

Minutes of a Meeting of Middleham Town Council held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 7.00 pm. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING)

Present

The Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mr M Cade, Cllr D Slay, Cllr Mrs L Stocker and Cllr Mr S Wheeler

Clerk, Mr D Keep

Members of the public present as shown on the attached attendance sheet.

Action

1. Open Forum.

The Chairman reminded those present that public participation was permitted at the start of a meeting only and was limited to 15 minutes. Questions or statements would be restricted to items on the agenda and any matters not on the agenda should have been raised in advance.

Mr Nelson spoke as executor for the Late Mrs L Peacock and asked whether, having taken legal advice, Council was in a position to respond to the evidence that he had shared with Council asserting a prescriptive right to park in front of Manor House. It was explained that advice had been received recommending that further enquires be made, which was being collated. Mr Nelson expressed impatience that a final response might only be received at the next scheduled Council meeting in January. The restrictions placed upon Council responding more quickly, including the appointment of new solicitors as the existing firm was conflicted, whilst dealing with urgent competing matters, such as precept-setting at the current meeting, were explained. Mr Nelson indicated that executors might need to proceed with registration of the right. He also raised the possibility of implementing a residents' parking scheme on the wastes in general. It was explained that this had been looked at before and the main obstacle, other than a consensus on the way forward, was the lack of available parking spaces. Council did not intend reviewing this until the issue with Manor House was resolved.

Clerk

Mr Nelson left the meeting. The Chairman proposed that a private discussion be held to consider the comments made. These are recorded in the Charity minutes as this matter is being dealt with by the Trustee.

2. Apologies.

An apology had been received from County Cllr Mrs K Sedgwick.

Cllr Slay advised that he had business commitments that would prevent his attendance at a number of meetings in 2019. He would however be contactable by email.

3. Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

No other interests other than those previously notified were declared in matters on the agenda.

4. Minutes.

4.1 Minutes of the previous council meetings

Action

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on 31 October 2018 as a true and accurate record to be signed by the chairman.

4.2 The schedule of agreed actions. Noted.

5. Confidential and Urgent Items. There were no urgent or confidential matters for consideration at the current meeting requiring recording in the confidential minute. There would be a confidential discussion at the Trustee meeting.

6. Information/Decision Required

6.1 Councillors' report of meetings attended and actions undertaken since the previous meeting. Reported elsewhere within these minutes.

6.2 Land Management Issues.

6.2.1 Condition of Roads. Cllr Byford reported progress on a scheme to develop a suitable road surface.

6.2.2 Parking Issues. These matters were discussed by the Trustee at its later meeting.

6.3 Middleham Herald. A number of topics were suggested and articles should be submitted to Cllr Stocker by the end of January.

All

6.4 Councillor Vacancy. Residents had not exercised their right to request an election and accordingly the vacancy could be filled by co-option. Council agreed to the same procedure as followed previously, namely to invite applications through the noticeboards and website requesting applications in writing with verbal presentations at the meeting on 23 January 2019 at which an appointment would be made.

7. Review of Health & Safety matters (standing item). There were no matters reported.

8. Project Updates:

8.1.1 Burial Ground. Cllr Slay reported that three submissions for borehole tenders had been received from 13 firms written to with a broad spread of process between £6.8k and £15.2k which he considered to be too high. He had spoken to the hydrogeologist who had made contact with the EA with a view to reducing the investigation requirements. As an alternative he was proposing digging burial plots to a depth of 10', being 1' in excess of a double burial plot, and only drilling if this was necessary if water was present. Commencing early to mid-December was the best time to do this. The Clerk would ask Richard Sanderson whether water was found when digging in the existing church burial ground. It was agreed to proceed with digging 4 burial plots for which an indicative quotation of £2000 had been received, subject to circulation of the final cost estimate.

Cllr Slay / Clerk

Clerk

The Clerk advised that he had sought an indicative quotation for diverting the sewer pipes of £15k plus VAT. This was considerably lower than the quotation of £26k received in 2003, although still a significant sum.

8.1.2 MSCWA. Cllr Wheeler reported upon a successful pie and pea supper raising £311. Works on the pavilion and shed had been completed and a grant had been received for land maintenance and donations towards installing a bench and planting trees. It was hoped to obtain a refitted kitchen at little or no cost. There were encouraging signs of greater community participation and a number of bookings had

Action

been made to use the pavilion for events.

8.1.3 Welcome Sign. It was agreed to proceed looking into feasibility and potential for receiving financial contributions. It was suggested that local schools contribute towards the artwork.

8.1.4 Option agreement. Communication with the other side was noted. It was agreed not to chase as the matter would proceed at the developer's pace.

9. Events in Middleham (standing item)

9.1.1 Rill Festival 2019. Cllr Byford reported on ongoing discussions, noting good feedback following recent meetings with possibility that some tasks would be undertaken by other groups, not necessarily based in Middleham. English Heritage would not formally support this year although the local manager would open the castle for the event, which was likely to operate to a lower budget than in previous years.

9.1.2 Stables Open Day 2019. Formal approval was given to the organiser's application to use Council-owned land for the event to be held on Good Friday, 19th April.

10. General Business

10.1.1 Middleham Key Centre – business review: This was noted to be ongoing with focussed reviews of specific areas being undertaken with Councillor participation.

10.1.2 Grant Making Policy. Following distribution of a draft, it was agreed to recommend that the charity adopt the policy and that funding be set aside each year

All

11. Planning

11.1 **Planning decision notices received since the last meeting**: None have been received.

11.2 Planning Applications.

11.2.1 REVISED Proposal Outline Planning Permission with All Matters Reserved for Proposed Residential Development (of up to 55 Residential Dwellings) Land at St Alkelda's Road Middleham (17/00558/OUT). A full set of printed documents had been made available in MKC. It was noted that some of the concerns regarding massing of buildings near existing housing on the boundary had been improved. Scaling back to 55 rather than 70 was also viewed positively and the plans were approved. Cllr Byford would draft a response for approval by email circulation.

11.2.2 Full planning permission for extension to existing dwelling; siting of new ménage; creation of car parking area; erection of staff amenity block; 2 no. stable blocks and horse walkers, culverting of existing stream/pond at Brecongill, High Beck Lodge, Coverham (R-60-18P): The plans were approved. Cllr Byford would draft a response for approval by email circulation.

11.2.3 Full Planning Permission for Front Porch and Alterations to Existing Elevation, Single Storey Rear and Side Elevations, 9 St Alkelda's Road Middleham DL8 4PW (18/00807/FULL). The plans were approved. Cllr Byford would draft a response for approval by email circulation.

11.3 **Potential Planning Enforcement Issues**. No matters to report at present.

12. Finance – Information/Decision required

12.1 Cash book with a full bank reconciliation as at 31 October 2018 and a cashbook to 22 November 2018 had been circulated in advance of the meeting

12.2 **RESOLVED TO approve expenditure under s137 of the Local Government**

Act 1972), as follows:

- Additional Contribution towards Christmas Children's Grotto: £100
- Seniors' lunch £100.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the schedule of direct debits and internet bank transfers to approve and ratify all payments since the last Meeting as set out on the payments schedule and to approve Items of Expenditure as submitted to the meeting, including the following Professional fees and memberships:

- 1 SLCC 2019 £156
- 2 ALCC £40
- 3 YLCA 2019 £302

12.2.1 Precept and Budget. The Clerk talked through the draft budget which had been prepared on the same basis as in previous years, explaining the assumptions made. It was agreed that Councillors should have more time to consider the matter and to convene a single item meeting on Wednesday 12 December at 7pm for formal approval.

12.2.2 Opening a 30 day notice higher interest account. It was agreed to proceed to open accounts for which formal approval would be sought at the next meeting.

12.3 Central & Local Government Communications: Documents that have been emailed or circulated to Cllrs since the last meeting.

12.3.1 White Rose Update

12.4 Annual planner for agenda items; to note forthcoming business. At a future meeting it was agreed to discuss the possibility of creating a parking area near the school where currently cars are parked on grass.

12.5 Office Closure over the Christmas and New Year period. It was agreed that the office would close on Thursday 20 December and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January.

13. Other Business.

13.1 Cllr Byford drew attention to a campaign by the Mayor and community of Agincourt, with which Middleham is twinned, to prevent the installation of a large windfarm within close sight of the Battlefield of Agincourt. Following discussion it was agreed not to write a letter of support as the Council was not fully aware of the background to take a view.

13.2 Cllr Fairhurst reported that the Methodist Chapel on Park Lane might be converted to affordable housing following closure on 5 February 2019. A similar project had been undertaken in Bainbridge.

Date and time of the next meetings: The next monthly meeting shall be held on Wednesday 23 January 2019.

A single item meeting would be convened to finalise the precept at 7pm on 12 December 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed.....Date.....