

Middleton Tyas Parish Council

MINUTES of a Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 8th March 2018 at 7.10pm

PRESENT: Cllrs R Davies (Chairman), M Bartle, J Ross, G Davies, Mrs J Collis, Mrs S Perks;
Mrs C Jones (Parish Clerk); C.Cllr/D.Cllr Angus Thompson; 4 residents.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Miss L Harknett, PC Mark Ward, PCSO Jordan Wallace.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

All Councillors will make the following declaration:

"We, as Parish Councillors, declare that we have an interest in each Agenda item as residents of Middleton Tyas."

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Draft Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th January 2018 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. POLICE REPORT

The only report was of a car broken into in the Five Hills Lane Car Park and a handbag being taken from the car seat. Details have been put on the Middleton Tyas Community Facebook page.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

C.Cllr Thompson reported that he had recently met with Mr Richard Marr, Head of NYCC Highways Area 1, covering various issues in the village including:

- a. The HGV restriction on Middleton Tyas Lane was only temporary during the A1L2B Upgrade and is not now enforceable. C.Cllr Thompson will follow up with Mr Marr and report back. **AT**
- b. One-way system on The Slough. Councillors informed C.Cllr Thompson that the original idea for a Consultation came from Neil Linfoot at NYCC Highways Dept during a meeting with Parish Councillors and Ann Smith (RDC Conservation Officer) about repairs to the wall at the top of The Slough. It was Resolved that we would like a Consultation on this one-way system but would like to discuss the parameters for this with Mr Linfoot before it is implemented. **AT**
- c. It was Resolved that the current 20mph zone needs redefining to include the School within its boundary. See item h. below. **JR/AT**
- d. Following a meeting with Ian Beighton (NYCC Highways Dept), many of the road signs in the village have been cleaned.
- e. C.Cllr Thompson was informed that a scheme is already in progress for NYCC to ask children from the School to design new graphics for the road signs to replace worn ones. The Clerk will chase this outstanding matter and also send the NYCC contact's details to C.Cllr Thompson so he can follow up. **CJ/AT**
- f. NYCC Highways have agreed to remove the large broken section of wall from the top of The Slough which is lying in the verge further down the road. **AT**
- g. Bollards outside Virginia House: Councillors confirmed that we would like the 3rd bollard reinstating on safety grounds. C.Cllr Thompson will follow up this matter. **AT**

- h. Reducing speed limit from 40mph to 30mph at top (West) of village: C.Cllr Thompson informed the meeting that the proper procedure for this is to apply online and send the application to NYCC. The same procedure needs to be followed to reduce the area outside the School from 30mph to 20mph. Cllr Ross was nominated to pursue the reduction of speed in these two areas with C.Cllr Thompson. **JR/AT**
- i. C.Cllr Thompson finally reported that NYCC currently has a budget deficit and their Precept will increase by 4.9% for 2018/19.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

C.Cllr Thompson reported that RDC has an £18,300 deficit and their Precept will increase by 2.4%, equating to a £5 p.a. increase for a Band D property in 2018/19.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

8. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND ROAD SIGNAGE AT SCOTCH CORNER

1. It was Resolved to write to Highways England about the positioning of new road signs at the top (West) of the village which are considered to be inappropriately placed and blocking the village entrance sign. **CJ**

2. Weight Limit and HGV prohibition signs: see item 6. above.

9. NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Items 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 have all been dealt with under item 6. Above.

10. WALL AT THE TOP OF THE SLOUGH

Cllr R Davies reported that there is an NRCP grant available and it was Resolved that we apply for funds to pay for repair to the wall. **RJD**
He also noted that the NYCC 'Little Pot of Gold' grant should be available from May 2018 and we could apply for some of that funding.

C.Cllr Thompson said that he has asked a Stonemason he knows to look at the wall. The ivy will need removing before checking how safe the wall is, but an estimated cost is in the region of £2k.

It was Resolved that C.Cllr Thompson should ask the Stonemason for a proper estimate for the cost of removing the ivy, finishing off the end of the wall and surrounding the base with large stones to make the area safe again. **AT**

11. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

This matter has been covered in item 6. above.

12. PLANNING MATTERS

1. 5 Village Farm – Full Planning Permission for Replacement of Existing Front Door with uPVC Alternative (Retrospective), Replacement of Existing Rear Wooden Door with uPVC Door and Replacement of Existing Wooden Sash Windows with uPVC Sash Windows – It was noted that this application has been Granted.
2. Full Planning Permisson for Conversion of Garage/Workshop to form Two Bedroom Dwelling (as amended) at Corner Cottage, Five Hills Lane – Our letter of comment sent to RDC Planning Department on 12 February 2018 was Ratified.

3. Full Planning Permission for an Additional 7 Livestock Pens in an Existing Farmyard at Waterloo Farms, Moor Road, Melsonby – Our letter of comment sent to RDC Planning Department on 12 February 2018 was Ratified
4. Re-consultation on Planning Application for the purposes of the Variation of Condition Nos 1, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 20, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30 & 33 of Planning Permission Ref No C1/14/00747/CM which relates to Phasing and Restoration on Land at Middleton Lodge, Kneeton Lane – Our letter of comment send to NYCC Planning Services on 21 February 2018 was Ratified.
5. RDC Planning Session – Cllr Mrs Perks and the Clerk reported on a training session at RDC Offices on 22 February 2018 which they had attended. The course had covered the Planning Portal and the RDC website generally as both had recently been upgraded. A further training session is being arranged and the Clerk will send information to Councillors in case they wish to attend. **CJ**
6. Review of village residential development and criteria for the future.
Councillors had recently been consulted, in confidence, about a proposed Listed Building development in the Conservation Area; also had been officially consulted about the redevelopment of West Hall into 7 properties.

Councillors discussed the issues of Listed Building development, appropriate development within the Conservation Area, and back land/garden development in both these cases and more generally within the village.

The Village Plan 2008 is ready to be updated but carries little legal weight in any case. The other option is to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan, but this is a time-consuming and costly exercise, though it would carry much more legal weight in our control of planning development within the village. However, the timescale would be irrelevant in the above two cases as a Neighbourhood Plan takes approximately 2 years to formulate and these planning applications are current.

It was Resolved to arrange a site meeting with the applicant and RDC Planning Officers at West Hall to view and better understand their proposals. **SP**

7. Memorial Hall – Application to replace timber windows with double glazed timber windows
We have not yet been consulted on this matter but Councillors were fully supportive of the proposals and the matter will be resolved at the April meeting. **CJ**

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Payments and Receipts

The following payments were approved for payment and cheques duly signed:

1. Clerk's Salary – January 2018	£ 295.54
2. C Watts' Salary - January 2018	£ 39.15
3. HMRC – PAYE – January 2018	£ 9.60
4. C Watts' Expenses - January 2018	£ 2.40
5. Clerk's Salary – February 2018	£ 295.54
6. C Watts' Salary – February 2018	£ 57.05
7. HMRC – PAYE – February 2018	£ 14.20
8. C Watts' Expenses – February 2018	£ 7.20

Receipts:

9. HMRC – VAT Repayment	£1,277.77
10. YLCA - Transparency Fund Grant	£3,354.76

2. NYCC Grant for village Bulb Planting Scheme
Our application has been approved for payment in the sum of £750.00. **CJ**
3. Responsible Financial Officer's Report
Cllr R Davies noted that there is a high balance in the bank account of £14,859 due to receipt of the YLCA Transparency Fund grant and also the NYCC grant for bulb planting. These funds will be spent in due course.
4. Transparency Fund and Compliance
 1. The various elements of the Transparency Fund grant, paid to assist the Council to become compliant by 31 March 2018, were noted. These include ensuring the Council website is fit for purpose, new IT equipment, additional workload for the Council and administrative support for the Clerk.
 2. Councillors were reminded to ensure their Register of Interests forms are up to date. Their content will be published on the Council website as part of our compliance with the Transparency Code.
 3. Standing Financial Orders and other adopted documents were re-signed and dated by the Chairman. These documents will be added to the Parish Council website to ensure compliance with the Transparency Code.

14. CONSULTATION

A Consultation on the proposal to close Northallerton Courthouse was discussed and it was Resolved to object to the closure, mainly due to the affordability of travel to other, more distant, Courts. Cllr Mrs Collis will draft a letter for approval. **JC**

15. PLAYING FIELD & PLAY PARK

1. Playing Field
Cllr G Davies confirmed that the monthly Maintenance status report is up to date.
2. Play Park
 1. Cllr G Davies confirmed that the monthly Safety Inspection report is up to date.
 2. Cllr G Davies noted that 3 playground equipment providers have been asked to submit schemes for upgrading the Play Park. The providers have been asked to be 'inclusive' and comply with current Disability legislation; to cater for up to 15 year olds and older people; and to have a centerpiece for use by all children. Additions to the Playing Field will include a walking track around the edge and 'obstacles' round the track which can be avoided. Cllr G Davies confirmed that £2k has been raised already and the proposals should be presented to the Parish Council in a couple of months, following which a public consultation will be held to review the options. **GD**

16. SURFACE & WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr Ross updated the meeting on various areas within the village. The Moto catchment pond is ongoing and progress being made. This should help reduce flooding at the top (West) end of the village. The Slough drainage provision has worked perfectly in recent snow. Kneeton Lane drainage has also worked since recent changes.

The constant leak of water outside the 3 new 'Dixholme' houses continues to be an issue. C.Cllr Angus Thompson told the meeting that Highways England and Yorkshire Water are disputing whose problem it is to pay for repairs. Yorkshire Water has been out but the leak continues. The Clerk is to ask Tom Howard at Highways England if he has any information about the dispute. CJ

Cllr Ross will attend a meeting next week with Edward and Adrian Speir, and Steve Hill.

Cllr Ross reported that Steve Hill has asked NYCC to get involved with recent fuel leakages, presumably from Scotch Corner Petrol Station. However, C.Cllr Thompson noted that this is an Environment Agency problem and suggests they are approached via Rishi Sunak, MP, and not through the Parish Council. AT

Cllr R Davies reported that Yorkshire Water has done some camera work at the top (West) end of the village from Rose Bank up to Scotch Corner. They found only 5% fat deposits and all looks to be running properly. They found one chamber full and this was emptied but there were no other significant findings. YW advised that it is planning to undertake further camera work over the next few weeks.

17. DEFIBRILLATOR

Cllr Mrs Collis reported that the monthly Inspection report on the Defibrillator is up to date. An invoice for recent training sessions is due from Community Heartbeat Trust.

Cllr Mrs Collis showed the meeting a sample breathing mask and asked for approval to buy one for each VET, at a cost of approximately £4-£5 each. The Clerk will place an order online for 10 masks. CJ

18. SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Cllr Mrs Collis reported that her training is going well and she will cover Arts & Crafts as her specialist area.

19. FACEBOOK – MIDDLETON TYAS COMMUNITY

Cllr Mrs Collis reported that recent items had included lost keys found, a suspicious van in the area, and a car broken into to steal a handbag left on the seat.

Cllr Mrs Collis reported that she had also received an 'objectionable' comment and the meeting discussed what authority she, or indeed the Parish Council, has to remove such comments. It was Resolved that Cllr Mrs Collis should forward any messages she is concerned about in the future to all Councillors to see what everyone thinks should be done. Councillors should use their judgement and check the legality of any comments made, i.e. sexist, racist, ageist, etc.

Any comment felt to be inappropriate would be removed from the site. ALL

Cllr Martin Bartle declared a Personal Interest in the following item 20. and withdrew from the discussion.

20. RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

The Council had received a copy letter from Mr Maurice Bartle, on behalf of Petitioners, regarding the Leylandii hedge at Rosehill. Mr Bartle's letter was his response to Richmondshire District Council's letter to them, stating that RDC can do nothing, to which the Petitioners did not agree. It was noted that the Parish Council had supported the original petition asking RDC to give authority for the Leylandii hedge at Rosehill to be removed.

Mr Bartle noted that 33 Leylandii had been planted 10 years ago as a hedge bordering a field and the trees were now over 50ft high, owing to not being maintained.

Mr Bartle also noted that the field they edge is a 'Field under Conservation', as a 'Ridge and Furrow Field'. He also noted that the Leylandii are within the village Conservation Area which was in existence before the trees were planted; also that the trees are planted on top of a culvert which could cause issues for village flooding in the future.

Mr Bartle said the Petitioners have approached the land owners who, he reported, are "not interested / can't afford to fell the trees".

Cllr G Davies noted that the RDC Planning Officer had recently said that similar trees on the Rookery Tennis Court building site could be cut down as they are not protected trees.

Councillors suggested that perhaps the Petitioners could calculate the % loss of light to their properties; ask a third party to mediate; and check Government advice on the Internet. Cllr R Davies summarized by saying that the Parish Council is happy to support the Petitioners to have these trees removed and, as the trees are on private land, he suggested that Mr Bartle and the Petitioners should seek legal advice on the situation.

21. ITEMS FOR THE VILLAGE NEWS / D&S TIMES

Northallerton Courthouse – proposed closure

Car broken into in the Car Park – Do not leave valuables on view in your car!

Bulb Planting Scheme - £750 grant received

Play Park / Playing Field – update on work to date to upgrade these recreation areas

Surface Water Management

Dates for your diary – 'Bark in the Park' and Picnic on the Green

22. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Data Protection – new regulations in force from May 2018

Speedwatch - update

23. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th April 2018 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.10pm prompt.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.22pm.