

MIDDLETON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the back of Jubilee Hall, Elmer Road, Middleton-on-Sea
On Wednesday 20th September 2006

PRESENT – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Copeland (arrived 7.35 p.m), Jeffrey, Mansfield, Ms Ross, the Clerk and District Councillor Mrs Oakley (arrived 7.15 p.m).

- 1. APOLOGIES** – Councillors Chandler, Edey, Mrs Mills, Mrs Willis, County Councillor Mrs Freeman and Mr Morrison.
- 2. MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th July 2006 having been circulated were approved and signed.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Mansfield declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5g being a nearby resident of the junction of the A259 and B2132.

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 Marjorie Widdowson, who had been a parish councillor for many years, passed away on 31st August 2006, aged 83 years. A minute’s silence was held as a mark of respect.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Partial Review of the South East Plan – Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites

Both a consultation Draft Project Plan and a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report had been received and was circulated to members, together with a questionnaire. It was unanimously agreed not to respond to the questionnaire.

b) Larksfield Skatepark – Felpham Parish Council’s letter of response

A letter from Felpham Parish Council, dated 24th July 2006, was circulated to members. The letter raised a number of questions regarding the proposed fund matching scheme for additional skatepark equipment. As the matter is still at an embryonic stage, with funding still to be agreed, or budgeted for in 2007/8, a definitive answer could not be given. The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly.

c) Larksfield Mini Soccer proposals – Inspire Leisure’s response

Inspire Leisure have indicated that they would like to meet council representatives in mid October. It was agreed that Mr Jeffrey and the Clerk will attend the meeting. The Clerk will make appropriate arrangements.

d) Middleton News – Distributor required.

The Clerk reported that the distributor of Middleton News was unable to continue and that a new distributor needed to be found. He also reported that some local deliverers had withdrawn and that the reserve list had been fully depleted. Unless new deliverers can be found, some areas may not get Middleton News delivered, in which case they might have to collect them from local shops. Mr Jeffrey and District Councillor Mrs Oakley said

they could do some deliveries. The Chairman stated that the Vice Chairman had suggested that it would be appropriate to pay the distributor and given that the job takes about one day per quarter it was unanimously agreed to offer a payment of £50 per issue. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for the position.

The Clerk reminded members that each year a Threshers' voucher is given to each of the deliverers, excluding councillors, as a gesture of thanks. Mr Mansfield proposed £150 being made available for the vouchers and this was seconded by Ms Ross and unanimously agreed.

e) Good Beach Guide 2006

The Clerk reported that Middleton-on-Sea beach had been awarded Recommended Beach 2006 status by the Marine Conservation Society.

f) Request for a Litter Bin in Friary Close

Correspondence received from a local resident who had requested that Arun District Council install a litter bin in Friary Close was circulated to members. The District Council suggested that the Parish Council should pay for the litter bin and they would then empty and maintain it so the matter was fully discussed. District Councillor Mrs Oakley (who declared an interest as she lived in the vicinity) said that Sundale Lane, Friary Close and the interconnecting footpath are the preferred footpath route for many residents living in Ilex Way and Flansham Park to access the village. Significant amounts of litter get dropped along this route, particularly as there are 3 take-away outlets in the village. Dog fouling is also a major issue. The Chairman felt that a litter bin should be installed and asked the cost (*subsequently established as £338 + VAT*). Ms Ross said she supported the installation of a litter bin and was upset that ADC will not provide the bin particularly given the amounts paid in business rates. Mr Mansfield was concerned that if the Parish Council paid for the bin that it would set a precedent for residents in other parts of the parish also seeking bins. It was therefore agreed to instruct the Clerk to write to ADC requesting that the District Council install a litter bin, at their cost, stating that this position is supported by both the Parish Council and the two District Councillors.

g) Comet Corner – JWAAC response re S106 funding and subsequent newspaper/email comment

As Mr Mansfield had declared a prejudicial interest in this item, only three members remained. The meeting was consequently not quorate and the item could not be discussed. The Clerk will place the item on the October Agenda.

6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes dated 19th July, 2nd August, 16th August and 6th September 2006 were circulated and noted.

7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

Mr Mansfield advised that he had ordered 4 large bags of bulbs and 3 planters and was looking for volunteers to plant them. Ms Ross thanked Mr Mansfield for his efforts saying that the bulbs are a delight in the spring. The Chairman asked that a vote of thanks to Mr Mansfield was recorded.

The Chairman reported that County Councillor Mrs Freeman had been trying to arrange a meeting with Richard White, Head of Property Services, WSCC regarding land for allotments but had heard nothing. She will therefore chase the matter up.

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

The Clerk reported that Mrs Willis, District Councillor Mrs Oakley and Mr Szynowski (Middleton-on-Sea Association) wished to attend a meeting with Andrew Gilham (Environment Agency) and County Councillor Mrs Freeman. The Clerk will request County Councillor Mrs Freeman to arrange the meeting.

(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk advised:

- (a) The Standards Board for England Bulletin 30 had been circulated to all members.
- (b) SALC will be holding a councillor training weekend on 3rd-5th November 2006.
- (c) The AGMs of both SALC (Sussex Associations of Local Councils) and Sussex Rural Community Council are being held on 12th October 2006. A representative may attend, and vote, if they wish.

The Chairman advised that County Councillor Mrs Freeman said that she had demanded a report from Tex Pemberton (WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport) regarding Comet Corner at JDAC (Joint Downland Area Committee).

iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee

Nothing to report.

v) Roads & Transport Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk reported that a request to lower the kerb stone at the Yapton Road/Sundale Lane junction had been received from a parishioner. WSCC Highways were requested to take action and the kerb has now been lowered.

8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that Mr Edey has relinquished his responsibilities for the pavilion, for health reasons, and that the Clerk is holding the premises keys on a temporary basis pending the appointment of another trustee to the position. The matter will be resolved at the trustees meeting on 1st November.

The Clerk further advised that ADC's playground contractor was preparing a report for the Parish Council regarding the minimum amount of remedial work required for Shrubbs Field playground. It is anticipated that repair costs could be in the region of £2,000. The Chairman asked if there were funds available. The Clerk advised that whilst there were no specific budgeted funds available, there were adequate funds held in the Brought Forward Contingency Fund.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- (1) Action in Rural Sussex – Sussex Rural Community Council AGM (*Circulated*)

- (2) Arun Co-ordinated Community Transport – Funding request
- (3) ADC – Arun Times
- (4) ADC – Byelaws for Navigation of Sailboards (*Circulated*)
- (5) ADC – Draft Byelaws for Pleasure Boats (*Circulated*)
- (6) Chris Benyon Associates – Letter re fund raising services
- (7) Clerks & Councils Direct
- (8) Council for Voluntary Service – AGM 29 Sept 2006 (*Circulated*)
- (9) DEFRA – Rural Services Review
- (10) ENCAMS – Local environmental quality parish guide
- (11) Mr Hills – Letters to ADC (*Circulated*)
- (12) Inspire Leisure – Arun Youth Community Awards 2006 (*Circulated*)
- (13) LCR
- (14) Neighbourhood Watch - Briefing Sheet (*Circulated*)
- (15) O2 Grants Scheme – (*Circulated*)
- (16) Portsmouth Water – Letter/brochure regarding water resources (*Circulated*)
- (17) Surrey & Sussex NHS - Newsletter
- (18) Sussex Police Authority – Public Meeting 5 Oct 2006 (*Circulated*)
- (19) Wellspring - Newsletter
- (20) WSCC – Adult Services (*Circulated*)

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£26,712.50
Total	<u>£27,962.50</u>

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Suzanne Rees (Middleton News Co-ordinator's Fee)	£ 406.85
(ii) SPP (Middleton News setting/printing)	£1,640.00
(iii) D F Allsopp (Clerk's quarterly fees/expenses)	£2,868.14
(iv) D F Allsopp (Quarterly telephone, postages and website subscription)	£ 73.83
(v) Mazars (External Auditor's Fee)	£ 293.75
(vi) Manor Nurseries (Bulbs and 3 planters)	£ 44.43
Total	<u>£5,327.00</u>

(c) 2005/6 Audited Accounts

The Clerk reported that Mazars (External Auditor) had signed off the 2005/6 Accounts.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to report

12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

District Councillor Mrs Oakley reported that problems have recommenced on Friday evenings with youths shouting and swearing outside the Jubilee Hall, banging on the

windows and getting into the hall. Mrs Brown reported a similar situation on Saturday nights. Mrs Ayton asked how operational the Middleton LAT was, currently. Mr Copeland said that whilst Middleton LAT had not been disbanded, it was not effective at present. He also mentioned that the forum for direct contact with the police, the Neighbourhood Management Team, had ceased and that until a new Area Police Sergeant position has been rolled out, communications will remain not fully effective. Mrs Mulvaney raised the need for proper identification when callers come to the door and suggested an article in Middleton News.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on 18th October 2006 **at 7.00 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.