

MIDDLETON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the back of Jubilee Hall, Elmer Road, Middleton-on-Sea
On Thursday 23rd January 2003

PRESENT – Messrs Wotherspoon (Chairman), Aldridge, Chandler, Copeland, Jarvis, Mansfield, Street, Mrs Mills, the Clerk and District Councillor Mrs B Oakley.

BEFORE opening the Meeting the Chairman presented a cheque of £100 to Peter Stemp of SAMMY Transport who gave a brief resume of the work of this charity.

1. APOLOGIES – Messrs Janes, County Councillor Mrs C Freeman and Mr Morrison.

2. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th December 2002 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none

4. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances – The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from Mr R Hills, tendering his resignation from the Council. The Chairman and members expressed their thanks for Mr R Hills’ significant contribution and instructed the Clerk to write accordingly.

The Clerk advised members that as a result of Mr R Hills’ resignation a number of committees were just quorate. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should undertake a review of the committee structure and submit a paper to the next meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Audit Commission Questionnaire –

Copies of the Audit Commission questionnaire relating to Arun District Council were previously circulated to all members. It was agreed that members should return their individual questionnaires to the Clerk by 27th January for amalgamation and submission by 29th January.

b) Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Clerk advised that the Information Commissioner has accepted the council’s application to adopt the Parish Council Model Scheme.

c) Standing Orders

Following the December 2002 meeting when the proposed new draft Standing Orders were stood adjourned, it was proposed by Mr Chandler, seconded by Mr Street and unanimously resolved that the revised Standing Orders should be immediately adopted and should supersede the Standing Orders approved on 24 April 1980. The Clerk was instructed to provide a copy of the new Standing Orders to each member.

6. COUNTRYSIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

a) Arun BioDiversity Forum -

The next meeting is on 11 February 2003 and Mr Mansfield is unable to attend. Mr Street will advise the Clerk if he is able to attend.

b) Footpaths -

The Clerk reported that the footpath sign at the southern end of Southdean Drive (Footpath 162) had now been repaired.

c) Public Health and Keep Arun Tidy (including Seaweed problems) -

The Clerk read a letter from Arun District Council detailing the current basis for street and bus shelter cleansing which is essentially performance based. It was agreed that if any deterioration in standards were noted, the Clerk should be advised and he will email Arun District Council. The Clerk further reported that details of the Entec Stakeholder Engagement Process (Meeting 4) had been received.

d) Tree planting and Village Pond –

The Clerk reported:

- (i) Approval has now been received from WSCC to plant 15 of the 21 trees requested. The Clerk will obtain 3 quotations for trees of approximately 6ft high and will ensure that the contractors are able to meet WSCC's required criteria. Licences for planting are being prepared by WSCC.
- (ii) West Sussex Tree Wardens have advised that an enquiry has been received from a member of the public who is interested in becoming a tree warden in the parish.

e) Tree Preservation Orders

Nothing to report.

7. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Clerk provided a report of the matters arising at the last committee meeting.

8. JOINT SEA DEFENCE AND LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported:

- (i) There had been a second breach of the sea defences along the Greensward which required Arun District Council to undertake emergency repairs. The MOS Association had expressed their significant concerns particularly as the chalk base was now being exposed. The Clerk has arranged a meeting on 12th February with Arun District Council and the Environment Agency which will also be attended by District Councillor Mrs Oakley and representatives of the MOS Association and Elmer Sands Ltd. ADC will also provide an article for Middleton News summarising their present coastal defence strategy.
- (ii) Following the breach of the sea defences, ADC will be having a site meeting on the Greensward with a DEFRA engineer in early February to seek funding for an emergency repair scheme.
- (iii) A letter has been received from Nick Gibb MP who has been copied in by the Chief Executive of Arun District Council with the ongoing correspondence.
- (iv) The severe weather has damaged the surface water outlet covers at the end of Sea Lane. Southern Water have been apprised of the situation and have undertaken to complete repairs.

- (v) MOS Association have advised that the foul water system was backing up in East Close, West Close and Sea Way in early January. This happened at a time of heavy rainfalls and when the Shrubbs Drive pumping station failed. They are pursuing the matter with Southern Water.
- (vi) A response has been received from WSCC Highways regarding the silting of the drainage ditches along the A259. Mr Mansfield noted that WSCC intended to clear the vegetation and was hopeful that the levels of sludge will reduce thereafter.

Mr Mansfield advised that there will be very high tides on the 20th/21st March which could cause coastal flooding if combined with strong winds.

9. LIAISON COMMITTEE

a) ADALC, Area Partnership Panel and associated matters including Code of Conduct -

The Clerk advised that the Community Wardens will attend the March meeting to introduce themselves. During their recent patrols they have expressed concerns about youths drinking alcohol within the confines of the One Stop Shop and this issue has been pursued. Members expressed misgivings at these developments. It was agreed that individual members will return their copies of the Arun 2003 questionnaire to ADC by the end of February 2003.

b) Newsletter -

Mr Copeland advised that the print run will be increased from 2,800 to 3,000 from the March edition owing to the additional new dwellings identified. Various members advised of the positive comments and compliments they had received about the Newsletter.

c) Police Panel and Police Liaison -

The Clerk reported that the next mobile Police Station visit will be on 13th February between 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. and that Chief Inspector Witton, District Police Commander will be attending the February meeting to address members concerns.

d) Residents Association Committee –

Mr Copeland advised that the next meeting will be on 13th March.

e) Vital Villages Scheme -

Mr Copeland reported that he had met Ieuan Sherwood, Community Development Officer, Action for Rural Sussex, to talk through the next stage of the scheme. He will now be arranging a meeting so that the Steering Committee can be established.

f) Young People –

The Clerk advised that ADC had awarded a £500 Village Enhancement Grant towards youth facilities on Shrubbs Field. Mr Copeland reported that he had attended Felpham's Parish Council meeting on 21st January to discuss the options surrounding a skateboard facility. He is also to attend a meeting on 24th January; attendees will include representatives of Arun, Bognor Regis and Felpham councils. The Chairman commented that the Chichester skateboard park is well used during the school holidays.

Mr Copeland confirmed that invitations had now been issued for the 'Section 17' meeting to discuss youth issues which will be held on 12 March. Attendees have been requested to submit agenda items by 7th February and at that time the Clerk will draw up a formal

agenda which will be circulated to all members. Mr Copeland urged members to attend the March meeting.

10. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

a) Playing Fields -

It was agreed that nominees for Middleton-on-Sea Village Hall will be Mr Aldridge (Parish Council) and Mr Chandler (Middleton-on-Sea Playing Fields)

b) Bus Shelters and Notice Boards -

Nothing to report.

11. ROADS & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

A copy of the WSCC Highway forward works programme was received. Three projects were identified within the parish:

- (i) Footpath repairs in Penn, Beaconsfield and Denham Closes (£35k)
- (ii) Repair of concrete lighting columns in Middleton Road (38.6k)
- (iii) Provision of a new footway in Middleton Road (55k)

Mr Street commented that Chalfont Close footpath was in a poor condition and should be included within (i). The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC.

The Clerk reported that WSCC had confirmed that the Village Green/Pond area will not be used as a storage area during any future drainage works.

Mr Jarvis reported that despite advising WSCC in December that the traffic island lights through the village were unlit no repair had been effected. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC Highways. Mrs Mills advised that she hoped to attend the rescheduled Bognor Regis Urban Transport Plan Forum on 19th March 2003.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with County Councillor Mrs Freeman regarding the serious accident which closed the A259 Comet Corner junction recently. Mr Mansfield provided details of the accident and reported that 4 persons had to be released from one car. There were severe traffic problems, at the evening peak, and the accident was attended by at least 2 ambulances and 3 fire engines. A number of members expressed their concerns that WSCC have still failed to make the junction safe. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC to seek the installation of traffic lights on either a full time, or peak time, basis as a roundabout now appeared to have been ruled out on the grounds of cost.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- 1. Clerks & Councils Direct - newsletter
- 2. Local Council Review
- 3. SERPA newsletter and contribution request
- 4. South Down News – newsletter
- 5. WSCC Connections

13. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

The Clerk reported on the following **Bank Accounts**

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£31,065.57
Total	<u>£32,315.57</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 100.00
(ii) SAMMY Transport	£ 100.00
(iii) Sussex Playing Fields Association	£ 10.00
(iv) Arun District Council (Public Conveniences)	£2,980.00
(v) Canon (UK) Ltd (Photocopier quarterly fee)	£ 70.76
Total	<u>£3,260.76</u>

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Copeland suggested that the council should hold an open evening to encourage people to become parish councillors given the election is in May. It was agreed to place this on February's agenda. The Clerk confirmed he will be writing an article about the role of parish councillors for the March edition of Middleton News. Mr Chandler asked when the wildfowl signs will be erected in Sea Lane. The Clerk advised that WSCC indicated they will be fitted during January and that he will chase them up if not fitted by 1st February. Mrs Oakley provided an update on the Manor Farmhouse planning appeal.

15. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

A member of the public raised the issue of dog bins on Saxon Reach. Mr Copeland advised him that negotiations were ongoing between Arun District Council and Southdean Residents Association which will hopefully resolve the matter. He further enquired about Site 6 (Felpham) and why the road infrastructure can't be completed until the houses are built. District Councillor Mrs Oakley undertook to write to Mr Collins, ADC. Mrs Mulvaney asked if replacement footpath signs could be fitted to the Villa Plage footpath now it was being taken over by WSCC. The Clerk advised this process was not yet complete and suggested no action is taken until the agreements have been fully completed. She also requested that a notice detailing the visit of the mobile police station be displayed in Elmer Beach Stores. It was agreed that Mr Chandler will arrange this.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting would be held on 27th February 2003 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.