

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11th APRIL 2023
AT 7:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack - Chair
Cllr. Roy Dowding
Cllr. Steve Thorpe
Cllr. Lesley Taylor
Cllr. Charles Macdowell
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Graham Lacey – written and accepted
Cllr. Chris Reynolds – written and accepted

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Melanie Thurston – Locum Clerk

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None

3. Public Forum. None

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council elections in May will be uncontested because only 6 candidates were nominated for the 9 places: Julian Cusack, Graham Lacey, Charles Macdowell, Christopher Reynolds, Lesley Taylor & Stephen Thorpe. Results of the Parish Council uncontested election and the notice of the District Council Election will be posted on the notice board. Expenses forms to be returned to ESC. The Parish Council will be able to co-opt to fill the 3 vacancies following on from the AGM.

4. Appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council confirmed the terms of an offer made to an applicant for the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as previously circulated.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Parish Clerk, Rachael Salcombe who was present to observe the meeting. Her contract has been signed in acceptance of the role and a handover will be arranged with the previous Clerk. The Chairman acknowledged thanks to Sharon Smith for all her work as Clerk to the Parish Council. He also thanked the Locum Clerk for her help during the transition period.

5. Minutes.

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 14th March 2023 as an accurate record.

Matters Arising.

The Chairman reported that at the last meeting in the public forum, a member of the public proposed to brighten up the village green and to replant with grass seed. Since then the grass on the green has been scarified by the Village Green Group and 1kg of grass seed has been sourced. The Council expressed support for this project including consideration of a request for finance should this be forthcoming from the Group.

6. Sizewell C

Cllr Macdowell advised that he has the feedback from the first meeting and is working on a

combined letter to EDF. The comments mainly relate to the particular projects and speed limits in their own villages. He will compile the feedback to date, but is still waiting to hear back from Darsham. He will circulate some dates to hold a meeting after the elections and to invite EDF along with the other parishes. Middleton to host the meeting.
The Chairman thanked Cllr Macdowell for his work.

7. Finance

a) To note that the draft accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been prepared by the previous Clerk and are due to be submitted for internal audit on 17th April.
It is hoped that the accounts can be signed off at the AGM.

b) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Drop In Centre expenses	Lesley Taylor	£174.09	LGA 1972 s.137
Locum Clerk Services (March)	Melanie Thurston	£93.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Locum Clerk Services (April)	Melanie Thurston	TBC	

8. Any Other Business

a) County Broadband proposals.

The Chairman informed that he had seen a proposal from County Broadband to install a broadband cabinet/box on the Moor close to the junction of Moor Road and to attach to the power supply there. It was agreed by all that the siting of this cabinet in such a prominent position should be opposed.

b) Planning Matter.

Cllr Macdowell would like to declare an interest in a planning application which he has submitted to the district council.

The Chairman apologised that he had missed the notification of the planning application which had been sent to the Clerks email address: DC/23/1113/LBC Listed Building Consent, proposed conversion of agricultural building at Valley Farm, Leiston Road, Middleton to accommodate bats roosting. The Parish Council agreed that they would have no objection to the application as they had not objected to the original application when submitted.

To be included on the agenda for the AGM and to confirm no objection.

9. Items for the Next Agenda. Planning Application DC/23/1113/LBC.

10. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the Annual Parish meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 6:00pm at the Village Hall. Village groups and organisations will be invited to attend and to submit a report. This will then be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Dowding and Whitbread for their services to the Parish Council over the past year. Their contribution and wisdom will be missed. The meeting closed at 7.35pm.