

**MIDDLETON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held in the back of Jubilee Hall, Elmer Road, Middleton-on-Sea**  
**On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Copeland (In the Chair), Jeffrey, Mrs Mills, Ms Ross, Mrs Willis, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley, County Councillor Mrs Freeman (departed at 7.30 p.m.) and Mr Morrison.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Chandler, Edey and Wotherspoon.
2. **MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mrs Mills declared a prejudicial interest in part of both Item 4 and Item 12 being the former Chairman of the Comet Corner Action Group. Ms Ross declared a personal interest in Item 7 (ii) being a member of the Middleton-on-Sea Residents Association and a prejudicial interest in part of Item 12 being both a member of the Middleton-on-Sea Residents Association and known to an applicant.

**4. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – PCSOs Toby Florescu and Clive Morge attended the meeting, the latter having recently assumed responsibility for the Middleton and Elmer area. PCSO Morge advised that he became a PCSO in November 2006 after 33 years in the RAF and hoped for at least 2 years continuity in his role locally. Various issues were raised by members including the uprooting of an ADC litter bin adjacent to the obelisk in the early hours of Sunday morning. The PCSOs said it was essential that these matters are reported to the police either by dialling 999, if the incident is actually happening, or 0845 60 70 999 if it has already happened. A ‘street briefing’ initiative is going to be rolled out in the parish during February to encourage members of the public to report incidents. The PCSO’s confirmed they will provide an article for Middleton News.

County Councillor Mrs Freeman said that she had followed up on Mr Brookland’s comments regarding additional bollards opposite One Stop with the Local Highways Manager. She said that if too many bollards are installed then it will be difficult to cut the grass verge and that the cost of each bollard is £60. Currently there is no budget for these items. Mr Copeland said that members did not want any more bollards, it was only an individual parishioner. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said that if Mr Brookland wished to raise any other County Council related matter that he should write to her, c/o West Sussex County Council, County Hall, Chichester. She went on to comment that JWAAC will be considering Site 6 issues next week and that the £1 million S106 monies are likely to be discussed. She believes Felpham councillors will press for the money to be used in their parish and not at Comet Corner. Mr Copeland said the case for Comet Corner still needed to be pressed. Finally, she briefly mentioned that the County Council

was against the crematorium proposal and that she was personally against it on environmental and traffic grounds. She has written to the District Council accordingly.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

### **a) Proposed route change in Footpath 160**

WSCC are seeking to modify the route of footpath 160 by bringing it inside Larksfield rather than its present route on the southern edge of Worms Wood. The consultation period is until 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007. Members unanimously agreed not to object to the proposed route change.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 were circulated and noted.

## **7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

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

Mrs Willis thanked all the volunteers who assisted her with the village green and pond clear-up on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and gave specific thanks to the Middleton-on-Sea Association. She said the area now looks very good and that the volunteers had managed to open up additional areas. She requested that the Clerk writes letters of thanks to (a) Ian Gibbs for the supply of the trailer, (b) the caterer at Middleton Sports Club for supplying complimentary coffee and biscuits (c) John Knight, West Sussex Countryside Ranger and (d) Middleton-on-Sea Association. Members expressed their thanks to Mrs Willis for organising the clear-up and commented how good the area now looks.

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

Mrs Willis reported that Arun District Council are using a contractor to bore some trial holes behind the damaged breastworks along the Greensward. This is to ascertain what the structure(s) comprise of in order that a plan can be formulated to see what remedial work can be undertaken in a cost effective and timely manner.

### **(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) SALC are holding a training weekend for experienced councillors on 9-11 February.
- (b) Andrew Houlden has been appointed as the Middleton News Co-ordinator. Contact details will be circulated to members.

### **iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee**

Nothing to report.

### **v) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee**

The draft WSCC Highways & Transport Proposed Schemes 2007/2008 and Forward Programme has been published. Design Development (subject to funding for construction) at Comet Corner is shown in the 2007/2008 schemes with Scheme

Construction (subject to consultation and funding) shown in 2008/2009. A new or improved footways scheme along Middleton Road is also shown in that year.

## **8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had been received:-

- (1) 4Sight – Letter of thanks for Community Support Grant
- (2) ADC – Letter re Bognor Regis Task Force Team
- (3) Biomap – Letter re wood heating
- (4) Clerks and Councils Direct
- (5) CVS – Voice Newsletter
- (6) LCR – January 2007
- (7) WSCC Connections

## **10. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **a) Bank Accounts -**

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£33,644.78
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£34,894.78</u></b>

### **(b) Accounts for payment -**

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Middleton-on-Sea Playing Fields (Funds drawdown)	£1,500.00
(ii) Panasonic U.K. Ltd (Photocopier rental/charges)	£ 85.09
(iii) 4Sight (Community Support S137)	£ 50.00
(iv) Arun Co-ordinated Community Transport (Community Support S137)	£ 90.00
(v) BR Neighbourhood Watch (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(vi) Citizens Advice Bureau (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(vii) Sammy Community Transport Ltd (Community Support S137)	£ 100.00
(viii) Sussex Playing Fields Association (Community Support S137)	£ 10.00
(ix) WRVS (Community Support S137)	£ 50.00
(x) BR East District Girlguiding (Youth Grant S137)	£ 200.00
(xi) Mrs R Willis (Materials for Village Pond & Green clear-up)	£ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£2,310.09</u></b>

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mr Wood expressed concern about the condition of the pavement along Yapton Road and said he will take it up with County Councillor Mrs Freeman.

Mr Bradbury said that he had attended a Development Control Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 and was concerned that the Chairman had been able to use her casting vote when there were only 2 councillors present. He believed that the council should review its rules and increase the number of members required to be quorate from two to three. Mr Copeland said that whilst there were six members of the Development Control Committee, there had been recent circumstances, including illness, which limited the number of members available to attend. The Clerk advised that he had examined the level of attendance between June and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 (a total of 12 meetings). During that period two meetings had not been quorate and four had been quorate but with only two members. If the number of members required to make the meeting quorate had been three then half the meetings would not have been quorate and the plans would have been returned to the District Council without comment. He also advised that whilst the council should have 12 councillors, currently it only has 9 members. Further, no parishioners had come forward on three separate occasions when vacancies were advertised. Hopefully the situation will change when Parish Council elections are held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

*(Ms Ross left the meeting during discussion of this item)*

Mrs Brown said she had attended the public meeting about the proposed crematorium at Yapton on 12<sup>th</sup> January, which was attended by Nick Herbert MP. Many concerns were raised by the public that there had been inappropriate meetings between the applicant company and the District Council and that no minutes had been taken. It is understood Nick Herbert MP intends to take these issues up with Arun District Council.

*(Mrs Mills left the meeting during discussion of this item)*

**There** being no further business, the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on **21<sup>st</sup> March 2007 at 7.00 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.