

**Middridge Parish Council**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Minutes of Council Meeting  
Monday  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Time:6.45pm**

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

**Official:** N.Hart (Clerk);

**In Attendance:** Councillor Mrs D.Bowman (Durham County Council)

**60/08 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

**61/08 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**62/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**i) Construction of New Roundabout and Access Road, Middridge Road/Greenfield Way (Minute 37/08 refers)**

The Clerk advised that the above application had been approved by Sedgefield Borough Council's Planning Committee.

**ii) C35 Road Traffic Safety Concerns (Minute 40/08 refers)**

Clarification was requested as to what the conclusions were; and further action planned, following Durham County Council's recent traffic survey of the C35 Newton Aycliffe to Shildon Road. Councillor Mrs Bowman advised that the Clerk contact Lee Mowby at DCC for an update.

**(iii) DCC National Tree Week (Minute 50/08 refers)**

The Clerk advised that notification had been received from DCC that the Parish Council had been unsuccessful in its application for funding as part of National Tree Week, as applications had been approved on a 'first

come first served' basis and there were insufficient funds available to approve this Council's application.

Members queried whether it would be more appropriate in the long term for this Council to consider planting a permanent fir tree; rather than seeking to plant a temporary Christmas tree each year? It was suggested that advice on whether this was an appropriate course of action be sought from arborist advisers to the Council; and that an appropriate article be placed in the next Residents Newsletter inviting any comments to the proposal.

**RESOLVED** that arborist advice be sought with regard to the proposed planting of the fir tree; and the views of residents be sought through an article placed in the next Residents Newsletter.

**(iv) Erection of Dwelling, Land Adjacent 38 Southside, Middridge (Minute 56/08 refers)**

Members referred to the above planning application and queried whether any proposals had come forward regarding a Change of Use for this property; as it had been suggested that the owners were considering applying for it to be used as a bail hostel. Councillor Mrs Bowman advised that she had not been made aware of any such proposal.

The approval/consultation process for such a proposal was unclear, and it was therefore requested that the Clerk make initial queries with Sedgefield Borough Council, and keep members advised of progress.

**(v) Flower Tubs (Minute 58/08 refers)**

Councillor Mellors advised he had made a £10 payment to each of the persons responsible for maintaining the flower tubs on behalf of the Parish Council; and had passed on members thanks to all involved for their hard work.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mellors be reimbursed to the sum of £60.

**(vi) SBC Charity Evening**

Councillor Mellors advised that both he and the Vice Chairman had attended an SBC Charity Evening as

representatives of the Council; and requested reimbursement for tickets purchased to the sum of £30.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mellors be reimbursed to the sum of £30.

## **63/08 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with an additional invoice received from JWS Power Wash for £30 for Bus Shelter maintenance.

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

JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£30.00
Cllr Mellors	Flower Tub Reimbursement	£60.00
N.Hart	Salary	£183.33
N.Hart	Postage	£3.60
Stockton on Tees BC	Printing-Eldon Whinns	£20.53

## **64/08 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business only on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

#### **i) Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Consideration was given to two quotations received in respect of the contract for Grounds Maintenance works on behalf of the Council for 2009/2010.

**RESOLVED** the contract in respect of Grounds Maintenance works on behalf of the Parish Council for 2009/2010, be awarded to C.E.W, in accordance with the terms submitted.

The meeting then continued in public session.

#### **ii) Memorial Railings**

Members referred to the condition of the memorial railings; which were considered to be in need of re-painting as well as works to prevent the gathering of leaves around the base.

It was proposed that a Working Party of members investigate the matter and report back to a future meeting.

- iii) Parish Paths Partnership-Participation in 2009/2010 Scheme & Proposed Further Work to Footpath No.2 at 6 Houses, Middridge

Consideration was given to participation in the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme during 2009/2010.

It was proposed that invitations to submit quotations be extended to T.C.W and I.H.

Further to the application submitted in respect of additional works to Footpath No 2, a formal response was still awaited from DCC; who were believed to be in the process of consulting the necessary landowner(s).

A request had also been received from the landowners of the site of the Caravan Club for a copy of the Parish footpath maps; and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Clarke would provide them with a copy.

**RESOLVED** that invitations to submit quotations in respect of works contained within the specification for the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme, be extended to C.E.W and I.H.

#### **65/08 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA**

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

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

#### **66/08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS SCHEME**

Further to the last meeting, consideration was given to the content of the Council's Publication Scheme, as required under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. It was proposed that appropriate notices advertising the availability of the Council's Publication Scheme, be displayed on each of the Council Notice Boards, and within the Village Hall.

**RESOLVED** that appropriate notices advertising the availability of the Council's Publication Scheme, be displayed on each of the Council Notice Boards, and within the Village Hall.

67/08

## WEB SITE

Consideration was given to the options available with regard to the establishment of the Council's own web site.

It was proposed that Councillors Makinson, Howe and Mellors be authorised to form a Working Party to investigate the most appropriate web site option for the Parish Council and to enter into an appropriate contract thereafter.

**RESOLVED** that Councillors Makinson, Howe and Mellors be authorised to form a Working Party to investigate the most appropriate web site option for the Parish Council and to enter into an appropriate contract thereafter.

68/08

## GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:-

-(i) DCC Area Action Partnerships-Function, Governance and Budgets-Consultation;

Members made reference to the need for clarification of the role of the Parish Councils on the Area Boards. A wish was also expressed for the Area Fora meetings to be more engaging to the community, in venues suitable within a central location; and should seek to avoid wherever possible the use of jargon and language too formal as to have the affect of being remote and likely to discourage public participation.

-(ii) Co Durham Association of Local Councils-Proposals for Replacement of District Committees;

-(iii) DCC-Admission Arrangements September 2010 and Beyond-Consultation;

Member comments were invited and noted in respect of the above consultation paper.

**RESOLVED** that the comments be submitted as this Council's consultation response prior to the deadline of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

-(iv) Shildon Town Council-Letter re Parish Plans as Supplementary Planning Documents;

-(v) NHS County Durham and Darlington PCT Annual Operation Plan.

Consideration was given to the above consultation, which included an opportunity for attendance at consultation events in Darlington and Durham.

**RESOLVED** that member comments in respect of the above be noted and submitted as part of the consultation process; and invitations to attend the Consultation Event on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be arranged for members.

**69/08 APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Consideration was given to an application for financial assistance from Victim Support.

**RESOLVED** that the application be noted.

**70/08 PLANNING APPLICATION**

(i) Extension to Eldon Quarry, Bishop Auckland

Notification was received of approval granted by DCC for the planning application in respect of the proposed extension to Eldon Quarry.

**RESOLVED** that the approval be noted.

**71/08 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

(i) Council Precept 2009/2010

Consideration was given to the Council's Precept required to be raised by Durham County Council for 2009/2010 in order to fund this Council's necessary expenditure. In doing so, members were appraised of the Council's current financial position and existing yearly expenditure.

**RESOLVED** that a Council Precept of £6,000 be approved for 2009/2010 and be submitted to Durham County Council for consideration.

(ii) Salt Bins

Members requested that DCC should give consideration to siting a salt bin within the Parish. It was suggested that an appropriate location would be adjacent to the Village Hall; and it was requested that Councillor Mrs Bowman take up the matter with the relevant officers at DCC.

**72/08 NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at 6.45pm