

APPROVED

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
9th July 2018**

Time: 7.00 pm

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

In Attendance: Cllrs S Durham & P Howell (DCC)

Official: A Jordan (Clerk)

61/18 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

62/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

63/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None. Cllrs Mellors and Makinson have both completed the necessary Request for Dispensation Forms, so their Dispensations are now valid.

64/18 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

None

65/18 MINUTES

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

66/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Chair's Dinner (59/18 refers)

Arrangements are in hand, and possible Dates will be circulated in the near future.

Action: Cllr H Howe

67/18 POLICING

It was noted that the Police are no longer able to supply "No Waiting" Bollards for Events such as the Village Fête.

68/18 "ELDON WHINS" DEVELOPMENTS & THE COUNTY PLAN

Keepmoat Homes have yet to submit their Full Planning Application.

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The Proposals for the main Points to be made in an Objection to the Persimmon “Eldon Whins Extension” Planning Application have been circulated to, and agreed by, Parish Councillors. The full Presentation is currently being drafted, and will again be subject to approval by Parish Councillors. The Date when this Planning Application is to be heard by the DCC Planning Committee is still awaited.

Action: Clerk

County Plan – an updated version of the County Durham Plan (CDP) has been released for Public Comment. Councillors expressed their concern regarding the reduced protection for the separateness of Settlements, and it was agreed that the Parish Council should propose that the CDP incorporate something equivalent to the current Local Plan’s “Green Wedges”. Cllr P Howell suggested that appropriate wording could be found in the CDP’s “Green Belt” Policy.

Action: Cllr W Mellors

69/18 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

(a) Street Light Removal

The proposed Removal of Streets Lights from the C35 Middridge Road on either side of the Village is to proceed. The Proposal for the Removal of Streets Lights from Walkers Lane is still under discussion, and it is hoped to arrange a Meeting with DCC to discuss this on site. The quoted DCC Cost for possible replacement LED Lights remains of concern, and it was agreed that the Cost of alternatives should be investigated.

Action: Cllr S Smith

Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr S Smith for her work regarding this matter.

(b) Walkers Lane Road & Parking

Avril Haynes is currently trying to arrange a Meeting with DCC to discuss Parking in front of the Village Hall.

(c) Parish Paths

A very useful Meeting was held with Peter Crinnion from the Parish Paths Partnership regarding Problems with Parish Paths 6 and 7. The possibility of an Access from the Walkers Lane Railway Bridge onto the Multi-User Route was also considered. The outcome of the various possibilities discussed is awaited.

Action: Clerk

Cllr S Smith expressed concern about the state of the Farm Track from “Ten Houses” to the Railway Bridge, which becomes flooded after rain, and is virtually impassable to Pedestrians. Unfortunately this is not a designated Path or Bridleway, and is thus the Owner’s responsibility; it is not known who this is.

(d) Tree Maintenance

The various Branches which fell from Trees on the Village Green in the recent Storms have been removed. The previously damaged Tree on “the Dock” has blown down, but this is not causing any Problem, and is to be left to rot naturally.

(e) Village Green Maintenance

Ian Hayman has yet to respond to the Clerk’s Query regarding Mole Hills. Jonathan Pounder has agreed to try and arrange work on the Millennium Hedge later in the year.

Action: Clerk

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70/18 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None. It was noted that Ian Hayman has made an Entrance on Walkers Lane for the new Access Road to his Property, although the Parish Council have not been notified that his Planning Application has been approved.

Action: Clerk

71/18 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Clerk's Monthly Inspection Report was approved. "John the Handyman" has given a Quotation of £255 for Repairs to the Bench Seat, and refurbishing the Circular Table/Seat.

RESOLVED that this Quotation be accepted.

Action: Clerk

72/18 ROAD-TRAFFIC

The DCC Speed Matrix is again currently deployed in the Village. It was agreed that this is generally an effective deterrent to Speeding, and the Cost of possible permanent Equipment, funded from future Section 106 Money, is to be investigated.

Action: Cllr H Howe & Clerk

73/18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Stuart Carter gave the NPWG a Presentation on the new County Plan, and some concerns were satisfactorily resolved. Following a Review of the 'Way Forward', a further Training Session from Shaun Hanson has been held. The next Stage is to agree the Vision and Objectives, which will then be circulated to Residents for their Comments.

74/18 ACCOUNTS

2017/18 Accounts – the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect these Accounts expires shortly; the VAT the Parish Council paid last year will then be reclaimed.

Action: Clerk

The Parish Council's Membership of the National Association of Councillors was discussed, and it was agreed that this should continue.

RESOLVED that the following Accounts be approved for payment:-

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)*	Registration Fee	£40.00
A. D. Jordan	Clerk's Apr – Jun Salary	£240.00
HMRC	Clerk's Apr – Jun Tax	£160.00
A. D. Jordan	Litter-picking Equipment	£134.50
National Association of Councillors	Bi-annual Membership Fee	£78.00
Hayfields Contracting Ltd.	Parish Paths First Cut	£504.00
	TOTAL	£1156.50

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* this Cheque had to be reissued because the Fee rose after the Parish Council's Application was submitted (see **77/18 (a)** below); the approval given is thus retrospective.

The Email from Citizens Advice requesting a Donation was discussed.

RESOLVED that a Donation of £50 be made.

Action: Clerk

75/18 GAMP & CDALC

GAMP – Project Applications are to be ranked by Panels meeting this week, for approval at the Board Meeting to be held on 17th July. The GAMP 2017/18 Annual Report and an Executive Summary have been circulated to Councillors.

CDALC – nothing substantial to report.

76/18 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

77/18 OTHER MATTERS

(a) Data Protection

The Parish Council's Application to be registered with the ICO as a "Data Controller" has been approved.

(b) Statutory Policies

The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council should formally re-adopt its existing Statutory Policies.

RESOLVED that these Policies be readopted.

The Clerk also reported that NALC have issued new Model Standing Orders, and he is currently investigating whether the Parish Council's Policy will require updating. A List of the Parish Council's Statutory Policies is to be circulated to Councillors.

Action: Clerk

78/18 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(a) Allotments

DCC are currently considering transferring the Ownership of some of their Allotments to Local Councils. Councillors agreed that they would in principle favour the transfer of the Middridge Allotments to the Parish Council. Cllr P Howell is a Member of the DCC Sub-Committee considering this matter, and agreed to keep the Parish Council informed.

79/18 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 3rd September 2018, at the usual time of 6.45 pm.