

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 March 2003

PRESENT – Messrs Wotherspoon (Chairman), Aldridge, Copeland, Hills (left 8.05 p.m.), Janes, Jarvis, Mansfield, Street, Mrs Mills and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES – Messrs Chandler, Morrison, District Councillor Mrs B Oakley and County Councillor Mrs C Freeman.

2. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 27th February 2003 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr Jarvis declared a personal interest in item 8(i)b - Elmer footpath as he is a member of Elmer Sands Ltd.

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. Peter Francis and the Community Warden (Roy) –

Mr Francis provided an overview of the Community Warden Scheme which is being funded as a 2 year pilot project with 3 wardens in Year 1 and 2 wardens in Year 2 although he is keen to roll-out beyond 2 years if funding is available. The scheme has been operating for 4 months and has proved very successful. It is targeted at anti-social behaviour and the wardens, who have no special powers, operate in close liaison with the Police. Mr Francis answered a number of questions including one from a member of public which drew his attention to youth problems at the southern end of Shrubbs Field after dark. Mr Copeland asked his views on youth shelters and Mr Francis stated they needed to be in a well lit area, be of the right type and be sited so that they can be properly policed. He also mentioned that some children do not feel safe in the shelters and that the 15-20 year old age group are most likely to be a victim of crime. The Chairman thanked Mr Francis and Roy for attending the meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

a) Revised Community Structures –

Various ancillary documents linked to the revised committee structures agreed on 27th February had been circulated to members. It was agreed, nem.con, that they should be accepted with a minor amendment to the ‘community support’ wording in the Forward Plan.

b) Public Discussion Period -

The Clerk asked members to consider whether they wished to move the Public Discussion Period from the end of the meeting to the beginning of the meeting in line with the committees. After some discussion it was resolved to leave it unchanged.

c) Strategy for Gypsies & Travellers

The Clerk advised that the WSCC strategy had been circulated to members on 7th March.

d) County Electoral Review

The Clerk advised that a formal periodic review of county electoral arrangements in West Sussex commenced on 11th March and the first stage of the process concludes on 7th July 2003. The relevant papers were circulated on 7th March 2003.

e) Nomination Forms

The Clerk confirmed that all members had been sent a set of nomination forms and that the latest date for their submission was at Noon 31st March 2003.

7. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Clerk provided details of the matters arising at the last Development Control Committee meeting and further advised that a copy of the Arun District Local Plan had been received. The District Council had resolved to adopt the plan on 17th April. At the request of Mr Mansfield, the Clerk was instructed to place the Local Plan into circulation.

8. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

a) Country Park -

The Clerk reported that the plaque received from the Oynx Environmental Trust had been returned on 10th March as no evidence of an apparent financial agreement was provided.

b) Footpaths -

A copy of a letter, addressed to Mrs Oakley, was received from Mr Eastlake regarding the fencing along Clymping Footpath 829. Mr Jarvis mentioned that he had also walked along the footpath for a number of years without hindrance.

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

The Clerk advised:

(i) A letter had been received from Arun District Council detailing the transitional arrangements when Oynx withdraw from their refuse and cleaning services contract on 30th June 2003. The Chairman mentioned that whilst attending a Western Area Partnership Panel meeting he had requested a sweep of the village due to its present untidiness.

(ii) Arun District Council have confirmed that Shrubbs Car Park will have the car park spaces repainted during April.

d) Tree planting and Village Pond –

WSCC Legal Services have advised that they will review the level of Public Liability Insurance cover required for Parish tree planting to ascertain whether a lower level of £5 million is appropriate. The Clerk advised that he did not place the contract for tree planting as the contractor was unable to provide a tree survival guarantee. It was agreed to revisit the tendering process when the level of Public Liability Insurance has been resolved. The Chairman thanked Mr Mansfield for fertilising and clearing the ground around the Millennium Oak.

ii). Joint Sea Defence and Land Drainage Advisory Sub Committee

A letter was received from the MOS Association expressing concern at the alleged failure by the Local Authority to provide adequate sea defences for Middleton and Elmer and for failing to properly manage the delivery of an accurate and timely Coastal Defence Review. The issue was fully discussed. Mr Mansfield said the village was not in danger of flooding and there was no major breach. The Chairman expressed concern that residents might be asked to contribute to the repair costs along the Greensward and Mr Copeland stated that the Council had an agreed policy within the Forward Plan and that charging residents was outrageous. The Clerk was instructed to write to Arun District Council. The Clerk also advised that he will be attending a meeting at the Greensward on 11th April to discuss the coastal erosion. Attendees will include members of the MOS Association and Nick Gibb MP.

iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

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

It was agreed not to respond to the Home Office Active Community Unit letter relating to insurance cover for community and voluntary groups. The Clerk confirmed receipt and display of the May 2003 election notices and receipt of details of Village Enhancement Grants (2nd Round) which was deferred until the Youth Issues section (below). The Chairman advised that he had attended the Western Area Partnership Panel meeting with Mr Copeland and heard presentations relating to both the Primary Care Trust and new licensing laws. The Chairman drew attention to the significant additional costs which local authorities will face when the new licensing regime comes into force.

b) Newsletter -

The Clerk confirmed that Middleton News had been distributed and that a taped version was now available for blind or poorly sighted people. He had written to all registered blind persons in the Parish offering the service and initial demand was encouraging. The Chairman said the newsletter was proving very popular and other members suggested feedback should be encouraged. The June edition will be distributed in mid June and the Clerk advised that space for articles must be booked promptly as the newsletter was filling quickly.

c) Police Panel and Police Liaison -

Nothing to report.

d) Residents Association Committee –

Mr Copeland reported that a meeting was held on 13th March which he attended together with Mrs Mills. A number of matters were discussed including the Elmer/Climping footpath, plans for a caravan site at Climping and the removal of the remaining telephone box at Elmer Sands which BT claimed was not viable. Attempts are being made to have it reinstated. Mr Jarvis pointed out that Elmer Sands had now lost 2 telephone boxes. The MOS Association enquired why no Councillor attended a recent ADC Development Control Committee meeting and were advised that the meeting clashed with the Youth Issues meeting.

e) Vital Villages Scheme -

Mr Copeland advised that a meeting was held on 6th March which was not well attended. The next meeting will be held on 17th April and 2 further councillors had agreed to attend.

f) Young People –

Mr Copeland reported that the Youth Issues meeting (convened under Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act) was held on 12 March and was attended by 17 people including representatives from the Police, Arun District Council, WSCC, Felpham Community College and the Council. It was a useful meeting and was mentioned at the Western Area Panel meeting as the way to proceed. An action plan had been drawn up and money had been offered, in principle, by the Police and Arun District Council. Mr Copeland believed a youth shelter would be a quick win contingent upon appropriate siting and proper local consultation. Mr Street enquired about the proposed siting and Mr Copeland felt the best position was on the northern side of Shrubbs Field adjacent to Elmer Road. The Chairman reminded Mr Copeland that there were other issues to be undertaken before proceeding to a youth shelter. The Clerk confirmed that the action plan required (i) the Council to fully implement the Crime Prevention Report with other named parties, (ii) the Police to undertake certain actions and (iii) an open meeting to be held with local youths to decide their preferred option. Options include bus passes to Bognor Regis and a youth shelter. Mr Mansfield sought confirmation that nothing had been agreed relating to a youth shelter and this was confirmed by Mr Copeland.

iv) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk advised WSCC Highways had:

- (a) Acknowledged the letter regarding Comet Corner and advised that a response will be made in due course.
- (b) Provided details of a proposed 50 mph speed limit on the A259 at Climping. This had been circulated to members.
- (c) Advised that they were awaiting a period of heavy rain to investigate the flooding of Middleton Road adjacent to Bankside.

Mrs Mills reported that the Clerk had written to the Bognor Regis Urban Transport Forum regarding the impact the new A259 North Relief Road will have on Comet Corner junction and whilst she was unable to attend the meeting she understood that the concept of traffic lights had not been turned down. Mr Copeland said Elmer Sands residents were trying to establish an action group to press for improvements to the junction.

9. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

a) Playing Fields -

The Clerk reported the delivery of 2 new picnic benches. The committee will discuss their siting on 9th April. Mr Street enquired whether there was a contractual agreement with the football clubs who use Shrubbs Field to clear up the litter after their games. Mrs Mills advised that a new contract was to be drawn up and that it will be included. A letter was received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister asking whether the Parish wished to proceed with the revocation of Shrubbs Field's former Byelaws which had been made under section 8(1)(d) of the LGA 1894 by use of an Order to be laid under section 262(8)(d) of the LGA 1972. It was proposed by Mr Copeland, seconded by Mr Mansfield and resolved unanimously to request revocation of the Byelaws.

b) Bus Shelters and Notice Boards -

Mr Aldridge reported that some benches were in disrepair including the bench adjacent to Cootes Lane. He also enquired whether the bench at the end of Lane End Road was to be replaced. The Chairman asked the Clerk to ascertain which benches are owned by the Parish and the Committee to arrange for appropriate repairs to be undertaken.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. Clerks & Councils Direct - newsletter
2. Local Council Review
3. Paso UK Ltd - brochure
4. Wellspring - newsletter
5. West Sussex Carer - poster
6. WSCC Social & Caring Services - leaflet
7. ADC Summer & Autumn Diary of Events 2003
8. Arun Voice – newsletter of CVS
9. WSCC Connections
10. WSCC Cultural Strategy Launch 11th April 2003

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	£26,703.92

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Arun District Council (Dog Bins)	£ 391.62
(ii) D F Allsopp (Clerk's quarterly fee & expenses)	£2,148.07
(iii) D F Allsopp (Postages, telephone etc)	£ 53.26
(iv) Glasdon U.K. Ltd (2 Picnic Tables)	£1,120.50
(v) Selsey Printing & Publishing (Newsletter)	£1,050.00
Total	£4,763.45

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Mansfield commented how good the daffodils looked around the village. Mr Copeland thought a local traders association should be formed and requested the Clerk to place the item on the April agenda. Mr Copeland also mentioned the apparent sale of cars on the highway verge at Comet Corner which was a potential highway safety issue. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC Highways to advise them accordingly. Mr Janes reported that a wall was being built in Main Drive where the footings had encroached onto the highway verge. He had reported the matter to WSCC and the wall was now being rebuilt onto its original footings. The Clerk advised his holiday dates.

16. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mrs Mulvaney stated that she preferred the public discussion period at the end of the meeting. She was concerned about the Elmer Sands telephone box being removed as the nearest is now at Elmer Post Office. She supported the need for a traders association and was concerned about the change of competition rules which may have an adverse impact on local pharmacies. Another member of the public asked about how quickly the A259 North Relief Road will be built once developers start building at Site 6 (Felpham). The Chairman agreed to discuss this with District Councillor Mrs Oakley.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting would be held on 24th April 2003 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.