

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 AT 6:00 PM VIA ZOOM

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Nigel Smith - Chair
Cllr. Roy Dowding - Vice-Chair
Cllr. Julian Cusack
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread
Cllr. Colin Whitbread
Cllr. Graham Ingham
Cllr. Lesley Taylor
Cllr. Chris Reynolds
Cllr. Steve Thorpe

Apologies for absence:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond
One member of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond summarised her previously circulated report and referred to another round of Scottish Power Renewables consultation where expressions of interest are sought.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.

5. Finance

Cllr. Julian Cusack informed the Council that he had contacted Middleton Primary School to ask if the community could do anything to assist the school during the latest lockdown. The Headteacher replied that she needed financial help to loan computer tablets to students who do not have access to a computer at home to enable the staff to deliver a range of online learning and live teaching. She said she needed five tablets costing approximately £200 each. Anticipating that the Community Council may wish to help, Cllr. Cusack contacted them and they agreed to contribute £100. The Clerk contacted Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council who agreed to contribute £200. Cllr. Cusack proposed that the Council donates £500, which matches the donations given by Yoxford Parish Council and Peasenhall Parish Council to their parish school. Cllr. Nigel Smith seconded. All in favour. Cllr. Cusack said private donations will make up the remaining £200.

6. Hastoe Housing

Cllr. Nigel Smith reported that the contractors have been chosen and their security fencing has been delivered to the site. Cllr. Smith said he continues to follow up the question of single occupancy.

7. Quiet Lanes

Cllr. Chris Reynolds informed the Council that 24 responses have been received to date from parishioners. 21 supported the scheme outright, 2 supported the scheme but raised concerns and 1 was against. The 2

concerns raised related to the speed of vehicles on the B1125 and the excess use of signage in rural communities. Cllr. Reynolds thanked the first respondent for bringing the speeding problem to the Council's attention and replied to the second respondent that existing signposts will be used where possible. Cllr. Reynolds said he was still accepting responses until the end of the week. The public consultation meeting is scheduled for next week where the parishioners' approval will be sought for the scheme.

8. Recreation Ground

The Council discussed whether to agree, in principle, to install new flooring cover in the pavilion and considered a quotation for two different flooring types. It was decided that the quotation was too expensive and alternative options to replace the flooring should be obtained. Cllr. Julian Cusack explained that this was a decision in principle and the costs could be funded by the Recreation Ground Trust, which recently received a £10,000 grant, but there are many other claims on the grant funding. It was agreed to obtain further quotes and reconsider at the next meeting.

9. Summer Wine Group

Cllr. Colin Whitbread reported that the Summer Winers planted two lots of trees. The first three were oak trees, planted on the Moor, in commemoration of three founding members of the group. The second batch of trees was a mixture of oak, maple and hornbeam planted at the side of the road where The Causeway meets Moor Road.

10. Energy Projects

Cllr. Roy Dowding reported that EDF Energy circulated their latest briefing on the next steps for the Sizewell C planning process. The Planning Inspectorate will consider EDF's proposed changes to the Development Consent Order application in advance of the examination later this year. The Planning Inspectorate will announce a Preliminary Meeting and then the Examination period will begin. Cllr. Dowding informed the Council that Kwasi Kwarteng MP has been appointed as the new Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy. Cllr. Dowding read out extracts of a statement made by Dr Kwarteng about Sizewell C in which he said "The way in which EDF engages with the local community, particularly on Sizewell C - if that's the one that gets the green light - is really important because in all of these issues there are always two sides. The onus is on the company developing the project to bring as many people as possible with them. You're not going to get a 100% of people, and I'm realistic about that, but if you can get a big majority and can show that you are benefitting the local community, that you're sensitive to their environmental concerns. I think that's a challenge they can deliver on." Cllr. Dowding opined that Dr Kwarteng clearly does not know EDF and thinks they are a fully cogent and cooperative party to the local communities.

11. Village Hall

- a) The member of the public present informed the Council that the Village Hall disabled car parking space is next on the contractor's work schedule.
- b) Cllr. Lynda Whitbread said that the Management Committee considered whether to give the Parish Council approval to site an Electric Vehicle Charging Point in the Village Hall car park. The Committee raised a number of concerns and technical questions. Cllr. Julian Cusack replied that the Council has only expressed an interest in principle and it was unable to answer the technical questions at this stage. He added that there is only funding available for 100 EV charging points across the county therefore it is unlikely that Middleton will be selected.

12. Consultations

- a) Cllr. Steve Thorpe agreed to review the Guidance to Conserve and Enhance the Historic Environment and will write a report if he considers there is any impact on the village.

b) The Council agreed to respond to the ESC Open Space Study.

ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to complete and submit.

c) The Council decided not to respond to the SCC Help Shape Guidance for New Housing Developments consultation.

13. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including the following receipts:

Details	Payer	Amount
Village Hall Disabled Car Parking Space Grant	East Suffolk Council	£900.00
Bounce Back Fund Grant	East Suffolk Council	£500.00
Stewardship Fee	Rural Payments Agency	£809.80
VAT Recovery	HM Revenue and Customs	£783.10

ACTION: Clerk to ask SCC to release grant funding for the Village Hall car parking space.

b) The Council authorised further expenditure of £25 each for SALC online training for Cllr. Lynda Whitbread, Cllr. Colin Whitbread and Cllr. Steve Thorpe.

c) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Pavilion Electricity	British Gas	£17.72	PHA 1936 s.87
Recreation Ground Mole Control	Garry Denny	£125.00	PHA 1936 s.87
Drop-Ins and Exhibition Room Hire	Middleton Village Hall	£105.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Replacement Defibrillator Pads	Cardiac Science	£64.20	LGA 1972 s.111

14. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received between 3rd December 2020 and 6th January 2021.

15. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next virtual meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 6:00 pm. Public and press are welcome to attend. The details to join via Zoom Meetings are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6512941956?pwd=K29wbDZtUnhuaHRUTkxIWtZRQW1YQT09>

Meeting ID: 651 294 1956 Password: 3cwRhj

The meeting closed at 6:45 pm.