

Middridge Parish Council

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Minutes of Council Meeting
Monday
6th September 2010**

Time:6.45pm

Present: Councillors Clarke (Chairman); Mrs A.Clarke, Makinson and W.Mellors.

Apology: An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Howe.

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

32/10 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

33/10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following:-

In the list of members present:-

- Cllr W.J.Clarke be recorded as Chairman instead of Cllr Makinson,
- Cllr Howe being added to the list of apologies.

34/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Grounds Maintenance Issues (Minute 21/10 refers)

Cllr Clarke advised that discussions were still on-going with the energy supplier regarding alleged electricity used by the Parish Council in recent years in respect of lighting for the Christmas tree supplied by the street column.

The Clerk advised that previous accounts indicated that an amount of £2,243 had been paid to DCC with respect to Christmas lighting in March 2002.

ii) Overgrown hedgerow on the C35 road to Shildon (Minute 23/10 refers)

It was noted that DCC had carried out maintenance to the hedgerow, although it appeared little had been removed.

It was requested that the Clerk ascertain whether any further cuts were planned.

35/10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment; together with additional invoices received from C.E.Walker in respect of grasscutting in August/September for £387.75 and from Zurich Municipal Insurance for £560.01 and £293.75 in respect of the Local Councils Insurance Policy and Play Area Engineering Inspection Policy.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| N.Hart | Salary | £191.67 |
| N.Hart | Postage | £1.60 |
| JWS Power Wash | Bus Shelter Cleaning | £30.00 |
| CE Walker | Grasscutting-July | £258.50 |
| CE Walker | Grasscutting-Aug/Sept | £387.75 |
| Nat Assoc of Cllrs | Membership | £76.38 |
| Zurich Municipal Insurance | Local Councils Policy | £560.01 |
| Zurich Municipal Insurance | Engineering Inspection Policy | £293.75 |

36/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

- i) Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11-Public Footpath No 5 at Walkers Lane

It was noted that the contractor was close to completion the Parish Paths contract, and would shortly be submitting an invoice in respect of the works.

Reference was made to the on-going discussions regarding the erection of a gate across public footpath No 5, near Middridge Farms, in order to alleviate problems of anti-social behaviour in the area, particularly by youths riding motor cycles and other motor vehicles. It was believed that planning permission for the development was not required and a suitable contractor had offered to construct the proposed gate in return for material costs only. It would be necessary for all relevant parties to approve the proposed design of the gate, including DCC and for all adjacent landowners to be consulted on the proposal. To this aim, Cllr J.W.Clark advised that he would seek to obtain the proposed design details in order that they could be forwarded to DCC for approval. It was hoped that the necessary material costs may be met from the County Councillors ward budget. It was requested that the Clerk notify the Parish Paths Officer at

DCC of the current position and the matter be considered further at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and further progress be reported to the next meeting.

(ii) Grounds Maintenance Issues

Reference was made to the need to consider further maintenance to the Millennium hedge. It was agreed that Cllrs Howe and Mellors inspect its condition and the matter be considered further at the Parish Council meeting in March 2011.

Concern was expressed at the condition of the cement around the base of the War Memorial as it appeared to be in a poor and 'flaking' condition. It was suggested that the Clerk investigate whether the existing Bus Shelter maintenance contractor would be prepared to carry out necessary repair works at their earliest convenience in readiness for Remembrance Sunday on 14th November 2010.

37/10

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

DCC had previously indicated their intention to take a report on the matter to their Cabinet meeting in September 2010. It was therefore proposed that they be pressed for a progress update by the end of that month, so that the matter can be further considered by this Council at its next meeting on 1st November 2010.

It was noted that the Allotments Association had submitted an application for grant funding to GAMP for a secure shed for tools and equipment.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

38/10

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that there had been no planning applications received.

39/10 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA

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

Cllr Mellors advised that he had undertaken the installation of the new infant and junior swing seats; and the graffiti reported at the last meeting had now been removed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

40/10 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted :-

- a) DCC-Framework for Change for Co Durham Libraries.
- b) DCC Taxi Licensing Policy Public Consultation
- c) Dept for Communities & Local Government-Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases.
- d) Future Mayor's Charity Evenings

It was proposed that the Cllrs Mr & Mrs Clarke be authorised to attend the DCC Mayors Charity event on the 8th October 2010, and the Clerk be requested to advise DCC accordingly.

- e) Great British Elm Experiment

It was proposed that Cllr Howe be confirmed as this Council's lead contact.

- f) Tees Valley Joint Minerals & Waste Development Plan
- g) Darlington Core Strategy Development Plan Document

41/10 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

Councillor Mrs Clarke reported on the latest discussions held by GAMP, including the event held on the 29th June 2010, to which all members of the public were invited to attend.

The next meeting of GAMP was to be held on 30th November 2010 at 6.00pm when future priorities would be reviewed .

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

42/10 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY-14TH NOVEMBER 2010

It was proposed that Cllr Mrs Clarke liaise with Shildon Town Council regarding this year's event, and that this Parish Council once again make a donation of £25 towards the cost of a Remembrance wreath.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

43/10 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2010

It was proposed that the Clerk contact Lyndhurst Nurseries once again to provide an appropriate Christmas tree to be erected on the Village Green. It was noted that ideally the tree should be smaller than last years and no more than 5" in diameter so as to make it easier to be erected and dressed. DCC should also be contacted regarding the latter.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to take the proposed action and report back to the next meeting.

44/10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Use of Green Outside Village Hall

Further to the discussion at the last meeting regards the use of the Village Green for charity events, consideration was given to further incidents concerned with use of the area around the Village Hall, including a bouncy castle being sited.

Members of this Council that were also represented on the Village Hall Association indicated their intention to place an item on the agenda of their next Associations meeting so as to urgently consider the need for a future lettings policy given some of the concerns already highlighted by the Parish Council and others in terms of approval for use of the Village Green, appropriate insurance, and the need for a minimum 30 day notification/consultation period with the Parish Council and nearby residents.

45/10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 1st November 2010 at 6.45pm

