

**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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Chandler, Edey, Mrs Farley, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, Mrs Willis, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley (arrived 7 p.m.) and Mr Morrison.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Councillor Aldridge, Copeland and County Councillor Mrs Freeman.
2. **MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillor Mrs Mills declared a personal interest in Item 5 (e) as the location of her property is close to WSCC owned smallholding land. Councillor Mansfield declared a personal interest in both Item 5 (e) as the location of his property is close to WSCC owned smallholding land and in Item 7 (iii) being the subject of Standards Board for England correspondence.
- 4 **ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – There were none.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Shrubbs Car Park – free parking**

The Clerk advised that following an article in the local press indicating that Arun District Council will be seeking to charge for parking with effect from April 2006 he had received letters and telephone calls from parishioners expressing concern at the proposed charges. The Chairman advised that, in his capacity as a District Councillor, he had also received a letter from a resident of Buckingham Court objecting to the proposed charges and had replied offering his full support in opposing the charges. Mrs Mills said she had also received telephone calls objecting to the proposed charging and that as the car park was a village amenity for both the village hall, scout hall and doctors' surgery it should remain free. Mr Wilkinson thought it was a disgusting move by Arun District Council to advise the press before the Parish Council and that if ADC wanted more money from the Parish Council then they should have opened negotiations. The Chairman said he had discussed the matter with the Clerk and believed the Parish Council was in a strong negotiating position and that it was best to await a formal approach by ADC. Mrs Mills proposed that the Parish Council should fight any proposal to levy parking charges and this was seconded by Mr Wilkinson and unanimously carried.

**b) New Materials Recycling Facility, Ford**

The Clerk advised that Mr Wilkinson had spoken against the proposed development, on behalf of the Parish Council, at Arun District Council's Development Control Committee (DCC) meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November together with other Parish/Town Council representatives. The DCC voted, by an overwhelming majority, to recommend to WSCC to refuse the planning application. On 19<sup>th</sup> November, Cllr Tyrrell (Clymping PC) and Nick Gibb MP met with WSCC Head of Planning and 3 other officers to discuss various options, including a Traffic Optimisation Study, and were advised that the application was going before WSCC's planning committee in December. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November the Clerk had been advised that the report for WSCC planning committee is not ready and the application will not go before the committee until January or February 2005.

**c) Co-option of a Parish Councillor**

The opportunity to apply to become a Councillor expires on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Mills proposed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman consider the applications and make a recommendation to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Mrs Ross and unanimously agreed.

**d) Youth Shelter – Shrubbs Field**

A letter had been received from a parishioner expressing concern that 'moves may be afoot by the Safer Communities Project to persuade the Parish Council to install a "Meeting Point" for youths on Shrubbs Field'. An Arun District Crime and Disorder Partnership funding application for the provision of outdoor facilities had also been received, the closing date being 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004. The Chairman said that he was against further development of Shrubbs Field and that he was not in favour of a youth shelter on the field, although he felt subsidised bus passes could be investigated. Mr Mansfield felt shelters should be resisted as they may cause more problems than they will solve. Mrs Willis said we should try to get the funding, not necessarily for a youth shelter, but to progress the aspiration of young people as detailed in the Parish Action Plan. Mr Chandler proposed a resolution *That there should be no further development on Shrubbs Field (which will include a Meeting Point or youth shelter)*. This was seconded by Mr Mansfield and carried by an overwhelming majority. Mrs Willis proposed a resolution *That an application should be made for grant funding of £2,500 to progress the Young People's aspiration as detailed in the recently published Parish Action Plan (Page 8)*. This was seconded by Mrs Ross and approved by a slim majority. The Clerk was instructed to make the funding application.

**e) Potential Allotment Sites**

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from WSCC which had been received in response to a general enquiry about potential allotment sites. The letter indicated that when Arun District Council prepare the initial consultation letter for their new Local Development Framework that WSCC intend to propose that at least some of the Middleton smallholding land, presently leased by WSCC, might be allocated for residential development to help meet the Structure Plan requirement for housing. Mrs Mills said that a few years ago WSCC promised that when the tenancies expired that the land would be absorbed into the Country Park and would not be used for housing. Mrs Ross asked which land WSCC were referring to but was advised that the letter was

vague. Mr Mansfield said that the land was designated as Open Space within the present Local Plan and suggested that if allotments were to be progressed that land in private ownership should also be considered. Mrs Mills proposed that the Clerk was instructed to write to WSCC to (a) ascertain which land WSCC wish to put forward for development (b) how many houses in their proposed development and (c) remind them of their commitment to the Country Park. This was seconded by Mrs Ross and approved by an overwhelming majority. The Clerk will write accordingly.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2004 had been circulated to members.

## **7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2004 had been circulated to members.

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

The Clerk advised:

- (a) Vandals have destroyed a dog bin on Shrubbs Field, close to the play area, and Arun District Council have been requested to replace it.
- (b) Complaints had been received from members of the public that the bus shelter opposite One Stop was untidy and required cleaning. Arun District Council have been instructed, accordingly.
- (c) Arun District Council had now completed the enclosure of Shrubbs Recycling Centre.
- (d) A letter had been received from a parishioner about the number of telephone masts in the area. Members instructed the Clerk to respond to the letter.
- (e) An acknowledgement had been received from the Senior Legal Assistant, WSCC regarding the various issues raised about Middleton Village Pond & Green.
- (f) The revised Management Plan (2005-2010) for Middleton Village Pond & Green had been circulated to all members.

Mrs Willis reminded members that the Village Green clean-up is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

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

The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Mrs Freeman regarding the Coastal Defence issues on the Greensward. She indicated that she hopes to visit the area, hopefully with the WSCC Cabinet Member Steve Waight, to see the area for themselves. Mr Wilkinson said that the Environment Agency Flood Map (available from their website) showed large parts of the A259 and Elmer Sands will be flooded in a “do nothing” scenario. Mrs Willis said she had been advised by Professor Johns that the maps were not particularly accurate. The Clerk was instructed to circulate the maps to members.

### **iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) Details of the SALC Advanced Councillor's Course being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2004 had been circulated to members.
- (b) A letter had been received from the Monitoring Officer, Arun District Council to advise that less serious allegations against councillors for breaching the Code of Conduct will be dealt with by the local Standards Committee.

The Clerk read in full a letter from The Standards Board for England concerning two allegations (SBE5934.04 & SBE 6039.04) made against Councillor Mansfield. The investigation had now been completed and the Ethical Standards Officer concluded that his finding into the matter was that no action needed to be taken in respect of these matters which were the subject of the investigation. A summary of the final report will be posted on the Standards Board website ([www.standardsboard.co.uk](http://www.standardsboard.co.uk)) in due course. Enquiries made by the Clerk indicate the reports will be available on the website in mid December.

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

The Clerk advised that a request to WSCC for a Zebra Crossing to be installed in Elmer Road adjacent to the Doctors' Surgery & One Stop Shop had been declined on the basis that survey results indicated vehicle/pedestrian numbers were well below the minimum threshold criteria. It was agreed to try to progress the matter and Mrs Mills was requested to pursue the issue through the Highways & Transport Partnership. Copies of the notes of the Unity meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, attended by the Chairman and Mrs Mills, have been placed into circulation. Mr Wilkinson drew attention to the inaccurate description of D Biss and the Chairman agreed to take it up at the next meeting. A copy of the Highways & Transport Partnership minutes had also been received.

**PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2004 had been circulated to members. The Clerk reported that vandals had broken the perspex window on the parish notice board adjacent to St Nicholas' church. Repairs were being effected.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had been received:-

1. ADC – Licensing Forum – Finalising of Statement of Licensing Policy
2. ADC – Our Kind of Place brochure
3. Arun Voice – Newsletter of CVS-Arunwide
4. Clerks & Councils Direct
5. Countryside Agency – A Guide to becoming a Quality Council
6. Defra – Rural Services Review
7. 4 Sight – Annual Review 2004
8. Local Council Review
9. NALC – Annual Review and Accounts 2003-2004
10. SALC – Annual Review and Accounts 2003-2004
11. Sussex County Playing Fields Assn – Annual Report 2003-2004
12. Vitalise – Funding request
13. WSCC Rubbish to Resource brochure

14. WSCC Chichester Area & A27 Transport proposals
15. Government Office for the South East – “A picture of change” competition
16. Prince’s Trust - brochure

**10. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a) Bank Accounts -**

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£36,413.12
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£37,663.12</u></b>

**(b) Accounts for payment -**

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Arun District Council (Plant a Bulb scheme 2004)	£ 18.00
(ii) D F Allsopp (Middleton News gift vouchers)	£ 200.00
(iii) MOS Playing Fields (Playing Field/Pavilion maintenance)	£2,000.00
(iv) D Fradgley (Tree Planting)	£ 125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£2,343.00</u></b>

**(c) Precept/Budget 2005/6**

The Clerk advised that Arun District Council must be advised about the precept requirement by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005. The Finance Committee is meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December to consider their budget recommendations.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Mansfield said that the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar occurs in 2005 and enquired whether there are any notable dates for the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to investigate. Mr Edey sought, and obtained, approval to represent the Parish Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at a meeting of Elmer Sands Ltd and Nick Gibb MP to consider the options regarding the sewerage overflows on The Hard. He also asked that Arun District Council were requested to place dog bins in Elmer Road, as there are presently none, and dog owners are using the dog bins on Elmer Sands Ltd. The Clerk was instructed to write. Mrs Ross advised that access to the sea close to Manor Way was via a public footpath/steps where the latter’s handrail had corroded and may be a health and safety hazard. The Clerk was requested to write to WSCC. Mr Wilkinson advised that he had attended the SALC AGM and was alarmed to find that the South East Regional Assembly area was exactly the same as the South East Constituency of the European Parliament. He also supported a motion put forward by the Chairman of the East Sussex Association and the Clerk was instructed to place a related paper into circulation. The Chairman and members thanked Mr Wilkinson for attending the meeting.

District Councillor Mrs Oakley said she had spoken at Arun District Council’s Economic Regeneration Committee and raised strong objections to the concept of charging for village car parks.

## **12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mr Rees said he had copies of traffic flow figures in Elmer Road if it would assist with the case for a zebra crossing. Mrs Brown said Felpham allotments are fully utilised and there is a waiting list. Mrs Mulvaney congratulated the Clerk on the speedy response to clear the grass around a seat adjacent to the Cabin Club car park. She said the Villa Plage footpath was still awaiting a footpath sign and that the formulae used for pedestrian crossings were only recommendations and could be overruled in exceptional cases. A member of the Middleton Sports Club expressed concern that earlier in the debate a suggestion was made that houses could be built on the sports club grounds. She was assured that the land is presently designated as Open Space and cannot be built on.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2004 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.46p.m.