

MIDDLETON- CUM-FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Editorial

Nearly there! Just over 2 weeks till indoor meetings/dining/village hall activities can re-start- subject to rules of Step 3 of course (though it's bound to be a heatwave then and we'll all want to be outside!). May is traditionally the month for some of the village AGM's – detailed later on in this issue, and we have the local elections some of which are postponed from 2020. New faces at any of the AGM's will be very very welcome. Speaking of new faces we have several more new families moved in to the village recently, welcome one and all, if you have children under 18 please let me know and I can add them to the Community Council Christmas list. Also if you currently receive your newsletter as hard copy please email me if you'd like to receive it electronically. (or vice versa)

The front cover this month shows the flag up at the playing field at half-mast as a mark of respect for the passing of Prince Philip, there is also reference to this in the church pages.

Speaking of the playing field – I sadly have to report some small misdemeanours – someone has removed quite a few of the stakes holding the netting around the cricket square and flung them around. Someone/ some children? have been playing inside the cricket netting and on at least 2 occasions in the past week the yellow ring from the boules box has been found flung across the field – presumably used as a frisbee! Very disappointing ! But worse than these incidents there has been dog mess left around the field again. Now the school children are using the field again and a running track is marked, and the cricket club may well be back soon it's essential to clear up after your dog please.

Contributions for the next newsletter to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to

barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 25th May.**

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual. Also to be found on the Parish website.

<http://middletoncumfordleywebsite.zohosites.com>

Nigel Smith – a personal statement

I have decided to resign from the parish council. I set out my resignation email to my colleagues, which explains my reasons, below.

Dear Friend

I have thought long and hard about my position on the parish council. It is quite clear that the majority of councillors do not share my views on the Sizewell Relief Road, and I have been subjected to personal attacks by two members of the public. I have done my best to be fair – and quite frankly, I have had sleepless nights thinking about what might be the best way forward for all. Accordingly, I am resigning forthwith as a member of the council.

I have enjoyed my time working with you all. I think I leave the council in a much better position than when I started – largely thanks to Sharon and Julian. And we now have a really first-rate group of councillors who are all pulling their weight. I wish you all well.

Kind regards

Nigel

I always said that I would stay on until we got the Hastoe affordable housing sorted - in particular the under-occupancy problem. Well, fifteen minutes after I resigned, I heard that it has been sorted. This is really good news: the affordable homes will now be available to single people in the village, who need them.

It has been a real privilege to represent the people of Middleton. I wish my successor well.

Nigel Smith

**** PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES ****

Middleton-cum-Fordley Community Council AGM May 2021

After the proposed rule changes on 17th May it is hoped to hold the above **AGM at 7pm on Tuesday 25th May 2021** in the Village Hall. If the regulations do not change then it will be held either outside or virtually at the same time on the same date.

Middleton-cum-Fordley Village Hall AGM 2021

After the proposed rule changes on 17th May it is hoped to hold the above **AGM at 7pm on Wednesday 26th May 2021** in the Village Hall. If the regulations do not change then it will be held either outside or virtually at the same time on the same date.

Please come along and meet us if you are interested in getting involved. We need a few more people.

Meetings aren't too frequent or too onerous !



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

In partnership with

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND

MCC / Village Hall can offer anyone without internet or printing access the opportunity to use our laptop/tablet/printer for any purpose of ordering, booking, searching, printing documents, photocopying etc as you might in a public library. Initially this is offered on a Thursday morning whilst the drop-in coffee morning is open so you could combine it with a coffee and a (probably much needed) socially distanced chat.

We understand that people are still nervous in the current situation so other times can be by arrangement if you prefer not to be with others or a Thursday isn't convenient for you, 'phone Barbara on 648726 to arrange a time.

Another option might be if your printer stops working and you need something printed you could bring your own ipad/tablet to the hall by arrangement or you could email it to mcfvillagehall@outlook.com which you can then retrieve and print at the hall. Please don't be shy of asking.

Middleton Archives - please start sending in any photos you'd like archived from the past year of 'Middleton in lockdown'. mcfvillagehall@outlook.com

Drop-in coffee morning

Weather permitting, the drop-in coffee morning convenes at the Village Hall on Thursdays 10 - 11.30am. (After May 17th we can be indoors!)

We will be outside in the sheltered part at the back of the hall so wrap up and bring a blanket if you wish. All welcome.

Transport can be arranged if needed.

Contact Lesley 07970257329 or Lynda 668977

Don't forget you can avail yourself of any of our new IT installations if you need to.



N.B. we have checked with East Suffolk Council and the coffee morning can go ahead outside as normal on May 6th - Election Day - so why not stop for a coffee after voting?

MIDDLETON BELL



Re-opening schedule

I would like to start with a big thank you for the support of the village in attending the BBQ we hosted on the 16th April for which we had over 100 booked in, all seated in the garden behind the pub. So thank you from the Bell team.



As of the 17th May The Bell will reopen fully for food and drinks inside and outside, still with table service and social distancing in place.

Bar opening times

Mon - Sat lunchtime 12 until 3pm Evening 6pm until 11pm

Sunday 12 until 7

Food serving times

Mon - Sat lunch 12 until 2.30pm Evening 6pm until 9pm

Sunday lunch 12 until 4pm

Second Sunday of the month we will also be doing a BBQ from 5pm.

Also available will be a mid-week special set menu.

We will commence our new menu with all produce sourced locally.

I have also to announce that our previous Head Chef James Kingston is moving on at this time and Rob Evans will be taking over the role.

Wednesday coffee mornings 10am -12.

Friday Fish 'n' chips / scampi will continue until the restaurant is open.

Tel: 648286



Please contact Leroy if you wish to be included on Bell e-mailing list

eyoy69@btinternet.com

WI News

At our April Zoom meeting, Ian Barthorpe from RSPB Minsmere gave us a virtual talk and tour around the reserve. In 1947 land was rented from the Ogilvie Estate to set up the reserve. The beach still had on it WW2 defenses of dragon's teeth, barbed wire, and concrete anti-tank blocks (which remain still). A small carpark, a makeshift visitor centre, and a few pioneering hides were put in. From that small start the Reserve expanded and in 1977 the RSPB through fundraising was able to purchase 240,000 acres of land that contained a variety of habitats which has contributed to having a biodiverse 6000 species at Minsmere.

Ian started the tour at the car park and visitor centre which was built in 1996. From there you can look down on the old car park which has been turned into a pond where water voles live, and the sand bank sides are used by nesting sand martins. A dozen species of bees and wasps including the bee wolf can be found.

Along the beach and sand dunes are plants like sea kale and sea poppy. The sand dunes hold back (at least for now) the sea from flooding the Scrape which is a man-made shallow coastal lagoon, an area of fresh water and islands made for the wading birds like avocets (RSPB poster bird) and a variety of terns. Going south along the Scrape you come to the sluice which controls the flow of water into the River Mins. This is the most likely place to spot swallows. There are paths then leading to the grazing marshes for the highland cattle and konik ponies. Birds to be seen in the marshes are lapwings and red shanks.

The reed beds are next. The beds consist of fresh and old reeds and water. The reeds need to be cut in a 7-year rotation and the water levels managed not by flooding but by digging out the soil. These reeds have been the site of conservation success: the bittern, 180 booming males have been counted! The bearded tit and the marsh harrier have also thrived. New to Minsmere is the great white egret and there is hope that the common crane seen in the Norfolk Broads will make it to here. Also to be mentioned living here are otters and many species of dragonfly.

Ian then moved on to the woodlands and heathlands of Minsmere. The nightingales sing in April, the bluebells bloom in May, the stone curlews nest in fields grazed by rabbits, and it is perfect habitat for the red deer, the largest herd found outside of Scotland. Ian reminded us that there is much to see and do at Minsmere and we thanked him for his fascinating talk. He suggested that us locals go the Reserve early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid the crowds!

LV

[Reckford Roost Farm Shop](#)

Opening hours are:

Tuesday to Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sundays 10am - 4pm, closed on Mondays,

We are doing food outside and the asparagus has just started albeit very slowly.



Thank you

I wish to say a big thank you to everyone throughout the village who has helped me and offered support during the long period that I have not been allowed to drive a vehicle on the road. (I now have my new car.)

Alan Giblin (Rectory Road)

Does anyone have a use for empty jam jars (hold 340g)? All have lids and I have 20 of them going spare, contact Jackie 01728 648621



HOLY TRINITY MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY



SERVICES DURING MAY

May 9th Morning Praise 11am

May 23rd Holy Communion 9.30am with Theberton - at Theberton

There continue to be a variety of services on Zoom throughout the month on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. If you would like more information/a link to these, please contact Maureen Jolley: maureen.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com

UPDATED CHURCH OPENING TIMES FROM WEDNESDAY 5th MAY

From 5th May the church will be open every Wednesday between 10am and 4pm as a place to pause, for private prayer and reflection.



As the church gradually opens up once more, it feels like a good moment to remind our wider community - who have been a beautiful demonstration to us all of loving your neighbour in the meantime - how welcome you would be if you wanted to join us on a Sunday. The church sits at the heart of our village and belongs to everyone.

There are other ways you can show your support too if you like, perhaps by joining the cleaning rota (the more 'holy dusters' the merrier!) or, requiring less elbow grease, doing the occasional reading at a service.

There is no need to be a church goer to help out. If you would like to volunteer - or simply find out more - please contact:

Holy Dusters - Amanda Taylor: ajt.opom@gmail.com

List of Readers - Paul Taylor: taylspaul@gmail.com

If you are already on either of these rotas, heartfelt thanks. We will bravely assume that you are happy to continue unless we hear otherwise.

REMEMBERING PRINCE PHILLIP

As the church is unable to open its Book of Condolence at the moment, the PCC has placed a prayer into the St Edmundsbury Book of Condolences. If you would like to see it please go the Diocesan link to the Book of Condolences and Prayer Wall on the Cathedral website: [Remembering HRH Prince Phillip - St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#)



HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Middleton APCM will be held on Tuesday 18th May at 7.45 by Zoom — everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like the Zoom link please contact Amanda Taylor: ajt.opom@gmail.com

CELEBRATING EASTER IN HOLY TRINITY

While many of us have appreciated the home comforts of Zoom church from the sofa, mug of coffee to hand, through these dark, winter months, it was with gentle joy that those of us who felt able gathered once more in Holy Trinity on Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The service was well supported and, while we are still not allowed to sing inside, Trish provided music for us on the organ. Brian spoke with deep insight and there was a heartfelt hope that those who did not yet feel ready to join us in person were, even so, with us in spirit. Then, at the end of the service, filled with fresh heart, we walked out into the sunshine and to the sight and sound of spring lambs with their mums in the churchyard. Cause enough to raise our voices together in song - soon, we hope...

...soon enough - after Morning Praise at Holy Trinity on Sunday 11 April, Rev Tim lead his little flock out into the churchyard at the close of the service where we sang a hymn together - noisily accompanied by the four-legged variety!



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MIDDLETON RECEIVES A LIFELINE GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S CULTURE RECOVERY FUND

Holy Trinity Church has received a financial boost from the government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help fund vital repairs during the coronavirus pandemic. Lifeline grants from the Culture Recovery Fund are designed to protect heritage sites and ensure that jobs and access to culture and heritage in local communities are protected during the months ahead.

Holy Trinity Middleton has been awarded £25,000 towards the cost of essential construction work to stabilise the chancel buttress and stop further movement. The grant comes at a crucial point because, if left longer damage to the much-loved church may have been more extensive and would then have been much more difficult to repair.

Grants are being allocated to cherished heritage sites, like Holy Trinity, across the country to cover urgently needed maintenance and repairs. This vital funding comes from a part of the Culture Recovery Fund called the Heritage Stimulus Fund and is administered on behalf of the government by Historic England. As well as rescuing precious heritage buildings in need, the injection of cash will protect livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors working in the sector.



Duncan Wilson, Historic England Chief Executive said: "Historic places across the country are being supported by the Government's grants awarded under the Culture Recovery Fund. This funding is a lifeline which is kick-starting essential repairs and maintenance at many of our most precious historic sites, so they can begin to recover from the damaging effects of COVID-19.

"It is also providing employment for skilled craft workers who help keep historic places alive and the wheels of the heritage sector turning. Our shared heritage is an anchor for us all in these challenging times and this funding will help to ensure it remains part of our collective future."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Site meeting has taken place and RJ Hogg the main contractors plus the Specialists are engaged.
- Work is scheduled to start on Monday 28th June and is expected to run for 6 weeks.
- Unless unexpected issues arise – work will be external and be at the East end of the Church.
- Services and other activities inside the Church will proceed as normal unless emergencies occur.
- Further details of the works and related issues will be advised in the June Newsletter, once all smaller details have been finalised and the full information is available.

May Nature Notes

Once the weather becomes warmer in May then dragonflies begin to emerge. The first to be seen are usually damselflies - the term dragonfly is applied to all insects of the order Odonata, which includes both dragonflies and damselflies. Damselflies being usually smaller, slender-bodied delicate insects: dragonflies are larger and more robust.

Damselflies belong to the sub-order Zygoptera (meaning paired-wings). All four wings are near enough equal in size and shape and when at rest most species hold their wings along the length of their abdomen, although the emerald damselflies all spread their wings at an angle to the body. Damselflies are weakly flying insects, and rather than active flight, they drift from plant stem to stem or stay close to the water margins and surface. As a result they get much of their prey by plucking it out from vegetation rather than by chasing it through the air which is characteristic of larger dragonflies. Damselfly activity is very much governed by the air temperature. When it is low, at night or during periods of wet or cloudy weather, dragonflies are inactive and they conceal themselves low down in long vegetation. In most damselfly species, males are more brightly coloured and as a result are easier to spot and to identify compared to the duller and often variable coloured females.



In Britain there are about twenty species of damselfly, of which only eight species are likely to be seen in this area including two species, the small, red-eyed damselfly and the willow emerald damselfly which have only colonised Britain from Europe in the last fifteen years or so. The most common species which are likely to be found in most wet places, including garden ponds as well as rivers and streams are the large red damselfly - the only common red damselfly, and is the species that tends to occur earliest in the year, the blue-tailed damselfly which is black with a blue band near the tip of the abdomen and the common blue damselfly which could be considered to be the most typical damselfly although it shares its blue and black colouration with other species such as the azure damselfly and the variable damselfly. Close inspection of the patterns at the top of the abdomen are needed to separate this group of damselflies. The largest damselfly is the striking Banded Demoiselle where the male has a metallic blue body and a dark blue band across the centre of the wings – making it look rather an exotic species for Britain. Whereas, the female looks completely different and could easily be mistaken for another species. It has a green body with a bronze tip and iridescent pale green wings. Banded Demoiselles are probably the most common ‘dragonfly’ along the Minsmere River and can be found along the banks from May until September.

Peter Vincent



IP17 Good Neighbour Scheme (IP17GNS) is a charity run by volunteers to support people in IP17 postcodes through the coronavirus lockdown **and beyond**.

If you need help, call between 10am and 4pm, 0333 335 5266

For non-urgent requests, please email: help@ip17gns.com



Steps of a Nurse



Three or four years ago Renny and Barbara undertook the 'Ride & Stride' Challenge in aid of Middleton church and raised over £300 just by walking between 6 different local churches in a day.

This time we are undertaking the "Steps of a Nurse" challenge in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice. The challenge is to walk in two months the steps a nurse walks in one!

We are tasked with 190 miles between 1st May and 30th June – which averages out at just over 3 miles a day. Not too bad we think – ask us in a couple of weeks' time!

We have set ourselves a slightly higher target of £500 and anyone wishing to sponsor us can do so via our Just Giving page – we don't mind which of us you choose it all goes in the same pot.

www.justgiving.com/team/RennyBarbara

(or in person if you don't have online access)

We will give an update on our progress at the halfway point in the next newsletter.

<https://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/ipswich-hospice-launches-steps-challenge->

Also there are youtube video clips with more details.

<https://youtu.be/HQXZn7SBM4M>

Middleton Open Gardens - 14th and 15th August 2021

Unless things change we have our event for 2021. There has been a resounding "Yes" from those who have welcomed visitors in the past and an encouraging "Why not" from those who have not opened previously.

So far I estimate 15 gardens and as they say in the media "Talks are still progressing".

Thank you all so much.

Irene Ralph

648622 or email ireneralph333@gmail.com



MIDDLETON MOOR MANAGEMENT GROUP

I would like to thank Mike and Jenny Hemming for kindly purchasing and attending to the flowerpots at the Moor notice board. These have added a note of brightness during the rather dark days of the last few months. I was pleased to see that the various tools purchased by this Management Group for the Summer Wine people have been used to good effect with work being done at the large pond and along the B1122, clearing willow herb remnants. They have also cleared the pond immediately to the east of Moor House driveway (The Birthing Pond) with one small pond to the west side at the time of writing still to be done. As soon as the Government instructions permit, I plan to call a meeting for all Moor residents. This meeting has been delayed because of the sad passing of Peter Smith and Bob Perrett as well as the effects of the Covid epidemic. A number of important issues which are likely to affect us all will be discussed, and it is vital that we stand up for the precious asset we know as The Moor. I hope to have a date shortly and I will be keeping in touch. The meeting will be at Watermill Farm.

Jane Etheridge. Chair, Middleton Moor Management Group

Village Hall Landscaping update

Before... (you can see where the rabbits had already started to 'move back in'!

We stored all the donated snowdrops safely in trays until ready for planting - we reckon there were over a thousand bulbs in total!! Many thanks again for those.



Snowdrops spread out on upper levels (to encourage self-seeding into lower levels over time).



After raking top layer of soil back & removing all tap-root weeds, snowdrops were planted in clumps.



Wire mesh went in to stop the rabbits digging (and we also applied a 'rabbit deterrent' solution at the top around the tree roots).



Hessian membrane went on next to stop the light, sandy soil from eroding.

We saved some wildlife and replaced him in the undergrowth below the lovely cherry trees at the top.

The soil was replaced over the wire and hessian layers



aaaaaaand..... back to how it was!! Phase 1 completed. Next phase will be planting donated perennials over the course of the year.



Can you help us continue with the landscaping at the Village Hall?

Not all plants would be happy growing in this situation but there are some which will naturalise well on such a steep bankside.

We already have some small spreading shrubs to put in and would like to underplant so that eventually all the soil is covered again. Here is a list of plants we are now on the lookout for. If you should have any of these in your garden that you are happy to split up at the moment and contribute for the village hall that would be fantastic. Thank you.

(for any of these we would only want small offshoots - which will establish much better than large clumps):

Ajuga reptans/bugle (any variants)

Bulbs: Crocus, Scilla

Geranium macrorrhizum (rock crane's-bill)

Lamium (dead nettle)

Primroses (English/wild)

Symphytum (ideally 'Hidcote Blue or Pink' but normal Comfrey also good)

Vinca Minor (lesser periwinkle - not the large one, that's already there)

Violets (English/common/wood violet)

Same places to leave them as for the snowdrops. Thank you again!

Mandy & Steve mobilemandy@me.com

Tel: 648212

Following the piece about the Hastoe plot development in Back Road I thought the readers might find this picture interesting. It is taken from the Suffolk official site. It does show those who walk the road what is going on.

Mark



And hot off the press : The naming of the Drive

Neil Salisbury of the Hastoe Housing Association who are currently constructing the new Affordable housing development in Back Road has asked if the Village would like to name the new access road that will serve the development. I think this is a nice idea rather than having a non-meaningful name such as 'The Drive' etc. As an example these might be 'Galanthus Drive' if we take the lead from the snowdrops that grew in the hedgerow along Back Road.

Or perhaps 'Roke Drive' from the early morning & late evening mist that runs down the field at certain times of the year (Roke is an old East Anglian term for that mist). Or perhaps 'Cutty Wren Close' after the Boxing Day celebrations held in this Village.

We have a timeline so I'm asking for suggestions by 8th May and from there the received suggestions will go out via Barbara's electronic/hand delivered Village news for a vote the following week. The most votes wins and we have the naming of the Drive.

Steve Thorpe
Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Councillor
Highways/Footpaths & Green Issues
Your suggestion can reach me via
Email:
Parishcouncillorthorpe@btinternet.com
Txt: 07941144293

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 13th APRIL 2021 AT 6:00 PM VIA ZOOM

1. Chairman

The Council noted the resignation of the Chairman and appointed Cllr. Roy Dowding as Acting Chairman until the Annual Meeting which is scheduled for 4th May 2021. Cllr. Dowding said it was sad that the Chairman felt it necessary to resign and that he will be a hard act to follow.

2. HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh

The Council paid its respects to His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh who recently passed away.

3. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

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

Apologies for absence:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond
District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
4 members of the public

4. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Lynda Whitbread, Cllr. Lesley Taylor and Cllr. Colin Whitbread declared a pecuniary interest in item 7. The Clerk advised that all three Councillors had requested a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011. The Council agreed to grant the dispensation as it was considered to be in the interests of persons living in the area.

With the agreement of the Council, the Acting Chairman varied the Order of Business.

5. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a) The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2021.
- b) The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 30th March 2021.
- c) There were no matters arising from both meetings.
- d) The Council accepted a request from Cllr. Lynda Whitbread and Cllr. Colin Whitbread to amend item 9 in the minutes from the meeting held on 9th February 2021. It was agreed that only a brief discussion was held about whether the Council agreed with two local landowners that the Sizewell Link Road should be taken up after the construction period and no formal vote was taken.

6. Public Forum

- a) A resident informed the Council of the results of his Sizewell Link Road survey. He said he had received 212 responses from three parishes of which 58 responses were from Middleton postcodes: 55 in favour of removing the road after the construction period and 3 in favour of it remaining. It was not made clear whether these responses were from households or individual residents. The resident said the 55 did not attend the Council's extraordinary meeting and that he is concerned that a vociferous minority who attended and gave their opinion to retain the road should not undermine the purpose of his survey, which was to show the results to the Planning Inspectorate so it could force EDF to remove the road. This will increase the build costs and will cause EDF to consider alternative routes. The resident said it was the job of the Council to represent the community and to make a decision on this matter, having taken the opinion of the local people, and not to sit on the fence. He asked how the Council reaches a decision whether it was on a majority of Councillors or through the Chair.

Cllr. Roy Dowding said he had received a professional opinion from a resident who is a Fellow of the Market Research Society on the veracity and legality of the survey and the likelihood of it having any standing with the Planning Inspectorate. She said categorically that there are some strong in-built biases in the survey and the Examining Authority should quite rightly, in her professional opinion, refuse to accept it as evidence due to bias. It is entitled 'The SLR Removal Vote' whereas it should be a vote on the future of the Link Road once Sizewell C is built. The explanations are also biased as it only gives reasons for its removal and no potential benefits for keeping it. She said the parish might be glad of the road in 15 years' time when the level of traffic going to Sizewell for outages and other energy projects is still heavy. Cllr. Dowding said he had asked the Council whether it was appropriate to make a decision on behalf of the parish when it does not have the whole of the parish's opinions, and the opinions it has received in writing and at the extraordinary meeting have been mixed.

Cllr. Julian Cusack explained the Council's decision-making process which is founded in its Standing Orders. The process under which the Council reaches decisions on matters set before it on its agenda is by voting by members of the Council in accordance with their views, which are informed by residents. The members have a duty to vote in accordance with their best belief as to the right future for the parish. If the parish electorate do not like the decisions the Council takes then the remedy is to remove them at the next election. Cllr. Cusack said the next practical step was for the Council to decide whether it should make a representation to EDF at its next meeting scheduled for the end of April about whether it is in favour of the Link Road being removed or retained. An alternative, perfectly legitimate decision is for the Council to say to EDF at the meeting that, in its opinion, a decision about the Link Road cannot be made at this time and any decision should be reserved for the Council and other relevant authorities at the time that the road is no longer deemed necessary for the construction of Sizewell C. A decision can be taken in the future at which point the facts pertaining to traffic flows can be reasonably taken into account and a rational decision made. Cllr. Cusack said he did not think this was 'fence sitting' and that it was a reaction to an uncertainty that is built into the circumstances. Cllr. Cusack said he was not interested in playing games with EDF nor with the Planning Inspectorate and they will not take any notice of what Parish Councils say. The decisions about Sizewell C will be taken on the basis of national policy and national planning matters. His view and vote, in the best interests of the parish, is for the Council to reserve its decision about the Link Road until it is no longer required for the purposes for which it may be built. Cllr. Cusack said that if the road is built it is inconceivable that it will be taken up.

Cllr. Roy Dowding agreed and said, in his opinion, the Council should reserve judgement until it has more information from other people including the County Council and whether it will harden or weaken its stance to adopt the road.

- b) A resident supported the third option of the Council reserving its judgement at this time as there is no information about the traffic burden in the future and any decision by the Council should be deferred until it can be taken on valid evidence which no-one has at present.
- c) A resident agreed that the Council should not make a decision at this time as the information about potential traffic volumes is still fluid and unknown. She opined that the Council reserving its decision would be the wisest and strongest choice.
- d) A resident opined that it was naïve to make a decision after the Link Road was built and this was effectively a vote for it to remain. He said EDF need to be pinned down in advance. He urged the Council to make a decision either way.

7. Sizewell Link Road

The Council considered whether to make a representation to EDF about whether the Link Road should be removed following the construction period to restore farmland and countryside or it should remain to alleviate traffic volumes on the B1122.

Cllr. Colin Whitbread said, that while he has sympathy with the landowners, he would like the road to remain. He said the arrangements between EDF and the landowners were not known, whether they were lease agreements or compulsory purchase orders with an option to repurchase the land at a favourable price if the road is taken up. He said these arrangements should be made clear to all concerned parishes. He said there was danger in the argument to press for the road to be taken up as EDF may decide not to build it and all the construction traffic will pass through the Moor. He said he does not want Sizewell C built but if it is then the Link Road needs to be constructed to a high engineering standard and become the new arterial route from the A12 to the Sizewell site.

Cllr. Lesley Taylor said she was disappointed that the Council has reached this difficult position and a vote either way has the potential to upset half the residents. She said she was concerned that the Council was considering its options in an insular way and suggested that the neighbouring parishes should be consulted for their views and these should be considered by the Council, as presenting a united front may put all parishes in a stronger position. She also had concerns that the Council was considering this matter for the wrong outcome and if the outcome was to force EDF to reconsider the D2 route then this is unrealistic as the D2 and alternative routes do not form part of EDF's proposals to the Planning Inspectorate. She said if the Council makes the Link Road difficult for EDF then they may delay building it, use the B1122 during the peak construction phase and deem it capable of taking the construction traffic for the remainder of the build.

Cllr. Roy Dowding confirmed that the D2 option was not in EDF's DCO application. The only way to have this route reconsidered is for the Planning Inspectorate to ask EDF why it did not give it more consideration as it will be mentioned in many Relevant Representations.

Cllr. Steve Thorpe said his initial vote was to remove the Link Road but after listening to Cllr. Taylor he agreed that the Council should not make a snap decision at this meeting and it should consult with neighbouring Parish Councils, and listen to the views of more residents, before forming its opinion.

Cllr. Chris Reynolds agreed with Cllr. Taylor and Cllr. Thorpe and said that whichever decision the Council makes it will split the parish. He sees that there are pros and cons to both sides but the Council should obtain further information and carefully consider its position.

Cllr. Roy Dowding proposed that the Council should reserve its judgement at this meeting until it has all the information it desires. All were in favour.

8. Casual Vacancy

The Clerk reported that one application has been received for the Councillor vacancy. The Council agreed the following process for co-opting applicants. Vacancies will be advertised on the website and noticeboards. A small working group will then meet all applicants informally and report back to the Council. Cllr. Julian Cusack, Cllr. Lynda Whitbread and Cllr. Lesley Taylor agreed to form this working group. The Clerk said she had reported the outgoing Chairman's resignation to the District Council.

ACTION Clerk to arrange a meeting with the applicant online or outdoors.

9. Trustees of the Middleton Recreation Ground

a) The Council noted the receipt of a Local Restrictions Support Grant arising from the closure of the pavilion during the second lockdown. The Council agreed to contact East Suffolk Council to confirm the Trust's eligibility to receive the grant and to hold the funds in abeyance until the position is clarified.

ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to progress.

b) The Council agreed not to replace sections of the boundary fencing at this time to allow the neighbouring owner to carry out improvements to his property as he may require access from the Recreation Ground.

c) The Council considered a quotation from Eastern Play Services to affix a spring to the gate as a self-closing mechanism. Cllr. Julian Cusack said they were contractors for playgrounds, and this was their recommendation. Cllr. Steve Thorpe opined that it was not particularly safe for small children and that a hydraulic, soft-closing mechanism would be preferable. Cllr. Thorpe offered to fit an identical spring he has in stock for free and to monitor its use. If it is considered to be unsafe, Cllr. Thorpe said he would research alternative methods.

ACTION: Cllr. Steve Thorpe to progress.

d) The Council considered grass protection methods and a barrier for the overflow car parking area but agreed not to proceed at this time. It was decided to erect a seasonal sign politely asking users not to park on the grass from October to May.

ACTION: Cllr. Lesley Taylor and Cllr. Steve Thorpe to progress.

e) The Council agreed to accept a quotation from Eastern Play Services to replace areas of safety surfacing and to repair and clean items of play equipment for £1,475 excluding VAT.

ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to progress.

10. Highways

a) The Council agreed to apply for ANPR cameras from SCC Highways to monitor speeding on the B roads.

ACTION: Council to speak to the County Councillor at the next meeting.

b) Cllr. Lynda Whitbread agreed to speak to the village volunteer about downloading the data from the Speed Indicator Device on the B1122. Cllr. Steve Thorpe said he would progress the request for permission to site the Speed Indicator Device on the B1125.

ACTION: Cllr. Lynda Whitbread and Cllr. Steve Thorpe to progress.

11. Footpaths, Trees and Green Issues

a) Cllr. Julian Cusack reported that he and Cllr. Steve Thorpe will attend a virtual meeting with Suffolk County Council later this month about the Ecology team's response to the management of wildlife verges in the parish.

b) Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that a footpath in the parish is blocked.

ACTION: Cllr. Chris Reynolds to report to Suffolk County Council via its online reporting tool.

c) Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that EDF have commissioned an ecologist to survey the Moor ponds for great crested newts. Cllr. Lynda Whitbread said the survey included bats and other wildlife and that they are happy to share their results. It was agreed to ask EDF to share the report.

ACTION: Cllr. Roy Dowding to ask EDF.

c) The Clerk informed the Council that SOS Swifts had decided to site the free community package of six swift nesting boxes and call system on the east gable of the primary school. The school had been looking into this last year but the project was postponed due to lockdown. If the grant application to the AONB fund is successful then the Church can be reconsidered as a potential site for further nesting boxes.

12. Planning and Hastoe Housing

a) Cllr. Steve Thorpe updated the Council about the housing development on Back Road. Cllr. Thorpe said UK Power Networks will contact residents of Back Road to advise them of power and telecoms outages arising from re-siting the telecoms pole. Back Road will also need to be closed for a period of perhaps two weeks when all the necessary groundworks will be undertaken. Cllr. Thorpe raised a concern with Hastoe about workers on site on Saturdays. Hastoe confirmed the operational hours for the site are Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. They apologised for the groundworkers who attended without permission on Saturday and assured Cllr. Thorpe that this will not recur. The Council acknowledged that East Suffolk Council have finally agreed to allow under-occupancy of the homes by one bedroom.

b) The Council agreed to inform ESC of the derelict house at Annesons Corner.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

c) The Council agreed to send the outgoing Chairman's response to a report and survey from Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council regarding ESC's Planning Protocol.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

13. Middleton Moor

The Council discussed whether to arrange a virtual meeting with the Middleton Moor Management Group but decided this may disenfranchise members who are not conversant with Zoom. An outdoor meeting was considered but the current COVID guidelines of rule of six or two households are too restrictive. It was agreed to arrange a meeting from 17th May 2021 when outdoor gatherings of up to 30 people are permitted.

ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack and Cllr. Lesley Taylor to arrange a leaflet drop to all Moor households.

14. Village Hall

a) Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that the Village Hall AGM was scheduled for 26th May 2021.

b) Cllr. Lesley Taylor said the outdoor drop-in coffee mornings had commenced and were well received.

c) Cllr. Julian Cusack referred to the report received from the Management Committee regarding the condition of the roof and that the outgoing Chairman had agreed to contact a roofing contractor to undertake an exploratory inspection. Cllr. Chris Reynolds agreed to take this forward.

Cllr. Chris Reynolds to speak to the Management Committee.

15. Police

The Council noted the latest crime report from Suffolk Constabulary.

16. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including the receipt of a wayleave for £162.85 from UK Power Networks.

b) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£115.30	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£15.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Pavilion Electricity	British Gas	£35.62	PHA 1936 s.87
Pavilion Cleaning	Iulia Gutunoiu	£20.00	PHA 1936 s.87
Annual Subscription	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£189.07	LGA 1972 s.111

17. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received between 4th March 2021 and 7th April 2021.

18. Energy Projects

a) The Council agreed to discuss the following matters with EDF Energy at the meeting scheduled for 29th April 2021:

- keeping Fordley Road, and all pedestrian and vehicle access to Kelsale parish, open;
- speeding enforcement measures on the B1122 and B1125; and
- removing the junction between the B1125 and the Sizewell Link Road.

It was agreed to consider improvements to footpaths and cycleways in the parish and Village Hall roof repairs as Council matters. Cllr. Steve Thorpe agreed to attend the EDF meeting with Cllr. Roy Dowding.

ACTION: Clerk to add improvements to footpaths and cycleways to a future agenda.

b) Cllr. Lesley Taylor agreed to monitor potential property blight in the parish arising from the numerous energy projects.

19. Next Meetings

The Council confirmed the date and time of the virtual Annual Parish Meeting and the virtual Annual Meeting of the Council which are scheduled for Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

Public and press are welcome to attend all meetings. The details to join via Zoom are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6512941956?pwd=K29wbDZtUnhuaHRUTkxIWTZRQW1YQT09>

Meeting ID: 651 294 1956 Password: 3cwRhj

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

The minutes of the Parish Council extraordinary meeting held on 29th March 2021 are available on the website at middletoncumfordleywebsite.zohosites.com or from the Parish Clerk.

parishclerkmiddletoncumfordley@gmail.com

Private detectives roaming around Middleton Moor.

Two people equipped with nets and jars have been spotted wandering about The Moor. Who and what are they after? Perhaps photographing an errant businessman out with his secretary or someone from MI6 looking for Russian spies? No, their quarry has four legs and bears a strong resemblance to a small crocodile - it's the Great Crested newt. The detectives scoop up material from the beds of ponds and this is analysed for newt DNA, which at this time of year is likely to be in newt eggs attached to reeds. Previously one might have thought that DNA testing, which is not cheap, would be reserved for criminal investigation and paternity testing etc. Not a bit of it, as here it is being used in ecological surveys for a particular species of creature. Why the fuss about Great Crested Newts? The work has been commissioned by EDF in preparation for the new link road leading to Sizewell. Apparently newts, a protected species, will happily wander in a day, half or three quarters of a mile or so. This means that they could trespass on to the new road with implications for their well-being and future. Exactly what may befall the trespassers, apart from being flattened by a 44ton lorry, remains unclear but a cynic might say that rather more attention is being given to these harmless little animals than is being given to a bigger species, namely the local residents and landowners. AB

Middleton Amateur Weather Station

Rainfall Recordings

	1 year ago (2020)	10 years ago (2011)	20 years ago (2001)	30 years ago (1991)	Average (1991 – 2020)
February	85.5mm	52.0mm	94.0mm	31.0mm	50mm
March	24.5mm	8mm*	92mm	26mm	47mm
April	18mm	8mm	63mm	50mm	41.3mm
May	0.5mm	18mm	41mm	20mm	55.6mm

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Suffolk Constabulary has today, Monday 19 April, published images of 48 dogs in an effort to find their owners after the animals were seized as part of a police operation last month.

Only those people who have not got in touch with the constabulary previously should contact the investigation team via the email address opscout@suffolk.pnn.police.uk if they believe one or more of the dogs could be theirs. **All enquiries must be made by 24 May 2021.** Officers are asking people to use the email address only and **not** to contact the constabulary's Contact and Control Room on 999 or 101.

More than 80 dogs of various breeds and ages were found at West Meadows in Ipswich where police, assisted by partner agencies, executed warrants on Saturday 20 March. Over the past few weeks officers have been working hard to identify the owners of the 83 dogs. However, due to the lack of identifying features and information, the process has proved to be challenging. Few of the animals have yet been reunited with their owners. Now the investigation team is asking potential owners, who have not contacted the constabulary previously to come forward.

Detective Chief Inspector Nicola Wallace, Senior Investigating Officer for the operation, said: "We are keen to hear from anyone who believes any of the dogs in the images may be theirs. During the last few weeks officers have been liaising with other police forces around the country, as well as conducting a number of other enquiries, in order to establish where the dogs may have originated from."

Anyone who believes they can provide proof of ownership should email the investigation team by 24 May providing a full name, contact details and the image number which relates to the dog(s) in question. Please note, the email account will not be constantly monitored and the team will be unable to respond to any other enquiries regarding these dogs.

Proof of ownership can include the following:

- Veterinary/vaccination records clearly identifying the dogs.
- Pictures of the dog with any distinctive markings/scars/distinguishing features.
- Any details of microchipping – however, please note, all these dogs either do not have microchips or have chips which may not be correctly registered.
- Other pictures of the dog(s) which prove ownership during the dog's life.
- Any purchase details, including details of where the dog was purchased from and/or receipts.
- Any records of reporting the dog(s) lost/stolen either to police or on other websites/charities.
- Some dogs are grouped into possible litter groups, but this is not necessarily the case.

The public should also be aware that some of these dogs may have been lost, stolen or moved on over a period of time so they may not look exactly as they did when they were last seen.

To view the photos, head to the constabulary's website – <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/news/latest-news/ipswich-dog-owners-urged-come-forward-investigation-continues>

The photos will also be featured on the constabulary's Facebook page and Twitter account. Please note, that enquiries will only be received via the dedicated email address. Comments with any personal details or enquiries should not be posted on these pages/accounts.

Six people were arrested in connection with the operation in March. A 38-year-old man now aged 39, two 34-year-old men and three women aged 46, 41 and 35 - who are all from Ipswich - were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to steal following this operation. They were all taken to Martlesham Police Investigation Centre for questioning and were initially released on bail until Friday 16 April, pending further enquiries. Four of the six people – the 34-year-old man, the now aged 39-year-old man, the 41-year-old woman and the 46-year-old woman - have since had their bail date extended to Thursday 17 June. The other two people – the 34-year-old man and the 35-year-old woman - have been released and will face no further action at this time.



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