

**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 27<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

1. **PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Chandler, Copeland, Edey, Mrs Farley, Jeffrey, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Wilkinson, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley, County Councillor Mrs Freeman and Mr Morrison.
2. **APOLOGIES** – Councillor Aldridge and Mrs Ross and Mrs Willis.
3. **MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2004 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –Mr Mansfield declared a personal interest in Item 7(iv) being a nearby 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 Chairman advised that he had received a letter from a parishioner regarding a vehicle which regularly parks, part on the road and part on the pavement, in Yapton Road. This seriously restricts the latter to the detriment of pedestrians and pram users. It further creates a potential safety hazard for vehicles travelling in both directions along the narrow road and may have been a contributory factor in an car accident in December. The letter suggested that double yellow lines are laid on the western side of Yapton Road from Middleton Road to Ilex Way and it was unanimously agreed to request WSCC Highways to implement double yellow lines as suggested. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC Highways accordingly.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Community Support CVS-Arunwide**

This request was brought forward from December's meeting at the request of a member. After discussion it was agreed not to make a community support award.

**b) New Material Recycling Facility, Ford**

The Clerk advised that the planning application will be considered by WSCC Planning Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 and that the officers' recommendation is to approve the MRF, subject to certain caveats. The Clerk said that the report was unbalanced and effectively dismissed the Parish/Town Council's arguments in a single paragraph. The environmental issues surrounding carbon emissions and a traffic optimisation study were given extremely low priority. There will be a number of people speaking against the application, including Mr Wilkinson who will speak on behalf of this Council.

**c) Draft South East Plan**

Details of the draft South East Plan, prepared by the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA), had been circulated to members. Whilst there is a 12 week consultation period from 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005 it was agreed not to comment.

**d) Proposed Projects Committee**

A paper had been circulated to members explaining the various options regarding the formation of a Projects Committee. Mr Copeland proposed, and Mrs Mills seconded, the formation of a Projects Advisory Sub Committee within the General Purposes Committee which will be able to co-opt parishioners (non-voting) with the appropriate skills/knowledge to the committee, subject only to full council approval. The creation of the Advisory Sub Committee was agreed nem.con. In order that the committee can start work promptly, and being mindful that the General Purposes Committee had a full complement of councillors, it was proposed by Mrs Mills, seconded by Mrs Farley, and agreed by an overwhelming majority, to co-opt Mr Jeffery as a non-voting member of the Projects Advisory Sub Committee.

**e) Arun CDRP Grant Funding**

The Clerk reported that Arun CDRP had agreed in principle a grant of £2,500, to be matched by the Parish Council, for the development of a youth facility in Middleton. The CDRP are willing to be flexible over the timescale (up to 15 months) albeit they require an interim report for their June/July meeting. The youth facility will be progressed by the Projects Advisory Sub Committee.

**f) Neighbourhood Management Team**

A letter was received from Bognor Regis Police advising the formation of the Neighbourhood Management Team which will meet on a monthly basis, the first meeting being on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005. The Parish Council was requested to nominate an attendee, however, no one was able to attend.

**g) Estimate for re-painting of Sea Lane Bus Shelter**

An estimate had been obtained for the repainting of the Bus Shelter, clearing of the ivy from the tiled roof, installing a soak away and clearing the weeds around the obelisk. Members discussed the estimate of £1,065 at length. Mr Mansfield thought it was a lot of money, Mr Copeland suggested raising the floor to prevent flooding and the Chairman pointed out that the bus shelter had not been repainted for many years. Mr Chandler said that previously he had decorated it 3 times. Subsequently, Mr Chandler proposed acceptance of the estimate which was seconded by Mr Wilkinson and agreed by an overwhelming majority. The Clerk was instructed to accept the estimate and arrange for the work to be completed.

**h) Off-site play provision, Section 106 agreement**

The Clerk advised that Arun District Council had received £5,560 for off-site play provision from the development at Willowbrook, Middleton-on-Sea. The District Council proposed to use the funds on refurbishing Larksfield play area however Mr

Copeland said that Willowbrook was much closer to Shrubbs Field play area and that it needed additional equipment for the benefit of children with disabilities, as highlighted in a Rospa Disabilities Access Report. Members concurred and the Clerk was instructed to write requesting that the funds should be used to improve the Shrubbs Field play area.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

## **7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

### **i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) The toilets adjacent to Shrubbs Field had been vandalised on 20<sup>th</sup> January and it was understood that the Police attended and some youths were arrested.
- (b) ADC had responded regarding the lack of cleaning of the memorial bus shelter. ADC agreed that they would liaise with their contractor, Verdant, and that ADC's inspectors would monitor the area closely.
- (c) A parishioner had written to complain about the untidiness of the memorial bus shelter and Elmer Road in general. A copy of the letter had been sent to ADC and they had been asked to resolve the issues raised.
- (d) Details of WSCC's Statement of Community Involvement had been placed into circulation.

Mr Wilkinson gave a detailed report about his attendance at ADC's Waste Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and advised that Verdant's new contract commences on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005. From that date, inter alia, there will be no back door collections, Bertie boxes will be replaced by wheelie bins, and weekly collections will be maintained. The Chairman said that waste disposal will be a key issue in the coming months and the Clerk was instructed to keep the matter on the Agenda.

### **ii) Joint Sea Defence & Land Drainage Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised that the First Review of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), covering the coast from Beachy Head to Selsey Bill, had commenced and that 5 exhibitions were being held, the closest being at Climping Village Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2005. There is also an opportunity for individuals to comment until 9<sup>th</sup> April 2005. The SMP recommendation for both Middleton and Elmer is to "Hold the Line" which is to be welcomed. Mrs Mills proposed that £100 was given to the MOS Association as a contribution towards the cost of an engineer's survey of the Greensward which will be used to support the need for sea defence improvements. This was seconded by Mrs Farley and agreed nem.con. District Councillor Mrs Oakley said she had noticed some loose planks along the Greensward and had spoken to the chief engineer at Arun District Council.

**iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) An email had been received from ADC's Car Parks Manager seeking to clarify why the Parish Council wanted a public meeting as his Council had received many objections to charging in Shrubbs car park and was therefore aware of the views expressed. He believed a possible meeting between the Cabinet Member, himself and the Parish Council may be more productive. Members believed it was important for a public meeting to take place so that local residents can express their views directly and also seek answers to any questions they may have. The Clerk was instructed to press for a public meeting.
- (b) Mr Jeffrey will be attending a New Councillors' Course on 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January.
- (c) SALC December 2004 County Circular has been distributed to members.
- (d) Advice had been received from the ODPM that the Clerk and the Chairman had been nominated as 'Primary Authorisation' and 'Secondary Authorisation', respectively, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- (e) The Arun Crime & Disorder Partnership will be holding a public consultation meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 at Bognor Regis Town Hall commencing at 6 p.m.

Mr Copeland advised that the Police have access to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) who are undertaking Community Service. They wish to clear the debris from footpath (161) which runs from opposite St Nicholas' Church to Ancton Lane later in the year (possibly June) and were seeking assistance from the Parish Council to pay for the cost of the skips to remove the rubbish. It was agreed that this was a District Council responsibility and the Clerk was instructed to respond, both expressing support for the project and suggesting that funding should be sought from the District Council.

**iv) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee**

County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she was concerned to note the article in the local press about traffic lights at Comet Corner as that was news to her. She had been regularly pressing the Cabinet Member (Lt. Col. Tex Pemberton) for news about when a decision was to be made. She understood it to be March 2005 although some of the utility companies had yet to respond to WSCC regarding their underground services and this might cause a delay. She confirmed that no WSCC press release had been issued and that no officers had spoken to the press albeit the Cabinet Member may have inadvertently commented. The Chairman suggested Mrs Freeman should exert maximum pressure on the Cabinet Member given that the County Council elections are imminent and Mr Wilkinson said a denial press release should be issued by WSCC. Details of the draft WSCC Highways 2005/2006 programmes had been received which shows junction improvements at Comet Corner/B2132 commencing in 2005/6 and being completed in 2006/7. (This is subject to consultation). Mr Mansfield requested the Clerk to place details into circulation.

Mr Wilkinson advised that he had attended the Unity meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005 which was also attended by Nick Gibb MP. The feeling of the meeting was that the time for talking was over and the time for doing something had arrived.

## PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

The Clerk advised that the notice board adjacent to St Nicholas' Church had now been repaired and modified in an effort to discourage further vandalism.

### 9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. ADRP Public Consultation 2005/8
2. ADRP November's Highlight Report
3. ADC – Letter re Proposed Ford Development
4. ADC Statement of Licensing Policy
5. Clerks and Councils Direct
6. The Local Channel
7. Mr A Rainger – Letter re site 6
8. WSCC Connections
9. WSCC "For Better Tomorrow" brochure
10. WSCC Highways & Transport Facts/Information brochure

### 10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£31,730.74
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£32,980.74</u></b>

#### (b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) BR Neighbourhood Watch (Community Support)	£ 100.00
(ii) Citizens Advice Bureau (Community Support)	£ 100.00
(iii) Sammy Community Transport Ltd (Community Support)	£ 125.00
(iv) Sussex County Playing Fields Assn (Community Support)	£ 10.00
(v) Jubilee Hall (Hire of small hall 7 <sup>th</sup> April-15 <sup>th</sup> December 2004)	£ 147.00
(vi) Canon (UK) (Copies charge)	£ 267.41
(vii) MOS Assn (Assistance with coastal survey costs)	£ 100.00
(viii) Canon (UK) (Quarterly rental charge)	£ 70.66
(ix) Mr G Charles (Repair/modification of parish notice board)	£ 96.00
(x) Arun District Council (Printing Parish Action Plan)	£3,581.32
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£4,597.39</u></b>

### 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Chandler enquired if anyone was aware to whom he should report the failed light in Shrubbs Car Park.

## **12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mrs Mulvaney said that when the gutter on the Sea Lane Bus Shelter had been cleared it may assist in the reduction of water gathering within the bus shelter. She also mentioned the waste collection system employed in Berkshire. Mr Wood said people needed to be educated about recycling. Mr Szynowski thanked the Parish Council for their contribution to the engineering survey and reminded members about the Shoreline Management Plan exhibition. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she was currently trying to co-ordinate her diary with WSCC Cabinet Member, Steve Waight, so that a meeting with MOS Assn could take place promptly. She also mentioned that WSCC land on the north side of the A259/B2132 will never be used to develop a travellers transit site and that she had spoken against the proposed Ford Development. Mr Morrison thanked the Parish Council for its contribution to Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.50p.m.