

**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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Edey, Mrs Farley, Jeffrey, Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley (until 7 p.m.), County Councillor Mrs Freeman and Mr Morrison.

- 1. APOLOGIES** – Councillors Aldridge, Chandler, Copeland, Mansfield and Mrs Willis.
- 2. MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2005 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** – The Chairman reported that former Councillor George Janes had died on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005. A minute’s silence was held as a mark of respect and it was confirmed that the Clerk had sent a letter of condolence to his widow.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Introduce new Police Community Support Officer**

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Tim Bradbury and Paul Burke attended the meeting and gave an overview of their role. Paul Burke has been assigned to the Felpham, Middleton & Elmer beat and can be contacted on his mobile telephone (07776 490056) or via email: [Paul.Burke@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Paul.Burke@sussex.pnn.police.uk). Tim Bradbury is presently covering for Pauline Komeaker’s absence. A copy of the Highlight Report for March was provided and it was confirmed that 5 fixed penalty parking tickets had been issued in the village last month. Steps are also being taken to establish a Shopwatch Scheme for local shops. Members raised various issues including parking and vandalism which the PCSOs addressed. The Chairman thanked the PCSOs for their attendance.

**b) New Waste/Recycling Scheme**

The subject was fully debated. Mr Wilkinson emphasised that people can continue to use their dustbin and did not have to resort to buying black bags presently. Mr Edey said members of the public had expressed concern about who is responsible for bags placed at the edge of a property should they become a contributory factor in an accident. Coincidentally, a 4 page note had been received from Arun District Council’s Head of Environmental Amenities updating members on the situation regarding the new refuse contact. Within the document it is stated that refuse collection crews have been given guidance to regard the edge of a property collection point as “1 metre in and visible”.

Mrs Oakley said she had raised the waste problems with the Leader of Arun District Council. The Clerk was instructed to keep the matter on the agenda.

**c) New Material Recycling Facility, Ford**

The Clerk advised that there was nothing further to report and it was agreed to take the item off the agenda until such time as there were further developments. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said it was very quiet albeit Viridor may choose to appeal. She thanked everyone for their support which culminated in the refusal of the planning application.

**d) Off Site Play provision, Section 106 agreement**

The Clerk advised there was nothing further to report. It was agreed to retain the item on the agenda.

**e) County Council Local Committees**

The Clerk reported he had written to the County Secretary, WSCC but had heard nothing to date. County Councillor Mrs Freeman thanked members for their support and said she would welcome the Parish Council joining the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) and believed there was a strong case for doing so albeit she was aware of some opposition. She further confirmed that JDAC will cover A259 highway issues. The Clerk was instructed to take the item off the agenda.

**f) Shrubbs Car Park Charges**

A copy of the 'Individual Cabinet Member Decision' regarding Car Park Charges 2005/6 was circulated to members. It was noted that it included the statement "Car parking charges in village sites as proposed are not introduced from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 providing that partnership funding as an alternative to charging is successfully explored". Mr Wilkinson said that was tantamount to blackmail.

**6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted. A copy of the Development Control Committee's letter of objection to M/18/05 (Monopole telecommunications mast adjacent to Lucking Lane) had been circulated to members. The Chairman said it was paramount that the Parish Council should oppose it. He was still awaiting a response to his telephone call to Daly International in which he sought information about the ownership of the land on which the proposed mast would be sited. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she had received 9 letters of objection to the mast albeit WSCC is not the planning authority in this case. She confirmed that the mast will not be sited on WSCC Highways Department land.

**7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Copies of the appropriate pages from Hansard dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005 were circulated to members detailing the presentation of a petition, by Nick Gibb MP, which contained more than 3,200 signatures regarding the poor state of repair of the coastal defences that protect Middleton-on-Sea from flooding and the lack of funding to repair those coastal defences. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she, together with Steve Waight WSCC Cabinet Member and another official, met representatives of the Middleton-on-Sea Association on the Greensward to be apprised of the problems of local coastal erosion. Mr Waight was of the opinion that the area must be protected and is going to write to Elliott Morley MP, Minister of State, to advise him accordingly.

iii) **Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) The Larksfield skatepark facility has now been signed off by the Arun District Council Cabinet Member.
- (b) SALC has organised a meeting about the Code of Conduct at Arundel on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005 when Arun District Council's Solicitor & Monitoring Officer together with another solicitor will be speaking. Members should advise the Clerk as soon as possible if they wish to attend.
- (c) The Standards Board for England booklets have been circulated to members regarding a consultation exercise which is presently being undertaken. Responses, if any, are required by 17<sup>th</sup> June 2005.
- (d) Details of Arun District Council's Byelaw Review Consultation were circulated to all members. It was agreed not to respond.

iv) **Projects Advisory Sub Committee**

It was hoped that a meeting of the sub committee would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, however as Mr Copeland could not attend it was deferred. The Clerk advised that he had discussed the proposed £2,500 CDRP grant (subject to matching with Parish Council funding) with Mr Copeland and it was agreed that the favoured route was to enhance the facilities at the Larksfield skatepark facility. The Clerk will contact Arun District Council and will advise Mr Jeffrey of their stance in order that the Sub Committee can progress the matter.

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

- a) The duplicate minutes of the Unity meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2005 were received and circulated to the Chairman, Mrs Mills and Mr Wilkinson. The Clerk reported being contacted by the Vice Chairman, Aldwick Parish Council who advised that the proposed 'petition desk' originally being established on a Saturday in the centre of Bognor Regis was now going to be located at Tesco on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 and she was seeking a £25 contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of posters and leaflets together with the names of two

- members who will staff the 'petition desk' for a two hour stint. The matter was referred to the Chairman who agreed to speak to Mr Lury who was organising the event to advise that this Council had not agreed any funding or staffing support. The Chairman advised he had left two telephone messages and Mr Lury had not responded. He said that the Council needed to be careful about the course of action being pursued as the goal posts were being moved. Mr Wilkinson said he was also becoming increasingly sceptical.
- b) The Clerk reported that he had received a copy letter sent by County Councillor Mrs Freeman to Lt. Col. Tex Pemberton, WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways, seeking to ascertain his decision regarding Comet Corner. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she had just received a response from an Administrative Assistant stating that the Cabinet Member will respond in due course. She was very concerned with this response and will pursue the matter urgently next week.
  - c) The Chairman advised that he had received a telephone call from a parishioner seeking to ascertain whether double yellow lines will be installed in Yapton Road following previous representations and the Parish Council's letter to WSCC Highways. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she had received a letter from WSCC Highways advising that the road only had a risk score of 5 and needed a risk score of 50 before it was likely that double yellow lines will be installed. She had written to the parishioner accordingly.
  - d) Mr Wilkinson reported that he had attended a Western Arun Highways & Transport Partnership workshop on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and had sought to ascertain the up-to-date position regarding Comet Corner. He was advised that the presently favoured option was traffic lights.
  - e) Mr Edey enquired whether progress was being made regarding the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Flansham Park. The Clerk advised that he had confirmation from Felpham Parish Council that they had written to WSCC Highways albeit no substantive response had been received. Mrs Mills confirmed the matter was being taken up through the Western Arun Highways & Transport Partnership and will go into its Forward Plan. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr Edey will ask both Bishop Tufnell School, and their PTA, to write to both Felpham and Middleton Parish Councils pressing the case for a pedestrian crossing.

## **8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted. The Clerk reported that the Sea Lane bus shelter had now been redecorated, the ivy had been removed from the roof and a soakaway had been installed. It was noted, however, that the iron guttering had been broken by a sycamore tree which was leaning against the bus shelter. Both the Parish Tree Warden and Tree Surgeon examined the tree and it was agreed that it must be felled. A replacement tree, sited away from the bus shelter and wall will be planted in due course.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. ADC Sustainability Scoping Report consultation
2. Arun Times
3. Broadband to rural communities – Defra CD-ROM
4. Clerks and Councils Direct
5. Cruse Bereavement Care – funding request
6. DTI – New laws for informing & consulting your employees
7. Elmer Sands Newsletter
8. Local Council Review
9. Mr A Rainger – Letter
10. Sussex County PFA - Letter acknowledging Community Support
11. Sussex Heritage 2005 – entry form
12. West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016
13. WSCC Rubbish to Resource booklet

## 10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

### a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£29,978.76
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£31,228.76</u></b>

### (b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) ADC – Contribution towards Public Conveniences	£2,980.00
(ii) Elmer Builders – Bus Shelter, Obelisk & Notice Board	£1,088.00
(iii) Mrs A Waller - Newsletter Co-ordinator's fees/expenses	£ 328.13
(iv) SPP - Newsletter production	£1,400.00
(v) D Allsopp – Clerk's quarterly fees	£2,602.48
(vi) D Allsopp – Quarterly postages, telephone & expenses	£ 56.40
(vii) Sussex Association of Local Councils – Annual Subscription	£1,022.12
(viii) D Fradgley – Felling tree adjacent to Sea Lane Bus Shelter	£ 285.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£9,762.13</u></b>

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Mills said Middleton News was excellent again and members concurred. They thanked the Clerk and Mrs Waller for maintaining the high quality of the newsletter and the Chairman commented that when he delivers the newsletter he continues to receive very positive comments about it.

## **12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mrs Mulvaney raised 3 issues (a) she enquired what the situation will be regarding waste collection if a person's garden gate abutted the pavement. Will the one metre limit apply? (b) she mentioned that when the telecommunications mast was installed adjacent to Shrubbs Farmhouse, the planning approval was conditional on the hand digging of trenches close to the trees albeit that did not occur. She enquired whether similar conditions will be applied if approval is given to the proposed Lucking Lane mast. (c) She asked what was happening in Ancton Lane where a number of trees had been felled and fencing was being erected. Mrs Ross agreed to investigate.

Mrs Brown said she will raise the issue of the flag with the Jubilee Hall committee and mentioned that the chunky rope on the big slide was starting to show signs of wear and needed replacement. Action Mr Aldridge.

A parishioner enquired whether the Parish Council knew who was responsible for the street lights in Sunnymead Close and Kingsmead Road as the lamp standards did not have stencilled numbers. County Councillor Mrs Freeman agreed to investigate. The parishioner also complained that the rife adjacent to the footpath joining Kingsmead Road and Ancton Way was full of rubbish and asked for it to be cleared. Mr Edey said the Environment Agency was responsible and Mrs Ross said she had reported the matter to the WSCC Footpath Warden who confirmed she would report it to the Environment Agency. The Clerk was instructed to also write to the Environment Agency requesting urgent action.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April at **6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.50p.m.