

MIDDLETON CUM - FORDLEY



The demise of the village green Christmas Tree!

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Editorial

Thank you to all those who sent in Christmas greetings and generously donated to the Newsletter. Our accounts are looking quite healthy at the moment – they have been independently checked (thank you Trish) and are published in this issue, so we can continue for now with colour copies which are much nicer. Advertisers – some of you have let me know but others haven't yet as to whether you wish to continue with your adverts into 2024. Due to the amount of Parish Council/SZC minutes I may have had to drop a couple this month so if you'd like it back please let me know. Looking ahead – I will not be here to edit the May issue so I was wondering if there might be a volunteer out there who might be interested in doing a one-off. You would need to be available to compile it the week beginning 22nd April and get it to the printers by email by 25th April. Let me know if interested.

Contributions for the next edition by email preferably as a WORD doc please to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 27th February** .

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

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

MY 70th BIRTHDAY DO.



Yes, I am 70 ! I know you can't believe it , but I am.

Thank you all for the Cards, gifts, and for the whip round (which you'll be unsurprised to learn I have put towards another musical instrument!) Plus the compulsory song from Peter, but above all, for being there.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself, doing what I love, (playing with the Band). I hope you all enjoyed it too.

Thank you Richard for your part in the proceedings. A fine speech as usual, although I think you need to speak up a bit !

Thank you to the Bell for putting on a fine spread. It was nice to see the Pub full with people laughing, and enjoying themselves, (remember, use it or lose it). I'll ask again in ten years. 🍷

And, a big thank you for my in laws, from the Midlands, and London for travelling over, I hope they enjoyed it. Thank you to Barbara for organising the accommodation etc.

Brian.

We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the 2023 Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The RBL provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families and the Poppy Appeal is a time where individuals and groups can show remembrance for everyone involved in previous conflicts, whether as a civilian or as part of the armed forces. Middleton, yet again, have shown their respect and gratitude and donated approximately £352.99. THANK YOU

Jackie, Chris & Rebecca



For sale

Dreamland "sleep guardian" electric over blanket king size used twice.

Contact Irene Ralph 648622 or ireneralph333@gmail.com

Many thanks Irene

The Friends of Middleton School

invite you to battle your wits and
have fun at our 2nd annual...

QUIZ NIGHT

Sat 23rd March

7:00 start

At Middleton Village Hall

Tables of up to 6

£7 per person

Cash Bar SUPPER Raffle

To book your table contact

Rebecca

curlyreynolds@gmail.com

All proceeds to Middleton School PTA

WI News

Since the last issue we have had two WI meetings. The December meeting was our end of year celebration. For setting up and decorating for the party we have to thank our helpers Tony, Bev, Steve, Liz and Mark. Jenny did the shopping. Lynda welcomed us all with a glass of mulled wine. We then tucked into a buffet of delicious savoury and sweet dishes made by our members. While we ate we enjoyed Christmas carols played by Hebe Cooke on her saxophone. When we had finished supper we had the fun of a Beetle Drive. Shirley and Rosemary divided us into teams, gave instructions (some of us were new to this) and off we went to construct a beetle. The fastest beetle builders won chocolate Santa's! Meanwhile our members also



remembered the women who have to use the Lighthouse Women's Refuge at Christmas by collecting gifts for them to open on that day, an idea proposed by Fiona. We had a table full and Bev volunteered to take them to the Refuge in Ipswich the following day.



This photo shows the collection we made for the clients at the Lighthouse Women's Refuge. The children are always given donated gifts to open but not their mum's. We donated items, beautifully wrapped for the mum's to open.

Our January meeting was a more serious affair, it was time to discuss which resolution the National Federation of WI's (NFWI) would campaign for in 2024. NFWI had whittled down 58 suggestions to 4. These four resolutions were read out to us and then discussed by our members. Lynne presented number 1: Dental health matters. There is a chronic shortage of NHS dentists and people are suffering health issues as a result. Lynda presented number 2: Impacts of poor housing conditions. Poor housing can have a deleterious effect on human health and well-being, safety and quality of life and can disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups in society. Christine presented number 3: Say no to gambling advertising. Harm caused by excessive gambling is a global problem. Some countries are already addressing this by banning advertisements. Janet, standing in for Jenny, presented number 4: Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. There is an urgent need to radically reform decision making in respect of women, in particular pregnant women and women with children to reduce the number of women who have committed non-violent offences from being imprisoned. After each was presented we asked questions, gave opinions, told personal anecdotes and discussed what the WI could realistically do to campaign for these issues. We thought all of them were worthy of government actions but we had to choose just one. Voting slips were handed out. The outcome: our WI voted for the Women and prison resolution. We shall know which resolution will be the 2024 national campaign in March.

In February we will not be having a meeting but we will enjoy a winter luncheon at the Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh

LV

Thursday Morning Group

The Thursday morning group continues to offer soup and a roll, along with a hot drink at the Village Hall. All welcome - and it's **FREE** ! Thursdays from 10.45am.

Please contact Lynda if you have a friend or neighbour in the village who you think might like to attend but is maybe shy or nervous of asking for a lift.

07890 067054



HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services during February



Sunday 18 February

11am Morning Prayer

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25 February

11am Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Lent

The Benefice service this month will be at Yoxford on

Sunday 4 February at 10am

For anyone who would like to attend church on Ash Wednesday, there will be an Ashing Service and Holy Communion at Yoxford on Wednesday 14 February at 10am

Please come along

An update on PCC led services

These services are, for obvious reasons, completely different from clergy led services. Our small group of 'leader's do an excellent job in putting them together, with the recent addition for those attending being invited to bring a poem or piece of music they wish to share with everyone. If we have nothing we wish to share we can simply listen and join in with our thoughts, all done with a cup of tea/coffee and warm croissant! It creates a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere in our beautiful church.

We are delighted that each time we have such a service we welcome more people, so please join us when next you see one of these PCC led services advertised.

Thank you to those who organise and give of their time and in so doing enable Holy Trinity to continue in providing our village with two services a month which at times would not be possible without a PCC led service.

Rita
Church Warden.

Claude Birks

Holy Trinity is very sorry to hear that Claude Birks has died, he was almost 102. He and his late wife, Margaret, lived for many years in Back Road and were active members of village life – some of us will remember playing badminton at Westleton with them.

Claude will be especially remembered by Holy Trinity for the Back Road gates he made that stood for many years and I still have a piece of his woodwork craftsmanship.

His funeral will be in Ipswich as was Margaret's last year.

Rita
Church Warden



New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none



7 February: Amanda and Irene

21 February: Camilla and Val

13 March: Margaret and Nicola

27 March: Mark and Liz

Thought for the Month

'Whatever happens,
those who have learned
to love one another
have made their way
into the lasting world
and will not leave
whatever happens.'

Wendell Berry

Middleton Open Gardens

1st & 2nd June 2024

*Would you be willing to open your garden for this popular
village event ?*

We are starting to plan for this year's open gardens event. We are always keen to add new gardens to further develop the eclectic mix. Visitors appreciate small, large, formal and informal gardens and they return year after year to enjoy this special weekend.

If you would like to know more about what this involves, please do text, email or call me.

Christine Burgess 07826 840478 or

christineburgess29@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER FINANCES FOR 2023

Newsletter INCOME 2023		Newsletter EXPENDITURE 2023	
		Leiston Press 1 issue @ £154 (Sept)	£ 154.00
Individual donations during the year	£ 1185.00	Leiston Press 6 issues @ £166 (March, May, Aug,Oct,Nov,Dec)	£ 996.00
Advertisers	£ 185.00		
Parish Council	£ 500.00	Leiston Press 4 issues @ £196 (Feb, April, June, July)	£ 784.00
WI	£ 125.00		
Christmas Greetings	£ 325.00	Bank charges	£ 63.42
MCC	£ 300.00	Annual petrol for collection & delivery	£ 33.00
Church (Open Gard/Concert)	£ 305.00	Part payment - Macafee anti-virus for laptop	£ 55.00
Total income 2023	£ 2925.00	Total expenditure	£ 2085.42
Carry forward from 2022	£ 1018.78		
		Income	£ 3943.78
Total with carry forward	£ 3943.78	Expenditure	£ 2085.42
		Balance	£ 1858.36

2023 has been a much better year financially than 2022 - thanks to all the wonderfully generous donations from our readers and village organisations. Once again THANK YOU ALL – it makes us all feel it is worthwhile whatever part we play in the compiling or delivery.

The newsletter income exceeded the expenditure for the first time in years - by over £800 .

When the carry forward is added we have a balance of £1858.36 – a goodly sum to take forward.

Without any extra income (which hopefully won't be the case) this will easily pay for 9 issues at the most expensive rate of which this issue is one (20 pages) or 11 issues at the smaller 16 page copies, assuming we continue with colour copies.

Printing costs for Leiston Press vary depending on the number of pages per edition and the number of copies printed stands at 115 (around half of the village) with more people requesting to go back to paper, or new residents coming in that I don't have emails for. New residents wishing to have more information can email me at barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or anyone with any questions about the accounting. Thank you Trish for being our independent examiner of the finances.

Thank you too, to our regular team of deliverers and all regular contributors. It wouldn't work without you all.

Remember donations can be made by BACS or cash through my letter box at 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road. Cheques are still possible but they incur us bank charges.

HSBC Middleton Newsletter sort code 40-28-33 account number 61054236

February Nature Notes

Mosses are familiar to all of us, occurring on the lawns, soil, paths, roofs, and trees of all our houses and gardens. Unlike most flowering plants which die back out of season, mosses are present throughout the year. However, it is often easier to find mosses in the winter months, when they are less likely to be overshadowed metaphorically and literally by larger and more showy plants.

Mosses together with liverworts and hornworts are collectively known as bryophytes. They are some of the oldest groups of land plants and have had millions of years to evolve a variety of species that have colonised almost all habitats apart from the sea. Ecologically they are very important, stabilising soils and helping to control the cycling of water and nutrients. Most have a simple structure with a main stem and branches covered in leaves and they are flowerless, reproducing by spores. They do not have roots but absorb water and minerals directly into the single layer of cells in the leaves. Though some bryophytes are strongly coloured, often red or purple, in the main they are one of the myriad shades of green. They range in size from being a few millimetres to over a metre tall. Mosses have stems with leaves, which may be upright, or creeping and much branched. Liverworts and the similar hornworts may be leafy and very similar to mosses (although the fruit looks quite different) or they may form flat plates of apparently leafless tissue.



Because the leaves of most bryophytes are only one cell thick, and very few of them have any specialised conducting tissue to transport water along the stem, they are very vulnerable to drying out. Although some species can tolerate drying out for long periods of time, many cannot survive unless kept moist. Therefore the best places to find bryophytes are sheltered and humid habitats such as woodlands, beside streams, and in damp places such as bogs and fens. Indeed in wet woodland they can carpet the ground and clothe every tree trunk and branch. Some are tolerant of high levels of disturbance and/or nutrient enrichment and in this group can be found many ubiquitous species. Others require more permanent situations, such as long-lived woodland or mires, whilst a substantial number are habitat specialists, found only in certain situations, such as on coastal rocks, in fens, on trees in the flood zone of silty lowland rivers, or on mountains at high altitude. But even unlikely habitats such as stubble fields can typically have a bryophyte flora of over fifteen species, and a less well maintained lawn over five species - it is interesting to note that close mowing encourages moss growth.

There are about 1,100 species of bryophytes found in the British Isles, and about 25,000 worldwide. As mosses and liverworts thrive in moist conditions, Britain and Ireland have about two-thirds of all European species of bryophytes compared with only about a sixth of European species of flowering plants. Suffolk, as would be expected in the comparatively drier conditions of the east, has a relatively poor bryophyte flora with only 335 mosses and 80 liverworts recorded.

Peter Vincent

Middleton Community Council

It seems a long while ago now but congratulations to the winners of the annual “Santa Boules” Peter and Brian (who are not members of the regular boules team) with runners up Richard Jenny.



2023 saw the return of the Christmas Party after a 3 year gap – over 50 people attended. Slightly down on pre-pandemic figures but judging from the feedback received everyone had a good time and were entertained by a group from the Ipswich Hospital Band getting us all in the Christmas spirit. The raffle raised £194 which we rounded up to send £200 to Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue. This is a local charity which assists the emergency services both with searching for missing /vulnerable people and assisting with resilience efforts for incidents such as flooding.

Trish and Barbara co-ordinated the party but many many thanks to all the other helpers whether they be cooks, waiters, carpark marshals, table decoration makers, washers up, ticket sellers, raffle prize donators (hopefully I’ve not forgotten anyone) and most of all those of you that came - without whom the party wouldn’t have been a success.

MCC this year gave out 30 x £10 vouchers on Christmas Eve to children and young people under 18 – if any were missed we are sorry but it’s because we don’t know they exist particularly in the outlying parts of the village! Please let us know for next year. Also no young person applied for our bursary last year – it is still available for anyone taking up a new hobby, for music tuition, or needing specialised clothing/ equipment for example. (This is not a definitive list – please feel free to ask by contacting Trish tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com)

The committee is currently setting up dates for events in the forthcoming year with the usual ones such as the fete midsummer quiz and Autumn Fair already in the diary. Please let us know if you have ideas of events you’d like us to consider or if you’d like to come and join our merry band.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR A NEW EVENT COMING UP FOR APRIL TIME – DETAILS NEXT MONTH.

YOXFORD BOWLS CLUB
cordially invites you to a
QUIZ NIGHT
at
YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL
on
SATURDAY, 2ND MARCH
2024
at
6.30pm for 7.00pm

CONTACT GRAHAM FARRANT (01728 688620)
TO ENTER YOUR TEAM OF 6 PEOPLE

ENTRY FEE £6.00 PER HEAD - NIBBLES / TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED - BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

Sizewell Update

Activity for Sizewell C is going to ramp up in 2024, and your Parish Council will try to keep you up to date as best it can from the various forums and communications we have with the Sizewell C team, county and district councils. The next 2-3 years have been dubbed the 'Early Years' when construction will have started before the new Link Road and the Park and Rides have been built, bringing a lot of traffic to the B1122, B1125 and other routes.

Rolling resurfacing of the B1122 from Mill St to Lovers Lane will take place through March and early April. It will take place between 8pm - 6am, so residents can expect to be disturbed for several nights each. Sizewell C hope to keep it Monday – Friday.

Noise Mitigation and Vibration schemes. Several residents are unhappy with how this being applied, and we have asked for a special property-by-property review meeting. If you would like to be included, please contact Lesley at taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk.

The Early Years cap of 600 HGVs and 300 buses a day is not expected before near the end of 2024. You can track activity, wide loads etc on www.szcworkstracker.co.uk

Behaviour. All employees have to sign a Code of Conduct covering driving, drink, drugs and other bad behaviour. Report anything that worries you on **0800 197 6102** which we are told will manned 24 hrs. Please get as much information as possible, especially registration nos.

Vehicle marking. Thanks to feedback from the Middleton Parish meeting (see below) Sizewell C is looking seriously at marking all SZC workers' cars, vans and HGVs with a special sticker. While HGV route tracking will take place to keep them on the B1122 and A12, they are not sure if the technology also can track speeds – but are looking into it.

Still to be decided/ announced: Speed limits and controls on B1122/ 1125; Incident management plan for floods, accidents etc; Timing of Link Road construction and start date.

If you have any specific concerns, please let me know on cllrcharlesmacdowell@gmail.com. Charles Macdowell, Middleton Parish Council.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUES 9 JAN 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL
(CONDENSED)
SIZEWELL C (SZC) PRESENTATION

Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Lesley Taylor – Vice Chair
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds

Apologies:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Michelle Kendall

Members of the public:

Nineteen members of the public

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk/RFO
SZC David Peacop, Site Operations Director
SZC Spencer Bowdler, Site Operations Site Lead
SZC Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager
Sizewell C Michelle Emmerson-Grey, Community Relations Manager

ESC District Cllr Katie Graham
SZC Tim Newton, Head of Security

Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

Sizewell C Presentation

Zoe Botten introduced the presentation. The slides would be made available or uploading onto the village website. Zoe Botten and Michelle Emmerson-Grey are based at Sizewell C information office in Leiston. Michelle Emmerson-Grey and Paul Lennon focus on individual enquiries. Zoe Botten and Richard Knight focus on governance and the Deed of Obligation.

David Peacop stated that the site is in three areas: MCA (Main Construction Area), ACA (Ancillary Construction Area) and TCA (Temporary Construction Area). The Marsh Harrier reserve has been completed with two other environmental resettling works to be done. The ACA area will house offices, which will develop throughout the rest of the year. The MCA area is where the two main power stations will be built. All security facilities will be housed in the MCA area.

The campus in the TCA will house 2,400 beds, to be removed at the end of the project. Sizewell C stated there will not be a repeat of Sizewell B in terms of employee behaviour and it will operate a Code of Conduct, signed by all employees.

Michelle Emmerson-Grey confirmed her role dealing with the Noise Mitigation Scheme and Vibration Surveys, and highlighted the works tracker (www.szcworkstracker.co.uk) encouraging residents to use it for updates and relevant information. It has a map of the area and pinpoints where works are happening. She reiterated her, and her colleagues, availability and reminded of the 24 hour, seven days a week help line (0800 197 6102).

Upon enquiry from Cllr Thorpe, she stated that they aim to respond to enquiries within five working days. How the enquiries are dealt with depends on their nature. 80% of enquiries are resolved on the same day.

Public Forum

A member of the public asked about car parking and the busy local supermarkets, David Peacop advised that dedicated shops on the campus will be available to workers.

Cllr Macdowell was disappointed that the presentation did not address traffic issues for Middleton, highlighting that the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) will not be built before construction so the current network will be required to carry all 'Early Years' construction and workforce traffic. The Sizewell team were unable to provide a start and finish date for the 'Early Years' phase but suggested a probable start date of two months.

Cllr Macdowell stated concern over vibration and noise insulation projects being completed before the traffic starts. SZC advised that all surveys will be starting in the next two weeks, following which a plan will be shared detailing exactly what is going to happen and when. He asked if this would all take place before the 600 trucks a day start, the reply to which was yes.

He then addressed speed limit enforcement. David Peacop advised that a plan has been set out, for approval. The county council have tentatively signed this off and it is going to the police tomorrow for their approval. This will include speed enforcement and dot matrix signs.

Cllr Macdowell enquired after an update of the 20mph limit on Middleton Moor. SZC confirmed their support for this and advised that they are in discussions with the county council.

Regarding flooding, SZC were asked what contingency plans would be in place, whereby diversion routes and signage is readily available. SZC responded that they are contingency planning now with the local police and that it should be up and running asap this year. Any diversions would be works and regular traffic. The Sizewell team offered to 'action' the parish council concerns over rat running and stub lanes curtailed by the SLR.

Enquiries were raised about the triggering of the DCO, in other words, the 'start', before SZC's Final Investment Decision. SZC were unable to answer.

On noise mitigation, a member of the public highlighted to the Sizewell team her own issues and was offered a chat after the presentation.

Another member of the public raised similar concerns and a feeling of being 'fobbed' off by EDF. SZC responded that each circumstance is different and that, to date, the Deed of Obligation properties are the ones that have received their packs so far. Those that are outside the distance set in the Deed of Obligation will be reviewed. Furthermore, refreshed noise assessments will be submitted and may include other properties, but Sizewell cannot legally, now, offer the scheme to anyone other than those properties named in the Deed of Obligation.

A member of the public raised issues/problems surrounding other power stations, suggesting that they are unbuildable. Reassurance was sought that the timetables are going to be met and within budget. David Peacop advised that it is 'above his pay grade' to provide this information, however, at the next main site forum (Tuesday 16 January in Leiston) the delivery program will be set out.

A lack of empathy displayed by EDF was raised, particularly for elderly residents whose final years will be disrupted.

David Peacop advised that traffic issues are the responsibility of the county council and agreed that road improvement works need to be done quickly. SZC will 'push' the council, who should be in attendance at the main site forum next week.

Cllr Katie Graham from East Suffolk Council introduced herself and advised that her colleague, Tom Daley, meets regularly with the Sizewell team on all issues raised.

Cllr Taylor highlighted an incident when two HGVs, one a SZC wide load, met on the B1122 and were unable to pass each other without knocking down the emergency sign for the level crossing. Although over a month ago, nothing has been done about fixing it. SZC were not aware of this and that it had not been reported and that they would investigate.

Cllr Taylor advised that when she followed two SZC lorries which eventually turned off into Lovers Lane, both were exceeding the speed limits the entire distance.

David Peacop directed the meeting to the worker Code of Conduct and asked that the public report incidents for further investigation and that workers had already been removed from the project for failure to comply.

Cllr Reynolds enquired whether the HGV route tracking systems could also monitor speeds. It was confirmed that these will be put in place, although when earlier asked if speeding of contractors is being monitored and the routes they're taking, the response was "the routes, yes".

Cllr Macdowell enquired what was to be done about private car workers driving to the site before the Park and Rides are built. SZC replied that they are unable to monitor the speed of cars but that they can, through the Code of Conduct, take action, if necessary. It was confirmed that the park and rides will be ready before the campus, although a start date could not be given.

Enquiries were made as to how behaviour is going to be policed. SZC stated that it depends on the incident and how it is reported. Reports of unsocial behaviour or breach of the Code of Conduct will be investigated by the security team. There are several proactive elements in place including a project induction, highlighting project values, the signing of the worker Code of Conduct, while everyone is put through alcohol and drug testing.

A member of the public asked about 'white van' deliveries to site. SZC stated that anybody coming onto the site is subject to the same conditions. Drivers must have a pass to enter the site and these can be terminated at a moment's notice. Residents were further encouraged to obtain registration numbers in order that problem drivers can be dealt with. There will also be postal consolidation at the southern park and ride and smaller items will be delivered there, and then all transported to site together, to avoid rat running.

A member of the public suggested identifying SZC workers and contractors' vehicles. It was agreed that this is something they will probably do as a sticker in the back windscreen.

A member of the public raised concerns over the extra traffic's effect on tourism. SZC stated that every effort would be made to manage the flow of traffic, highlighting the school runs as the two most important parts of the day. Residents highlighted the busy summer months too and suggested a lack of local knowledge.

Zoe Botten will furnish the Clerk with the consolidated transport assessment - also available online. SZC has been working with bodies such as Latitude to ensure timescales and works do not affect significant regular events. Cllr Taylor enquired after the Link Road and expected start date. It was stated that this would be covered at the forum next week.

Cllr Rowe asked about the employment of local people. Tim Newton confirmed that the security team have recruited over 110 'locals', based on a travel time of no more than 60(-90) minutes. Local people will be a minimum of one third of the workforce.

A member of the public asked after medical facilities for the workers. There will be an occupational health facility on the site and although there are no dentists yet, there is an expectation for such. SZC stated that they are aware of not impacting local resources.

It was asked whether other infrastructure projects going on in the area (Lionlink/Sealink) had been factored into the transport system too. SZC responded that these are all tied together through the CTMP (Construction Traffic Management Plans) and the county council.

ESC District Councillor Graham addressed the meeting. She stated that the impact of the traffic and all the effects of these projects have not been properly assessed. The impact on local tourism will affect employment. The DCO is about to be triggered without a Final Investment Decision due to unanswered questions. ESC has just submitted their formal response to the Sealink consultation and a 50-page response outlining similar concerns regarding a lack of proper technical detail, proper consultation with parish councils and the need for proper coordination. ESC has also made clear the enormous burden that consultations and meetings are having on local communities and parish councils, without a proper view of the cumulative effects of all of them, and the impact on people's mental health. She said that many people have moved to the area for their retirement to enjoy their later years in peace and quiet, and that's been taken away from them. ESC has made it very clear to represent all of that as well. Cllr Graham offered her card and invited residents to get in touch with herself and/or Cllr Tom Daly, reiterating that East Suffolk Council are doing everything they can to represent residents through this.

The question of Sizewell C being a 'green' project was raised by a member of the public, asking how long Sizewell C will need to be in operation before it recovers the carbon emissions that have been emitted during the build phase. District Cllr Graham added that the project is not 'green' because it is taking away a huge amount of money and time when both are very urgent for reaching net zero. She suggested that at a build time of up to 13 years and a cost of £20-30 billion the window for achieving net zero will pass.

Further invitations for questions were invited. The meeting was closed.

5 Next Meeting The next regular Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Chris Reynolds

Apologies:

Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe
District Cllr Katie Graham
County Cllr Richard Smith

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk

2 **Councillors' Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Cusack advised of an interest in purchasing the old PC laptop (see below).

3 **Public Forum.** None.

4 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2023.

b) **Matters arising.**

Cllr Cusack provided Cllr Piercy with relevant information regarding Causeway Farm. Cllr Piercy has been in touch with Richard Smith at SCC requesting that the parish residents be involved in some way in determining the future of the farm.

In Cllr Piercy's absence, Cllr Macdowell updated the PC, following an informal meeting with Richard Smith, SCC. The Causeway Farm lease expires in April 2024 and SCC are happy for the parish to be involved in discussions on its future. SCC are considering several options, including 1) selling and 2) working with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The land is not suitable for arable farming, only livestock (not dairy). The land is also divided into three sections, rather than one plot. Concerns were raised at the meeting that the land and property may get sold for new build. It was agreed that research and networking must be undertaken in anticipation of an April lease termination. The PC acknowledged and welcomed the opportunity to be part of this venture.

Action for Cllrs Cusack, Thorpe and Macdowell to meet for permissive paths discussion remains open.

Cllr Taylor has been in touch with Jane Etheridge (following a request for a meeting between residents and the PC). This matter has been put on hold until the latter part of January.

Advertising Signs. Action to write to Norwood House remains open (Cllr Cusack).

Fordley Road. Unsuitable for HGV signs. See below.

5 Councillors' Reports

a) **Village Hall.** Nothing to report.

b) **Middleton Primary School.** Cllr Reynolds presented the PC with a Christmas card received from the primary school along with an invitation to attend the school Christmas play tomorrow (Wednesday 13 December) at 5.30pm and a carol service at the church on Thursday 14 December at 6pm. Cllr Reynolds offered the purchase of raffle tickets to the PC.

c) **Energy Projects, including Sizewell C.** Cllr Macdowell is meeting with the government department responsible for Sizewell C tomorrow (Wednesday 13 December) and advised that the government now owns more of SZC than EDF. There is a review process in place to consider the double glazing / noise insulation program for residents who fell out of the 50-metre boundary limit, allowing them a second attempt at qualification. Cllr Macdowell will advise applicable residents. EDF are scheduled (not yet started) to survey every property, within a certain distance of the B1122, for vibration damage, with a re-survey taking place in two and a half years' time. Cllr Macdowell will raise both these issues again at tomorrow's

meeting.

The request for a 20mph speed limit on the B1122 was raised again with Richard Smith, SCC, who was reluctant to commit but did advise of a process that is available for our request to be reviewed and a case to be made on the back of traffic data. It was agreed, at the meeting, that enforcement cameras would be needed and/or happy/sad face signs. It was previously suggested, through the 8 parishes initiative, that EDF finance this, via the police authority. Furthermore, it was agreed that traffic management in the area needs to be addressed and financed by EDF/police. Cllr Lacey advised that EDF contractors will be erecting permanent fencing on the SZC link road in early 2024. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to prepare a letter to Richard Smith reiterating the PC's request for a 20mph speed limit and to be part of the review process previously mentioned. (To be signed and issued by the Clerk).**

Following the B1122 meeting that took place on Wednesday 15 November, Cllr Cusack advised that there are four forums coming up, where we may raise further issues (e.g. not considering the road system holistically and lack of response from the County Council).

Various upcoming forums were noted for the diary. It was agreed by all that Cllr Macdowell will attend these events on behalf of MPC.

Main Site Forum - Tuesday 16 January 2024.

Northern Transport Forum - Tuesday 6 February 2024.

Annual Sizewell C Forum – Tuesday 2 April 2024.

It was reported that the government are going to invoke the DCO without finance being in place. Questions were raised over the legality of this move.

- d) **Highways, footpaths and trees.** i) burial ground, ii) no parking signs and iii) permissive paths. Issues remain open.
- e) **Middleton Moor.** Cllr Taylor met with Tim Day of Barry Day & Sons Ltd, regarding pond work. (The company have carried out work at the RSPB, Minsmere, Sizewell and Darsham marshes and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.) A quote of £5,580.00 (inc VAT) has been supplied. The works will include the dredging of the pond to its original bottom, removing reeds and fallen ash tree. Cart spoil to be taken to 'the pit' on the opposite side of the road. Works will start in August/September of next year when water levels are at their lowest. The pond will fill naturally. Cllr Cusack reported that the company had carried out extensive groundwork at Nonsuch Farm and done a good job. Cllr Cusack has spoken with two Moor residents, and they agree that this suggested work may be the best solution. It is understood that the quote falls under the limit where the PC are obliged to seek another quote. It was agreed, by all, that the figure given is a reasonable one. Middleton Moor funds available stand at £3,800 plus CIL at £3,200 and thus the PC can afford the works with existing resources. It was advised that confirmation be sought that the PC may use CIL for this project. **Action: Clerk to make enquiries regarding use of CIL funds.** If we cannot use CIL funds, we may be able to obtain an appropriate grant. **Action: Clerk to research suitable grants available.**

It was further agreed that the PC should obtain a formal reference for Barry Day & Sons Ltd from the RSPB or Suffolk Wildlife Trust. **Action: Cllr Cusack to obtain appropriate reference. Action: Cllr Cusack to contact Natural England (who finance Middleton Moor) to advise them of the planned works. Action: Cllr Lacey to obtain a formal view from an ecologist for timings, regarding the lifecycle of newts.** Acceptance of quote provided to be given after these actions have been undertaken.

Cllr Taylor confirmed that the speed camera has been refurbished and is up and running. The camera will record for 20 days, followed by a 10-day downtime (a legal requirement). During the downtime Paul Collins will download the data (onto Cllr Taylor's laptop) and produce spread sheets for regular reports at the PC meetings.

Cllr Taylor also reported back on an incident on the B1122 where two large HGVs met, by Thatch Cottage, causing a tailback and on a separate occasion two escorted wide loads coming from Yoxford met an HGV that could not pass and subsequently demolished the electronic signs for the railway crossing.

- f) Causeway Farm. See above.

6 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Payment of £137 for the refurbishment of the old PC laptop was agreed. **Action: Clerk to arrange refurbishment and payment.**

Cllr Cusack declared an interest in purchasing the refurbished laptop. Cllr Taylor, as Vice Chair, chaired this part of the meeting and it was agreed by all that Cllr Cusack would purchase the laptop for £137.

Cllr Taylor requested a further £50 be added to the Christmas meal budget and this was agreed by all. Twelve residents are currently receiving meals and the service has received a positive response. Cllr Taylor takes this opportunity to note any welfare issues that may need addressing.

- 7 Report from Finance Working Group, Budget for 2024/25.** The recommendation for approval of the 2024/25 budget and for the precept to be raised to £9,804 (representing a 10% increase) was agreed and accepted by all. **Action: Clerk to submit to ESC.** It was noted that the budget does not provide for a cost of living increase but it was agreed that this should be considered next year when the national settlement has been agreed. Funding currently stands at five hours per week, and it was agreed that the clerk should advise the PC if the workload increases beyond this. Cllrs Taylor and Piercy were thanked for their contribution to the Finance Working Group.
- 8 Deed of Covenant with Sizewell, signing thereof.** As part of the DCO and establishment of the B112 Working Group, the lawyers for EDF/Sizewell C produced a Deed of Covenant for MPC to sign (and a similar one for Theberton). The PC are essentially agreeing to be part of the B112 Working Group and to send a representative to the meetings. The document was executed some time ago, but subsequent to this a Deed of Variation was issued (which did not change anything of substance for MPC) with a requirement for MPC to re-execute the covenant as varied. The Clerk requested an explanatory memorandum with the documentation for signing, in order that it can be shared with councillors describing/detailing the purpose of the covenant. This request was chased up by the clerk in preparation for today's meeting, but nothing has been received to date and it was agreed to note that the covenant has not been presented for approval and we will continue to await a response.
- 9 Working with other parishes on Sizewell. Fordley Road. Unsuitable for HGV signs.** Cllr Lacey agreed to take this matter on from Cllr Cusack and will liaise with Kelsale Parish Council regarding the possibility of sharing the costs involved with providing evidence for the need of the signs.
- 10 Flooding/maintenance/Emergency Plan.** It was agreed that the PC should get an overview of flood risk problems in the parish as part of the background to emergency planning. The drainage infrastructure within the parish is complex with several agencies involved and the PC should establish responsibilities, what the maintenance program should be, along with a general understanding of the mechanics. Cllr Macdowell suggested a starting point whereby we enquire as to whether ESC/SCC are planning on providing any relevant information that could act as a starting point. It was suggested that the Environment Agency may be the first point of contact. **Action: Cllr Lacey to investigate.**
- 11 Agree 2024 meeting dates.** Agreed. **Action: Clerk to put on village website.**
- 12 Correspondence.** None.
- 13 Items for Next Agenda.** None
- 14 Next Meeting**

A special meeting to take place on Tuesday 9 January 2024, at 7pm at the Village Hall for a Sizewell C Project Presentation.

The date and time of the next PC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13 February, at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023
AT 8pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies:

Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe - Clerk

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

2 Minutes

- a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 14 November 2023.
- b) Matters arising. None

3 To review Safety Inspection Report

Monthly play equipment inspection report noted along with the need to remove the rotting logs that are no longer fit for purpose and present a safety risk. It was agreed to ask the Summer Winers to dispose of the logs. **Action: Cllr Reynolds to contact the Summer Winers.** It was also noted that the zip wire needs removing (following completion of resident survey).

Cllr Reynolds furnished the PC with a quote of £4,316 for replacing remaining fence and posts. This was agreed by all. **Action: Cllr Reynolds to give go ahead for works.** (To be completed in January.)

It was questioned as to whether the PC need to involve the school regarding decisions made. Cllr Taylor advised that the school do not use the play equipment because of insurance/health and safety issues. Cllr Cusack further advised that the PC have a legal agreement with the school whereby they mow the recreation ground and in return have free use of the pavilion.

It was noted that Middleton Recreation Ground is the official name but that it is acceptable to use playing field for the purpose of the survey.

Cllr Kendall questioned the possible refurbishment of the wooden train. It was agreed to put a note in the village newsletter inviting residents to get involved with this project. **Action: Cllr Kendall to provide an article for the next newsletter.**

4 Correspondence. None.

5 Matters for discussion

- a) Picnic Benches. Cllr Kendall reported that delivery of a bench is as expensive as the bench itself and so it was agreed to source locally, if possible. There are currently 3 rectangular benches. It was agreed to replace with 1 round table (with disabled access) and 2 rectangular tables. **Action: Cllr Kendall will continue research.**
- b) Survey Update. Cllr Rowe absent.

6 Items for the next Agenda. None.

7 Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 February 2024, to follow Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023
AT 8pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

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

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
One member of the public

Apologies: No apologies

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

3 Minutes

c) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 10 October 2023.

d) Matters arising.

Pavilion Break-in

Cllr Reynolds reported that the perpetrator is known to the police but claims to have no recollection of breaking into the pavilion (matching DNA was found at the scene). He has been advised that the matter will be dropped if he confesses and subsequently pays for the damage, however, if he does not the offence will go to court. The matter is currently with his solicitor. Cllr Reynolds was thanked for handling the problem.

Survey Progress

Cllr Rowe provided the council with a draft survey (it was agreed to refer to the area in question as the playing field). The contents of the survey were discussed and agreed, including the decision to acknowledge a finite budget and the potential to apply for grants, along with the addition of an age range option. The need to handle names and addresses sensitively and in keeping with GDPR was noted and an acknowledgement of such be added to the survey. The Trust will pay for the printing of the survey through Leiston Press (it is hoped to get the survey on one sheet of paper). In terms of distribution a 'heads up' of the survey will be marketed in the village newsletter followed by a hard copy inserted within the newsletter and The Fisherman. An electronic survey was also suggested, along with door to door, and so it was agreed to provide the survey through multiple channels and distribution to include peripheral parts of the village.

Plough. Cllr Taylor has been contacted by a village resident regarding the repositioning of the plough in the recreation ground (moved from The Bell Inn). Cllr Cusack advised Cllr Taylor to refer the resident to the Summer Wine Group.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report

Monthly play equipment inspection report noted. (It was reiterated that any high-risk items should be dealt with immediately.)

5 Correspondence. It was agreed that all correspondence, to date, has been dealt with.

6 Matters for discussion

- a) Bins. There has been no reply from ESC regarding over-flowing bins. The matter is not as problematic now that we are out of the holiday season/warm weather, and it was agreed to put this issue on hold until next Spring.
- b) Management of Bookings. Discussion was based on how much money was brought in this year and the running costs, as to whether *to continue supporting private bookings*
- c) Cleaner. A cleaner is required for Friday evenings (during warm weather only). Cllr Kendall has agreed to pursue this and will liaise with Cllr Taylor.

7 Items for the next Agenda. None.

8 Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 12 December 2023, to follow Parish Council meeting. closed at 8.30pm.

Dear Barbara/Julian

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the Parish Councillor who initiated a weekly delivery of a delicious, 2-course homemade meal, chilled & ready to be re-heated in the microwave.

This has been particularly welcome in the cold winter months as I now struggle to cook a meal from scratch due to disability. With a sweet tooth, I eagerly await the yummy puds!

I'm sure that the other recipients of this scheme, for which District Council Funding was obtained, will share my sentiments in thanking them for this not insignificant effort & will join with me in hoping that they'll be able to secure further funding in the future.

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To book the pavilion on the Playing Field contact Lesley Taylor taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk or 07970257329

DIARY DATES 2023 / 24

February

Thursday 1 st	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Sunday 4 th	Benefice Service, Yoxford 10am
Tuesday 13 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 14 th	Ash Wednesday Ashing Service and Holy Communion Yoxford 10am
Wednesday 17 th	WI - New Year Lunch
Sunday 18 th	First Sunday of Lent. Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity 11am
Sunday 25 th	Second Sunday of Lent. Holy Communion. Holy Trinity 11am

March

Thursday 7 th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Tuesday 12 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 16 th	'Silmor' Live at the Bell for (early) St. Patricks night from 8pm
Wednesday 20 th	WI - Village Hall - 'Pen to Published' Francesca Armour - Chelu, author.
Saturday 23 rd	Middleton Primary School PTA Quiz, Village Hall

April

Thursday 4 th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Tuesday 9 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 17 th	WI - Village Hall - Supper, Subs and Resolutions

May

Thursday 2 nd	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Tuesday 7 th	MCC AGM Village Hall 7pm
Tuesday 14 th	Annual Parish Meeting 6pm and Annual Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 15 th	WI - Village Hall - 'Contemporary Hemporary' Claire Sullivan. Working hemp in a traditional way.

June

Saturday/Sunday 1 st /2 nd	Open Gardens
Thursday 6 th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Thursday 6 th	80 th Anniversary of D-Day
Tuesday 11 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 19 th	WI - Village Hall - 'Laughter and Tears' Malcolm Knott, a lifetime in law
Saturday 22 nd	Community Council Midsummer Outdoor Quiz, Playing Field

July

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

August

Thursday 1 st	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Saturday 24 th	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
musicians.

WI - Village Hall - End of Year Celebrations Martin & Annie ~ Sizewell Gap

What to recycle after Christmas and where?



Check out our [A-Z](#) for everything you need to know

Find out more about [what goes in your recycling bin here](#)

Remember you can take your excess recycling to your [nearest recycling centre](#) but don't forget to book!



Use our [A-Z of recycling](#) for the best ways to reduce, reuse and recycle most items and if you can't find what you need [let us know!](#)

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk