

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 23rd February 2006

PRESENT – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Copeland, Edey, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Mrs Willis and the Clerk,

1. **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Chandler, Jeffrey, Wilkinson, District Councillor Mrs Oakley, County Councillor Mrs Freeman and Mr Morrison.
2. **MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 26th January 2006 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Mansfield declared a prejudicial interest in both Item 5(f) and part of Item 12.
4. **ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – The Clerk read a report from County Councillor Mrs Freeman covering the WSCC Council Tax recommendation of 4.9%, the proposed Ford MRF Liaison Group, Traditional Policing and HGV routing arrangements.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) PCSOs Paul Burke/Lucy Kovacs

PCSO Paul Burke advised that he had now replaced Tim Bradbury and that following a reorganisation, he will be responsible for Middleton and Elmer and PCSO Lucy Kovacs will be responsible for Felpham. Mrs Willis thanked the PCSOs for their sterling work which had substantially reduced youth anti-social behaviour locally. She did note, however, that the latest shift rota showed that the PCSOs will be working a reduced number of evening and weekend shifts (patrolling only 3 of 8 weekends) and questioned whether this was appropriate. The PCSOs advised that the rota is drawn up at Chichester and is based on a 10 week cycle. They did undertake to raise the Parish Council's concerns with Inspector Merrick. Mrs Ross thanked the PCSOs for their work and requested a greater presence at Bishop Tufnell School during arrival and departure times because of the general traffic chaos in the vicinity and the potential risk of an accident. This was noted.

b) Off Site Play provision – JWAAC provision

Arun District Council submitted a Decision Paper to the Joint Western Arun Area Committee's (JWAAC) February meeting with the recommendation that the Section 106 monies received from the Willowbrook Development (£5,560) should be used at Larksfield albeit recognising that this Parish Council had requested the funds were utilised for the play area at Shrubbs Field. JWAAC resolved, by an overwhelming majority, that the funds should be used at Shrubbs Field and the Clerk was instructed to write to Arun District Council to request the funds.

c) 39 Club – Request for a Councillor to join their committee

After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the 39 Club to ascertain the precise level of commitment required.

d) ADC Standards Board for England DVD presentation

Arun District Council will be presenting the DVD entitled “Going Local” on 1st March 2006 and there will be an opportunity to ask questions after the film. The date clashes with two committee meetings so only the Chairman will be able to attend. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to request a copy of the DVD for other members to view.

e) WSCC Bus Shelter Grants Scheme

A letter from WSCC offering to provide up to 50% funding for a new or replacement bus shelter was circulated to members. The letter was noted.

f) Comet Corner – JWAAC report

The Chairman reported that Angela Waller asked a question and received a written response from WSCC at February’s JWAAC meeting. Mr Copeland read extracts from Mrs Waller’s report which highlighted that the County Council offered nothing new and everything was subject to the usual caveats. At the JWAAC meeting, Mr Copeland urged WSCC to proceed with the Comet Corner Scheme and Mrs Gill Brown, Deputy Leader, Arun District Council proposed that JWAAC should write to the WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to press for major junction improvements. This was agreed by an overwhelming majority, with two Felpham members abstaining. The Clerk reported that he had received an email from County Councillor Mrs Freeman which stated, *inter alia*, “Developer contributions are to be looked to for financing the Scheme and Comet Corner is still on the County Council Highways and Transport Works Plan”. The Clerk further advised that Lt. Colonel Tex Pemberton will be speaking at the Bognor Regis Civic Society meeting on 28th March in the Royal Norfolk Hotel at 7.30 p.m. and will be answering questions. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Mr Mansfield left the meeting during Item 5 (f)

6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes dated 1st and 15th February 2006 were circulated and noted. The Chairman stated that he was very concerned to note that totally untrue comments were made about him in the Public Discussion Period on 15th February 2006 in relation to M/14/06/TEL. The Chairman confirmed he did not state that he had “no significant concerns about the position or design of the proposal” and that he will be taking the matter up with the Chief Executive, Arun District Council. The Clerk confirmed that those comments were contained in planning application M/14/06/TEL, as submitted by O2’s agents, and also stated that the Development Control Committee’s objection letter, submitted by recorded delivery post during the pre-application consultation process, had been disregarded.

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

The Clerk advised:

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Arun District Association of Local Councils is being held on 25th April 2006. It was agreed to leave this matter on the table until it can be ascertained whether Cllr Wilkinson wishes to attend.
- (b) The Standards Committee agenda dated 1st March 2006 had been placed into general circulation.
- (c) The JWAAC agenda, dated 8th February 2006 had been received.

Sussex Police have advised that the roll-out of Community Speed Watch has been placed on hold as there are no national guidelines and a working group has been established comprising representatives from the Police, Home Office and OFCOM. Mr Copeland advised that the preparatory work for Community Speed Watch will still go ahead regardless and that "Make the Commitment" leaflets are to be distributed with Middleton News to residents in Elmer, Middleton and Yapton Roads, being the people most affected by speeding vehicles.

Middleton Local Action Team (LAT) has received a letter from the Safer Communities Project Manager to advise of the cessation of the scheme, albeit agreeing that LATs may be retained as a 'stand alone community initiative'. Mr Copeland said that he had discussed the matter with the members of Middleton LAT and it had been agreed that the scheme will continue to operate, on a stand alone basis, given the minimal cost of operating the scheme. Mrs Mills thought members should support the LAT and recognise the difference it had made. Members concurred.

iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report.

v) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

Mrs Mills reported that she had attended the Western Arun Area Transport Meeting on 2nd February, under the excellent Chairmanship of Mike Coleman. He wants to see action and it was agreed that parishes should put forward 'quick win' schemes. Mrs Mills put forward the proposal for two pedestrian crossings, situated at Flansham Park and Elmer Road and this will be linked in with proposals for children walking to school. Another scheme proposed was to promote cycling in the area by pushing for designated cycle lanes along the promenade from Bognor Regis to Felpham.

8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. 4 Sight – Letter re £100 Community Support Grant
2. BR Neighbourhood Watch - Email re £100 Community Support Grant
3. Citizens Advice Bureau - Letter re £100 Community Support Grant
4. Safer Communities Highlight Report (December 2005/January 2006)
5. Sammy Community Transport Ltd - Letter re £125 Community Support Grant
6. Southdean Association – re grass verges (passed to WSCC)*
7. WSCC County Strategy (2005/2009)

* The Clerk reported that the Southdean Association had been advised by WSCC that posts are to be installed along the verge opposite One Stop to prevent vehicles damaging the grass.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£30,913.35
Total	<u>£32,163.35</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) MOS Village Hall (50% cost of Union Flag)	£ 33.48
Total	<u>£ 33.48</u>

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Edey enquired about the large number of trees felled adjacent to the A259 at Clymping. The Clerk advised that they had been felled as part of a thinning exercise and that Clymping Parish Council had seen the Land Agent's report before felling was commenced.

12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr Wood expressed concerns about the present level water extraction given the prolonged period of low rainfall. A parishioner enquired when the telephone box adjacent to the telephone exchange was going to be removed given its apparently disgusting condition.

Mrs Brown requested that members should encourage any Felpham residents they knew to write to Felpham Parish Council to express concern about Felpham Parish Council's stance regarding Comet Corner Junction improvements. *Mr Mansfield left the meeting during the latter part of Item 12 and did not return.*

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on 23rd March 2006 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.