

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 21st January 2009

PRESENT – Councillors Copeland (In the Chair), Gamester, Mrs Haywood, Mansfield, Ms Ross, the Clerk and District Council Mrs Oakley.

1. APOLOGIES – Councillors Chandler, Jeffrey, Mrs Mills, Wotherspoon, County Councillor Mrs Freeman, and Mr Morrison.

2. MINUTES –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 17th December 2008 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

PCSO Morge gave details of the crime statistics for the last month and advised that there are now three PCSOs assigned to Felpham and Middleton so he will be spending more time in Middleton. This was welcomed by councillors.

District Councillor Mrs Oakley advised that the Local Development Framework is now out for consultation and is available on Arun District Council's website.

5. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be a matter of urgency due to special circumstances – The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Mrs Freeman which advised, *inter alia*, that the steps leading to Elmer Road from Shrubbs Car Park, which currently do not have handrails, are the responsibility of WSCC. Action will be taken to have handrails installed, however, WSCC Highways have no funds available presently and the work will have to wait until at least April 2009. The Clerk also reported that The Beresford public house closed for business on 11th January 2009. He spoke with a Scottish & Newcastle representative who advised that the company was seeking a new tenant and that public house will reopen as soon as one is found.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Support Donations

Two letters received from beneficiaries were circulated to members. The letter from Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch expressed disappointment that the community support scheme may cease as the organisation relies on donations from Parish and Town Councils. Members agreed to discuss the future of the scheme at the March 2009 meeting. The Clerk will place on the agenda.

b) Public Consultation on Sites for Gypsies and Travellers

The Clerk advised that the documents are now available on Arun District Council's website. Mr Mansfield said now the documents were in the public domain he can advise that the proposals do not affect Middleton and that those affected are mostly where the unofficial sites are located within the District.

7. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the Draft Planning Policy Statement: Eco-Towns – Consultation has been circulated to all councillors.

8. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

A comprehensive note was received from Mrs Willis, Village Green & Pond Warden, regarding the annual clear-up which took place on the 3rd January 2009. The note highlighted that over 20 volunteers, mostly from the Middleton-on-Sea Association, took part and the work included clearing leaf litter, cutting back overgrowth, clearing the ditches and embankments, and checking/re-hanging bird boxes as necessary. As requested, the Clerk has written letters of thanks to the Middleton-on-Sea Association, Mr Gibbs, Mr Knight and Mr Thompson. Ms Ross said that the volunteers had done a good job and District Councillor Mrs Oakley, who had attended, said there were a lot of new faces.

Mr Mansfield advised that two solar powered, PIR activated, lights had been clamped to two trees at the northern end of Footpath 161 where it joins Ancton Lane. Complaints had been received from nearby residents as they are not in keeping with the rural aspect of the area. As the trees are on WSCC land, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Rights of Way Department. Mr Mansfield also mentioned an email from a Mr Diggins regarding planting a small woodland in the area between Cootes Lane and the Parish Church to which the Clerk had already responded. He said that the idea had merit and should be discussed by the full council. The Clerk will therefore place the matter on March's agenda.

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

Nothing to report.

(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

The next edition of Middleton News will be available from the 9/10th March. Further, the Winter 2008 edition is now available on the Parish Council website (www.middleton-on-sea.co.uk). A request was received from the Car Parks Manager for support in respect of (a) filling in the pot holes in Shrubbs car park and (b) concreting in the southern edge of the car park which is presently unkempt. Members were supportive of (a) but said that they did not want the concreting undertaken as they regarded it as a "wildlife corridor". The Clerk will advise the Car Parks Manager accordingly.

The Bulletin, Edition 4, from the Standards Board for England has been placed into general circulation.

iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk advised that the installation of the new playground equipment was completed just before Christmas and is being well used. Ms Ross thanked the Clerk for managing the project.

v) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

The draft WSCC Highways works programme for 2009/10 and Forward Programme has been received. Three projects are shown for the parish:

1. A zebra crossing in Elmer Road near Harefield Road at an estimated gross cost of £25,000 in 2009/2010.
2. Improved footways in Middleton Road between Merry End and The Byway (Northside) at an estimated gross cost of £60,000 in 2010/2011.
3. Comet Corner. Two phases – 2009/10 Estimated gross cost £75,000 and 2010/2011 Estimated gross cost £325,000 which is subject to funding for the construction.

9. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised that work to refurbish the Merry End Bus Shelter started on 21st January and that a Village Enhancement Schemes grant application for £673 had been successful. This will mitigate the cost of refurbishment. Further, the Trustees of Middleton-on-Sea Playing Fields have made a successful £700 grant application to the WSCC Community Initiative Fund for new chairs for the pavilion.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- (1) ADC Conflict Prevention & Management Seminar (*Full Circulation*)
- (2) Clerks & Councils Direct (*Full Circulation*)
- (3) Communities & Local Government – Communities in Control (*In circulation*)
- (4) CVS Newsletter - Voice
- (5) Mr Diggins – new woodland area (*Full Circulation*)
- (6) ICIS - Newsletter
- (7) WSCC – Bus Shelter Grant Scheme 2009/2010 (*General Circulation*)
- (8) WSCC Connections
- (9) WSCC – Minerals & Waste Development Framework (*Full Circulation*)

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£29,883.75
Total	<u>£31,133.75</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Arun Co-ordinated Transport (Community Support Grant)	£	50.00
(ii) BR Neighbourhood Watch (Community Support Grant)	£	100.00
(iii) Citizens Advice Bureau (Community Support Grant)	£	100.00
(iv) Samaritans (Community Support Grant)	£	50.00
(v) Sammy Community Transport (Community Support Grant)	£	100.00
(vi) Sussex Air Ambulance (Community Support Grant)	£	100.00
(vii) Panasonic UK Ltd (Photocopier rental/charges)	£	50.73
(viii) Clerks and Councils Direct (Annual Subscription)	£	220.00
Total	£	<u>770.73</u>

(Items (i) - (vi) are S137 payments)

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Haywood said she will organise another Midsummer Walk if members would like her to. Members unanimously agreed.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on **18th March 2009 at 7.00 p.m.** The meeting closed at 7.32 p.m.