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## **Middridge Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting**

**Village Hall,  
Middridge**

**Monday  
7 January 2013**

**Time: 6.45pm**

**Present:** Cllrs A Clarke (Chairwoman), W Mellors (Vice Chairman), WJ Clarke, H Howe, P Makinson

**Official:** CA Stenger (Clerk)

#### **81/12 NOTICE OF MEETING**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

#### **82/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence.

#### **83/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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.

All Councillors completed dispensations requests with regard to the setting of council tax or precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**RESOLVED** that all requests be approved with eligibility commencing immediately and ending the day before the next annual meeting of the council.

#### **84/12 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November were signed by the Chairwoman as a correct record after a minor amendment to min 71/12.

#### **85/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

i) Circular walk (min 68/12 i) refers)

Cllr A Clarke had contacted the Parish Paths Partnership for Darlington Borough Council regarding access across the stream bordering Middridge and Darlington Parishes. It was agreed there was a problem with access but Cllr A Clarke was advised there were no funds available to rectify the problem.

ii) Noticeboard (min 70/12 ii) refers)

Cllr A Clarke had contacted Cllr Dorothy Bowman, who agreed a price and specification for the new noticeboard, however Cllr A Clarke had to complete all relevant paperwork to apply for the funding. The application is now with the finance department at Durham County Council awaiting a decision.

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iii) Remembrance Sunday (min 77/12 i) refers)  
The Remembrance service was well attended and went very well.

iv) Christmas (77/12 ii) refers)  
The delivery, erection and dressing of the Christmas tree went smoothly. A vote of thanks was proposed for Cllr J Clarke, for once again co-ordinating the above. Cllr Howe advised that he had purchased a living Christmas tree which he wishes to donate for permanent planting.

**RESOLVED** that thanks to Cllr J Clarke be noted, and that the donation of the tree from Cllr Howe be accepted.

**86/12 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

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

Lyndhurst Nurseries	Supply of Christmas tree	£ 180.00
Carol Stenger	Clerk Wages (July-Sept)	£ 280.00
HMRC	Tax liability (July-Sept)	£ 70.00
Aycliffe Borough Council	Civic Dinner x 2	£ 50.00

**87/12 PARISH PRECEPT 2013/14**

After consideration of the latest available financial information with regards to the Parish Council's accounts, it was proposed that the precept amount (minus the grant figure, which will be provided separately by DCC) remain the same as last year (£6630). A vote ensued with 4 Councillors agreeing, apart from Cllr Howe who wished to lower the amount.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Precept for 2013/14 be set at £6132, with an additional grant of £498 to be received from DCC, and that the Clerk complete the relevant paperwork and contact DCC.

**88/12 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS**

**The public and press were 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.**

i) Grounds Maintenance Works for 2013/14  
Consideration was given to the quotations received from contractor invited to submit quotations for the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2013/14

**RESOLVED** that, subject to relevant insurance details being received, the contract be awarded to Ian Hayman and the Clerk to write to all contractors to advise them of the decision.

**The meeting then continued in public session.**

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ii) Parish Paths Maintenance for 2013/14

Elaine Field, Parish Paths Partnership, had provided an application form for a grant for maintenance for parish paths for 2013/14. The grant for completed works in 2012/13 had been received.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to contractors to obtain quotes for the above work and present at the next meeting.

### 89/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Gavin Scott, DCC Planning, had provided a copy of Bishop Middleham's Neighbourhood Survey results. A discussion of the contents ensued, with regards to drafting a similar questionnaire for the Middridge Parish.

**PROPOSED** that the Clerk and Cllr A Clarke meet to draft a questionnaire which would be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

### 90/12 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF ALLOTMENTS BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, MIDDRIDGE

There was no progress to report - the Clerk had contacted Fiona Bullen for a progress update but no response had been received.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Fiona Bullen again for a progress update before the next meeting.

### 91/12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no new planning applications for consideration.

### 92/12 CHILDRENS' PLAY AREA

Consideration was given to the Clerk's monthly inspection report regarding the condition of the Play Area and equipment - no issues were noted. The annual inspection report from Zurich had been received and showed no defects or issues, but did again mention strimmer damage to the wooden structures housing the swings. This has previously been inspected and is considered to be safe.

**RESOLVED** that both reports be noted.

### 93/12 C35 NEWTON AYCLIFFE TO SHILDON ROAD-TRAFFIC CALMING

PC Matt Stasiak had agreed to talk to Inspector Mark Hall but has not yet done so. Inspector Hall is a member of the GAMP Board.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Mr K Jameson to advise that members are not satisfied with his response and again requesting a meeting; also to contact Inspector Hall to provide all relevant information and ask that he meet with members to discuss the issue further and possibly advise on a different approach; and to contact MP Phil Wilson to provide all relevant information so that he is aware of the situation.

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**94/12 G.A.T.C./MIDDRIDGE AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK**

Cllr A Clarke reported that the Forum Meeting took place on 20 November 2012 and was well attended, with the priorities for 2013 decided at the GAMP board meeting on 27 November 2012 as follows:

- 1 Activities for young people
- 2 Employment enterprise education and training
- 3 Support to Voluntary and Community

Cllr A Clarke advised that she will not be standing again for the GAMP board in May.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**95/12 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Suitable dates for future meetings, up to March 2014, were agreed as follows:

13 May 2013 - Annual Meeting/Annual Parish Meeting

1 July 2013

2 September 2013

4 November 2013

6 January 2014

3 March 2014

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Mrs L Beadle to book the meeting room in the Village Hall for the relevant dates.

**96/12 ELECTIONS 2013**

Steve Ragg, CDALC, had arranged a training session for Councillors and Clerks to attend, to cover the election process.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk attend the session and cascade information as necessary.

**97/12 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council considered the following correspondence:

Request for donation from Great North Ambulance Service.

Request for donation from the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund

Invitation to attend Charity Civic Dinner from Great Aycliffe Town Council

The Clerk had checked dates of previous donations to the Great North Ambulance Service, the last of which was made in 2010.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £25 be made to the Great North Ambulance Service and that Cllr A Clarke, as Chairwoman, and Cllr J Clarke as her partner, attend the Charity Civic Dinner on Friday 22 February 2013, at a cost of £50, with the Clerk obtaining the tickets.

**98/12 ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

- i) Registerable Interest Forms

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Correspondence had been received from DCC advising that Registerable Interests of members had now been published on DCC's website and that it was possible to place a link on our website to the relevant entry on DCC's website.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Makinson place the relevant link on the Village website.

ii) Police and Crime Commissioner Community Panels

An invitation for members to join the above panels. Cllr Mellors advised that he was willing to join.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk forward Cllr Mellors a further copy of the invitation email.

iii) 'West Middridge' Housing Development

The marketing name of the new housing development on the Shildon/Middridge boundary was discussed and all members agreed that the name 'West Middridge' was unacceptable as the development is outside the boundary of the Parish.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write further letters to the CEOs of Persimmon Homes and Charles Church advising that the Parish Council consider the naming of the development to be false marketing and misrepresentation.

iv) Cllr A Clarke has spoken to Elaine Field and agreed an alternative 6 mile circular walk, and was meeting with Elaine at 10am on Friday 11 January 2013 to walk the route.

**RESOLVED** that any members available would also take part.

v) Big Spring Clean

It was agreed that the Parish Council would again take part in the Big Spring Clean.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the relevant organisation and arrange registration.

vi) Hedge Laying

Cllr A Clarke had obtained a contact from Elaine Field, with regards to hedge laying - Mr D Scott, Houghall College.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Mr Scott and discuss the issue further.

**99/12**

**NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 4 March 2013 at 6.45pm

**Chairwoman** \_\_\_\_\_