

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 15th December 2005

PRESENT – Councillors Wotherspoon (Chairman), Copeland (arrived 6.45 p.m.), Edey, Jeffrey, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Wilkinson, the Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Oakley (arrived 7 p.m.) and Mr Morrison.

- 1. APOLOGIES** – Councillors Chandler, Mrs Ross, Mrs Willis, and County Councillor Mrs Freeman.
- 2. MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 24th November 2005 having been circulated were approved and signed.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Mansfield declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5(g) and Mr Wotherspoon declared a personal interest in Item 10(b)(i).

4. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda but which the Chairman considered to be matter of urgency due to special circumstances – Father William Marston advised that St Nicholas Church had received a Lottery Grant of some £165,000 which should mean that the extension will go ahead in Spring 2006, subject to no substantive increase in building costs. Father William thanked the Parish Council, and in particular the Development Control Committee, for its support throughout the planning process. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, congratulated Father William.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Support Requests

A total of 6 community support requests were received and after discussion it was proposed by Mrs Mills, seconded by Mr Mansfield, and unanimously agreed that 5 awards totalling £435 should be made. (4Sight £100, Bognor Regis Neighbourhood Watch £100, Citizens Advice Bureau £100, Sammy Transport £125 and Sussex Playing Fields Association £10). The Clerk was instructed to advise the successful, and unsuccessful, applicants accordingly.

b) Budget 2006/2007

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th December 2005 had been circulated which recommended a 2006/7 budget of £39,740, compared with the present budget of £35,160. An allocation of £4,000, to cover potential Middleton News costs, represented the major increase in projected expenditure, and when this is set aside, the budget increase is only 1.6%. The Finance Committee recommended a budget of £33,000, with the shortfall funded by free cash balances, which will be the third year that the Precept has remained static. Members questioned various aspects of the budget and Mr Mansfield proposed its acceptance. This was seconded by Mr Edey and unanimously

agreed. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the Finance Committee for the submission of an excellent paper. The Clerk will advise Arun District Council of the agreed Precept.

c) Off Site Play provision

The Clerk advised the matter had not progressed despite chasing Arun District Council. The Clerk was instructed to carry the item to next month's Agenda.

d) Changed Speed Watch options/costs

A letter was received from the Safer Communities Projects Manager advising that the present speed monitor devices, which cost around £250 are no longer acceptable to Sussex Police and the only approved devices cost between £2,100 and £2,600 each. Given this substantive increase in costs, he suggested that the seven parishes currently interested in Community Speed Watch may wish to jointly purchase a SID unit (Speed Indication Device) at a cost of £2,500 plus VAT. If the costs were shared equally this will cost this Parish Council £356 against the present budget of £200. The Chairman said it was inappropriate for the costs to be shared equally given the differing sizes of the Parish Councils and the Clerk advised that a member of Middleton LAT, who was particularly interested in curbing village speeding, did not think SID units were effective. After some discussion it was agreed to leave the matter on the table.

e) Aldwick Parish Council Emergency Joint Meeting

The Chairman reported that he attended the meeting and took Yapton Parish Council's message to the meeting that they will not finance PCSOs. The position was supported by this Parish Council and most of those who attended the meeting. The Chairman also reported that the joint letter, from Sussex Police and SALC, circulated to parish councils did not have the support of the Sussex Police Authority. The Clerk reported that a subsequent letter had been received stating that it is anticipated that sufficient funding will be in place to ensure no reduction in PCSO numbers.

f) Middleton News

A paper was circulated to members detailing the recommendations of the General Purposes sub committee assigned to examining the future of Middleton News. Two options were put forward. Option 1 was for the Co-ordinator to assume full responsibility for Middleton News, with distribution being undertaken by Mr Rees and the Clerk having a significantly diminished role by only acting as the Parish Council's "Gate Keeper" (but not editor). Remuneration levels for both the Co-ordinator and the Clerk will remain at existing levels. Option 2 was for the Clerk to assume full responsibility for a new 4 page Middleton News, more focused on the Parish Council, with no advertising. Mr Wilkinson said he preferred Option 1 because once advertising was lost it will be difficult to get it reinstated. Mrs Mills proposed the adoption of Option 1, with a full review at the March 2006 full council meeting, which was seconded by Mr Wilkinson and approved by an overwhelming majority. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Co-ordinator.

g) Comet Corner

A copy letter, written by Felpham Parish Council, to WSCC Highways was circulated to members. The letter was opposed to the reduction in the 50mph speed limit to 40 mph at Comet Corner and suggested only keeping a watching brief on the junction rather than spending money on major junction improvements. Members expressed surprise, concern and dismay at Felpham's position, particularly as many Felpham parishioners had signed letters and the petition to WSCC Highways demanding Comet Corner junction improvements in August 2003. The Chairman agreed and said he was aware that the Chairman of Felpham Parish Council was not keen on a reduction to the 40 mph limit. A letter was also circulated to members written by the Clerk, to the Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC), calling on JWAAC to resolve to maintain pressure on WSCC Highways to ensure early implementation of major junction improvements at Comet Corner. The Chairman emphasised that it was important to ensure that the Parish Council was represented at the 8th February 2006 JWAAC meeting and Mrs Mills reminded the public that they can also attend to put their views forward. Mr Wilkinson wondered whether Felpham Parish Council's present stance was Site 6 related. Members unanimously reaffirmed their position to (a) maintain the present policy of requiring early major junction improvements and (b) always being represented at JWAAC meetings.

Mr Mansfield left the meeting during Item 5 (g).

6. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Copies of the minutes dated 7th December 2005 were circulated and noted.

7. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

i) Countryside and the Environment Advisory Sub Committee

An email from Mrs Willis regarding the village green clearance on 10th December 2005 was circulated to members who agreed to minute their thanks to the 30 volunteers who helped in the clearance, including a number of volunteers from the Middleton-on-Sea Association, as well as new volunteers from elsewhere in the parish. Mrs Mills said it was a good turnout which ensured the clear-up was completed promptly. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the Middleton-on-Sea Association, Ian Gibbs (who provided the trailer) and the Middleton Sports Club (which provided free refreshments).

Mr Mansfield provided 2 booklets from the Woodland Trust for circulation together with some notices for display on the Parish Council Notice Boards.

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

Nothing to report.

(iii) Liaison Advisory Sub Committee

Arun District Council's Standards Committee Agenda for their meeting on 7th December 2005 was placed into circulation.

iv) Projects Advisory Sub Committee

The Clerk advised that the £2,500 CDRP grant had now been received. Further, no response had been received from the Flying Fortress regarding the Parish Council's proposal to provide a grant for the provision of subsidised transportation from Middleton.

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

Councillors Edey and Mrs Ross, together with the Clerk, met the WSCC Road Safety Community Safety Liaison Officer on 30th November 2005 to discuss the installation of pedestrian crossings in Elmer Road and Flansham Park. The meeting lasted 90 minutes and Mr Edey said it was very constructive. The Clerk advised that a map detailing WSCC's responsibilities in respect of the verges at the northern end of Sea Lane had been received. A copy had been provided to Mrs Willis.

8. PARISH LAND AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had been received:-

1. ADC – Local Development Framework
2. Mr Adair – Letter re parking at Comet Corner
3. ICIS - Newsletter
4. Prof Johns – Question to ADC Cabinet and response re CDS
5. PPI Forum - Leaflets
6. Safer Communities – November Highlight Report
7. NMT – Minutes 9th November 2005
8. Sussex Police – Multi Agency licensing operation
9. WSCC – Letter from Chief Executive re WSCC Connections
10. WSCC – Private Fostering publicity campaign

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Bank Accounts -

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

Current Account	£ 1,250.00
Business Reserve	£33,885.93
Total	£35,135.93

(b) Accounts for payment -

The following payments were approved nem.con and made:

(i) Mr P Wotherspoon (Chairman's Honorarium)	£ 250.00
(ii) Miss S Rees (Middleton News Co-ordinator's Fee)	£ 353.60
(iii) SPP (Middleton News setting/printing)	£1,640.00
(iv) Society of Local Council Clerks (Annual subscription)	£ 93.00
(v) Mr D Allsopp (Clerk's quarterly fee/expenses)	£2,796.60
(vi) Mr D Allsopp (Quarterly postages/telephone calls)	£ 63.56

Total	£5,196.76
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11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk provided details of his Christmas/New Year holidays. He also read an email from County Councillor Mrs Freeman which stated that Mr Bernard Hills' statement in November's minutes was incorrect as she had laid a wreath at the Ford Airfield Memorial

for the last 4 years, and had always been accompanied by a member of Arun District Council, either Councillor Haymes or Councillor Mrs Goad. Her comments were noted.

12. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mrs Mulvaney congratulated the Development Control Committee for maintaining its strong opposition against the proposed flats at the rear of Jubilee Parade, particularly as the planning application had now been withdrawn. Mrs Brown said she lives within Felpham Parish and was extremely concerned about that Parish Council's position regarding Comet Corner. She will attend their next Parish Council meeting, together with Mrs Waller, to express their displeasure. District Councillor Mrs Oakley said the attendance at the village green clearance was excellent and that it now looks very good.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting will be held on 26th January 2006 **at 6.30 p.m.** and the Meeting closed at 7.12 p.m.