

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JULY 2021
AT 6:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr. Roy Dowding – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread
Cllr. Steve Thorpe
Cllr. Chris Reynolds
Cllr. Lesley Taylor

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Colin Whitbread – written and accepted
Cllr. Dennis Peel – written and accepted
District Cllr. Tony Cooper
District Cllr. Tom Daly

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
4 members of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

- a) Cllr Julian Cusack welcomed District Cllr. Russ Rainger who was recently elected in the Aldeburgh and Leiston Ward by-election. Cllr. Russ Rainger said he was new to the role but he will try to attend meetings, provide reports and he will be available by telephone and email. He is familiar with Aldeburgh and Leiston as a former County Councillor and he is now stretching his boundary further north. He is interested in local issues including traffic, Sizewell C and other items important to the parish.
- b) The Chairman reported that newly elected District Cllr. Tom Daley was isolating as a result of Covid and so could not attend
- c) The Council noted District Cllr. Tony Cooper's written report.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2021 and the extraordinary meeting held on 25th June 2021 were approved.

5. Casual Vacancy

The Council agreed with Cllr. Julian Cusack's recommendation that it should seek to co-opt a resident of Fordley Road or Hawthorn Road to the Council to improve the quality of discussions on issues of interest to residents living south of the B1122.

ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to draft a letter inviting residents to apply.

6. Progress Reports

- a) Highways – the Clerk reported that a 30 mph repeater sign has fallen in the verge on the B1122.
ACTION: Clerk to report to Highways.
- b) Quiet Lanes – Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that the Quiet Lanes team is still waiting for Highways to install the signage and this could take several weeks.
- c) Village Hall Roof – Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that the tiles have tested positive for white asbestos. The Council noted that white asbestos is not a safety risk until it is disturbed. Cllr. Reynolds is

obtaining quotes for the professional removal of the tiles but there is no funding available for this work at present. Cllr. Julian Cusack said he has suggested a meeting with the Chair of the Management Committee to discuss whether wider works may need to be undertaken.

ACTION: Cllr. Chris Reynolds and Cllr. Julian Cusack to progress.

d) Footpaths – Cllr. Steve Thorpe reported that the footpath to Eastbridge is overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Highways.

e) Dog Bin – The Clerk reported that the dog bin at the Back Road/Rectory Road junction has fallen down.

ACTION: Cllr. Chris Reynolds to inspect.

f) Hastoe Housing – Cllr. Steve Thorpe reported that he has reviewed the planning conditions and they do not state that the homes must be offered to qualifying members of the local community. Cllr. Thorpe said he has been unable to find the qualifying criteria in writing and he recommended that the Council pursues this with the housing association and the District Council. All were in favour. Cllr. Julian Cusack said that applications for the housing were likely to be confidential between the applicant and the housing association but he understood priority should be given to Middleton residents who were identified by the Housing Needs Survey. Cllr. Cusack said the Council has no powers to allocate housing but it could support an appeal if a qualifying Middleton applicant was turned down.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain qualifying criteria and priority for residents.

g) Middleton Moor – Cllr. Julian Cusack and Cllr. Lesley Taylor referred to the Environmental Stewardship Agreement with Natural England which expires in October 2023. Cllr. Cusack explained that the Moor is common land managed by the Council. Natural England provides funding to the Council to maintain the grassland and the ponds. Cllr. Taylor will arrange a meeting for Moor residents to discuss plans for the future management of the Moor.

ACTION: Cllr. Lesley Taylor to inform residents of meeting date and time.

h) Swift Nesting Boxes – Cllr. Lynda Whitbread attended the walk/talk. Residents are invited to send photos of their property to SOS Swifts who will assess the suitability for placing nesting boxes under the eaves. There are eighteen nesting boxes available but these will be shared with Leiston and Thorpeness. The Clerk said that a resident had offered to write an article for the next newsletter which will include SOS Swifts contact details.

7. Sizewell C

Cllr. Julian Cusack reported on the meeting he had with EDF on 5th July 2021 with regard to the Further Proposed Changes Consultation. Cllr. Cusack said he went through the proposed stopping up of the minor roads in the parish and discussed the issues arising. He sought further explanations of why it was now being proposed that the footpath diversion of Littlemoor Road be required to cross both the Middleton Link Road and the SLR. He reported that the Parish was in favour of the proposal to keep Pretty Road open by way of bridge over the SLR.

Two new issues were raised, firstly, that EDF proposed to keep the stub roads at Littlemoor Road, Hawthorn Road and Fordley Road open to vehicles some distance from the B1122 without restriction. This may lead to undesirable activities such as fly-tipping at the turning heads. Cllr. Cusack asked EDF to consider whether vehicles should be prohibited from using these stub roads and they should be kept open only for pedestrians and cyclists. EDF said they would discuss this with Highways. Cllr. Roy Dowding suggested that they should be stopped as near to the B1122 as possible with perhaps a locked gate accessible only to farmers.

The second issue raised was the junction from Fordley Road to the Sizewell Link Road on the southern side. Cllr. Cusack informed EDF that the Council was concerned that the existing problem of rat-running will be exacerbated by Sizewell C traffic, principally when there is an accident on the A12. EDF said their HGVs and workers cars would not use Fordley Road in any event and their traffic management system would halt all HGV movements if there was a road traffic incident on the A12. Cllr. Cusack reiterated the

concerns with non-Sizewell C traffic rat-running and EDF replied that this existing problem should be reported to Highways. A member of the public said that the junction was not of benefit to the parish and questioned why EDF want it. Cllr. Cusack replied that EDF said it was to maintain connectivity. Cllr. Cusack informed EDF that the parish does not want the junction and they agreed to look at it. The Council agreed with this position.

A discussion followed with members of the public asking the Council to push EDF to keep Fordley Road open with an underpass. Cllr. Cusack said that of the 5 households in Fordley Road, 3 wanted it to remain open and 2 were against the idea. Cllr. Cusack said he put the proposal to EDF who rejected it on the grounds that it was not the best option for Fordley Road. A member of the public said that the Council needed to be the voice of the parish and push for the proposal. Cllr. Cusack replied to the resident that he overestimated the power of the Parish Council. Cllr. Lesley Taylor said that the Council receives representations from all residents and asking it to take sides is divisive. Cllr. Cusack said that at the Issue Specific Hearings on Traffic and Transport he used the difficulties over Fordley Road as an example of how the parish had been faced with impossible choices, the issues were severing the community and why the Sizewell Link Road should not be built along the proposed route. He said the Examining Authority appeared to be taking notice and see this as a significant issue. Cllr. Cusack reiterated the Council's position – it opposes Sizewell C, it opposes the route of the Link Road which should be more southerly, it opposes the junction to Fordley Road on the south side and notes that the majority of Fordley Road residents want the road to remain open.

Cllr. Cusack said that he requested EDF to speak directly with the residents in Hawthorn Road most affected by the Sizewell Link Road. EDF replied that they will write to them. Cllr. Cusack said EDF's lack of engagement with these residents is disgraceful.

Cllr. Cusack closed the discussion by informing the Council that the response to the Further Proposed Changes Consultation had been submitted. Cllr. Cusack said he spoke at the Issue Specific Hearings on Traffic and Transport and Community and Socio-Economic Issues. The Council is invited to submit written representations on these subjects to the Examining Authority by Deadline 5.

District Cllr. Russ Rainger suggested that the Council requests a meeting with Steve Merry from Highways for his views on EDF's transport arrangements in the parish.

ACTION: Cllr. Cusack to draft and circulate the ISH written representations and Clerk to submit. Clerk to arrange a meeting with Highways.

8. Planning

The Council deferred consideration of planning application DC/21/3143/VLA - Variation of Legal Agreement - Land Adjacent To Mill House, Mill Street as all the documentation is not available on the planning portal.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the planning department again.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

With regard to County Cllr. Richard Smith's offer of £500 from his Locality Budget to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Council agreed to request that this is shared equally between funding the Drop-In Centre to celebrate the support it provides for the community and to purchase planters to improve the outside seating area. A plaque will be affixed to the planters to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Council further agreed to send the correspondence relating to Festival Suffolk 2022 to the Community Council who may wish to organise an event.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Cllr. Richard Smith and send correspondence to Community Council.

10. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipts.
- b) The Council reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 1 2021-2022.
- c) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary (July)	Sharon Smith	£288.25	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Salary (August)	Sharon Smith	£184.80	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£45.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Pavilion Electricity	British Gas	£22.30	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19
Pavilion Cleaning	Julian Cusack (Julia Gutunoiu)	£20.00	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19
Data Protection Renewal	Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Internal Audit	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£189.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Village Hall Asbestos Test	Chris Reynolds	£49.95	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19
Summer Winers Annual Donation	Colin Whitbread	£200.00	LGA 1972 s.137

11. Recreation Ground Trust – acting as Sole Trustee

- a) The Council ratified expenditure of £276.00 from Trustee funds for pea shingle for the boule court.
- b) The Council authorised expenditure of £193.00 plus VAT and labour to replace the hand holds on the play equipment climbing wall.

ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to progress.

11. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 3rd June 2021 and 8th July 2021.

12. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm.