

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 20th January 2010

PRESENT – Councillors Copeland (In the chair), Mrs Claxton, Gamester, Mrs Hall, Mrs Haywood, Jeffrey, Mrs Mills, Mrs Phillips, Watson, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley and PCSO Morge.

1. APOLOGIES – Councillors Mansfield, Redman, Wotherspoon, and County Councillor Mrs Coleman.

2. MINUTES –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 16th December 2009 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Mills declared a personal interest in item 6(a) being the Secretary of the Friends of Avisford Medical Group.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Ms Bowden raised the issue of pot holes in Shrubbs Drive adjacent to the Doctor's Surgery.

Mr Brookland said that during the snowy weather, the footpaths in Kingfisher and Nightingale Court were unsafe and were not gritted. Responsibility for the footpaths rests with WSCC.

PCSO Clive Morge gave the local crime statistics and said that he was now spending more time on foot in the Elmer/Middleton Road area during the day and on his bike in the evenings. The Neighbourhood Management Forum continues and he hopes to start regular 'Have your say' sessions in Avisford Medical Group surgery shortly. The Clerk raised the continuing anti-social behaviour in the children's playground which results in swings and slides being made unusable. It became clear that it is unlikely that the matter will be resolved until CCTV is installed so that the offenders can be properly identified.

District Councillor Mrs Oakley said the village pond/green clearance went very well with some 40 people attending.

5. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be a matter of urgency due to special circumstances – Mr Copeland advised of the sad death of Ted Chandler on 26th December 2009. Ted had been a member of the Parish Council for 38 years including 25 years as its Chairman. He was also an Alderman and former District Councillor at Arun District Council. A minute's silence was held in his memory.

The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Mrs Coleman who had been unable to attend the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) CCTV Project

The Clerk advised that a meeting was held on 5th January 2010 to agree a way forward. The CCTV scheme will cost some £6,900 of which £6,000 of funding has been secured (Parish Council £3,000 & Grants £3,000). A proposal was therefore agreed that the Jubilee Hall Committee, Middleton Scouts and Avisford Medical Centre should each contribute £300 towards the cost. Further, that the Jubilee Hall Committee will pay for the ongoing running (electricity) costs and that the Parish Council will fund the annual maintenance contract. The Clerk wrote to the three parties, asking for a response by 1st February. To date, Middleton Scouts have verbally agreed, Avisford Medical Centre have rejected the scheme and do not wish to be involved and a decision is awaited from the Jubilee Hall Committee.

Members expressed disappointment at Avisford Medical Centre's response and confirmed that they will no longer benefit from any CCTV coverage. Mr Gamester agreed to approach the contractors in an attempt to reduce the cost by £300 and if that failed then the Trustees of Middleton Playing Fields will be approached for £300. Mr Copeland said that the scheme must go ahead and that the Parish Council will have to find the additional funding if the Jubilee Hall Committee can't fund the project, contingent upon them funding the running costs. This was proposed by Mr Gamester, seconded by Mrs Mills and unanimously agreed.

b) Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan was originally written 10 years ago by Mrs Mills and she has now brought the details up-to-date in conjunction with the Clerk. Mr Gamester and Mr Watson agreed to be additional 'First Contacts' and the plan will now be circulated to the volunteers and copies given to Arun District Council who are the local Emergency Co-ordinators. Mr Copeland thanked Mrs Mills and the Clerk for their efforts.

c) JWAAC – Selection of deputy representative

It was agreed that Mr Copeland will be the JWAAC deputy representative and attend meetings when Mr Jeffrey is unable to attend.

d) West Sussex Transport Stakeholder Consultation

It was agreed that the Clerk should complete the consultation document.

e) WSCC Fingerpost Restoration Project

It was agreed that no action was required as both parish fingerposts had been restored in recent years.

f) Bishop Tufnell Junior School Planter project

Mrs Phillips showed members an initial design for the project sign and confirmed that she is meeting the Headteacher of Bishop Tufnell Junior School on 25th January 2010 to progress the matter.

g) Footpath gritting and a grit bin

Mr Watson said that during the recent bad weather the snow quickly turned to ice and made the footpaths dangerous. He said this was particularly bad along Middleton Road (between the shops and The Byway) where a combination of the snow/ice and the tilt of the pavement made it extremely dangerous. No action had been taken by WSCC Highways to make the pavements safe. He cited a road in Farlington where all the residents got together to clear the road and suggested that should be done locally.

The Clerk advised that if the Parish Council wanted to become involved in a scheme to clear the pavements then it was envisaged that it would also have to encompass Elmer Road (between the Chinese Takeaway and One Stop) together with the area close to Elmer Stores. However, having obtained advice from the SLCC, whilst the Parish Council has a power (but not a duty) to maintain footpaths and bridleways, that power does not extend to footways running alongside roads where the responsibility for highway maintenance rests with central government through the Highways Agency and County Councils. This duty is contained within section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. The Parish Council also does not have the power to provide grit bins although it can provide litter bins under the Litter Act. Further, there are also major issues regarding liabilities and the Parish Council would have to seek the approval of its insurer before contemplating any action.

Mr Copeland said that the issue needed to be raised with WSCC Highways as there are major local concerns about the lack of gritting on footpaths and road. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC Highways.

7. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes dated 16th December 2009 and 6th January 2010 were circulated and noted.

The Clerk advised that the Development Control Committee wished to recommend to the full council that Arun District Council is requested to name the next new road in the parish after the late Ted Chandler. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk was instructed to write to Arun District Council.

Mr Jeffrey also asked if the Parish Council was going to have some form of plaque or memorial erected in memory of Ted Chandler and suggested a plaque on the obelisk may be an option. Mr Copeland suggested members gave the matter some thought and the Clerk was requested to place the item on March's agenda.

8. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk advised that Middleton Green and Pond clearance was held on 2nd January 2010 and reported that Mr Mansfield said that it was a very successful event with many people attending. He also felt it was a good idea to hold the clearance over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

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

Elmer Sands Ltd provided details of another sewage flooding incident, which occurred on 16th January 2010, when waste water surcharged from inspection covers in The Hard and levels within WC pans rose significantly. Also of serious concern was evidence that the pumped rising main was leaking in Ancton Way. (This 70 year old pipeline has burst twice in the preceding 12 months with catastrophic results). Copies of the report have been provided to District Councillors Mrs Oakley and Mr Wotherspoon.

(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Hall will take over, with immediate effect, from Mr Jeffrey as the 39 Club representative. Mr Copeland thanked Mr Jeffrey for his past work with the club.

The Clerk confirmed that Arun District Council's Standards Committee agenda has been placed into general circulation.

iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report

v) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

A briefing note from Mr Jeffrey covering the JWAAC H&T sub group meeting had been circulated previously. Of significant concern was the position relating to improving the footway on the north side of Middleton Road between The Byway and Bankside. The cost was originally some £60k but this has now apparently risen to £120k. The Highways Manager (Tracey Webb) is going to get the work re-costed and County Councillor Mrs Coleman has indicated that the issue will be addressed as soon as she has discussed the matter with the Highway Officers.

Concerns were also expressed about the number of pot holes appearing in local roads. Mr Copeland said he believed WSCC Highways had an obligation to fill them promptly. Mr Jeffrey said he reported pot holes, faulty lights etc via WSCC's online service regularly. Mr Watson has also reported a number of pot holes and expressed concerns about a sunken drain in Yapton Road. Mrs Hall said pot holes were much more of an issue than the snow.

It was agreed that WSCC's online reporting address will be included in Middleton News.

9. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- (1) 4 Sight – Thanks for allocation of £100 grant
- (2) ADC – Future of Joint Area Committees (*General Circulation*)
- (3) ADC Review of Parish Councillors Allowances (*Full Circulation*)
- (4) Citizens Advice Bureau - Thanks for allocation of £100 grant

- (5) Clerks and Councils Direct
- (6) PCSO Clive Morge – Local Priorities 05/01/2010 (*Full Circulation*)
- (7) WSCC Approved Traders Directory 2010 (*Full Circulation*)
- (8) WSCC Connections
- (9) WSCC – Review of Library Service (General Circulation)

11. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	<u>£40,675.59</u>
Total	<u>£41,925.59</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

1. Arun District Council (Councillor training)*	£ 50.00
2. 4Sight (Community Support Grant)#	£ 100.00
3. BR Neighbourhood Watch (Community Support Grant)#	£ 100.00
4. Citizens Advice Bureau (Community Support Grant)#	£ 100.00
5. Samaritans (Community Support Grant)#	£ 100.00
6. Sammy Transport (Community Support Grant)#	£ 100.00
7. Danwood Finance Ltd (Photocopier lease)	£ 43.91
8. Danwood Group Ltd (Photocopier charges)	£ 19.56
9. Communicorp (Clerks & Councils Direct subscription)	£ 232.00
TOTAL	<u>£ 845.47</u>

* Issued 6th January 2010

S137 payments

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Claxton said Arun District Council had been very helpful in clearing Shrubbs Car Park of snow following her request. There being no further business the Vice Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on **17th March 2010 at 7.00 p.m.** The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.