

**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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

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

1. **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Copeland, Edey, Mansfield and Ms Ross.
2. **MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mrs Mills declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5(a) being the former Chairman of the Comet Corner Action Group.
4. **ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – PCSO Teresa Bridger gave a short presentation and advised that she is responsible for Middleton and Elmer areas, effective from May 2006. She reported that there were no major issues with the exception of some anti-social behaviour and under age alcohol abuse. She has been instrumental in arranging for West Sussex Fire & Rescue to visit Ancton Woods, following some fires. They have prepared a report and will visit local residents to provide advice in the near future.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Proposed New Crematorium - Bilsham**

A letter from Mercia Crematoria Ltd has been circulated to members regarding the company's proposals to build a crematorium to the west of the B2132 just north of Comet Corner. No formal planning application has been submitted and it is understood that the company will hold a public meeting in the next few weeks. A meeting has been arranged at Arun District Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006 for the company to give a presentation of their proposals to some District and Parish Councillors. Mrs Willis and the Clerk will represent the Parish Council. It is understood that the company has also approached WSCC Highways Department to seek their approval for the proposed crematorium and that Section 106 payments were discussed. The Clerk wrote to the Highways Department and has now received a response indicating that the letter has been passed to WSCC Group Manager, Development Planning to ensure the views of the Parish Council are taken into account. The Chairman advised that he had been approached by both the Bognor Regis Observer and Southern Counties Radio for a comment but had declined as he considered it inappropriate at this time.

*(Mrs Mills left the meeting during discussion of this item)*

**b) Larksfield Mini Soccer Proposals**

Mr Jeffrey and the Clerk will meet representatives from Inspire Leisure on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006 to discuss the mini soccer proposals.

**c) Request for litter bin in Friary Close**

The Clerk reported that he had yet to receive a response from Arun District Council. The Chairman advised that he, and District Councillor Mrs Oakley, had spoken to the Services Director and hoped that this will ultimately lead to a satisfactory outcome.

**d) Minerals & Waste Development Framework**

The document has been circulated to members and it was agreed not to make any formal response.

**e) Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC) Community Grants Scheme**

Details of the scheme were circulated to members and posters have been placed on the Parish Council notice boards. The Chairman declared an interest as he will be a member of the JWAAC committee which will decide the distribution of the grant funds.

**f) Comet Corner – JWAAC response re S106 funding and subsequent newspaper/email comment** (*Brought forward as the September meeting was not quorate for this item*)

A question was submitted by the General Purposes Committee to JWAAC's July meeting seeking to ascertain whether any S106 funding (Development gain) from the Felpham/Bersted Site 6 development will be available towards the cost of improving Comet Corner. In a written response, WSCC's Group Manager, Development Control stated that £1 million was available for improvements within certain definitions and that Comet Corner improvements met the criteria. WSCC will be consulting on how to use the funds in due course. Subsequently, the Chairman of Felpham Parish Council sent a number of emails questioning how the funds could be used outside Felpham Parish. The Chairman said that it was early days in respect of Site 6 and that at one time S106 monies could only be spent on specific things, however, new legislation in 2005 changed that requirement and funding could now be used outside the area. He understood that a significant sum will be used by WSCC and the Highways Agency to improve roundabouts at Fontwell and Oving. It is understood that a meeting has been arranged with WSCC sometime in November to discuss this issue. The Chairman also received a laminate regarding the distribution of initial funds from Site 6. The Clerk will place copies into circulation.

**6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 20<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006 were circulated and noted. Members expressed concern about the proposal that Middleton Pharmacy may be relocated at the Flansham Park Medical Centre and discussed the various options to discourage the relocation happening.

**7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

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

The Clerk reported:

- (a) Arun District Council are holding a seminar about the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006.
- (b) Councillors Copeland and Jeffrey will be meeting the Head of Property Services, WSCC on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006 to discuss the availability of land for allotments. The Clerk mentioned that the Vice Chairman also wanted to seek some additional land for burials and that Father William welcomed the

suggestion. The Clerk also advised that he had received an email suggesting that there were at least 6 council tax payers who might formally request allotments should progress not be made.

- (c) Cllr Mansfield wished to thank those who planted bulbs this year and mentioned that a 3 year old whitebeam tree, located opposite the Middleton Sports Club entrance, had been broken in half and needed replacement. Members agreed to deal with the whitebeam issue at the next General Purposes Committee meeting.

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

A meeting has been arranged on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to discuss sea defence issues within the parish. Mr Gilham (Environment Agency), Mr Spencer (Arun District Council) together with County Councillor Mrs Freeman, District Councillor Mrs Oakley, Mrs Willis and two representatives from both Elmer Sands Ltd and the Middleton-on-Sea Association will be attending.

**(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) Ford Parish Council has advised that there will be a wreath laying service at the Commemorative Garden, Ford on Remembrance Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> November) at 12.30 p.m. Mr Bernard Hills will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and all are welcome to attend.
- (b) The Community Leadership Support Officer from Action in Rural Sussex telephoned to advise that the parish could apply for a SEEDA grant, however it will have to undertake a 'Health Check' before the grants can be received. The 'Health Check' is apparently similar to the Parish Action Plan in terms of involvement required. It was agreed that the matter should be deferred until after the May 2007 elections, to ascertain whether any member would like to take on the substantive commitment involved.
- (c) The JWAAC agenda for 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006 meeting (subsequently cancelled) and the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 meeting had been received.
- (d) Mrs Pauline Allsopp had agreed to undertake the role of distributor for Middleton News. The Chairman thanked her for agreeing to this.
- (e) No response has been received from Felpham Parish Council regarding the proposed 50/50 Larksfield Skatepark funding scheme.
- (f) Sussex Police together with West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service have purchased a Mobile Speed Indication Device (SID). The parishes which have signed up to the 'Make the Commitment' campaign will have priority for its use which will be organised through the newly formed Neighbourhood Specialist Teams.

**iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee**

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report

## 8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

- (1) Action in Rural Sussex – Newsletter
- (2) CDRP – Review of Neighbourhood Management Teams
- (3) Mr D Churchill – Email re parking in Main Drive
- (4) Arunwide CVS – Voice Newsletter
- (5) English Heritage – Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials
- (6) Highways Agency – Advanced Warning of A27 roadworks
- (7) ICIS News - Newsletter
- (8) Sussex Police Authority – Email seeking Independent Members
- (9) WSCC Connections

## 10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

### a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£37,727.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>£38,977.25</b>

### (b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Panasonic UK Ltd (Photocopier rental/usage)	£ 81.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 81.92</b>

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

## 12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

District Councillor Mrs Oakley mentioned that the local poppy appeal is short of people to stand with boxes in the village and that if anyone can help they should contact Johnny Izzard.

Mr Brookland raised three issues:

- (a) In March 2006, Mr Brookland requested that posts were put into the grass verge opposite One Stop to prevent lorries parking on the grass. County Councillor Mrs Freeman took this matter up with WSCC Highways but the work has yet to be completed and she has told Mr Brookland to ask the Parish Council to pursue the matter. The Clerk will try to resolve this long outstanding matter.
- (b) The hedge on the right hand side of Shrubbs Car Park entrance has not been cut by WSCC. The Clerk will investigate.
- (c) There is a large shrub growing through the fence on Shrubbs Field which needs removing (WSCC committed to do this sometime ago). The Clerk will investigate.

- (d) The seat in Middleton Road at its junction with Sea Lane still has debris/rubbish underneath it. The Chairman agreed to take this matter up with the District Council.

Mr Wood advised that the footpaths from the shops in Middleton Road and along Yapton Road are uneven. Mrs Mulvaney reported that a tree was hanging low by the bus stop in Elmer Road close to Lucking Lane and needs cutting back. The Clerk was asked to take up both issues with WSCC Highways.

**13. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – Standing Order 63**

In view of the nature of the business being transacted the public and the press were excluded from this part of the meeting when playground repairs and the awarding of a repair contract were considered.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 **at 7.00 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.