

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Chandler, Copeland, Edey, Jeffrey, Mansfield, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, Mrs Willis, the Clerk and District Councillor Mrs Oakley (Left 7 p.m.).

- 1. APOLOGIES** – Councillor Mrs Mills, County Councillor Mrs Freeman and Mr Morrison.
- 2. MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005 having been circulated were approved and signed.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Mansfield declared a prejudicial interest in Items 8(a), 8(b) and 8(c) being a nearby resident of the junction of the A259 and B2132. Mrs Ross declared a personal interest in both Items 8(g) and 10(ii) being a member of the Middleton-on-Sea Association.

**4. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – The Chairman advised those present that Cllr Gerry Aldridge passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and said he will be greatly missed having served 24 years as a Parish Councillor. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect. Subsequently, Mrs Ross proposed that a donation should be made to St Wilfrid's Hospice in accordance with the family's wishes. The sum of £40 (£137) was proposed which was seconded by Mrs Willis and unanimously agreed. The donation was given to Mr Chandler to pass on to the Hospice.

**5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PRESENTATIONS**

County Councillor Mrs Freeman gave her apologies to the meeting as she had to attend a WSCC/Arun District Council Liaison meeting. She provided a written report which was read by the Clerk.

**6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR PRESENTATIONS**

District Councillor Mrs Oakley apologised to the meeting that she could only stay for a short time as she was unwell. She expressed concern about the planning application to increase the height of the telecommunications mast in Elmer Road and confirmed that she remained close to planning issues and made representations where required. She thanked the organisers of the village fete, together with those who attended, and praised the large sum raised. She mentioned that a Channel 4 programme was being screened about the Flying Fortress and said she will be extremely sad if Middleton News had to close. She thanked the Clerk and his wife for keeping it going.

## **7. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mrs Mulvany mentioned that following an accident at the Middleton/Yapton/Elmer road junction the street furniture, indicating the location of Shrubbs Car Park/Elmer Road being a dead end, had yet to be replaced. Further, the grass verge by the Bailey memorial seat in Elmer Road had still not been cut. Finally she expressed concerns about the proposed building of 11 flats at Jubilee Works as it will have an adverse effect on the local sewerage system and parking. *(The Clerk will follow these matters up).*

The Rev. Brown advised that there had been a serious accident at Comet Corner on 9<sup>th</sup> September and that some occupants had been hospitalised which proved that the Vehicle Activated Signs were not effective. He believed that the speed limit at the junction should immediately be reduced from 50 mph to 40 mph given (a) the cost was only £25 and (b) a 40 mph limit was in force along the Clymping section of the A259. He recognised, however, that everything was subject to the approval of the WSCC Cabinet Member (Lt Col. Tex Pemberton) and asked the Parish Council to press for Lt Col. Tex Pemberton to come to a public meeting and wanted to know why he was continually putting this off.

Mr Hills said he echoed the comments of Rev. Brown and shared his frustration at the mismatch of speed limits but thanked the Parish Council for their efforts. He advised that he had written to the Monitoring Officer, Arun District Council, as he believed the new agenda format was artificially devised to avoid the full implementation of the Code of Conduct, which was not right. He said his view was substantiated by the Standards Board for England. Mr Hills also raised the issue of who invited Cllr Mansfield to attend a meeting at WSCC Highways Department on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004 and said he had recently received correspondence from the Deputy Head of Legal Services, WSCC contradicting Cllr Mansfield's assertions. He then made a series of allegations about Cllr Mansfield's conduct. Finally, Mr Hills alleged that the Parish Council minutes, dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005, showed 2 breaches of the Code of Conduct by Cllr Mansfield and said that he will be reporting these matters to the Standards Board for England. Father William Marston said he supported the reduction in the speed limit at Comet Corner from 50 mph to 40 mph.

## **8. MATTERS ARISING**

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

Mr Copeland proposed that in accordance with the minutes of the General Purposes Committee, dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005, Mrs Jenny Brown should be co-opted as a non-voting member of the committee. This was seconded by Mr Wilkinson and unanimously agreed. *Mr Mansfield left the meeting during Item 8(a).*

### **b) Comet Corner**

The Clerk reported that two papers had been circulated to members relating to Comet Corner being:

(a) Minutes (prepared by WSCC) of the meeting between WSCC Highways Department, Middleton, Clymping, Felpham, Ford and Yapton Parish Councils, held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005. Other attendees included County Councillor Mrs Freeman, District Councillor Mrs Oakley and Mr Rogers, Services Director, Arun District Council.

(b) Notes of the same meeting, together with the WSCC Options Review, prepared by Mrs Mills. (*The General Purposes committee approved the release of these papers into the public domain via the Comet Corner Action Group*).

Mr Wilkinson said that several times during the meeting it became clear that the Cabinet Member's preference was for the 'full blown' traffic lights option, which coincidentally was the most expensive and he felt this was a further tactic to delay the installation of traffic lights. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Mrs Mills and Wilkinson for representing the Parish Council at the meeting together with District Councillor Mrs Oakley and Colin Rogers.

The Clerk reminded members that County Councillor Henry Smith, Leader of WSCC, had requested feedback from the meeting. The General Purposes committee had recommended to the full council that the feedback should express disappointment that the meeting took the matter no further forward and should call for urgent action by the Cabinet Member to garner sufficient funds to ensure major junction improvements are achieved urgently. This was proposed by Mr Wilkinson, seconded by Mrs Willis and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was therefore instructed to write to Cllr Henry Smith. *Mr Mansfield left the meeting during Item 8(b).*

**c) Sale/Repair of cars on the WSCC grass verge adjacent to Comet Corner**

Mr Copeland said he had driven past 3 vehicles on the verge, adjacent to the Old Police House, and some cars on the road which could possibly cause visibility problems. A discussion ensued and various options were discussed including (a) reporting the matter to Arun District Council although it was pointed out that they will not act unless a detailed log is maintained or (b) reporting the matter to WSCC Highways Department as they are responsible for the verge. Mr Copeland proposed adoption of option (b), which was seconded by Mrs Ross and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC.

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

**d) Off Site Play provision (Willowbrook Section 106 monies)**

The Clerk reported that the position had not moved forward and reminded members that this matter had been outstanding since January 2005. It was unanimously agreed to instruct the Clerk to chase-up the matter.

**e) Co-option of Councillor**

The Chairman said he was sorry that Mrs Farley had to resign but fully understood the underlying reasons. The Statutory Notice had been displayed on notice boards and Arun District Council had given approval to co-opt a councillor. However, following the untimely demise of Mr Aldridge, a further vacancy had been created and the Statutory Notice procedure had to be repeated. The Clerk reported that Mr Rainger had asked to be considered for co-option. The Clerk had invited him to attend a council meeting but he declined. Members unanimously agreed to defer any co-option decisions until at least the November meeting to allow for the advertising process to be completed.

**f) Middleton News Co-ordinator**

The Clerk reported that whilst there had been a number of enquiries regarding the position, only one person had formally applied. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should undertake an interview and appoint the applicant if he considered her to be suitable.

**g) Sea Lane Verges**

A letter was received from the Middleton-on-Sea Association regarding the very poor state of the verges along Sea Lane, adjacent to the Middleton Sports Club and this was circulated to members. There is an apparent dispute over the ownership of the verges. Mr Mansfield disagreed that it was in a poor state and said the area looked rural and that the verge will encourage biodiversity. He believed nature should take its course. Mrs Ross said it protects the area from tennis balls and Mr Copeland suggested the Association write to WSCC themselves. Mrs Willis recommended the Parish Council supported an investigation into its ownership. No proposal was made and the situation was noted.

**h) WSCC Roundabout Sponsorship Consultation**

Details of WSCC's roundabout sponsorship consultation was circulated to members. Mr Mansfield suggested the placing of trees or tubs on the roundabout in Yapton Road and that a business should be sought to sponsorship it. It was agreed to use Middleton News to seek a sponsor.

**9. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 17<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated to members and were noted. Mr Mansfield said that a vigorous objection to the proposed Jubilee Works flat development had been lodged.

**10. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005 had been circulated to members and were noted.

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

The Clerk advised:

- (a) The 10 year Management Agreement for Middleton Village Pond and Green between the Parish Council and WSCC was signed on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005.
- (b) The village pond warning sign had been removed. The Clerk was instructed to arrange for a replacement to be fabricated and fitted.

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

Mr Mansfield said that earlier in the year a substantial sum of money had been given to the Middleton-on-Sea Association to assist with the cost of a consultant's report regarding the Greensward. No report had been received and that as major contributors, the Parish Council was entitled to know when it will be received and its total cost. The Clerk advised that he held the Association's written undertaking that a copy of the report would be forwarded to the Parish Council but confirmed it had not been received to date. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Association.

**(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) The Arun Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008 was placed into full circulation on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005.
- (b) Safer Communities Highlight Reports for both July and August together with the Neighbourhood Watch Briefing Sheet had been circulated to members.
- (c) The Monitoring Officer, Arun District Council, had updated the Register of Members' Interest Form and this has been copied to all members on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The revised Interest Form should be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days if considered appropriate.
- (d) The ADC Standards Committee Agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> September had been received.
- (e) The Summer Newsletter of Sussex & Surrey Associations of Local Councils together with details of a training course had been circulated to members.

**iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee**

Nothing to report.

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

The Clerk advised that the only available date to host a Unity meeting was 12<sup>th</sup> October and that he was unavailable. The Chairman said somebody needed to take the minutes and arrange tea and coffee and suggested deferral until November. *(Following an update from the Clerk, Felpham Parish Council, it may be better to defer the Unity meeting until the Site 6 Planning Inspector's decision is announced).*

The Clerk provided each member with a copy of the West Arun Area Transport Plan and confirmed that 2 copies of the Provisional West Sussex Transport Plan 2006-2016 had been placed into circulation. The matter will be placed on October's agenda.

**11. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

A meeting had been held on 21<sup>st</sup> September. The Chairman said the Clerk will be writing to the Village Hall Management Committee regarding the shrubs which are damaging the chain linked fencing on Shrubbs Field adjacent to the Jubilee Hall. A discussion ensued and it was concluded that the shrubs were located on the grass verge and were therefore the responsibility of WSCC. The Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had been received:-

1. Arun Voice newsletter
2. Two letters from Rev. Brown re Comet Corner
3. Clerks and Councils Direct
4. Portsmouth Land Registry – Letter re voluntary first registrations
5. Local Council Review
6. Local Government Association – Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act
7. Local Works – newsletter re The Sustainable Communities Bill
8. Two letters from R Meston re Comet Corner

9. Letter from J Penfold re Vision Group proposal
10. Letter from A Rainger re Comet Corner meeting
11. Letter from A Rainger re cutting back hedgerow in Worms Lane.
12. Email/response from T Rees
13. SEERA – Core Regional Policies handed to Government
14. Letter C Wood

### 13. FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£44,806.95
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£46,056.95</u></b>

#### (b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) B Cursons – repair of fingerpost sign ( <i>issued 24.8.05</i> )	£ 100.00
(ii) Mazars – External Auditor	£ 293.75
(iii) Middleton-on-Sea Playing fields – Funds transfer	£1,000.00
(iv) SPP – setting/printing Middleton News	£1,640.00
(v) D Allsopp – Clerk’s fee/Middleton News	£3,021.90
(vi) D Allsopp – Postages/telephone costs	£ 86.77
(vii) D Allsopp – Annual web site subscription	£ 12.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£6,154.42</u></b>

#### (c) Audited Accounts 2004/2005

The Clerk advised that the 2004/2005 accounts had been given a clean audit certificate by the external auditors.

#### (d) Budget Planning 2006/2007

The Clerk reminded Committee Chairmen that their bids for 2006/2007 funding should be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

### 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Mansfield said he had endured a personal attack by Mr Hills earlier in the meeting and that it should be known that he had undergone comprehensive training under the guidance of the local Monitoring Officer and Clerk’s notes. He assured those present that he is now an expert in the Code of Conduct. The Chairman said that only items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda should be brought up under Any Other Business and Mr Mansfield therefore requested that his comments should be linked back to Item 10(iii). Mr Edey expressed concern about the lack of pedestrian crossings and asked for it to be placed on October’s agenda. Mr Wilkinson asked for an update regarding the proposed new Union Flag and asked for it to be placed on October’s agenda.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.