

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 27th February 2003

PRESENT – Messrs Wotherspoon (Chairman), Chandler, Janes, Mansfield, Street, Mrs Mills, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs B Oakley, County Councillor Mrs C Freeman and Mr Morrison

1. APOLOGIES – Messrs Aldridge, Copeland and Jarvis

2. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 23rd January 2003 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

4. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances – There were none.

5. Chief Inspector Whitton, Sussex Police – The Chairman advised that Chief Inspector Whitton had tendered his apologies owing to operational requirements.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Open Evening for potential Parish Councillors –

It was resolved that as the March edition of Middleton News was to carry a front page article regarding the role of Parish Councillors an Open Evening was inappropriate.

b) Draft Committee Structure -

Following the circulation of a paper to all members it was proposed by Mr Mansfield, seconded by Mr Chandler and agreed unanimously that the number of committees should be reduced from 7 to 4. The remaining committees will be Development Control, Finance, Parish Land & Property and General Purposes. The members of the new General Purposes committee are Messrs Aldridge, Copeland, Jarvis, Mansfield, Street and Mrs Mills. The Clerk was instructed to update the Committee Terms of Reference & Delegated Powers and the Forward Plan.

c) Policy Site 6 (Felpham)

A question was raised during the previous month's Public Discussion Period regarding the road infrastructure at Policy Site 6 (Felpham). The Clerk advised that following enquiries made by Mrs Oakley it is understood that when the developers gain planning approval they have to place a financial bond with the appropriate Authorities in order to ensure that the costs of the infrastructure can be met.

7. COUNTRYSIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

a) Country Park -

A letter had been received from The Onyx Environmental Trust, enclosing a plaque, which they wished to have placed in the Millenium Wood. This was apparently part of a financial agreement when they provided a donation to the Wood. The Clerk advised that he is seeking a copy of the agreement and will progress the matter accordingly.

b) Footpaths -

A letter was received from WSCC regarding a Statement and Map deposited under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 in respect of land at Home Farm, Climping. It was resolved that no action should be taken. A letter was received from Mr Eastlake regarding the erection of a fence between Atherington and Poole Place which allegedly prevents the use of the public right of way. Mr Street said he had walked the path and the maps showed the path going along the foreshore. Mrs Freeman advised that the matter had been referred to WSCC Legal Services whose research indicated that the definitive route of the path was along the shingle ridge. It is understood that discussions are to take place with the land owner.

c) Public Health and Keep Arun Tidy (including Seaweed problems) -

The Clerk advised:

- (i) Following an exchange of emails and a subsequent telephone discussion with Mr Rogers, Services Director, Arun District Council on 7th February it was agreed that Shrubbs Drive Car Park will be improved within a month by repairing the broken ranch fencing, filling the potholes and white lining the car parking spaces.
- (ii) ADC wished to be advised of specific areas where dog fouling should be actively discouraged. The Clerk was instructed to write identifying 3 areas (Sundale Lane, Shrubbs Field and Shrubbs Field playground).
- (iii) ADC advised that WSCC had approved the siting of dog bins along their footpaths by the Southdean Estate. It was hoped they could be installed shortly however who should pay for the bins to be emptied had still to be resolved.
- (iv) WSCC had provided copies of both the Waste Local Plan Deposit Draft and Background Paper 5.

d) Tree planting and Village Pond –

The Clerk reported that difficulties were being encountered in obtaining quotations to plant 15 trees on the 5 verge sites for which licences had been issued owing to WSCC's requirement that the contractor must have £10 million Public Liability Insurance cover. Mrs Freeman advised that she was aware of similar problems elsewhere in the County and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Head of Legal Services, WSCC regarding this. Only 1 of 7 contractors approached had the required level of cover and Mr Mansfield queried the standard of their work. The Chairman suggested acceptance of the quotation if a 90% guarantee tree survival rate after 1 year could be obtained. Mr Street suggested that the trees needed to be planted within 2 weeks as the dormant season was drawing to a close. The Clerk was therefore instructed to proceed, contingent upon obtaining a suitable guarantee and planting within 2 weeks.

The Clerk also advised that a wildfowl warning sign had now been installed at the northern end of Sea Lane and that a replacement tree was due to be planted in Shrubbs Drive opposite Nightingale Court by the end of February. Mr Janes reported that the

millennium oak on Shrubbs Field looked poorly and needed the grass around it to be cut back and fertiliser dug into the ground. Mr Mansfield agreed to do this.

e) Tree Preservation Orders

Arun District Council have written to advise that it is inappropriate for them to pursue a TPO on Middleton Green unless they have the active support from WSCC, to whom they have written.

f) Southdowns National Park

A letter was received from WSCC advising that it is likely that a Public Inquiry will be held into objections to the Designation Order for the National Park during 2003/4. The Chairman stated that this Council had no policy on the National Park as it was not within the parish. He was aware ADC did have a policy and Mrs Freeman advised WSCC's view on the National Park.

8. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised that Mr Copeland had attended ADC's Development Control Committee and provided summary of the issues appertaining to the parish. He also provided a report of the matters arising at the last parish Development Control Committee meeting. Mr Mansfield presented a list of buildings/structures in the parish either in excess of 100 years old or which were of special interest which could be submitted to ADC for potential listing within Policy GEN 23 of the Arun District Council Local Plan Second Review Revised Deposit Draft. It was agreed the property owners' consent should be sought before seeking to list the properties. The Clerk was instructed to prepare a suitable letter which Mr Mansfield will deliver to each property.

The Clerk reported that he had received representations from members of the public regarding the removal of the high hedge on the corner of Shrubbs Drive and Penn Close. It was understood that McCarthy and Stone were to replace it with a high fence (8 ft or more), this being contrary to the existing planning approval. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Planning Enforcement Officer at Arun District Council and to copy the letter to Mrs Oakley and Mrs Freeman.

9. JOINT SEA DEFENCE AND LAND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

The Clerk summarised a meeting which he attended at Arun District Council together with Mrs Oakley and representatives of both the Middleton on Sea Association and Elmer Sands Ltd. ADC was represented by the Head of Infrastructure & Works together with a senior engineer and a representative of the Environment Agency. The key issues were:

- (i) Preparation of the Coastal Defence Strategy (CDS) had taken 30 months so far and was still incomplete. Completion was originally envisaged within 18 months.
- (ii) A supposedly 'final' copy of the CDS had been received by ADC in mid February but contained a number of discrepancies and also failed to document costs properly.
- (iii) The CDS recommended improvements to the Greensward/Old Point area, costing some £800,000, however it was not envisaged that any works will commence until at least 2006 owing to the low Defra priority score allocated.
- (iv) ADC are now seeking funding from Defra for an emergency scheme along the Greensward, cost circa £30,000.

10. LIAISON COMMITTEE

a) ADALC, Area Partnership Panel and associated matters including Code of Conduct -

The Clerk advised that the SALC winter circular had been placed into circulation together with details of the increased annual subscription and revised arrangements for Arun Local Council Liaison. Details of the NALC development update and Defra Licensing Bill were also circulated.

b) Newsletter -

The Clerk confirmed that the newsletter was going to press, the expected distribution date will be 13th March and a surplus has been made.

c) Police Panel and Police Liaison -

Mr Morrison expressed disappointment that Chief Inspector Whitton could not attend the meeting. Mrs Oakley confirmed she visited the mobile police station on 13th February.

d) Residents Association Committee –

Nothing to report.

e) Vital Villages Scheme -

Nothing to report.

f) Young People –

The Clerk confirmed all members had been circulated with the agenda for the Youth Issues meeting being held on 12th March and asked that as many members as possible attend the meeting. Disappointment was expressed that the siting of the skateboard ramp at Felpham Leisure Centre now seems unlikely.

11. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

a) Playing Fields -

The Clerk advised that the 12th February committee meeting could not proceed as it was not quorate. The meeting has been rearranged for 5th March.

b) Bus Shelters and Notice Boards -

Nothing to report.

12. ROADS & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that a response had been received from WSCC Highways relating to Comet Corner. In the short term the site has been put on the list for a speed reactive warning sign, it will have SLOW markings added to the junction approaches possibly supplemented by red surfacing and will be re-assessed for the introduction of a short section of 50mph or 40mph limit. In the longer term, a large scale junction improvement may be included in the 2005 Local Transport Plan. WSCC still believe that traffic lights or a roundabout will not assist in the reduction of accidents. Mr Mansfield said he supported traffic lights at the junction and the majority of members concurred indicating that either full time or peak time traffic lights will be effective. Mrs Mills commented that when the A259 northern relief road is completed, it will join the existing A259 less than 1 mile west of Comet Corner and will increase traffic flows and speeds. This will potentially increase the number of accidents at Comet Corner. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC to continue to press for traffic lights at the junction.

The Clerk reported:

- (i) WSCC Highways have reported to their contractor that the lights in the 2 illuminated bollards, located in Middleton Road, are not working.

- (ii) WSCC confirmed Chalfont Close and Hampden Close are included within the footpath repair forward plan for 2004/5.
- (iii) Correspondence had been received from WSCC regarding the Bognor Regis Urban Transport Forum. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC to include the northern relief road/Comet Corner junction on the agenda.
- (iv) A letter has been written to WSCC Highways regarding the road flooding in Middleton Road adjacent to the shops.
- (v) An email was received suggesting the cutting back of the high hedges in Yapton Road as a safety measure. After some discussion it was agreed that any reduction in height may be counter-productive. The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly.
- (vi) The Draft Regional Transport Strategy has been received and reviewed by Mrs Mills.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- 1. Citizens Advice Bureau – Acknowledgement of donation
- 2. Council for Voluntary Service – details of a luncheon
- 3. Mr Goodwin – Letter
- 4. Sammy Community Transport – Acknowledgement of donation
- 5. Sussex County PFA - Acknowledgement of donation
- 6. Sussex Heritage Trust – Letter
- 7. WSCC – Cultural Strategy letter
- 8. WSCC – Government’s regions soundings exercise
- 9. West Sussex Public Partnership – newsletter
- 10. 4 Sight – Grant request – The Clerk was instructed to write suggesting submission of a new request in November.

14. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£25,453.92
Total	<u>£26,703.92</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Action in Rural Sussex (Subscription)	£ 40.00
(ii) Mrs Waller (Newsletter)	£ 225.71

Total	<u>£ 265.71</u>
--------------	------------------------

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

16. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mrs Mulvaney enquired what the position is when an ‘Orange’ planning application notice is not displayed or is removed. The Chairman responded and it was subsequently

agreed that Mrs Oakley will ascertain the precise legal position. Mrs Mulvaney also complained about protracted delays in the repair of a broken street light. Mrs Freeman said she was not alone – over 100 complaints had been received. It was understood that the contractor's contract will not be renewed and WSCC are actively seeking a new contractor.

Mrs Brown advised that dog fouling was prevalent in the Shrubbs Field playground and asked when the missing rope will be replaced. Mrs Mills undertook to speak with Mr Aldridge.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting would be held on 27th March 2003 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 8.23 pm.