

# Middridge Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 6.30pm on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
in Middridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Paul Dicker (Vice Chair)  
Lesley Moyle  
Tony Towers  
Avril Haines

**Official:** Glenn Gibson (Parish Clerk)  
County Councillor David Sutton Lloyd & Michael Stead

Member of the public.

## 113/24 NOTICE OF MEETING

The Notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

## 114/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Harold Howe (Chair),  
County Councillor Tony Stubbs

## 115/24 DECLARATIONS

Cllr Avril Haines was informed by the Parish Clerk that she must declare an interest in all matters relating to the Middridge Village Hall Associated if discussed within the meetings of the Parish Council

## 116/24 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr T. Tower and seconded by Cllr L Moyle.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 be approved and signed by the Vice Chair as a true record.

## 117/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A verbal update was given by the Parish Clerk about the moving over to the .gov.uk domain email.

## 118/24 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The member of the public who attended asked why Middridge Parish Council got involved & lodged complaint about property in Southside, referring to minutes in January 2024 and

May 2024 and informed the meeting that it is now at the court stage as an enforcement matter.

The member of the public was informed that the Parish Council acted on behalf of another resident who initially complained, which was communicated as such when DCC were contacted.

A short discussion took place about procedures and relevant action in the future.

**Recommended** – Middridge Parish Council take a neutral stance on the property issue.

**Resolved** – That Middridge Parish Council contact initial complainant to ask them to deal directly with resident & DCC.

## 119/24 ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment was considered.

**RESOLVED** that the following Accounts be approved for payment:

Name/ company	Purpose/ description	Amount
Clerk's expenses	Postage & printer cartridge	£25.29
WJPS software Ltd	Registration of .gov.uk Domain name & set up.	£114.00
Alan Jordan expenses	Printing, fuel	£45.00
Harold Howe	TFR 5 litre cleaning concentrate for Parish signs	£14.55
Ryan Olley	Village Green & Parish paths maintenance for Oct.	£471.42
Shildon Town Council	2 x staff to cut back overgrown branches next to swings in play area.	£128.44 + VAT (£154.12)
TP Jones & Co LLP	Payroll Preparation April 2023 – March 2024	£82.52
Royal British Legion	2 x Wreaths & 12 wooden Crosses	£80.00
Ryan Olley	Village Green & Parish paths maintenance for Sept.	£921.42
Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway	Yearly membership	£50.00
Croner	Monthly charge	£136.43
Clerks salary	Quarterly	£657.75
HMRC	Income tax for Clerks salary	£164.20

**Proposed** – Cllr L. Moyle & seconded by Cllr A. Haines

The Council received a verbal update from the Parish Clerk and regarding the ongoing issues about method of accessing account. It was reported that he still having ongoing dispute with Barclays.

A verbal update was given to the meeting in regard to prices already received for the 2024/25 budget. Village maintenance and cost of holding an election in May 2025.

**Resolved** – that the verbal report be accepted

## **120/24 ROAD TRAFFIC**

A verbal report was given by County Cllr David Sutton Lloyd.

- Police are still carrying out speed spot checks and awaiting a new van to arrive.
- Local police meeting on 5/11/24
- Update on roundabouts is due.

**Resolved** – that the verbal report be accepted

## **121/24 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & POLICING**

. there was no update and anything to report.

## **122/24 PARISH ISSUES (both Village and Eldon Whins)**

The Parish Clerk received an email correspondent from a resident relating to the play area bank grass.

A small discussion took place and options explored.

**Resolved** – Parish Clerk to ask contractor to carry out a cut of the wildflowers on the play area bank.

## **123/24 CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

It was reported to the Council that funding for the new bin arrived and is now on order. Shildon Town Council had carried out their work in cutting back the overgrowing branches behind the swings

It was also reported by the Parish Clerk that low level pressure washing had been attempted on the moss on the play surface with little effect and other options were discussed.

Resolved – Middridge Parish Council buy 2 x bags lawn sand to treat the moss.

## **124/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A report was received from Alan Jordan regarding the independent person to finalise the plan and various emails from DCC on this issue

**Resolved** – that it be noted of its gratitude by Middridge Parish Council towards Alan Jordan for all his time and effort on the Neighbourhood Plan

## **125/24 VILLAGE SUPPORT**

### Remembrance Day Parade & Service.

The Parish Council have been informed that Police support to aid road closure will be withdrawn in 2025 for this event. Many options were discussed and the Parish Clerk informed the meeting that he will be acquiring costs for a road closure.

**Resolved** – that this issue be deferred till after the 2024 event and revisit options after seeking opinions, interest & any costs.

### Christmas Party

A verbal update was given by Cllr T. Towrs – approx. 120 attending. Many thanks given to Durham County Councillor's for their contributions.

## **126/24 GAMP & CDALC**

A communication was circulated within the agenda regarding a government announcement in relation to proxy voting, GDPR issue, Councils being able to suspend Councillors for bad behaviour & multiyear funding settlements.

**Resolved** – that the communication be received.

## **127/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications to consider.

## **128/24 Clerks report**

A verbal report from the Parish Clerk was given.

It was reported that all actions from the last meeting carried out and Cllrs updated.

## **129/24 Exclusion of Press and Public**

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council now excludes the press and public on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public.

### Local Government Pay settlement for 2024/25

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the NJC pay award of £1290 pro rata has been accepted and to be implemented straight away as per employment law. The meeting was informed that the discussion each May about Clerks salary is for the purpose, if the Council want to upgrade the pay scale of the existing clerk.

Proposed – Cllr A. Haines & Seconded by Cllr L. Moyle & passed unanimously

## **130/24 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/ ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

There were no items to discuss.

## **131/24 NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025** at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.45pm