

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

"Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents to future agendas. If you would like to make such a request or contact the Parish Council on any other matter, please do so via the Parish Clerk on parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com".

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Dist Cllr Sarah Whitelock
Members of the public x 3

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None

3 Public Forum. Dist. Cllr Whitelock reported the following:

- Village halls, community centres and other 'community hubs' across East Suffolk are invited to apply for a grant of up to £15,000 for upgrades, improvements and essential repairs.
- East Suffolk residents are being urged to recycle their electricals as new kerbside collections roll out across the district.
- Suffolk's five district and borough councils are launching a county-wide survey asking people for their views on the future of vital local government services. As part of the wider engagement work the district and borough councils are carrying out, residents, businesses, community groups and other organisations can now have their say on what is important to them, in the areas in which they live and work. The survey, which closes on 25 July 2025, can be found at www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr
- Leisure Centres cost the district council large sums of money due to the high heating bills, furthermore the greatest emissions of carbon come from leisure centres. On the back of the district council's desire to be carbon neutral by 2030, The Leisure Team at ESC have obtained a grant of almost £3million, with a further £2million from ESC, thus allowing for the installation of solar panels, insulation and heat pumps at Lowestoft, Leiston and Woodbridge Leisure Centres. Once the leisure centres are not paid as much for heating bills, they will start to become 'earners', thus protecting the facilities.

4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14 May 2025. (May's minutes will be included in July's newsletter.)
- b) Matters Arising and Action Points
 - Upon enquiry, the clerk confirmed that the Re-declaration of Compliance with The Pensions Regulator does include the Pavilion Manager's pension status.
 - Village path approach to Church. Cllr Lacey to resurrect contract. **Action: Clerk to seek an update.**
 - Clerk advised ESC Planning Department on planning application DC/25/1339/ROC (no objection).

The following actions were taken from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2025.

- **Clerk to contact ESC for clarification of protocol regarding travellers.** The relevant information has been sourced and shared with the councillors. It was agreed at this meeting to share the information with the Middleton Moor Management Group. **Action: Clerk to supply details, including telephone number and email address.**
- **Cllrs Macdowell and Piercy to provide the village newsletter and clerk with direct online links to access SZC maps – c/f.**

5 Causeway Farm. No update available from SCC. SZC Community Fund will consider our bid at their next panel meeting on 19 June 2025.

6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects. In Cllr Macdowell's absence, Cllr Cusack provided the meeting with an update.

- The government have announced another £14bn of funding, creating another step towards the inevitability that a final investment decision will be made, possibly at the end of July. The majority of the project will be funded by the taxpayer.
- A lot of disinformation has been circulating regarding both the cost of the development and direct jobs. It is thought that contractor jobs are included in the 10,000 direct jobs figure supplied.
- 'Stop SZC' continue to campaign, urging supporters to write to the various companies who are thought to be considering investing in SZC.
- PM Keir Starmer was expected to visit SZC yesterday morning but did not attend, for reasons unknown.
- B1122 average speed cameras have been installed.
- Electronic traffic warning sign at the Mill Street/B1122 junction should be fitted this summer.
- A member of the public advised that there are 27,000 workers at Hinkley and that this is what we must look forward to.
- Although Sea Link does not go directly through the parish, it was agreed that the PC should register an interest nevertheless because Lion Link will come through the parish on its way from Walberswick to Saxmundham and is more likely to go ahead if there has been prior approval for one convertor station at Saxmundham; there will be less resistance for another one to take Lion Link that way also. **Action: Cllr Cusack to confirm with Cllr Macdowell.**

7 Emergency Planning Group – c/f

8 Councillors Reports

- Village Hall. Nothing to report.
- Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report.
- Highways, footpaths and trees. Nothing to report
- Middleton Moor. Making hay on the Moor is normally undertaken in July (weather permitting). Last year the hay was mown, baled and taken off site (at no expense to the PC) by Watermill Farm. This year the work will be undertaken by Thorington Theatre (again at no expense to the PC) where the hay will be supplied to equine establishments, including their own. This was agreed by a Middleton Moor Management Group representative at this meeting.

9 Finance

- The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Internal Audit Service 2025	SALC	£219.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Norton Virus Protection Subscription Renewal	Cllr Cusack	£89.99	LGA 1972 s.111

- Annual Accounts for the financial year 2024-2025 approved.

- d) Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR approved.
- e) Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR approved.
- f) Certificate of Exemption approved.
- g) Exercise of public rights agreed as 16 June to 15 July 2025.
- h) Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2024-2025 reviewed, with recommendations noted.

Action: Clerk to upload Internal Audit Report, AGAR, Annual Accounts and Exercise of public rights date on village website. Clerk to send Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor.

- 10 **Councillor Resignation.** The meeting was advised that Cllr Graham Lacey has stepped down from his role as councillor. Many thanks go to Cllr Lacey for his work on the PC, particularly in relation to the village hall and village pathway to the church. Action: Clerk to advise ESC and post notice of the vacancy on the village website and noticeboards. Cllr Rowe agreed to be on the panel for an informal meeting with prospective applicants, along with Cllr Cusack.
- 11 **Village Path approach to Church.** Action: Clerk to seek an update.
- 12 **Re-adopt Updated Model Standing Orders.** This document provides a comprehensive framework of procedural rules for Parish and Town Councils in England. The changes are to Section 18 to comply with new procurement legislation, Section 14 to better reflect Code of Conduct requirements and finally, the language in the document has also changed to gender neutral. The Council agreed to adopt the model Standing Orders.
- 13 **Correspondence.** The Chair is in receipt of a letter from The Department of Rural Affairs, regarding the Moor. The Moor is in a designated nitrogen zone, therefore any operations on the Moor must be managed in such a way that nitrogen will not run off into the waterways. It was noted that the only operation carried out on the Moor, of significance, is mowing hay, which does not produce run off of any kind.
- 14 **Items for Next Agenda.**
- 15 **Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 July 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.