

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Editorial

Well - April was a super-busy month in Middleton....and May is set to be similar with lots of interesting things happening in the village. I've had the devil of a job to fit everything in - we might be small but we make up for it in community spirit!

I've enjoyed my time as guest editor to cover Barbara's absence - but will be very relieved to see Barbara safely back home and in position again 🙏

Mandy

Contributions for the next edition by email preferably as a WORD doc please, as usual to: **barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com** or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 28th May**.

Donations may be made to: HSBC
Middleton Newsletter
sort code 40-28-33
account number 61054236

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual (together with the Questionnaire this month).

Also to be found on the Parish website: www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

The Parish Council is seeking the views from local residents about the playing field in Fletchers Lane, Middleton, also known as the Recreation Ground.

You are kindly invited to complete the survey (which has either been delivered with your paper copy of this Newsletter, or is attached to the email with your pdf version of the Newsletter) which will assist in shaping the long-term management plan of this valuable village facility.

Recipients can either:

a) fill it in manually and post it into one of three 'Questionnaire Return Boxes' - located in the Church Porch, the Village Hall or The Bell Pub

or

b) scan the QR code and fill in on-line.

If you have received an email copy of the Questionnaire only, and would prefer to complete a paper copy - please contact (either phone or text): Kathryn Rowe on 07525 213308



Our conservatory in Lea Cottage will be taken down in May. I was wondering if anyone wanted all (or part of it) for free? It's in fairly good condition, so would be a shame to put it in the skip.

Dimensions are 525cm wide and 254cm deep.

Obviously anyone interested can contact me to come and see it too (07956 996227).

Thanks, Javid

FREE to anyone who'd like to risk it!

MCC have some stock that has gone out of date but before we throw them all away maybe someone might like to take them and see if they are ok?

The soft drinks are dated December 2023 and the 0.5% Ghostship is dated February 2024.

Contact Trish if interested - tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com





Sadly we have several obituaries this month:

Many of you will have heard the sad news that **Tony Brinkley** died on April 8th. Tony and Jan lived in the village from 2000 until 2015 before moving to Stowmarket to be nearer to their family.

One of the many contributions Tony made to village life was to instigate the formation of Middleton Cricket Club. He worked tirelessly to establish a pitch up at the playing fields and spent countless hours sowing raking rolling and cutting the grass as well as marking out the wicket. He was adamant that anyone who wished to play should get a game and that we should enjoy ourselves. Our cricketing talents ranged from very average to dreadful but we had a lot of fun, even managing to win a few matches!

Tony was also our umpire and could be relied upon to offer up withering criticism of our efforts much to the delight of the opposition! He had a great sense of humour, on one occasion having lost an argument with the club president regarding inviting ladies to the end of season supper (he was for it, the president firmly against!) He turned up at the meal in drag!

He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

There is to be a small family funeral. All are welcome to attend a celebration of his life at Stowmarket Football Club at 11.45 on May 4th.

Mike Bell



A private cremation is being held for **Trevor Alvey** from Sunnyview, Back Road who, at 75, passed away in Aldringham Court on Friday 12th April

Sadly our neighbour **Phil**, known by many of the villagers as **Budgie**, passed away after a short illness on the 10th April. Although Budgie was a private man, we got to know him through the Covid lockdown and while out in our gardens chatting over the fence. He would talk about his time running the Bell pub and his love of birds. He was diligent about feeding them everyday and enjoyed going to Dunwich birdwatching. His vintage Mercedes car was always parked proudly outside and he took great pride in keeping it in pristine condition. Budgie was a proud and independent man who, although we did not know well, will be sadly missed. His family are having him interred, with his parents, in the village of Wormingford, near Colchester.

Christine and David Burgess



Sizewell C update

The expected 30mph limit on the B1122 from Yoxford to Leiston will be implemented at the end of May alongside 20mph through Theberton. Meanwhile we are continuing to lobby Sizewell C and the County and District councils for 20mph through Middleton Moor: It is being considered seriously; anyone wanting to support this should write to our County Councillor Richard Smith

richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk who will be instrumental in the final decision. A speed enforcement plan to support these new limits will be presented at the Northern Transport Forum on 8 May.

Thanks to pressure from us and other Parish Councils, Sizewell C vehicle marking using rear blue stickers and plates has started on their 4x4 fleet and will continue on HGVs into next month. Worker numbers are currently around 500 growing to 1,500 by the end of the year (and 6,000+ eventually).

Sizewell Beach's footpath in front of the SZC site will be closed and diverted in late August for the construction of sea defences. I have asked for the future dates of the full closure of the beach Please continue to send your complaints about Sizewell C to info@sizewellc.com or call 0800 197 6102 with as much detail as you can, including number plates and company names. Photos are even better.

Stay safe!

Charles Macdowell, for Middleton Parish Council

We have a road closure notice for Mill Street:



MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
AGM
TUESDAY 7TH MAY 7PM VILLAGE HALL

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT
AGM
MONDAY 20TH MAY 7PM VILLAGE HALL



Would you be willing to give some of your time to help with this weekend event?

We have our gardens! Now, we are keen to put together the team to help make it all happen - from making cakes, jams and chutneys beforehand, to helping set up for the event or serving teas & snacks over the weekend; we would value your contributions

Middleton Open Gardens
1st & 2nd June

If you feel able to offer some of your time over this summer weekend, please email, text, or call me.
Christine Burgess 07826 840478 or christineburgess29@gmail.com



CAN YOU HELP HOSTING MUSICIANS?

We occasionally need to offer overnight hospitality to musicians coming to play for Concerts at Cratfield during the summer months and sometimes we are unable to host them all at our house.

Might you be able to offer visiting musicians a reasonably comfortable bed from time to time?

Please contact me via email (grahamingham@ymail.com) or leave a message on 01728 648673.

Many thanks
Graham and Jonathan

Concerts at Cratfield
presents



Cratfield Young Artists at The Cut
The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BY



RYAN CORBETT
SUN 21ST APRIL 2024
AT 2PM



MELOS SAXOPHONE QUARTET
SUN 13TH MAY 2024
AT 7PM

All Tickets £15
Box Office and Booking Tickets
boxoffice@thecut.org.uk
0300 303 3211
or via our website
www.concertsatcratfield.org

The Melos Saxophone Quartet was formed in 2019 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Their concert includes two world premieres and works by Bozza, Escaich and Dvorak.

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services during May

Sunday 5 May

10am Benefice Service
Leprosy Mission visit

Sunday 19 May

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 26 May

11am Holy Communion

*As indicated above, the Benefice service this month will be with us on
Sunday 5 May at 10am
Please come along*

HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Holy Trinity Church, Middleton APCM will be held on Wednesday 1st May at
2.30pm in the Church. Everyone is welcome.



Holy Dusters 🙇

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

8 May: Trish and Graham
12 June: Nicola and Margaret

22 May: Camilla and Val
26 June: Paul

Thought for the Month

‘Stars and blossoming fruit trees: utter permanence and extreme fragility give an equal sense of eternity.’

From Simone Weil *Gravity and Grace*

Easter at Holy Trinity



We were delighted to see so many attend the Easter service at Holy Trinity. The church was full of spring flowers and there was a beautiful Easter Garden on the chancel steps. Thanks are due to our faithful flower team and to David Burgess who created the Easter Garden and then tended it carefully throughout the following week so as to ensure it was still looking at its best for our Pop-up Brunch on the 7th April - see below.

Pop-up Brunch

Seeking to make use of our lovely old building and wondering how to complement and collaborate with the other good things going on in the village, it struck us that we were missing having somewhere - in easy walking distance - to read the papers, solve a crossword, maybe catch up with a friend or two while enjoying coffee and a sausage roll or something sweet on a Sunday morning... and so the idea for a Pop-up Brunch was born and, not sure what to expect, on Sunday 7 April we hosted the first one...

It had been a busy weekend in Middleton but, still, people came! Perhaps it was the smell of good coffee brewing and crispy bacon cooking, or the sound of jazz and laughter inside as the doors opened, or maybe simply our kindly, supportive village but, whatever it was, the old building came to life and church happened.



A huge thank you to everyone who supported it – and a special shout out to Deanna from Tosier for bringing along her delicious hot chocolate for us to enjoy.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next one and it might be a good idea to keep 16th June free - watch this space!

Rita and the PCC



Photos with many thanks to Nigel Smith



From Friday 24 May to Friday 14 June I am using the church notice board to display an 80th anniversary memory of the D Day landings. This will hope to remind modern visitors just what an epic event this was, and how uncertain of success it was at the time. We take it for granted now, of course. Apart from maps and photographs there will also be lots of printed memories from those who took part - British, Americans, French, Canadians and Germans. Many thanks, Mark



Local Lady looking for cleaning jobs with 38 years experience. All duties of housework including dusting mopping and hoovering. Also ironing. Very trustworthy friendly and reliable Phone Dawn - 07545 951765

Its wonderful to have our **Middleton Bell Inn** re-opened and all the staff keen to welcome everyone back again. Its a good time to be reminded of current opening hours and the new menus (booking is advisable, Tel 01728 648286, and please share any dietary requirements when booking) -

OPENING HOURS

BAR:

MONDAY 12pm - 4pm
 TUESDAY 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
 WEDNESDAY 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
 THURSDAY 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
 FRIDAY 12pm - 11pm
 SATURDAY 12pm - 11pm
 SUNDAY 12pm - 7pm

FOOD SERVED:

MONDAY & TUESDAY - CLOSED
 WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY:
 12pm–2.30pm & 6pm–9pm
 SUNDAY 12pm – 4pm

The Bell Inn Menu

Bread £3.50 Olives £3.00
 Sun Blushed Tomatoes £3.00
 Hummus & Pitta Bread £7.00

Starters

Panko King Prawns, Dressed Salad & Sweet Chilli Sauce £8.50
 Grilled Halloumi, Sweet Chilli Sauce & Dressed Salad £8.50 (GF/VG)
 Mushroom & Tarragon Arancini with Sun blushed Tomato & Olive Tapenade £8.50 (GF/DF/VGN)
 Soup of the Day Served with Warm Bread & Butter £8.00 (VG) Can be made VGN

Mains

Adnams Beer Battered Haddock, Hand cut Chips, Garden Peas & Tartare Sauce £17.00 (DF)
 The Bell Rump Steak Burger with Bacon & Cheese, Crispy Onions, Fries & Salad £16.50
 Pan Fried Sea Bass on a Bed of Three Bean Risotto £17.50 (GF)
 Wholetail Breaded Scampi, Hand Cut Chips, Salad & Tartare Sauce £16.00
 Sun Blushed Tomato, Red Onion, Rocket & Pesto Gnocchi £16.00 (DF/GF/VGN)
 Local GF Pork Sausages, Mashed Potato, Seasonal Greens, Gravy £16.50 (Can Be DF)
 Choice of Aubergine or Panko Chicken Katsu Curry, Rice, Mango Chutney & Poppadom £16.00
 Aubergine (GF/DF/VGN) Chicken (GF/DF)

[NB There is also a Child's Menu available]



The Bell Inn Sunday Menu

1 Course £15.75, 2 = £20.95, 3 = £25.25

[NB. There is also a Child's Roast available]

Starters

Panko Squid Rings, Sweet Chilli Sauce & Dressed Salad
 Grilled Halloumi, Sweet Chilli Sauce & Dressed Salad (GF/DF)
 Mushroom & Tarragon Arancini with Sun Blushed Tomato & Olive Tapenade (GF/DF/VGN)
 Soup of the Day Served with Warm Bread & Butter (VG)

Main Course

All of our Roasts are Served with Honey Roasted Roots, Seasonal Greens, Confit Potato, Yorkshire Pudding & Red Wine Gravy
 Slow Roasted Sirloin of Beef (GFO) Served Medium Rare
 Clarks Local Crispy Pork Belly (GFO)
 Garlic & Thyme Roasted Chicken Supreme (GFO)
 Bell Inn Nut Roast (VGN)
 The Bell Rump Steak Burger, Crispy Onions with Bacon & Cheese Fries & Salad
 Adnams Beer Battered Haddock, Hand Cut Chips, Garden Peas & Tartare Sauce (DF)
 Sun Blushed Tomato, Red Onion & Rocket Gnocchi + Basil Pesto & Balsamic Glaze (VGN)
 Pan Fried Seabass on Bed of 3 Bean Risotto

Deserts

The Bell Inn Crumble with Custard or Vanilla Ice Cream
 Warm Treacle Tart with Ice Cream
 Gluten Free Vanilla Cheesecake
 Berry Pavlova
 Bell Inn Cheeseboard: Miller's Crackers, Grapes, Celery & Marmalade
Vegan, Gluten Free Desserts:
 Sticky Toffee Pudding or Chocolate Brownie with a Choice of Coconut/Vanilla Ice Cream or Raspberry/Lemon Sorbet

Middleton Dark Skies

May Highlights

Planets on View Early risers (very), will get a chance to see both Saturn and Mars out towards the east before dawn. As they rise at around 3 and 4am respectively, they may become quickly lost in the dawn glow.

Constellations With the night's drawing out more and more, observing the dark evening sky is getting later as the weeks push on towards the summer. One constellation worth trying to spot is Bootes (the Herdsman), which contains Arcturus, the brightest star visible during May. (4th brightest of all stars). The constellation is shaped rather like an old-fashioned kite and once dark enough can be seen high up in the southern sky. Arcturus is a red giant star, so should appear to have a reddish hue.



Meteor Showers Again, another one for the early risers, the Eta Aquariids meteor shower will be visible out towards the east, and peaking in the pre-dawn sky of the 6th. These meteors are associated with Halley's Comet, and are small particles of ice and dust left in the comets wake over several millennia. No moon of any note this year, so a fair chance of spotting a few of the 50 or so an hour that are expected.

Comets No known comets visible this month.

The Moon Full moon occurs on the 23rd of the month, its name is the Flower Moon. Other names are Hare, Milk and Corn Planting Moon. On the 12th the moon will be sitting next to Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini, out towards the western horizon.

Artificial Satellites While you are looking up at the night sky, its almost certain that you will notice moving dots of light passing overhead. If you stay out for a while, then these are likely to run into a couple of dozen or more sightings. If they don't blink, then these are almost certainly artificial satellites. (if it blinks it's a plane!) Generally, the satellites move from west to east, with the rotation of the earth. When a satellite is launched, the earth's rotation gives the launch vehicle a helping hand, which saves on fuel and increases its speed. A satellite moving South to North or vice versa, is very likely to be a weather or military satellite. With this orbit the earth rotates below the satellite so that it passes over a different area of the earth on each orbit. Some satellites in these orbits can observe the whole of the earth in 24hrs. If you happen upon several quite small dots of lights following each other across the sky (anything up to 20 or so, then these will be part of the Starlink satellite internet service. There are over 5500 of these satellites already in orbit, out of a planned 12,000!! 42,000 if further extensions of the system go ahead. One satellite that you can make plans to see and will not need any time for your eyes to adjust to, is the International Space Station (ISS). Dates and times, length of time on view etc, are readily available on the internet or via an app, and is worth a look. A couple of evenings to check out in May are as follows: -

Fri 10th Visible 2229-2233, low in the south. Moving from SW-SE
Saturday 11th Visible 2140-2145, low in the south. Moving S-E
Saturday 11th Visible 2315-2321, high towards the south. Moving overhead from W-E.

Brian Near

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May Nature Notes

Queen bumblebees are one of the first insects we are likely to see in the spring, sometimes as early as February if the weather is kind. Though, by May we start to see greater numbers and species of bumblebees in our gardens. Those with an interest in natural history can immediately recognise several different forms and can probably hazard a name at some. They are furry enough to appear 'cute' rather than dangerous, like the social wasps, and are therefore viewed with affection rather than fear. They are also rather attractive, usually black with a pattern of yellow or grey bands and a 'tail' that ranges from white to deep red, others have a chestnut body and lack a coloured tail.

In early spring when the queen bumblebee emerges from hibernation she is looking to replenish the body fats that were lost during hibernation with pollen and nectar. She will forage heavily from spring flowering shrubs and plants, such as dandelions and dead nettles. The queen will then seek out nest sites to start the new colony; these are in warm, well-insulated places, typically in old mouse or vole nests. A few species will use nest boxes and holes in trees. In the nest, the queen makes a pot from secreted wax, which she fills with nectar, to sustain her when she attends her first brood. She also collects pollen to form a pollen lump, on this, she lays her eggs; this will feed the growing larvae until, after going through several moults, they produce a cocoon into which they pupate. After a few weeks, the first workers emerge; it is the job of these first workers to maintain the nest and to forage for nectar to feed the adults and for pollen to feed the larvae. Meanwhile, the queen will continue to lay successive batches of eggs, until, towards the end of the season some of the eggs will develop into queens rather than workers. The old queens and workers will then die and once they have mated with the new queens so do the males. Nesting colonies range in size from a few dozen to several hundred individuals, most of these being workers. When the new queens leave the nest, they will feed to build up fat reserves and once mated seek suitable sites to hibernate. Hibernation sites are usually on a north-facing bank, but it appears the number of hibernation sites available is limited as the same sites are used every year.

In Britain, there are twenty one species of bumblebee, thirteen of which are currently found in Suffolk. Of these only seven species are common and likely to visit gardens. There are a further six species, known as cuckoo bumblebees, which parasitize on true bumblebees. The queen cuckoo bumblebee will kill or subdue the true queen then lays her eggs in the nests of true bumblebees, with the workers tricked into providing the food to sustain the interlopers' progeny - consisting of new queen-like females plus males, but no workers. Cuckoo bumblebees mimic closely the appearance of their host and are not easily distinguished from true bumblebees, although less hairy.

The ability to forage in cool, cloudy even wet weather makes bumblebees highly effective pollinators. Gardens are very important to the survival of bumblebees; a flower rich garden will provide the food they need from March to September. Traditional cottage garden flowers and native wildflowers are the most useful, as bumblebee species differ in the length of their tongues and they provide the necessary variation in flower types. Long-tongued species access nectar from flowers such as foxgloves, comfrets and sages, while short-tongued species prefer brambles and raspberries. But they will also 'nectar rob' deeper flowers by biting a hole at the base of the flower.



Peter Vincent



On Saturday 6 April we were treated to a wonderful evening of gardening expertise at the Village Hall. Many thanks indeed to our three knowledgeable and entertaining presenters, Neill, Mandy and Steve. A fabulous time was had by all.

Middleton Community Council

It was our pleasure - we thoroughly enjoyed doing it...Ed!

WI News

At our April meeting we welcomed Linda Ginn to talk on her recent trip to western Kenya with the charity "Uzima in our Hands". Uzima is swahili for life and hope. The charity raises funds to support vulnerable children in western rural Kenya with education, food and basic health care. Linda was encouraged to go by her friend Sue and Sue's sister Joy who is director of the charity. Joy goes every few years to see what is happening to their fund raising. After a long day of travel the group arrived with 14 cases filled with clothes, books, medicines and toys to distribute to the children. The schools and homes they visited covered a large area and to get around the most frequent mode of transport was by motorbike- the "picky picky". Linda had to sit on the back and hold on as best she could, usually by clinging to the driver. She did refuse to get on one picky picky that already had 2 passengers and she would have been the third! The motorbikes go along tracks that become footpaths that run out completely but you keep going, quite an experience. Schooling is compulsory but not everyone goes. They found at the schools that many of the children have health issues, cerebral palsy is common because of the lack of pre and post maternity care. There are social workers who visit these children at home and the group were able to go on these visits to see the extra care that was given. The houses range from small thatched huts to larger dwellings with metal corrugated roofs. The cooking is done outside and there are many animals and chickens running around. Linda loved the warmth and generous hospitality of these people.

Besides the helping of children, Linda learned about the "5 Talents Project" which advises local people, mainly women, how to pool their money into savings groups that earn interest and the members can take out loans to start small businesses. Linda saw 3 examples of this: a man who set up a roadside shop selling everything that the locals needed. A woman set up a brick making business using the local clay pits and is now employing others. and a man who set up a picky picky bike rental business. Linda was impressed by this scheme of people helping themselves to achieve a more secure life. Her trip to Kenya made her realise we should all stretch our wings!

Our May meeting is on the 15th at 7:15pm. Our speaker will be Claire Sullivan. "Contemporary Hemporary" working hemp in a traditional way. All are welcome.

LV



THANK YOU

Our morning tea and cake raised a total of £584.07 (not including gift-aid). It couldn't have been done without the community support, the cake-bakers and the donators. We are so pleased this money will go to The Eve Appeal, helping with the future research and support for those with a gynaecological cancer. Well done all.

MIDDLETON CRIB TEAM NEWS

Trish and Peter were triumphant on Crib Finals Night bringing home the mixed pairs trophy for Middleton. Well done Trish & Peter!



MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Lesley Taylor

Apologies:

Cllr Charles Macdowell
District Cllr Sarah Whitelock

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Two members of the public

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. See Middleton Moor, below.

3 Public Forum. A member of the public, representing the Village Green Group, addressed the PC requesting approval to employ a grass cutter for the village green. It was agreed to pay for four cuts at £20 per cut, spread out over a reasonable period. Should more cuts be needed, it was agreed that the Village Green Group will notify the PC. Invoice and bank details to be supplied to the clerk.

The PC agreed to the reimbursement of £20 to Sue Peel for the first grass cutting of the year.

Action: Clerk to make payment.

The 'no parking' signs for the village green was raised again. The PC agreed to the purchase of six signs for the village green and three for Middleton Moor. Size 240mm x 360mm @ £14 each.

Action: Cllr Thorpe to send details to the clerk for ordering.

4. Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2024 and the extraordinary meeting held on 26 March 2024.

b) Matters arising and Action Points.

- An email has been issued to Cllr Whitelock re: 30mph speed limit for the B1122.
- Steve Merry, SCC has been emailed re: speed limit implementation and stub roads/fly tipping.
- The speed indicator has come to the end of its useful life and now needs replacing. **Action: Clerk to research speed indicator devices.** The purchase of a speed gun was discussed, and the safe use thereof; it was agreed that this would also provide valuable data. **Action: Cllr Taylor to source.**
- The Suffolk Wildlife Trust have been contacted regarding the pond at Middleton Moor, awaiting reply.
- CIL has been sent to ESC and is on the village website.
- A donation has been made to Lighthouse Women's Aid.
- Defibrillator. The clerk reported that the current pads are unused. They will need replacing February 2025 (if not used before). The current battery will need replacing February 2027. (Pads need renewing every two years, batteries every four years.) The clerk advised the PC of a free reminder service available through defibshop.co.uk and it was agreed to sign up to this. The clerk has sourced an Automated External Defibrillator course and will complete this in due course. **Action: Clerk to join the PC to the free reminder service.**
- The Bell Pub, Village Community Asset. The clerk has been in correspondence with both ESC and Adnams. Currently waiting to hear back from ESC, following their request to undertake further research.

5 Sizewell C

Cllr Macdowell provided the PC with an up-to-date report, summarised below.

B1122 Resurfacing. Communication from Sizewell C on this has proved inadequate, putting residents to a great deal of inconvenience.

From the Theberton Hall Farm entrance, the works have taken place in haphazard sections with no warning, and with second 'visits' to lay down a second layer of asphalt. One holiday letting cancelled after the first night, resulting in a monetary loss to the accommodation owner.

Works Tracker. Information placed by Sizewell C on their much-vaunted works tracker website has proved valueless, with vague or deceptive information. Working with Theberton PC on an almost daily basis pressuring Sizewell C to improve this has been slow. The Tracker is intended to be the main day-by-day information source for residents throughout the Sizewell C project.

Diversions. Despite stating that residents would be able to access their properties under escort throughout the works, this has been a lottery at best. One was forced to make a 20-mile diversion having been turned away twice from different checkpoints. Staff manning the checkpoints have been largely ignorant of local routes and options and have not been issued with maps.

Speed limits. We continue to lobby Suffolk County Council and Sizewell C. Even though the number of HGV movements have increased significantly, promised new speed limits including 30mph from the A12 to Leiston Abbey have not yet materialised. SCC have advised besides implementing the speed limits, they are liaising with SZC and the Suffolk Constabulary to see what can be done to encourage compliance. Whilst this is still work in progress it is likely to be a mix of measures starting with softer educational ones, such as staff induction and enforcement of speed limits for SZC HGVs to potential police enforcement by officers or mobile cameras.

Creation of a temporary 20mph zone through Middleton Moor. The PC will be applying for this, guided by SCC's existing policies and scoring process. The process will be challenging, not least because, unless in exceptional circumstances, locations will not be considered for 20mph schemes where the road is classed as A or B and/or they have existing mean speeds above 30 mph.

Stopped-up side roads (or 'Stubs'). These will be created as the new Sizewell Link Road is built and threaten to become fly-tipping 'honeypots'. SCC agree that some form of restriction is necessary but would prefer demountable lockable bollards to prevent unauthorised access and the risk of tipping or other antisocial behaviour. They would avoid using gates where they would obstruct pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders. The location will be a matter for detailed design and discussions with adjacent landowners.

Traffic Volumes. Following a request for an update on HGV and other traffic, we have been advised that a running commentary on the number of HGV movements is unavailable (outside of the process when reporting back to SCC and ESC). The number of HGV runs are reported on the ESC website <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/national-infrastructure-and-energy-projects/sizewell-c-nuclear-power-station/governance-groups/> (clarification has been requested, as the data is not visible). It was agreed that there has been an increase in the number of HGV movements, but this is well within the cap of 600.

An acknowledgement and thank you was made to Cllr MacDowell for his daily efforts regarding SZC.

Cllr Lacey is meeting with Cllr Weaver from Kelsale PC on Tuesday 16 April. (Unsuitable for HGV signs, Fordley Road and flooding issues.)

6 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. No report.
- b) Middleton Primary School. No report.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report.
- d) Middleton Moor.

Substation. The replacement of the existing substation (due to aging transformers and a risk of power cuts in the area) was addressed. A Parish resident has offered land for siting the substation, which would be hidden and much less intrusive than the location proposal by UK Power Networks. Cllr Cusack has presented this offer to the surveyor, who will, in turn, liaise with

his engineer colleagues for comment. If this new site is agreed upon UK Power Networks would like to purchase the land on which the substation would sit.

Pond. Cllr Cusack has been in contact with Natural England, with whom we have a higher-level stewardship agreement, they have, in turn, advised that we contact Suffolk Wildlife Trust requesting comment/advice on our options. This has been done and Cllr Cusack is awaiting a reply. Cllr Taylor has been in touch with another possible contractor, Peter Frizzle, to carry out the pond works. It is anticipated that they will complete their survey and give advice at the end of April. The Clerk advised that the grant application with the National Lottery has a shelf life of 22 May. It was agreed to amend the works start date to the end of the year (not June) and submit the application. **Action: Clerk to submit National Lottery application.** It was reiterated that the undertaking/commencement of the works is a slow process due to the nature of the job and ensuring that all requirements are met.

Cllr Cusack temporarily left the meeting and Cllr Taylor, as vice-chair, continued.

Moor Maintenance. Causeway Farm will be vacating this year, the actual tenancy coming to an end in October. For a number of years Middleton Parish Council have had an agreement in place with this farm that the Moor is cut once a year with payment as the hay crop. This arrangement has proved adequate but has not really maintained or improved the Moor in respect of ecology. At a recent Moor Management Meeting, residents voiced concerns that areas of the Moor were not attended to and requested clarification for a longer term plan. In late 2022 MPC engaged Suffolk Wildlife Trust to prepare a 10 year Management Plan for the 8 acres, including pond, that make up the Moor. This has recommended a change in the way that the grassland in particular is managed and suggests other methods to improve biodiversity whilst maintaining the habitat for the Great Crested Newts for which we receive a small grant from English Nature. They supplied a list of possible rotational maintenance which includes mowing different sections of the Moor less frequently, management of verges and hedges, coppicing and allowing buffer strips next to hedges.

It is anticipated that the value of any hay crop will be unlikely to fully cover the additional works desired and therefore there will be a regular charge to MPC. As the only revenue received is in a small annual grant from English Nature, MPC are keen to keep such costs to a manageable figure. It was agreed that a number of possible local residents be approached who may possess the necessary land management skills and equipment to invite them to tender for the works with any hay crop as partial payment. In the interests of impartiality, it was agreed that a number of parties need to be invited, one of which may include Nonsuch Farm.

Action Point: Councillor Taylor to research and write to suitable parties.

Cllr Cusack returned and resumed the meeting.

- e) Causeway Farm. Following the meeting on 18 March, Cllrs Piercy and Thorpe and Jack Rosenthal produced a paper which was featured in the village newsletter, inviting responses; one was received questioning the recording of villager's thoughts on the possible development of Back Road. The report will be issued to SCC tomorrow, along with an invitation to meet with County Cllr Richard Smith to discuss further. Cllrs Piercy and Thorpe and Jack were thanked for their work to date on Causeway Farm.

7 Church Access from Village Green

The quote and specification received has been scaled down from a driveway to a pathway that will accommodate a wheelchair with ease. The path size will be approximately 14m x 1.5m at a cost of £4,000. It was questioned whether funding may be sought through the SZC Community Fund or a contribution from the church. **Action: Clerk to write to the PCC for funding or a joint grant application.**

8 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
b) The purchase of a handheld speed gun for Middleton Moor was agreed. **Action: Cllr Taylor to source.**
c) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Payroll Services 6 months to 31.3.24	SALC	£54.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk Expenses – ink cartridges	cartridgesave.co.uk	£155.64	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk Overtime – March 2024	Rachael Salcombe	£272.00	LGA 1972 s.112

9 Administration It was agreed to update the Personal Data Audit to reflect that all and any information relating to the PC is no longer kept in a filing cabinet. **Action: Clerk to update document accordingly.** To be approved at May's meeting.

10 Flooding/maintenance/Emergency Plan. Cllr Lacey is meeting with Syntegra Group later in April to discuss the village's flooding issues.

11 Correspondence. Dealt with above.

12 Items for Next Agenda. There will be two meetings in May. 1) Annual Parish Meeting at 6pm, where annual reports from various village organisations will be presented. **Action: Clerk to issue invites for reports** and 2) Annual Parish Council Meeting at 6.30pm where elections/re-elections shall take place.

13 Next Meeting.

The date and time of the Annual Parish meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 May 2024, at 6.00pm, at the Village Hall. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024
AT 8pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Katheryn Rowe
Cllr Reynolds

Apologies:

Cllr Charles Macdowell

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe - Clerk
One member of the public

2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations. None.

3. Minutes

- a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 12 March 2023.
- b) Matters arising and Actions. Park benches still to be ordered.

4. To review Safety Inspection Report

- a) February and March reports approved.
- b) Playground Inspector. Cllr Cusack reported to the meeting that our playground inspector has resigned following an incident involving a dog, whilst carrying out an inspection. The dog owners have been approached and advised that a recurrence might result in a report to the police, under the Dangerous Dogs Act 2021. It was agreed to write to the Inspector apologising for this unfortunate incident, advise that the owners of the dog have been approached and request that

he reconsider his position with the offer that a councillor attends inspections with him. **Action: Cllr Cusack to contact the Inspector with an apology and new proposal.** In the meantime, it was agreed to research a potential replacement. **Action: Clerk to contact local parish councils for possible leads and to enquire of their playground rules/signage regarding dogs.**

5. **Correspondence.** An estimate of £100 has been received from Robert Heather for unblocking the guttering at the pavilion. The works and cost were approved by the PC.

A quote of £1535 has also been received from Andrew Heather of Healonwood Painting & Decorating for painting the exterior and interior of the pavilion. The works and cost were approved by the PC.

6. Finance

The following payment was authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Playground Reports (February & March)	David Bracey	£120.00	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19

7 Matters for discussion

- a) Survey. Cllr Piercy was thanked for the final version of the survey. Question 10 has been worded more clearly, to reflect discussion from last month's meeting. The survey will be 'advertised' in the next village newsletter, with a link for completion electronically. QR codes will be advertised also, and paper copies will also be made available alongside the return's boxes, as mentioned at last month's meeting. Cllrs will knock on doors 10/12 days following the article in the newsletter. It was agreed to print 60 copies, at home.
- b) Pavilion Manager. Rebecca Reynolds has been appointed the new pavilion manager, working three hours per week between April and September. Cllrs Taylor and Rowe were thanked for their efforts in filling this position.
- c) Disposal of pavilion rubbish. The booking form states that all rubbish must be taken away (home or in the bin outside the pavilion) but it is often left in the pavilion. The option of a trade waste bin and collection was suggested. **Action: Clerk to make enquiries with ESC.**

8 Items for the next Agenda. None.

9 Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 14 May 2024, to follow Annual Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.



A huge **Thank You** to everyone who joined our 2nd Annual PTA Quiz Night – it was a resounding success and lots of fun was had. The competition was very close, but Pennyfields Forever came out as this year's winners. You raised over £500 in the end, which will pay for exciting enrichment and equipment for our Village School children.

Here you can see the recent PTA funded Olympian visit and hoodies for our Year 6.

Look out for our Summer Raffle and Cake Sales coming up this term.



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DIARY DATES 2024

May

Wednesday 1st Holy Trinity APCM 2.30pm in the church.
Thursday 2nd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Tuesday 7th MCC AGM Village Hall 7pm
Tuesday 14th Annual Parish Meeting 6pm and Annual Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 15th WI-V. Hall – 'Contemporary Hemporary' Claire Sullivan. Working hemp traditionally
Monday 20th Village Hall Management AGM, 7pm

June

Sat/Sun 1st/2nd Middleton Open Gardens w/e
Thursday 6th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Thursday 6th 80th Anniversary of D-Day
Tuesday 11th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Sunday 16th ? Possible Pop-Up Brunch, Holy Trinity Church ?
Wednesday 19th WI – Village Hall – 'Laughter and Tears' Malcolm Knott, a lifetime in law
Saturday 22nd Community Council Midsummer Outdoor Quiz, Playing Field

July

Thursday 4th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Tuesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 13th Summer boules tournament, playing field, 10am
Wednesday 17th WI – Garden Party (Venue TBA)

August

Thursday 1st "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 24th Annual Village Fete, Playing Field, 2pm

September

Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Tuesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 18th WI – Village Hall - 'Blood, Sweat & Fears' Mary Newton Pathologist

October

Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Tuesday 8th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 12th MCC Autumn Fair,
Wednesday 16th WI – Village Hall – 'The True Cost of Fish', Andy Malcolm ~The Fishermen's Mission

November

Thursday 7th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Tuesday 12th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 20th WI – Village Hall - Cheese and Wine evening + AGM

December

Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 7th "Santa Boules" tournament – Playing Field, 10.am
Tuesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 14th MCC Christmas Party –
Village Hall
Wednesday 18th WI-Village Hall - End Year
Celebrations. Martin &
Annie ~ Sizewell Gap
musicians
Friday 20th Carol Service,
Holy Trinity, 6pm
Tuesday 24th Midnight Mass,
Holy Trinity, 11.15pm

