

**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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

1. **PRESENT** – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Chandler, Copeland, Edey, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Wilkinson, Mrs Willis, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley, County Councillor Mrs Freeman and Mr Morrison.
2. **APOLOGIES** – Councillor Aldridge and Mrs Farley.
3. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004 having been circulated were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillors Wotherspoon, Copeland, Edey, Mrs Mills and Mrs Willis each declared a personal interest in Item 7(iii) each being a distributor of Middleton News who received a Christmas Card and/or gift vouchers. Mr Wotherspoon declared a personal interest in Item 10(b) being the recipient of the Chairman’s Honorarium. Mr Mansfield declared a personal interest in Item 7(iv) being a nearby resident of the junction of the A259 and B2132. Mr Wilkinson declared a personal interest in Item 5(a) as he attends the same church as Mr Rainger.
- 4 **ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – The Clerk advised that he had received a telephone call from the Car Parks Manager, Arun District Council who wished to start the consultation process with the Parish Council regarding possible future charging for Shrubbs Car Park. He offered to meet with the Clerk, with or without a member, or alternatively suggested he attended the next Parish Council meeting to answer questions. The Clerk suggested a public meeting might be more appropriate and it was unanimously agreed that this was the preferred option. The Clerk was instructed to make appropriate arrangements. The Clerk advised that he is researching notable dates, as requested. Whilst this is ongoing, it was noted that 20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1984, the Sports Pavilion was officially opened by Derek Bell. The cost of the project being £24,580.
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
  - a) **Co-option of a Parish Councillor**

The Chairman advised that applications had been received from Mr Richard Jeffrey and Mr Alan Rainger and that their letters had been circulated to all members. Members put forward their views and Mrs Mills proposed Mr Jeffrey was co-opted and this was seconded by Mrs Willis. Mr Chandler requested a signed ballot and was seconded by Mr Wilkinson. Mr Jeffrey won the ballot with an overall majority. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman welcomed him to the Parish Council.

**b) County Council Owned land within parish**

A letter received from the Head of Property Services, WSCC was circulated to all members which identified County Council land to the south of Ancton Lane as being suggested as suitable for development. The Chairman said he had spoken to County Councillor Mrs Freeman who said it would not be developed and Arun District Council were also not keen to use it albeit recognising that views may change in the future.

**c) Community Support requests**

A total of 7 community support requests were received and after discussion it was proposed by Mrs Mills, seconded by Mrs Ross, and agreed nem.con that 4 awards should be made. (Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch £100, Citizens Advice Bureau £100, Sammy Transport £125 and Sussex Playing Fields Association £10). It was further agreed to re-examine the application from the Council for Voluntary Service – Arunwide at the next meeting. The Clerk was instructed to advise successful, and unsuccessful, applicants accordingly.

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

The Clerk advised that the 7 Parish/Town Councils are continuing to act in concert and that a letter had been received from WSCC providing details of Viridor's potential outgoing loads from the MRF. This highlighted that some 70% of outgoing loads will go to the paper reprocessors at Aylesford, Kent which gives further weight to the argument that Ford is the incorrect site for an MRF. A response to WSCC's letter had been formulated, approved and sent to WSCC calling for a wholly independent traffic optimisation study to be undertaken promptly and provided to WSCC planning committee members prior to any decision being taken on the Ford MRF planning application. The Chairman confirmed he had approved the letter prior to its despatch.

**e) ADC Waste Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2005**

Details of the Waste Day was circulated to members and it was agreed that Mr Wilkinson will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

**f) 2005/6 Budget**

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004 had been circulated which recommended a 2005/6 Budget of £35,160. This represented a 2.4% increase on the current year and recommended that the precept should remain level at £33,000. Members questioned various aspects of the budget and it was agreed that in future years, where a variance over current year actual expenditure was 50% or more, that explanatory comments will be provided. It was also agreed that an article should be placed in the Spring edition of Middleton News explaining the budget and highlighting the size of contributions made to Arun District Council in support of Shrubbs Car Park, the public conveniences and the dog bin servicing costs. Mrs Ross proposed acceptance of the recommended budget which was seconded by Mrs Mills and approved with an overwhelming majority. The Clerk was instructed to place an article in Middleton News and advise Arun District Council of the 2005/6 precept requirement.

**g) Travellers – The Way Forward**

Details of the presentations given at the Joint Local Authorities Seminar, held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, were circulated to members. Mr Mansfield proposed, Mr Copeland seconded, and it was agreed nem.con, to respond to an Arun District Council questionnaire seeking the Parish Council's views. The main recommendation was that the Parish Council is opposed to any further sites within the parish.

**h) Ford Enterprise Hub**

Details of the proposed scheme had been received from Mr Penfold, Chairman of Aldingbourne Parish Council, offering to make a presentation to this Council. The Chairman said the proposed scheme had no standing with either WSCC or Arun District Council and that the authors had been asked to withdraw their website and not to make any presentations. It was unanimously agreed not to request a presentation and the Clerk was instructed to write accordingly.

**6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Copies of the minutes dated 1<sup>st</sup> December had been circulated to members.

**7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

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

The Clerk advised:

- (a) A letter had been received from Arun District Council's new Land Drainage Officer enclosing the new Land Drainage Byelaws. The Clerk was instructed to place them into circulation.
- (b) WSCC have issued a temporary closure Order on footpath 165 until 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005, owing to Grevatts bridge being in a dangerous condition.
- (c) Arun District Council have advised that there is no budget for the installation of further dog bins, however, they have suggested entering into a partnership arrangement whereby the Parish Council buys the bins for approximately £300 per bin and the District Council will then arrange for their installation and ongoing servicing free of charge. It was agreed to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee.

Mrs Willis said she wished to formally thank the volunteers, which included 2 councillors, who assisted with the Village Green clear-up on 4<sup>th</sup> December. She requested that the Clerk write to Ian Gibbs and Middleton Sports Club to thank them for their assistance and this was agreed. Mr Wilkinson asked whether the 1926 Village Green Byelaws penalties, which are quoted in pre-decimal denominations, are still enforceable and Mr Mansfield said he thought they still hold good.

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

Mrs Willis said she had been contacted by the Middleton-on-Sea Association about an article in the Bognor Regis Observer which indicated that the Defra score for the coastline to the east of Hannah's Groyne had been reduced from 5.7 to 3.7 and she wanted to know why the Parish Council had not been informed. District Councillor

Mrs Oakley said the information quoted in the Observer had been obtained from an ADC Cabinet paper. Mrs Willis said she thought better communication was essential. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said she was in correspondence with Mr Szynowski of the Middleton-on-Sea Association and intended to visit the Greensward, together with Mr Waight (Cabinet Member, WSCC) in the near future.

**iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee**

The Clerk advised:

- (a) A brochure had been received from the Standards Board for England titled 'Local Investigations – Guidance for monitoring officers and standards committee'.
- (b) Middleton News was published on 9<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas Cards/gift vouchers had been given to the distributors. A number of telephone calls had been received from distributors thanking the Parish Council for their kind gesture. It was also noted that mention of Middleton News' Commendation Award was in Arun Times. The Chairman said he continued to receive very positive comments about Middleton News as he delivered it and similar comments were expressed by other members
- (c) The Countryside Agency had sent the final tranche of funds for the Parish Action Plan amounting to £2,303.29.

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

The Clerk advised that Felpham Parish Council were seeking to arrange for Nick Gibb MP to attend the next Unity meeting and that the Sussex Safety Camera Partnership had sent some "Back Off" stickers and a few calendars to publicise their campaign.

County Councillor Mrs Freeman said that the Highways settlement from Central Government was not as good as hoped for. Funding of £4.8m had been received compared with average County Council funding of £5.8m and the highest in excess of £7m. The present position regarding Comet Corner is still awaited as the WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Lt. Col. Pemberton, is looking at the figures with an acute eye, which also includes considering the option of a roundabout at Comet Corner. Mrs Freeman said the design work was still proceeding and that she hoped to have more information in early 2005. She agreed to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2005 Parish Council meeting to provide members with an update.

**PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had been received:-

1. Arun Safer Communities Project – Briefing Note
2. ADC Licensing Forum – Statement of Licensing Policy
3. ADC Sussex Solar – Solar Water Heating in Arun
4. Arun Times
5. Letter from Bernard Hills regarding wreath laying
6. WSCC – Road Safety in West Sussex - Brochure
7. Felpham Community College – "College News" Newsletter

8. Action in rural Sussex – Children/young people’s survey 2005
9. South & South East in Bloom – competition details

**10. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a) Bank Accounts -**

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£34,456.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35,706.62</b>

**(b) Accounts for payment -**

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Mrs A Waller (Newsletter Co-ordinator’s fees/expenses)	£ 337.60
(ii) SPP (Newsletter production)	£1,400.00
(iii) P Wotherspoon (Chairman’s Honorarium)	£ 250.00
(iv) D Allsopp (Clerk’s quarterly fee/expenses)	£2,625.68
(v) D Allsopp (Quarterly postages/telephone)	£ 53.08
(vi) Mrs R Willis (Materials for treatment of benches)	£ 18.60
(vii) Arun District Council (Litter Bin, Shrubbs Field)	£ 253.21
(viii) SLCC (Subscription – annual renewal)	£ 91.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,029.17</b>

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Willis said she wished to include discussion of the Obelisk rubbish bin on the General Purposes Agenda. She also asked that ADC should be contacted about the build up of rubbish at the Memorial Bus Stop and provided photographs to illustrate the problem. The Clerk was instructed to write to ADC. Mrs Ross asked when the Middleton sign at the western end of the village was going to be raised. The Clerk advised he had requested WSCC Highways to repair it, but to no avail. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said the Clerk should contact Mr Mander and he will resolve it. Mr Wilkinson said the bus shelter adjacent to the Manor House/Sea Lane was looking very dirty and suggested it needed painting. Mr Mansfield said the paint colour required was ‘Duck Egg Blue’ and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Parish Council’s contractor for an estimate. Mr Edey enquired whether WSCC had responded positively to the request for a pelican crossing in Flansham Park. The Clerk advised that he had spoken with Felpham Parish Council and they still awaited a response from WSCC. He suggested that Mrs Mills and the Felpham Parish Council representative pursued the matter through the Highways & Transport Partnership and this strategy was agreed. County Councillor Mrs Freeman said that Middleton News was a splendid publication.

**12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Mrs Mulvaney reported that the bus shelter adjacent to the Manor House/Sea Lane was lower than the pavement and that it gets flooded in wet weather. She said that there was a drainage grill but it appeared ineffective. It was agreed to get this repaired as the same time as the bus shelter is painted. Rev Brown enquired whether the £2,500 grant

application for young people's projects had been successful and was advised that a decision will not be known until January 2005. Mr Hills said he was very grateful for the contribution which Councillors Mrs Mills, Mrs Ross, Mrs Willis and District Councillor Mrs Oakley had made to the Village Green clear-up. He said it did a lot for the Parish Council's credibility. Mr Burke asked for the full support of the Parish Council in respect of the prevention of the Greensward's erosion and the Chairman confirmed his support.

**There** being no further business the Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2005 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.40p.m.