllrs Mrs Clarke approach Cllr Mrs Bowman regarding funding availability; and that the Clerk similarly enquire via DCC Access & Rights of Way Officer.

No design details had as yet been obtained for the proposed gate. Confirmation of approval of the design by DCC was likely to be a requirement of any funding provided and it was suggested that this be again taken up with the DCC Access & Rights of Way Officer. Cllr Mr & Mrs Clarke indicated that they would seek to obtain photographic evidence of the intended design for further consideration.

RESOLVED that the possible funding sources be explored, along with suggested designs for the gate, and the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.

(iii) Millennium Hedge

It was suggested that representatives from the East Durham Groundwork Trust be contacted regarding advice they could provide regards necessary maintenance of the hedge.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be requested to contact the East Durham Groundwork Trust to ascertain whether they would be willing to inspect and carry out maintenance of the hedge.

69/10

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

The Clerk advised that despite earlier assurances that a decision was imminent, no further progress had been received from Joanne MacLean from DCC Estates Division, although an update had been promised prior to Xmas. It was noted that allotment holders were scheduled to pay their rent for their plots

to DCC in April 2011 for the year ahead, and therefore, if arrangements were to change, it would be advantageous for the change to occur before the new rents were issued/paid.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and an update be urgently requested from DCC.

(Councillor Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the above item as a result of being a current allotment holder.)

70/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that no planning applications for the Parish had been received.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

71/10 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment.

It was noted that due to the bad weather, it had been impossible to carry out the routine inspection in January 2011.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

72/10 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

It was noted that PC Stasiak had been unable to attend the earlier PACT meeting to discuss concerns regarding traffic speed through the village. However, he had indicated that he would be willing to carry out some traffic monitoring surveys in the future and would be prepared to share the results of these with Dawn Clark, who had registered the latest concerns regarding traffic speed in the village. It was suggested that the Clerk provide Dawn with PC Stasiak's contact details so that she could be kept informed of the outcome of the planned traffic surveys.

RESOLVED that the contact details be provided.

73/10 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SALT BIN

Consideration was given to a request received from residents of The Meadows, Charles Row and The Meadows Edge for a salt bin to be provided by DCC in their area.

It was proposed that the Clerk submit an appropriate application to DCC and advise members of progress accordingly.

RESOLVED that an application for a further salt bin, to be located in the area of The Meadows, Charles Row and The Meadows Edge, be submitted to DCC.

74/10 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted :-

- (i) Durham County Council-Service Delegation Scheme.

75/10 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

Councillor Mrs Clarke advised that the last meeting of the GAMP Board had been cancelled due to bad weather. The next meeting would be held on 25th January 2011 when the three future priorities for GAMP would be confirmed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

76/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Application for Financial Assistance

The Clerk advised of an application for financial assistance received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

RESOLVED that a donation of £25 be made towards the Great North Air Ambulance Service fundraising efforts.

- (ii) Paddock/Allotments

Cllr Mrs Clarke referred to the potential to secure Big Lottery funding from the Limestone Landscapes Partnership for the above area who were working with many different partners – local groups, landowners and interested parties to conserve the landscape, wildlife and rich heritage of the Magnesian Limestone, which could be found within this area of the parish. It was suggested Cllr Mrs Clarke seek to obtain further details regarding eligibility as funding/advice may be available that would assist the Council in its future plans for this area.

(iii) Dates of Future Meetings-Village Hall

It was requested that dates of future meetings be confirmed with Ms Beadle regards use of the Village Hall.

77/10

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 7th March 2011 at 6.45pm