

**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 26<sup>th</sup> February 2004**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Aldridge, Chandler, Copeland, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, Mrs Willis and the Clerk.

**1. APOLOGIES** – Councillors Mrs Farley, Ough, District Councillor Mrs B Oakley, County Councillor Mrs C Freeman and Mr Morrison.

**2. MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004 having been circulated were approved, with an amendment to Mr Mansfield's declaration of interest, a slight amendment to 7(i), and signed.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Mansfield declared a personal interest in Item 7 (iv) being a near-by resident of the junction of the A259 and B2132. Mr Copeland and Mr Wilkinson both declared a personal interest in Item 5(d) being members of the church.

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

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Vacancy for a Councillor**

The Clerk advised that Arun District Council had confirmed that the Parish Council may proceed to co-opt a Councillor and that one application had been received. Mr Copeland suggested that people who volunteered on the Village Questionnaire could be approached and that the post should be widely advertised in the parish. It was further suggested that a sub-committee comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should consider all applications and make a recommendation to the Parish Council in due course. This was agreed nem.con. The Clerk was instructed accordingly.

**b) Bognor Relief Road**

A letter from Felpham Parish Council was circulated to all Members asking that the Parish Council approve a resolution in support of a campaign for the early implementation of the relief road. The Clerk said that Felpham Parish Council will be inviting 3 Members to attend a meeting of local Parish and Town Councils to decide future strategy. A resolution in support of a campaign for the early implementation of the relief road was proposed by Mr Chandler, seconded by Mrs Mills, and approved by an overwhelming majority. The Clerk will advise Felpham Parish Council of the decision.

**c) Possible Skate/BMX park facility at Larksfield**

A paper by Mr Copeland was circulated to Members prior to the meeting and Mr Copeland advised that he had met with Felpham Parish Council in late January as they

had £10,000 in their budget to spend in 2003/4 on a skate/BMX park facility and that Arun District Council had £7,000 which it could inject into the project if it was located at Larksfield. This total funding will be sufficient to provide a small skate park. It was hoped that further funding may also become available from the village jubilee committee as they were considering the matter contemporaneously. It was proposed that the base of the facility will be larger than required so that additional equipment can be added in the future if further funding becomes available. Larksfield is owned by Arun District Council and they confirmed that ongoing maintenance and general repairs will be at their cost so the parish will have no ongoing revenue expenditure commitment. The parish will only be responsible for the replacement of the equipment at the end of its life, which is expected to be some 20 years. It is hoped that this additional facility will provide an attraction for youths and to the benefit of the village generally. The Chairman said he was in favour of the facility and Mrs Mills proposed that the installation of a skate/BMX park facility at Larksfield on the advised terms should be approved. This was seconded by Mr Chandler and agreed unanimously.

**d) Anti-social behaviour**

A letter from Rev J Brown was circulated to Members prior to the meeting regarding anti-social problems being experienced in the parish. Rev Brown suggested a Drop-In Centre and the Chairman said that the 39 Club had spare capacity and that was an ideal venue. He accepted transportation may be an issue but that perhaps the possibility of cheap bus passes could be explored. Mr Copeland advised that whilst it may be a good idea to establish a Drop-In Centre or Youth Café this will have to be run by WSCC youth workers and there are 6 vacancies presently. Until these are filled any potential project is flawed, however, the Methodist Church do operate a youth centre twice a month. Mrs Ross said the local church could do more towards youth in the area particularly as churches historically provided youth clubs and Drop-In Centres. She also suggested that the 39 Club could market itself more effectively. Mr Wilkinson advised that St Nicholas' Church had organised 2 youth clubs previously, both of which had collapsed. A member of the public (Mr Lowe) said he had been trying to contact Inspector Darge to arrange a meeting, without success, but he will continue to try. He will advise the outcome of any meeting to the Clerk. The Chairman drew attention to a Public Consultation meeting of the Sussex Police Authority at St Mary's Centre, Felpham on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6.15 p.m. and suggested that those with concerns about anti-social behaviour issues may wish to attend and put those views forward.

**6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Mr Mansfield reported that the committee had met twice during the month. Copies of the minutes had been circulated to Members.

**7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

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

The Clerk reported that a replacement whitebeam tree had now been planted at Middleton Green at a cost of £109.50. As this was more than the estimate he sought approval for the increased cost. Mrs Mills proposed payment of the increased cost which was seconded by Mr Wilkinson and agreed nem.con.

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

Nothing to report.

**iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

A note had been circulated previously to Members titled 'Registerable and Prejudicial Interests'. The Clerk advised that a copy letter from the Standards Board for England to Arun District Council, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004, had now been received detailing the registering and declaring of both membership of the Freemasons and of political party council associations. This was being copied to Members who were required to register such interests with the Clerk within 28 days, if applicable. The Clerk advised that the next 16 page edition of Middleton News will be available on 11<sup>th</sup> March and that a surplus continues to be made. Mr Copeland thanked Mrs Waller for the good job which she was doing.

Mr Wilkinson drew attention to 2 articles in the Local Council Review regarding the proposed savage cuts to DEFRA's budget and the presentation of a 10 minute Rule Bill which, if approved, will make Parish Councils statutory consultees in road management issues.

**iv) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee**

- (a) WSCC advised that the request to place advisory speed plates on the double bend signs at Bilsham Corner are supported and will be considered along with enhancing the existing bend signs.
- (b) A traffic survey was undertaken by WSCC along Elmer Road in August 2003 to establish whether or not a pedestrian crossing was justified close to Buckingham Court. The survey revealed that although a significant number of people crossed the road at this point, the traffic flow was relatively low, indicating that there were gaps in the traffic where pedestrians can cross. Whilst the site has been placed on the list of potential sites it still had low priority and is unlikely to be built in the near future.
- (c) The WSCC Highways Works Programme 2004/5 had been received. Proposed works in the parish included Carriageway Resurfacing 'Middleton Road B2132/04', New or improved footways at 'Middleton Road Phase 2' and Survey and Design work at 'Comet Corner – Junctions with B2132'.
- (d) A letter and enclosures from Bognor Regis Civic Society regarding the slip road on the southern side of the A259 at Comet Corner had been circulated previously to Members.

**8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the committee meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2004 had been circulated to Members.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had been received:-

- 1. Copy letter from Ford Prison to Arun District Council
- 2. Arun District Housing/Homeless Forum minutes dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004
- 3. Arun Voice newsletter
- 4. Copy letter from Elmer Sands Ltd to Southern Water

5. SALC details of "Nuts & Bolts Day" for Chairman/Vice-Chairman
6. WSCC Waste/Recycling Briefings for Recycling – (Mr Wilkinson will attend)
7. WSCC Stakeholder Briefings for Recycling
8. West Sussex Public Partnership Forum - Newsletter

**10. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a) Bank Accounts -**

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£22,730.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,980.27</b>

**(b) Accounts for payment -**

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) D Fradgley (Supply/planting of whitebeam tree)	£ 109.50
(ii) R.N.S Ltd (Supply/planting of 15 trees)	£ 581.62
(iii) RSPCA Mnt Noddy (Donation re Cllr Jarvis S137)	£ 40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 731.12</b>

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Aldridge enquired about the position relating to the alleged business use of Manor Farm House. The Clerk advised that a further letter had been sent to Arun District Council, dated 19<sup>th</sup> February, and that it had been copied to District Councillor Mrs Oakley who, it was understood, was making enquiries at ADC.

**12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mr Coster, representing Bognor Regis Civic Society, spoke regarding the Society's view that the slip road on the southern side of the A259 at Comet Corner should be lengthened and urged the Parish Council to support their request to WSCC. Mr Copeland advised that a decision was taken at the previous council meeting to await the results of the Feasibility Study and any change of policy will be subject to the 'Six Month rule' requirements. The Clerk was instructed to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee. Mrs Mulvaney expressed concerns about traffic problems in the proximity of Elmer Beach Stores and said that the bus stop made matters worse. She intends to write to Middleton News expressing her views. She also mentioned that there is no Parish Council Notice Board anywhere east of St Nicholas' Church. At the request of Mr Mansfield, the Clerk was instructed to place this matter on next month's Agenda. A member of the public expressed concerns that the traffic survey in Elmer Road had been undertaken in August when there was no school traffic. The Clerk explained the background statistical formula used by WSCC when calculating the need for a pedestrian crossing. This showed a factor of 0.32 when a factor of at least 0.7 was required before a crossing could be recommended.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2004 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.