

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 25th March 2004

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

1. APOLOGIES – Councillors Mrs Farley, Mansfield, 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 26th February 2004 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 – None.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Parish Council Notice Board in Elmer

Some discussion regarding the potential siting of a notice board took place and it was agreed that Mr Aldridge will investigate whether it can be sited within The Cabin public house car park. Mr Aldridge also agreed to obtain a quotation for making a notice board. Mr Copeland suggested the notice board located on the northern side of the Obelisk should be moved to a more visible location and agreed to investigate the matter. The Clerk was requested to place a notice in Middleton News identifying the location of parish notice boards.

b) Proposed alterations to Regional Planning Guidance – Regional Mineral Strategy

The details were noted and it was agreed not to submit any comments.

c) Proposed alterations to Regional Planning Guidance – Regional Waste Management Strategy

The details were noted and it was agreed not to submit any comments.

d) Periodic Electoral review of WSCC: Draft Recommendations

The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Mrs Freeman which confirmed that there are no changes as far this Parish is concerned.

e) Arun District Council's Leisure Trust proposals

Mr Wilkinson commented that Arun District Council acknowledged that considerable refurbishment of the Centres was required and hoped that any Leisure Trust will not have to pay for the refurbishment. The Chairman said he had attended a presentation by

Lawrence Graham and noted that the financial report was just one page. After some discussion it was agreed to take no action and allow the matter to progress to Stage 2.

f) Proposal for a New Recycling Facility at Ford.

The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Mrs Freeman advising that she had written to WSCC Cabinet Members, and the Strategic Director for Environment and Development expressing deep concern at the extra amount of heavy traffic on the already congested road network in the villages. The Clerk advised that he had attended the presentation at Climping and had ascertained that the estimated lorry movements along the A259, most of which are expected to be 40 ton articulated lorries, will commence at 64 per day and will rise to 104 per day by 2016. It is anticipated that these will be split equally between those from Littlehampton to Climping and those between Bognor Regis to Climping. The site has been chosen apparently because it can be brought into operation quickly and will take over from a site at Sompting which is due for closure. Concern was expressed that there are already problems with the A259 between Chichester and Littlehampton and that it could be gridlocked by 2006 without the proposed extra Site 6 development traffic and this additional lorry traffic. Mr Wilkinson was also worried that the road from the A259 to the proposed Recycling Centre was only a Class 'C' road and that there were no proposals for it to be upgraded. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC to express the Parish Council's concerns and to copy the letter to County Councillor Mrs Freeman.

6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes had been circulated to Members. The Clerk read a note from Mr Mansfield recommending that Mrs Ross should fill the committee vacancy. This was proposed by Mr Wilkinson, seconded by Mrs Mills, and unanimously approved.

7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

Arun District Council advised it is proposing to site a neighbourhood recycling centre (containing recycling bins for glass, cans and plastic bottles) in The Cabin public house car park and sought comments by 31st March. Mr Wilkinson hoped the bottles will not be allowed to build up as they do at the Shrubbs Drive recycling centre and after some discussion the Clerk was instructed to write to ADC to express support for a trial period.

Mrs Willis advised:

- (a) She held a meeting with Mr Mansfield at the Green and had agreed to remove 3 bushes but to leave some ivy which contained a bumble bees nest. She had now completed this work.
- (b) Mrs Hills (Hon Secretary, MOS Association) had expressed concerns that the verge beside the pond was becoming distressed owing to lorries churning up the grass edge and asked for white marker posts to be installed. Mrs Willis will speak with the WSCC Countryside Ranger to discuss the matter.
- (c) It had also been noted that the Middleton Sports Club was placing an advertising 'A' board on the Green which was contrary to the 1906 Byelaws. Mrs Willis said she did not wish to alienate the Club as they had been very helpful when the Green clear-up was being undertaken and she proposed that the Clerk should be

instructed to speak with them at the telephone to ask that the board is removed from the Green. This was seconded by Mr Copeland and unanimously agreed.

Mrs Ross reported that a lot of litter was building up along the footpath opposite the church (Footpath 161) and that she intends to walk it again shortly, and then advise the Clerk of the extent of the litter problem, so that Arun District Council can be requested to clear the rubbish.

ii) Joint Sea Defence & Land Drainage Advisory Sub Committee

Mrs Willis advised that a proposed meeting between Arun District Council officials, Nick Gibb MP, MOS Association and the Parish Council which was originally scheduled for January 2004 had still to take place. The Clerk was therefore instructed to write to Arun District Council asking for a meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk reported:

- (a) Receipt and circulation of SALC March 2004 County Circular.
- (b) Receipt and circulation of Arun Draft Priorities 2005-2009.
- (c) Details of the People's Question Time being held on 29th March, to allow members of the public to raise issues with Sussex Police Authority, had been circulated widely. The Chairman said it will be a worthwhile meeting as representatives of Arun District Council and Local Police Authority Member, Dr Walsh, will also be in attendance. Mr Copeland also encouraged as many people as possible to attend.
- (d) Further anti-social behaviour occurred in Shrubbs car park in the late evening on 19th March which resulted in the police being called. Mr Wilkinson said residents of Buckingham Court did not have enough spaces to park their cars and were resorting to parking them in Shrubbs Drive and the Shrubbs car park overnight. He was concerned that the Parish Council may be liable for any damage claims but he was assured that this was not the case.
- (e) The Clerk had attended a meeting of SLCC on 11th March to hear a presentation by Mrs Ashenden-Bax, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Arun District Council.
- (f) Consultation papers had been circulated from the OPDM/Standards Board for England relating to proposals to permit 'Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct Allegations'. It was agreed not to submit any comments.

iv) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

- (a) The Chairman, Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Mills attended the Site 6 Relief Road meeting on 23rd March which was attended by representatives of most local Parish and Town Councils. The overall feeling was that it was a good meeting which allowed many people to comment although some ideas veered away from the main focus of the meeting. Mr Wilkinson said people needed to get things into perspective and the expectation to get the relief road 'now' was unrealistic given the experience of Comet Corner. He suggested there may be some 'quick fixes' which he will raise at the next meeting including addressing the bottlenecks on the A259 e.g. Hotham Park roundabout.
- (b) Details of proposed changes to the draft Regional Transport strategy had been received from the Government Office for the South East. The details were noted and it was agreed not to submit any comments.

PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 17th March 2004 had been circulated to Members. The Clerk explained that the Playing Fields Executive Committee (PFEC) had agreed to Felpham Colts' proposal that the double garage on Shrubbs Field should be demolished and replaced by a 20 foot shipping container, for security reasons. The Church had been informed and did not object to the proposal. In order that this could proceed, utilising the Parish Council's permitted development powers, it was necessary for the container to be purchased and installed by the Parish Council who could then donate it the PFEC in lieu of some of the funding which it normally provides. In turn, the PFEC will recover the cost from Felpham Colts. Mr Chandler proposed to proceed on this basis and this was seconded by Mrs Mills and unanimously agreed. Mr Copeland advised that the Colts were meeting contemporaneously to discuss the proposal. The Clerk advised details of WSCC's Bus Shelter Grants Scheme for new/replacement shelters although this did not extend to maintenance or refurbishment of existing shelters.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. @cost building ltd – Letter re building services
2. Aldwick Parish Council – Copy letter of support re Site 6 to Felpham PC
3. Clerks & Councils Direct - Newsletter
4. Defra – Brochure re broadband in rural communities
5. Local Channel – Letter re web services
6. Local Council Review - Newsletter
7. Ms J Raynor - Letter
8. Sammy Community Transport Ltd – Details of AGM
9. WSCC – Letter re Urban Grass Cutting
10. West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service – Draft Integrated Risk Mgt Plan
11. Wide Horizons Travelling Farm - Letter

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	<u>£22,536.43</u>
Total	<u>£23,786.43</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Mrs R Willis (3 wooden rakes)	£ 53.65
(ii) Arun District Council (Dog Bin charge)	£ 391.62
(iii) Mrs A Waller (Newsletter fees)	£ 321.52
(iv) Selsey Printing & Publishing (Newsletter printing)	£1,400.00
(v) D F Allsopp (Quarterly fee/expenses)	£2,539.56
(vi) D F Allsopp (Quarterly postages and telephone)	£ 49.36
Total	<u>£4,755.71</u>

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Aldridge enquired about the position relating to the co-option of a new councillor. The Clerk advised that the closing date for nominations was 31st March 2004 and it was hoped that the sub committee will be able to place recommendations before the Parish Council at the next meeting. Mr Wilkinson asked when the refurbishment of the fingerpost will commence. The Clerk advised that the work is scheduled for the spring. Mrs Willis raised the issue of a van parking frequently on the grass verge along Middleton Road.

12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Father Marston provided an update on the Church's proposed extension and advised that the architects were presently liaising with Arun District Council. Once firm proposals were forthcoming he will advise the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting will be held on 22nd April 2004 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.