

Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

**Village Hall,
Middridge**

**Monday
25th June 2007**

Time:6.45pm

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

Official: N.Hart (Clerk);

21/07 NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

22/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record; subject to the following:-

Min 14/07 Children's Play Area

Delete '£30k' and insert '£25k'

23/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

i) Parish Paths-Map/Notice Board (Minute 8/07 refers)

It was noted that DCC were in the process of completing digital mapping that would eventually see the reproduction of maps; such as those used within Parish Paths, within their own website. This would ultimately allow this Council to establish a web link to their site, once available.

In the interim, it was suggested that graphics of the original maps used for the Notice Board display be requested from DCC for use in hard copy promotion of the Parish Paths.

ii) Development at Spout Lane (Minute 19/07 refers)

Members requested that it be recorded that once an a detailed application for the above development had been received by the Planning Authority, it would wish to take SBC's Chief Planning Officer up on his invitation to attend

a future meeting of this Parish Council to discuss the detail of the application.

iii) Finger Signage-Eldon Crossroads (Minute 19/07 refers)

A response was awaited from DCC regarding responsibility for the recent maintenance works carried out to the above sign.

24/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members considered a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment:-

CE Walker	Grasscutting-May	£246.75
JWS Power Wash	Bus Shelter-Cleaning	£30.00
N.Hart	Salary	£175.00
N.Hart	Postage	£4.20
Mr C.Gray	Internal Audit	£60.00
Hoppers Engravers	Mayor's Chain	£162.50

25/07 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2007

Consideration was given to the final accounts for the period ended 31st March 2007; which had been subjected to internal audit by the auditor Mr C.Gray, who had found them to be in order with no matters to report. It was proposed that the accounts; along with the Council's Annual Return be submitted to the external auditor by the 13th July 2007.

RESOLVED that the accounts be approved as a correct record and, along with the Council's Annual Return, be submitted to the external auditor by the 13th July 2007.

26/07 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & GENERAL REPAIRS

i) Flower Tubs

It was noted that one or two flower tubs were beginning to show signs of needing repair. A specialist company had made themselves known as being able to carry out such repairs however, it was proposed that interim repairs be carried out in the first instance if at all possible and, failing that, the matter be reviewed next Spring.

In accordance with Council policy, it was also proposed that a donation of £10 each (£60 in total) be made to each person responsible for the upkeep of the Village flower tubs; with this Council's gratitude.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Clerk be authorised to provide a cheque for £60, payable to Cllr Mrs Clarke, in order that she may reimburse those people responsible for the maintenance of the Village flower tubs.

ii) Bus Shelters

Consideration was given to a request submitted to DCC from a resident of the Village, for an additional bus stop to be situated at Northside (plan submitted). It was noted that, in order to ensure safe access to and from buses, DCC had advised that it would be necessary to provide a 5m length of hard-standing with raised kerbs adjacent to the footpath. This would require development on an area of the Village Green; which was owned by the Parish Council. Being within the Conservation Area, any such development would in turn require a formal process of land exchange; with DCC providing the Parish Council with a similar sized piece of open space in exchange for the land given up for the additional bus stop site. Members expressed concern at the implications of such an exchange in terms of its practicality and it was therefore proposed that the request for an additional bus stop be refused.

With regard to the condition of the two existing bus shelters within the Parish, the Clerk advised that contact had been made with Chilton Parish Council who had confirmed that the majority of their recent provision of bus shelters had been funded via the larger DCC scheme regarding the Chilton Bypass. They had however secured a number of Adshell shelters in association with DCC; however this had been part of a discount agreement via DCC and Adshell that had now expired.

It was suggested that JWS be requested to carry out an updated inspection regarding the condition of the stone shelter and that members be informed so as to be in attendance and able to discuss the necessary works.

RESOLVED that:-

1. DCC be informed that due to the necessary encroachment onto Village Green as part of the necessary works to provide an additional bus stop, the request be refused.
2. JWS be requested to carry out an updated inspection regarding the condition of the stone shelter and that

members be informed so as to be in attendance and able to discuss the necessary works

27/07

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

The Chair advised that commencement of the works to upgrade the Children's Play Area had been delayed; and would now commence on the 2nd July 2007. Residents were to be advised by the Chair of the revised commencement date.

It was noted that a complaint had been made regarding an instance of excessive noise and bad language from young people using the play area. The Chair advised that at the Area Forum it had been noted that Middridge had been allocated its own Police contact person.; who could be contacted when any instance of anti-social behaviour of this kind was observed. It was suggested that the complainant be advised of these contact details.

Reference was also made to an unconnected incident within the Village regarding children's toys being stolen from the garden of a property. It was suggested that residents be reminded of the need to be vigilant in this regard; and advised to report the matter should any instance occur.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The revised commencement date for the play area works be noted.
2. The contact details of the Police representative be forward to the complainant and an appropriate article be included within the Residents Newsletter alerting residents to the need to be vigilant regarding their own property and the dangers of leaving items in the garden unattended; and that they be advised to report the matter should any instance occur.

28/07

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) North East Regional Spatial Strategy-Proposed Changes

Any comments were required to be submitted by 6th August 2007.

- (ii) LSP Strong Thematic Event/Attractive Theme Stakeholder Group Meeting

Councillor Mrs Clarke advised that she would attend the latter event; subject to clarification of the date.

29/07

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

(i) New Code of Conduct

Copies of the new Code of Conduct were circulated to members.

(ii) Eden Grove Sign

It was noted that Sedgefield Borough Council had advised that the replacement sign would be in place prior to the Parish's next meeting.

(iii) Public Footpath-Past Six Houses

Reference was made to the condition of the footpath towards Byerley Park; which had been reported as being difficult in terms of access for either wheel chair or pram users. It was requested that the matter be reported to DCC.

(iv) Miscellaneous

Reference was made to both residue concrete adjacent the garages at Eden Grove and growth observed on trees in the area. It was suggested that Councillors Mellors, Makinson and Howe would attempt to resolve both problems.

(v) Proposed Disposal of Allotments

It was noted that no information had been received from DCC regarding the above disposal; which had been first highlighted over a year and a half previously. It was suggested that DCC be contacted regarding what, if anything, would happen next regarding the allotments future use.

30/07

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 3rd September 2007 at 6.45pm

