

**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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Chandler, Copeland, Edey, Jeffrey, Mrs Mills, Mansfield, Mrs Willis, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley, and Mr Morrison.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Aldridge, Mrs Farley, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson and County Councillor Mrs Freeman.
2. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Mansfield declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8(i) being a nearby resident of the junction of the A259 and B2132. Mrs Mills declared a personal interest in Item 8 (a) being a resident of Yapton Road.
4. **ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – The Chairman reminded members that following advice received from the Monitoring Officer, the Agenda had been changed. Members were also reminded that that County and District Councillors, together with the public can only speak during their allotted slots. Full details were provided by the Clerk in a paper titled “Revised Meeting Structure” dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 2005.

**5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PRESENTATIONS**

County Councillor Mrs Freeman gave her apologies to the meeting as she was indisposed and wrote requesting that members should take her report as the written questions which she put to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at WSCC’s full council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2005 together with his written reply. Mr Mansfield asked that County Councillor Mrs Freeman answer the following questions at September’s meeting:

Question 1: “Has the possibility of a 30mph speed limit with 2 mini-roundabouts been studied as a solution to problem at the junction of the A259 and B2132.”

Question 2: “(a) Has any costs for environmental compensation payments been taken into account in the estimated costs for the improvement of the junction and (b) Has the possibility of a request for a judicial review costs been taken into account in this project.”

**6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PRESENTATIONS**

District Councillor Mrs Oakley said she was unimpressed with the new arrangements and had expressed her concerns to the Monitoring Officer. She mentioned that a full council meeting had been held in respect of a number of Anti Social Behaviour initiatives. She shared everyone’s views about Comet Corner, had been in regular contact with the Head of Infrastructure regarding the seaweed problems and suggested the Parish Council should get together with Felpham Parish Council regarding the proposed Vodafone mast

in Middleton Road. She also encouraged members to publicise the Oscar play schemes being run during the school holidays.

## **7. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mrs Mulvany said she was sorry about the new format as she liked to comment at the end of the meeting. She noted that the grass around the seat adjacent to the Elmer Parish Notice Board had not been cut. The Clerk was instructed to request WSCC Highways to rectify the situation. A number of concerns were expressed about the halting of the Comet Corner road junction improvements, and its apparent deferral until 2010. Rev Brown asked whether the reduction in the speed limit to 40 mph was going ahead and also complained about the new format of the meeting. Mrs Waller asked when the interactive signs were being installed at Comet Corner and was advised that work had commenced. She further stated that Henry Smith (*Leader of WSCC*) can't refuse to attend a public meeting and asked what the public had to do to get him to a meeting. Mr Hills thanked the Parish Council for the work which they had done regarding Comet Corner road improvements and was sorry that County Councillor Mrs Freeman was not at the meeting, but understood why. He questioned the advice given by the Monitoring Officer and undertook to contact her. He also raised the issue of who invited Mr Mansfield to a meeting at WSCC Highways on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004 as he understood the meeting was not open to the public.

## **8. MATTERS ARISING**

### **a) Speedwatch Presentation**

Annette Denby, co-ordinator of the local Speedwatch Scheme for Sussex Police, gave a presentation about how the Scheme works. In summary, there are two stages, the first stage being the distribution of the "Make the Commitment" leaflets and the public's completion and return of "Commitment Forms" undertaking not to break the speed limit. At least 30% of the forms issued must be returned for the Scheme to proceed. If Stage 1 is successful then the Parish Council must commit £200 to finance the Scheme which has to be run by a Parish Council representative. Volunteer operators will be fully trained, issued with high visibility jackets, and will not operate in their own parish. If a speeding motorist is detected, using the speed camera provided, then this information is advised to Safer Communities who generate a warning letter. If drivers regularly exceed the speed limit they will be reported to the Police and may be issued with a speeding fixed penalty notice. Members had a full discussion with Mr Copeland stating that the response to the Parish Action Plan questionnaire indicated that 55% of respondees thought speed was a problem. Mr Edey said he thought the money could be better spent on pedestrian crossings along Elmer and Middleton Roads which would slow down the traffic. Mrs Mills said Yapton Road was also a race track. The distribution of the "Make the Commitment" leaflets was discussed in detail with some members wanting every dwelling to receive a copy, via Middleton News, and others merely wanting the leaflets placed in shops. Mr Copeland proposed the adoption of the Speedwatch Scheme and the setting aside of £200 (*instead of the present £600*) to finance the Scheme if Stage 1 is successful. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Willis and a request for a signed ballot was made. The proposal was approved (5 For: 2 Against: 1 Abstention). Mr Copeland

agreed to be the Parish Council's Speedwatch representative and it was left to him to decide how to distribute the leaflets.

**b) Off Site Play Provision – Willowbrook S106 funds**

The Clerk reported that nothing further had been heard from Arun District Council. The Clerk was instructed to bring the item forward to September's agenda.

**c) Middleton News Co-ordinator**

The Clerk reported that 2 applicants had applied for the position. It was agreed, nem.con, that the Clerk and Mrs Mills should interview both applicants and appoint the suitable candidate.

**d) Seaweed**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Head of Environmental Health, Arun District Council which advised that seaweed was a natural phenomenon, deposits of which are undoubtedly unpleasant, albeit they do not offer a health risk. This was supported by discussions with the Health Protection Agency and, through them, local GP practices which had not shown any increase in ill-health linked to exposure to seaweed. The District Council will continue to review the position in the area although no further action is proposed at present. Mrs Willis said she remained concerned, however it was agreed to take no further action.

**e) Street Lighting**

Correspondence was received from the Team Leader, WSCC Street Lighting in response to an enquiry made by a member of the public regarding the lack of street lighting in the Kingsmead Road area on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005. It would appear that when the street lighting was installed by the original developer it was not installed to the correct specification and so was not adopted by WSCC. Further, Southern Electricity removed the electricity supply to some of the street lights as electricity bills were not paid. The cost of lighting Kingsmead Road to a level which WSCC would accept for maintenance will be £11,000 (to add Sunnymead Close, The Close and Farm Close to the scheme will add an additional £10,000). Whilst a more sporadically spaced scheme could be installed, at lower cost, it would become the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Clerk produced a paper showing the substantive ongoing costs of such a scheme and it was therefore agreed to take no further action.

**f) Removal of BT payphone adjacent to the Telephone Exchange**

Notice has been received from BT Payphones of their intention to remove the payphone adjacent to the Telephone Exchange owing to its lack of use by consumers. It was recognised that the payphone is regularly vandalised so it was agreed not to raise any objection.

**g) Middleton Village Pond/Green 10 year Management Agreement**

A copy of the proposed 10 year Management Agreement with WSCC, which had been agreed by the General Purposes Committee, was circulated to all members. Mrs Mills thanked the Clerk for his work in this regard and proposed that the Clerk should be

instructed to sign the engrossment on behalf of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mr Copeland and unanimously agreed.

**h) Co-option of Comet Corner Action Group representative to the General Purposes Committee**

The Clerk advised that the General Purposes Committee had agreed on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005 to seek the full council's approval to co-opt a non-voting representative to the committee. Mr Mansfield said that he needed to seek guidance from the Monitoring Officer as to whether he had a prejudicial interest in this business and requested that the matter be deferred until September's meeting. No objection was raised and the Clerk was instructed to place on September's agenda.

**i) Comet Corner – Response from Henry Smith, WSCC / Unity support letter**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) A letter from Yapton Parish Council to Henry Smith supporting this Council's position had been copied to all members. Yapton Parish Council had received a similar response from Mr Smith.
- (b) Correspondence from the Project Manager, Sussex Safety Camera Partnership advised that Comet Corner is being considered for a camera but that until speed data collection had been completed it was not possible to examine the request in detail. Another factor was that an embargo had been placed on the installation of new cameras until the new Road Safety Minister had examined the latest 4 year report into their effectiveness.
- (c) A response had been received from Felpham Parish Council regarding support from Unity suggesting that this Parish Council holds the next meeting for Unity members at which Comet Corner and the proposed relief road could be discussed. Mrs Mills suggested this was a good idea as the Comet Corner case had not been previously pushed at Unity meetings as it had been assumed that matters were progressing satisfactorily. She proposed a meeting is arranged, probably in October, and this was seconded by Mrs Willis and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was instructed to write to Unity.
- (d) A response from Henry Smith, Leader of WSCC, had been circulated to members in which he rejected the call for a public meeting, instead suggesting that the first step should be a meeting with local parish councils to explain what the options are, in both the short and longer term. Once the meeting has been held, Mr Smith indicated that he would appreciate further feedback from the Parish Council. Mrs Mills said that the Parish Council was promised a meeting months ago and proposed that it was imperative that any meeting was held promptly, deferring the public meeting request until after the meeting. This was seconded by Mrs Willis and unanimously approved. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Smith.
- (e) The local paper reported details of a document given to members of the Joint Downland Area Committee indicating a target date of 2010 for completion of improvements at Comet Corner. A separate article suggested the speed limit may be cut from 50mph to 40mph. Members were concerned that they should have to learn this information from the local press and that WSCC had not had the courtesy to formally advise this Parish Council.

The Chairman said that some members will be aware that his critical comments, at June's meeting, about the timing of the Comet Corner announcement had not been well received by the County Councillor. Mrs Mills thanked the Clerk for the very good letters which he writes on this topic.

*Mr Mansfield left the meeting during Item 8(i).*

#### **9. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

#### **10. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

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

The Clerk advised:

- (a) An Arun District Council memo regarding Green Waste Services was circulated to members
- (b) Confirmation has been received from Arun District Council that they are taking appropriate action to clear the rubbish from Footpath 161.

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

Nothing to report.

##### **ii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005 and had been re-elected its Chairman. Mr Copeland had been unable to attend and the Chairman suggested that Mrs Mills might, in future, attend in his absence, as she had been involved with the creation of the Area Transport Plan. He further reported that Mrs Waller had attended the meeting and asked a question about Comet Corner. JWAAC had invited Lt. Col. Pemberton (WSSC Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport) to attend the meeting but he was unable to do so. The Chairman said the Deputy Leader of Arun District Council was surprised at his failure to attend and Lt. Col. Pemberton had therefore been asked to attend the next meeting. The Clerk advised that he had circulated both the Standards Committee minutes, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005, and the Safer Communities June Highlight Report to members.

Mr Copeland advised that he had visited the Flying Fortress, which is a huge building with café and entertainment for children across a large age range. It has a youth club for 13-17 years on Wednesdays and Fridays and he suggested that this facility may be an alternative to establishing facilities in the parish. He suggested that it might be possible to provide transportation from Middleton to the Flying Fortress. Mrs Mills proposed that the matter should be passed to the Projects Committee for investigation and this was seconded by Mr Copeland and unanimously agreed.

**iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee**

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership grant (£2,500) has been approved and the Parish Council is now in a position to inject a total of £5,000 into the Larksfield Skate Park scheme.

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

Nothing to report.

**11. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had been received:-

1. Action in Rural Sussex – Letter regarding website
2. ADC's Corporate Performance Plan 2005/6
3. ADC – Special Full Council Meeting on Community Safety
4. Campaign to Protect Rural England – Local planning seminars
5. Clerks & Councils Direct
6. P Elkins – Open letter to WSCC
7. Flying Fortress – email/letter
8. Komplan – playground brochure
9. Local Council Review
10. Matta Products (UK) Ltd – playground brochure
11. Mrs Waller – Letter
12. WSCC Connections
13. WSCC – Details of Funding Fair to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005
14. WSCC – Mineral Development Plan Scoping Report
15. West Sussex Public Partnership Forum - Newsletter

**13. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a) Bank Accounts -**

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£27,847.30
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£29,097.30</u></b>

**(b) Accounts for payment -**

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i)	R Huskisson – Internal Auditor	£ 100.00
(ii)	Panasonic – Photocopier rental	£ 85.73
(iii)	D F Allsopp – Co-ordinator advertisement BR Observer	£ 103.64
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£ 289.37</u></b>

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk advised his holiday dates. Mr Copeland gave his apologies as he will not be able to attend both the village fete on 31<sup>st</sup> July or the Neighbourhood Management Team meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Mrs Willis will deputise at the latter meeting. Mr Mansfield asked that the continuing sale and repair of motor vehicles on the grass verge close to Comet Corner is placed on September's agenda. He stated that he will have a prejudicial interest in the item. The Clerk was instructed accordingly.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.