

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 16th January 2008

PRESENT – Councillors Copeland (In the Chair), Chandler, Edey, Gamester, Mrs Haywood, Jeffrey, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Redman, Ms Ross, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley and Mr Morrison.

- 1. APOLOGIES** – Councillors Mrs Hall, Wotherspoon and County Councillor Mrs Freeman.
- 2. MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th December 2007 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Mansfield declared a prejudicial interest in item 6(f) being a nearby resident of the junction of the A259/B2132 and a personal interest in 6 (e) as reference is made to him in the letter as Mr M.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

PCSO Clive Morge provided details of the crime statistics for Middleton area together with some other areas by way of comparison. He advised that anti-social behaviour had dropped although a fence had been broken at the Elmer Sands kiosk. Further, on the night of the 30th/31st December there was a lot of criminal damage starting at Ashmere Court and moving eastwards with fences broken in Sundale Lane and at the BT Telephone Exchange. A large number of windows were also broken at the Jubilee Hall. He suggested that it might be useful to install CCTV in the general vicinity of the Jubilee Hall and Shrubbs car park to dissuade vandals in that general area.

Mr Brookland advised that he had been in correspondence with WSCC's Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport regarding a pedestrian crossing. He also mentioned that the stone wall in front of the village shops had now been repaired.

Mrs Brown advised that the light outside the Avisford Medical Centre was still not working. *(Subsequently she telephoned the Clerk to advise the light was working as she left the meeting).*

- 5. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be a matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by Mr Hammond, who is a member of the Jubilee Hall committee. The committee has apparently agreed to explore the cost of installing a CCTV system and is keen to involve the owners of Shrubbs Car park (Arun District Council), Avisford Medical Centre, the Scouts, Trustees of Shrubbs Field and the Parish Council with a view to installing a system to cover the general area and to share the costs involved. It has

been left with Mr Hammond to contact the Parish Council with specifications and costs in due course.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Formal Co-option of Matthew Redman

The Vice Chairman welcomed Mr Redman to the council and the Clerk confirmed that the necessary Declarations of Acceptance of Office had been completed prior to the commencement of the meeting.

b) Formal Co-option of Mrs Haywood to the General Purposes Committee

Mrs Mills proposed that Mrs Haywood now becomes a member of the General Purposes Committee. This was seconded by Mr Mansfield and unanimously agreed.

c) Completion of a revised Bank Mandate

Members completed a new bank mandate in order to include the three recently co-opted councillors. Two councillors will have to visit the bank to provide suitable identification, when requested to do so by the Clerk.

d) Pedestrian Crossing

An email was received from County Councillor Mrs Freeman shortly before the commencement of the meeting answering some of the questions raised by the Parish Council. WSCC's Deputy Leader apparently has a budget of £200,000 per annum to allocate for pedestrian crossings at the highest priority sites. The 2007/2008 budget has been allocated to five crossings across the county with costs varying between £63,000 and £20,000. The costs quoted to Middleton of £48,000 - £70,000+ related to traffic signal controlled crossings although zebra crossings and pavement build outs are much cheaper. It appears that WSCC Highways are considering a cheap pavement build out option in Elmer Road and the Local Area Highways Manager has offered to meet members on site.

Members expressed total dismay at the response received and Mr Edey pointed out that no detailed breakdown of costing had been provided, as requested. Members were further concerned to note that (a) the figures quoted to the council were for 'top of the range' crossings when a Zebra crossing will be entirely satisfactory and (b) that County Councillor Mrs Freeman had advised the Parish Council on 16th May 2007 that a crossing in Elmer Road was "at the top of the list" and that as she was on the JWAAC Highways sub committee, together with the then WSCC Deputy Leader (County Councillor Mike Coleman), that her priority was to get a pedestrian crossing in Elmer Road. Members expressed the view that they were being 'strung along' and wanted a proper zebra crossing, not a built out pavement. They instructed the Clerk to write to County Councillor Mrs Freeman in the strongest terms.

e) Letter from Mrs R Willis

Mr Mansfield stated that he would withdraw from this agenda item.

Ms Ross read a prepared statement which stated, *inter alia*, that it was incongruous to her that Mr Mansfield chose to berate Mrs Willis in a very public manner by stating that ‘she displayed a lack of knowledge and disinterest’ when he visited her to report travellers in Worms Wood. Ms Ross praised the work Mrs Willis had done when she was a councillor and now as both Middleton Green/Pond Warden and Tree Warden. She drew attention to the 10 Principles of Public Life adopted by the Parish Council, one of which was to “Treat others with respect”. She then went on to recognise Mr Mansfield’s contribution when he was Tree Warden. Ms Ross proposed that “*The Parish Council request Mr Mansfield to make a public apology to Mrs Willis and if that is not forthcoming then the Parish Council will disassociate itself from his comments*” and requested a named vote. Mrs Mills seconded the resolution and said that Mr Mansfield’s comments were unwarranted. The resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority. (**For:** Edey, Gamester, Mrs Haywood, Jeffrey, Mrs Mills, Ms Ross. **Against:** Chandler & Redman. **Abstain:** Copeland).

f) Comet Corner/Site 6 - WSCC improvement proposals

The Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting with WSCC Highways officials on 4th January 2008 when plans were revealed to improve the southern side of Comet Corner road junction. WSCC traffic projections showed that by the time Site 6 was fully developed, the increased volume of traffic along the A259 would be so large that it will take 25 minutes to join the A259 from the south during the a.m. peak with queues of 70 vehicles anticipated. Further, because there is such a large quantity of underground services (high pressure sewage pipe, BT optical cabling and high voltage electric cables) on the northern side of the A259, it will be very expensive to re-route these services so WSCC believe that it is only practical solution is to improve the southern side of the junction.

The proposal extends the A259’s westbound filter lane ahead of Yapton Road to effectively split the Middleton and Bognor traffic into two lanes. The section of Yapton Road between the A259 and Comet Cottage is made one way southbound and all traffic wishing to join the A259 from Yapton Road will do so via Worms Lane which will also be one way. Extended traffic islands will be built in the centre of the A259, adjacent to Worms Lane, which will create a central refuge for traffic wishing to travel eastbound along the A259. The cost of the improvements is some £300,000 which can be funded by WSCC.

Members had a detailed discussion and it was then proposed by Mrs Mills, seconded by Mr Edey and agreed by an overwhelming majority to instruct the Clerk to write to WSCC Highways giving agreement in principle to the proposals but asking that they give serious consideration to some low cost amendments to the scheme:

- Change the priorities on the central island ‘Give Way’ such that the Worms Lane traffic has priority over the eastbound A259 traffic. Further, undertake a review of the speed limits.
- Do not permit a right turn into Bilsham Road (north) for traffic travelling westbound along the A259.
- Revisit the vehicle statistics in Bilsham Road (north).

- In accepting the scheme, members still believe comprehensive junction improvements (either a roundabout or traffic signals) are required and trust WSCC will find funding for this in the next few years.

(Mr Mansfield left the room whilst this item was being discussed).

7. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes dated 12th December 2007 were circulated and noted.

8. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

A copy letter from Felpham Parish Council to the WSCC's Deputy Leader, regarding CLC's was circulated.

Mr Jeffrey represented the Parish Council at a meeting on 15th January 2008 to consider the future of Joint Area Committees (JACs). Five proposals were put to the meeting and the outcome was that the majority of councils represented wanted the 3 JACs to remain, preferably with WSCC in attendance. Further, they wanted equal voting and a rotating chairman. A briefing paper is being circulated to members.

iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report.

v) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

The WSCC Highways & Transport Works Programme 2008/9 and Forward Programme has been received and placed into general circulation. Included within the programme are new/improved footways on the northside of Middleton Road between Merry End and the Byway and junction improvements at Comet Corner.

9. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report

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10. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- (1) ADC Statement of Licensing Policy Review (*General Circulation*)
- (2) Clerks & Councils Direct
- (3) CVS Arunwide – Grant application and response (*General Circulation*)
- (4) LCR – formerly Local Council Review
- (5) Sussex Police – response re Neighbourhood Watch (*Full Circulation*)
- (6) WSCC – Bus Shelter Grants Scheme 2008/9 (*General Circulation*)
- (7) West Sussex Mediation Service – Grant application (and response)

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£43,631.54
Total	£44,881.54

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Panasonic UK Ltd (Photocopier rental/charges)	£ 82.50
(ii) 4 Sight (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 50.00
(iii) BR Neighbourhood Watch (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 100.00
(iv) BR Stroke Support Grp (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 40.00
(v) Citizens Advice Bureau (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 100.00
(vi) Samaritans (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 100.00
(vii) Sammy Community Transport (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 100.00
(viii) Sussex PFA (S137 Community Support Grant)	£ 10.00
(ix) Arun District Council (2007 Election Costs)	£ 249.00
(x) Jubilee Hall (Annual rental costs)	£ 103.40
Total	£ 934.90

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Edey suggested that the Parish Council write in support of the proposed ASDA store. The Clerk advised that this would be inappropriate without sight of the plans. It was therefore agreed to refer the plans to the Development Control Committee, when available, so that the committee can decide upon what stance it wishes to adopt.

District Councillor Mrs Oakley advised that she was called out on New Year's Eve when a 12 foot section of breastwork on the Greensward was washed away by the sea. She called out Arun District Council's emergency teams who fenced off the section until remedial works could be completed. She was also called upon when a section of roadway in Yapton Road/Sundale Lane subsided. WSCC Highways have now completed repairs.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on **19th March 2008 at 7.00 p.m.** The Meeting closed at 8.03 p.m.