

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 22nd April 2004

PRESENT – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Aldridge, Chandler, Copeland, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, Mrs Willis, the Clerk, County Councillor Mrs C Freeman (part of meeting) and Mr Morrison

1. APOLOGIES – Councillors Mrs Farley, Ough and District Councillor Mrs B Oakley

2. MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 25th March 2004 having been circulated were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr Wilkinson declared a personal interest in Item 6 being a member 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) Co-option of Parish Councillor

At the previous request of the Parish Council, a sub-committee comprising the Chairman and Vice Chairman considered the 4 applications received and commented that whilst each candidate had good qualities, on balance they had decided to recommend Mr Edey because his attributes included being the Chairman of Elmer Sands Ltd and a member of the Joint Residents Association. He also lives at Elmer Sands and has experience in raising grants. Mr Chandler proposed that Mr Edey is co-opted as a Parish Councillor and this was seconded by Mr Aldridge and unanimously agreed. When Mr Edey had completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office together with the bank mandate formalities the Chairman welcomed him to the Parish Council.

b) Parish Council Notice Board in Elmer

A quotation of £625 (plus vat and fitting) was received for a new notice board to be situated at Elmer. Mr Wilkinson proposed that the quotation was accepted. This was seconded by Mr Chandler and unanimously approved. Mr Aldridge confirmed that he had received approval from the owner of The Cabin public house to install the notice board on his land close to the bus stop and seat. Members thanked Mr Aldridge for his excellent work.

c) Proposal for a New Recycling Facility at Ford.

The Clerk read a response from Mr Waight, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Environment, WSCC and County Councillor Mrs Freeman provided an overview of the current position. She indicated that of 8 criteria set it was believed that Viridor can only

meet one and that it was likely that Ford had been chosen because it was the most economic for Viridor. She stressed that it is not a 'done deal' and recommended that the most effective action people can take is to write to Mr Waight, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Environment, WSCC to express their concerns. A full discussion took place with concerns expressed about the increased levels of heavy goods vehicle traffic, loss of amenity in the villages and the suggestion that the next stage might be an incinerator on the site. Concerns were also expressed that the planning application will be determined by West Sussex County Council which is one of the parties to the Viridor contract. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate for any planning decision to be taken by the Government Office for the South East. The Clerk was instructed to write to both Mr Waight, to ascertain if reference had been made to the Government Office for the South East, and to Arun District Council to ascertain its stance on the issue.

6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes had been circulated to Members. Mr Mansfield advised that an architect's sketch of a proposed extension to St Nicholas' Church had been viewed by the Development Control Committee who were generally positive about the design although they wanted to know why a fully pitched roof could not be used. Mrs Mills asked for feedback about the roof and Mr Mansfield advised that the architect did not wish the extension to compete with the existing pitched roof and that some cost savings may also be achieved. Father William Marston said the Church had tried to reach a compromise with the case officer which now seemed to have been achieved. He also confirmed that the proposed extension will not have flint panels and will be rendered in a suitable colour.

7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk advised:

- (a) WSCC's Parish Council Initiative Scheme for 2003/04 will not be repeated in 2004/05
- (b) A £500 grant had been received from WSCC in respect of work undertaken on Middleton Green/Pond.
- (c) A Definitive Map of local footpaths had been purchased from WSCC at a cost of £5 to assist Mrs Ross. The purchase was agreed, nem.con.

Mrs Willis spoke in support of a note which she had previously circulated and commented:

- (a) She and the WSCC Countryside Ranger had identified a decayed tree on Middleton Green which the latter thought should be felled as soon as possible. It was agreed that Mrs Willis and Mr Mansfield will inspect the tree and take the appropriate action.
- (b) She and the Clerk met the Assistant Highways Superintendent, WSCC (AHS) on 16th April at Middleton Green regarding the problem of verge erosion. After some discussion, the AHS agreed to undertake some remedial work which will include building up some verges and the installation of white marker posts.
- (c) Mrs Willis is edging towards the rewriting of the Pond Action Plan and has now been given a badge to identify her as the Pond Warden.

- (d) She also sought to clarify her role as Pond Warden, believing that if she is to be effective she must have responsibility for all the fauna and flora on the Pond/Green including the Trees. Mr Mansfield, Parish Tree Warden, opposed this and indicated that if responsibility for the Village Green trees was taken away from him that he would resign as Parish Tree Warden. A very full discussion took place, with many Members making a contribution to the debate, and it was finally decided to defer the matter until May's meeting. The Clerk will place the matter on the Agenda.

ii) Joint Sea Defence & Land Drainage Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk reported that he and Mrs Willis will be attending a meeting at Arun District Council on 21st May to progress matters relating to the sea defences between Hannah's Groyne and Old Point. Other attendees will include Nick Gibb MP and MOS Association representatives (Professor Alan Johns & Mrs Pat Hills).

iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk reported:

- (a) Receipt of an invitation to attend the CADDIE Launch & Training at Arun District Council on 20th May 2004.
- (b) Correspondence between himself and a local resident regarding WSCC speed monitoring statistics gathered in December 2003 along Elmer Road. These showed some 18% of vehicles were travelling at more than 10 mph above the speed limit. The issue has been referred to the Police who confirmed that Elmer Road is a Graded speed management site and that a mobile camera unit will visit the road periodically.
- (c) Receipt of a letter from Rev John Brown enclosing details of WSCC's guidance to Secondary Schools for Collective Worship.

Mr Copeland advised that following the Sussex Police Authority (SPA) public meeting he had received a telephone call from Inspector Darge who offered to work in partnership to resolve the anti-social behaviour problems in the parish. Mr Copeland and the Clerk therefore met Mr Knowles (Project Manager, Sussex Police) on 16th April and discussed the ongoing problems. It was agreed to establish a Local Action Team (LAT) with 3 local residents providing intelligence to the Police who will then be able to act in a targeted manner. The first meeting between the LAT and the Police will take place soon so it is hope the LAT will become operational fairly quickly. The Chairman said this was good news and hoped the initiative will be successful. Mrs Ross praised Mr Copeland's performance at the SPA meeting and said she was horrified to hear what some people had to put up with. Mr Copeland said there had been a noticeable improvement in the situation around Shrubbs Field since the SPA meeting and Mr Morrison said people don't realise how much the local police are under resourced.

Mr Copeland advised that he had attended the Western Area Partnership Panel meeting on 14th April when the A259 was discussed and he had also attended a SALC Advanced Councillor's Course on 17th April.

iv) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

The Chairman advised that he had attended the Site 6 Relief Road meeting on 23rd March together with Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Mills, which was attended by representatives of most local Parish and Town Councils, where concern was expressed that the A259 could

be gridlocked by 2006. A follow-up meeting was arranged for 15th April when the Chairman was away. However, as the invitation had been erroneously sent to the Chairman, rather than the Clerk, no one was aware of the meeting and therefore did not attend. It is hoped that future invitations will be correctly addressed to the Clerk.

Mrs Mills advised that it had been drawn to her attention that a number of cars were being parked on the restricted 2 hour parking bays along Middleton Road, close to the shops, for most of the day thereby preventing shoppers from being able to park. She requested that the Clerk should write to all shop owners drawing their attention to the problem and seeking their co-operation. Should the letter not be effective then visits from the Traffic Wardens will be arranged. This was agreed, nem.con and the Clerk was instructed accordingly.

PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that the new MOS Playing Fields' auditor had identified that non-domestic rates were being charged inappropriately on the pavilion. The Clerk submitted a refund request to Arun District Council and a refund of £2,561.42 has been received. He also advised that an estimate to demolish the garage on Shrubbs Field had been received.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. Sussex Village of the Year 2004 – Competition entry form
2. Local Channel – Letter regarding web site services
3. Partnership News – West Sussex Public Partnership Forum
4. SERPA Newsletter
5. Sofas & Stuff – funding request
6. Sussex Safety Camera Partnership – First Year Review
7. WSCC Connections

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	<u>£17,693.09</u>
Total	<u>£18,943.09</u>

(b) Draft 2003/4 Accounts

Copies of the draft accounts had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. No questions were raised and it was agreed that the accounts could be brought forward at the May meeting for formal acceptance after which the Clerk will arrange for them to be audited, by both the Internal and External auditors.

(c) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i)	Canon (UK) Ltd (Photocopier)	£ 69.03
(ii)	MOS Playing Fields	£2,000.00
(iii)	Allianz Cornhill Insurance (Annual Insurance premium)	£ 999.77
(iv)	SALC (Annual Subscription)	£1,002.04
(v)	WSCC (Definitive Map covering parish footpaths)	£ 5.00
(vi)	SALC (Cllr course)	£ 76.38
(vii)	Arun District Council (Shrubbs Car Park)	£1,780.00
Total		<u>£5,932.22</u>

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Ross suggested that in view of the full implementation of the Disabilities Discrimination Act later in 2004 she should start looking at its impact on local footpaths and that was agreed, nem.con. Mrs Mills said she had visited West Meads and their recycling centre was effectively fenced off. She suggested that the Clerk should write to Arun District Council about the Shrubbs recycling area as it was very untidy. This was unanimously agreed and the Clerk was appropriately instructed.

12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mrs Mulvaney enquired about the status of the footpath at Villa Plage as the finger post had been missing for some considerable time. Mrs Ross agreed to investigate.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting will be held on 27th May 2004 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.