

SIGNED

## Midridge Parish Council

### Minutes of Council Meeting

Village Hall,  
Midridge

Monday  
14 May 2012

Time: 6.45pm

**Present:** Cllrs A Clarke (Chairman), WJ Clarke, H Howe, P Makinson

**Official:** CA Stenger (Clerk)

**1/12 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

**2/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr W Mellors.

**3/12 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor A Clarke be appointed Chairman of the Council for the 2012/2013 Municipal year.

**4/12 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

**RESOLVED** that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

**5/12 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor W Mellors be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council for the 2012/2013 Municipal year.

**6/12 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

**RESOLVED** that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed at the next available meeting as Cllr Mellors was unfortunately absent due to ill health.

**7/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/RECEIPT OF GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY**

Cllr Makinson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the agenda item dealing with the allotment transfer as a result of being a current allotment holder.

**RESOLVED** that the notification of personal interests (LGA1) be received from all Cllrs, to be returned to the Council by the Clerk.

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**8/12 THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED** that the thanks of the Parish Council be recorded to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Howe, for the duties carried out during his term of office.

**Cllr H Howe then left the meeting.**

**9/12 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**10/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

i) Parish Paths Partnership (min 101/11 i) refers)  
There has been no further contact with Elaine Field regarding the proposed circular walk and Parish Paths map.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clarke contact Elaine Field to discuss both issues.

ii) Flower tubs (103/11 iii refers)  
Cllr A Clarke reported that David Storey had agreed to maintain the flower tub at the end of The Close.

**11/12 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

i) Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

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

JWS Power Wash	Bus shelter cleaning	£ 30.00
SE Landscaping	Grass cutting x 2 (April)	£212.50
Zurich Municipal Insurance	Insurance premium 2012/13	£852.74
C Gray	Internal audit	£ 65.00

**12/12 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012**

The internal audit of accounts had been completed and approved by Colin Gray. The statement of accounts for the annual return were approved by the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk complete the required external audit paperwork and send to BDO within the required timescale.

**13/12 INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Zurich Municipal Insurance premium quote for 2012/13 was received, and contained 3 differing amounts, with lower premiums for longer term agreements.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Zurich Municipal to check the basis of the longer term agreements and arrange payment accordingly.

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14/12

**GROUNDNS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

i) Youth Offenders Project  
Cllr A Clarke had received details regarding the Youth Offenders Project.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clarke contact the Project regarding the possible undertaking of cleaning of the Play Area, maintenance of the Millennium Hedge and litter picking behind the Village Hall.

ii) Grass cutting  
Councillors reported their dissatisfaction at the standard of grass cutting, with uncut strips of grass visible, and skid marks showing, especially in the Docks area.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the contractor regarding quality and standard of work.

iii) Parish Paths Partnership  
The quote for the Parish Paths maintenance had been accepted by Elaine Field, with the full costs agreed to be refunded on completion of work.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the contractor advising him of the acceptance of the quote.

15/12

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE**

The Clerk had contacted Fiona Bullen to get an update on the proposed disposal of the paddock. Ms Bullen responded with an email stating her intention to recommend that the rear land be placed in the forthcoming September auction, but was happy to recommend a lease transfer of the land currently used for allotments.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk research previous correspondence regarding transfer/sale of the allotment land and draft a letter expressing dissatisfaction with the response and requesting further details from Fiona Bullen.

16/12

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new applications to be noted.

17/12

**CHILDREN'S' PLAY AREA**

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the play area and equipment – the Clerk reported the following issues:

- The perimeter fence was unstable, as previously reported, but the inner fence was now also showing signs of degeneration.
- The play surface was showing signs of wear in some places
- Tree limbs had been cut off and were littering the ground
- One of the goal net ropes had been moved and tied to a further tree, posing a health and safety risk.

**RESOLVED** that Cllrs A Clarke and P Makinson would inspect the Play Area.

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**18/12 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING**

The Clerk had gained information from the Etherley/Toft Hill Parish Clerk regarding the speed 'matrices' - it had cost in the region of +£2000. It was decided that the issue of speeding be

**RESOLVED** that Cllr A Clarke contact Mr Straugheir and Cllr D Bowman.

**19/12 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK**

Cllr A Clarke reported that GAMP had a new chairman.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**20/12 FUTURE EVENTS**

i) Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Weather Vane - Cllrs Clarke reported that the cost of the original weather vane has escalated to £450-525. They had therefore investigated a further local supplier and had negotiated the same design at a lower price of £200-250. The production was ongoing and Cllr J Clarke was to meet with the supplier again, however it was hoped that the finished product would be ready in time for the Jubilee celebrations.

Souvenirs - GAMP were providing all primary school children in the Newton Aycliffe schools with Jubilee mugs, and older children in Year 7 with pens. It was reported in the Middridge Mercury that any children living in the village that did not attend a school in Newton Aycliffe contact Cllr A Clarke to arrange for the appropriate souvenir. The Clerk reported that banks and post offices were not supplying Jubilee £5 coins for purchase.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk arrange for the online purchase of Jubilee £5 coins as souvenirs for children of the village.

Jubilee Beacon - details had been received from Zurich Municipal Insurance regarding risk assessment for the beacon event.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk design a flyer for residents giving information regarding the Jubilee Beacon, including health and safety notes due to the lack of lighting at the site.

ii) Olympic Torch

A request for permission to use the Village Green for the Olympic Torch celebration event, and also the use of the Council's liability insurance, had been received, along with risk assessments for the proposed activities. The Village Association had agreed to cover costs up to the amount of £100 for the event, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would cover any shortfall in funds (up to the maximum amount of £100) if needed.

**RESOLVED** that permission be granted for use of the Village Green and liability insurance.

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**21/12 LOCAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The amount of documents, policies and procedures was discussed.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk prepare one amended document for discussion and adoption at each meeting.

**22/12 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council considered the following correspondence:

Email from Vicky Prendergast regarding AAP activity and Parish publications.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would draft a response to Vicky Prendergast stating that the Council would be willing to include any AAP news and information on the Village website, but not in the newsletter due to the infrequent publication.

Letter from Middridge Village Association requesting permission to use the Village Green for the annual Summer Fete, and requesting a donation of £40 for a raffle prize.

**RESOLVED** that the requests be granted and that the Clerk draft a letter stating so.

**23/12 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

The Clerk requested that the Village Hall notice board be looked at as it was increasingly difficult to use to display items.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr J Clarke inspect the notice board.

**17/12 NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 3 September 2012 at 6.45pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_