

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 22nd January 2004

PRESENT – Councillors Copeland (in the Chair), Aldridge, Mrs Farley, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Ough, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs B Oakley (arrived 7.05 p.m), County Councillor Mrs C Freeman (arrived 6.50 p.m) and Mr Morrison.

1. APOLOGIES – Councillors Chandler, Mrs Willis, and Wotherspoon.

2. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th December 2003 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr Mansfield declared a personal interest in Item 7 (iii) being a near-by resident of the junction of the A259 and B2132.

4. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances – The Clerk reported that Cllr Ron Jarvis had died on 9th January 2004 and that 3 Councillors and himself had attended Cllr Jarvis’ funeral earlier in the day. A minute’s silence was held as a mark of respect. A letter of condolence had been sent to his widow and Mr Wilkinson proposed that a donation is made to RSPCA (Mount Noddy) in accordance with the family’s wishes (S137). The sum of £40 was proposed which was seconded by Mr Mansfield and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was instructed to send the donation via the funeral directors.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Presentation of Community Support Awards

Mr Copeland presented cheques of £100 each to both Ms Shiu, representing 4Sight, and Mr Morrison, representing Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch, who both thanked the Parish Council for their awards and provided a brief overview of their organisations.

6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Mr Mansfield reported that 6 plans had been considered during the month and that no objections had been made. He also stated that a planning inspector had ruled that the high fence erected along part of the boundary of the McCarthy and Stone development in Shrubbs Drive must be removed and be replaced with a hedge.

7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 14th January 2004 have been circulated to all Members.

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk reported that a whitebeam tree at the southern end of Middleton Green had been loosened in the ground following high winds and heavy rain on 13th January. The

Parish Tree Warden inspected the tree and arranged for a tree surgeon to attend promptly. As the tree was considered unsafe it was felled. Mr Mansfield advised that he had now obtained an estimate of £80 for a replacement specimen whitebeam, including planting, and proposed the purchase from the trees budget. Mrs Ross seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. Mr Mansfield will make the necessary arrangements.

ii) Joint Sea Defence & Land Drainage Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report.

iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report

iii) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

- (a) WSCC's proposals to reduce the speed limit to 40 mph along the B2132 between the A259 and Yapton village 30 mph zone together with part of Bilsham Lane were considered. Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Ross had concerns about the lack of signage on the approach to the bends adjacent to Bilsham Lane. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC to ask that appropriate warning signs, perhaps incorporating a maximum recommended speed limit, are placed on the bends.
- (b) Mrs Mills said that she had been approached by Mr Coster regarding the length of the slip road on the southern side of the A259 when approaching the Comet Corner junction from the east. This had been shortened previously and it was felt that it was now unsafe. The matter was discussed at some length and Mr Coster was also permitted to give his views. It was decided to take no action at this time pending the results of WSCC's Feasibility Study into the Comet Corner junction.
- (c) Mrs Freeman provided an overview of the accident which occurred at Comet Corner junction on 17th January which both closed the A259 and resulted in casualties being hospitalised. She further advised that WSCC will be issuing a draft works programme for Comet Corner and has set aside £71,000 for detailed designs during 2004/5. WSCC will be bidding for £700,000 from central government in July 2004, with the result known in December 2004, to carry out junction improvements in 2005/6. If the bid is successful, work will be able to start in late 2004/5. Mrs Mills thanked Mrs Freeman for her work.

8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised that a Committee meeting was held on 21st January when the following issues were discussed:

- (a) Demolition of the existing garage and replacement with a 30 foot storage container which was slightly smaller in overall volume. Installation can be approved as a permitted development.
- (b) A decision on security guard patrols was deferred until the next meeting pending a response from the Jubilee Hall committee.
- (c) Investigations are ongoing regarding improvements to the playground's access as required by the Disabilities Discrimination Act.
- (d) The Playing Field Management Committee accounts as at 31 December 2003 have been audited and will be circulated to all Members.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. Clerks and Councils Direct
2. Local Council Review
3. Wellspring newsletter
4. Details of the WSCC cashback incentive scheme for Real Nappies
5. Details of the upgraded smoke alarms now installed within the S.A.V.E.D scheme
6. WSCC Connections

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£22,789.45
Total	<u>£24,039.45</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) 4Sight (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(ii) Bognor Regis Fire Station (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(iii) Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(iv) Citizens Advice Bureau (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(v) Sammy Community Transport (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(vi) Sussex Playing Fields Association (Community Support S137)	£ 10.00
(vii) Canon (UK) Ltd (Photocopier rental)	£ 69.82
(viii) Chris Ayton (Vital Villages Questionnaire processing)	£ 840.00
(ix) D Fradgley (Felling/removal of whitebeam tree)	£ 250.00
(x) Jubilee Hall (Annual hall hire costs)	£ 234.00
Total	<u>£1,903.82</u>

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Ross enquired what the current situation was regarding crime in the area. Mr Copeland said the onset of colder and wetter nights had improved the situation although as the weather improved it was likely that the level of incidents will increase. Other Members cited recent incidents which had occurred. Mrs Oakley mentioned that nominations for ADC's Youth Awards had to be received by 30th January and at the request of Mr Mansfield the Clerk was instructed to place the papers into circulation. Mrs Freeman asked for feedback about the Western Area Partnership Panel and Mr Copeland was able to give a positive response.

12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mrs Mulvaney expressed concerns about cars parking in the bus stop opposite Elmer Beach Stores. After some discussion it was agreed not to take any action, recognising that it had always been a problem and it was unlikely traffic wardens would attend to specifically resolve the problem. Mr Coster drew attention to the potential increase in traffic through the village if WSCC's proposals to ban right hand turns at the Comet Corner junction, particularly when travelling eastwards, comes into effect.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting would be held on 26th February 2004 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.