

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Front cover ~ The winning Bell Crib Team and their trophies for 2025.

See p.3 for details.

Editorial

I can't believe we are now moving into May already but what's left of our countryside is looking so colourful and fresh as the trees and hedgerows awaken. The magnolias around the village have been glorious, thank goodness the frost did not spoil those huge blooms. I'm sure many gardeners are thinking ahead to June and Open Gardens, some more rain would be welcome in our gardens.

There is so much happening over the next few weeks and the newsletter is full of potential dates for your diaries.

A huge thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter, especially Hannah for being so patient when the technology gremlins moved in but we won in the end.

Barbara will be back for June's edition, we hope she's having a wonderful family time.

Lynda

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

Contributions for next newsletter can be emailed to
barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to
6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, **by Tuesday 20th May**



Stepping out against cancer!

During the nighttime hours of Saturday 16 May and heading into the dawn of Sunday, Connie (of Flint Cottage) will be taking on the Moonwalk, a marathon-distance tour through the streets of London to raise money for the battle against breast cancer.

Connie's team, *Legs 4 Liz*, includes Hannah and family who are striding out to remember a beloved godmother Aunty Liz, who lost her valiant fight against cancer last year. Please support Connie with a donation via <https://walkthewalk.org/donate/> and search for Connie Magee's Moonwalk, or scan the QR code.



Any donation will be very much appreciated. Thank you!

The Bell Crib Team

A winning team!



The front cover of the newsletter celebrates the collection of trophies won by the village crib team this season who were playing in the mid Suffolk cribbage league. After a disastrous start losing 12-8 to Laxfield, we managed to play through the rest of the season losing only 3 more games, culminating in winning 5 of our last six games. This gave us a grand total of 35 points out of a possible 48 which was amazing.

Congratulations to Trish and Peter who won six card doubles and huge congratulations to team captain Barbara who won the six card singles. Overall the team won the league, congratulations to the everyone. This is their most successful season, so far.

The cheque for £200 was presented by the winning team to The Pear Tree Fund. It's the standard amount the league give to a charity of the winners choice every year from league funds. League funds are raised from the raffle and each team pays an annual subscription.

Colin

Dear Residents

The Parish Council would like to update you on the **play equipment** at the Recreation Ground.

The multi play equipment, which includes the slides and the climbing wall, has been deemed unsafe by our independent playground inspector . We have been advised by a specialist contractor that it is not economic to restore in compliance with current safety standards. It will therefore be removed, and the PC will be consulting on options for its replacement. In the meantime, the site of the multi play equipment will be made good and laid to grass. Whilst this work is carried out repairs on the Burma Bridge will also take place.

If you would like to hear more about our plans for the Recreation Ground and/or share your views please do come to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 14 May at 6pm, in the village hall'.

Many thanks
MPC



A Call out for : Chutneys, Jam, Cakes and help on the day 7th & 8th June 2025

We are looking forward to another open gardens event.

Last year we received some delicious contributions from people of the village and we would welcome these again this year.

We would also welcome people to help us with setting up and working in the refreshments team, so if you feel you could join us for a shift, we would be very grateful.

Please contact : Christine Burgess Tel: 07826840478 or email: christineburgess29@gmail.com

Major fundraiser for Holy Trinity church & donations this year to NSPCC (East Suffolk)



Out of date food items in Church Food Bank

Sue has found that a lot of the items have been well out of date, such as Carnation Concentrated Milk, (five years out of date), as well as number of other items.

Sue now checks to make sure things are within the Use by Date and removes the items and disposes of them.

It's a little concerning someone could feel the item is a treat and end up with serious food poisonings, who would then be responsible for that?

I hope you will understand my concerns. Dennis

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services during May

Sunday 18 May

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 25 May

11am Holy Communion

*The Benefice service this month will be at St Peter's, Westleton
Sunday 4 May at 10am*

Please come along

Holy Trinity PCC are very sorry to hear that
Steve Lloyd has passed away and wish to send our sincere condolences to Gina
and her family at this sad time.
Our thoughts are with you.
Rita
on behalf of Holy Trinity PCC.



Holy Dusters 🙇

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

14 May - Rob

11 June - Christine and David

9 July - Mark and Liz

6 August - Trish and Graham

28 May - Amanda and Paul

24 June - Nicola and Margaret

23 July - Val and Camilla

Thought for the Month

'...this is what happens to divine love. It streams through the imagination of poets, rhyming up here and there, catching a tune, catching a congregation.'

Ronald Blythe in *Next to Nature*

Stephen (Steve) Lloyd, passed away peacefully but suddenly in his sleep on Saturday 12th April.

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to say a big thank you for all the cards and help. I'm truly overwhelmed by all the love and support from the village.

Gina and Family





As part of the National Together Celebrations to mark 80 years since
the end of WW2

Your Community Council invites you to

Middleton-cum-Fordley

Victory Street Party

Monday 5th May

12:30 - 3:00

In front of The Bell

Bring you own picnic lunch

*Enjoy an afternoon of 1940s music and
frivolities with friends*





As the 80th anniversary of VE Day is on 8th May, the Community Council are joining with the nation and entering into the spirit with a Middleton Street Party, similar to those across the realm 80 years ago.

The war continued in the Far East until Japan surrendered on 15th of August 1945 (VJ Day), but Britain did celebrate the end of the war in Europe with parties, bonfires, music, dancing, sports and singing.



Middleton-cum-Fordley Victory Party 1945

As you can see from this photograph of the Middleton folk of 1945, speedy celebration attire was created along with the food to share. It was reported that on Cornhill, there was a great and colourful crowd ready to hear Churchill's announcement. In Framlingham, residents dressed up to represent different nations, other villagers wore their Sunday best or quickly created party hats or fancy dress, Saxmundham was "well beflagged" and bunting bedecked towns and villages across Suffolk.

Go that extra mile and try a new hair style - maybe even a Victory roll! Or come dressed in patriotic **red, white and blue**. However you choose, all are welcome to come along & join in.

Last month we included some recipe ideas you could try from Ministry of Food leaflets, but maybe you have an inherited a recipe... Here are a couple more ideas from original Wartime documents:

Potato piglets: Remove a centre core of the potato, stuff with sausage meat and bake.

*"Those who have the will to win, Eat potatoes in their skin,
Knowing that the sight of peelings, deeply hurts Lord Woolton's feelings!"*

Maybe try a "Wartime Celebration"

Sandwich filling:

Sardine and watercress,
Marmite and chopped celery,
Grated raw carrot and beetroot,
Cheese and horse radish
Chopped apple
Mock banana spread



Something sweet?

Flap-jacks, Ginger biscuits, Jam buns,
Carrot scones, Stuffed dates,
Norwegian Prune pudding,
Spiced or Oaty biscuits,
Rock buns, Jellies
or Victory Cake with mock marzipan.

Courtesy of: Blacked Out Britain

BAG 2 SCHOOL

FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation

Middleton Primary School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT).

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

The more we weigh the more we pay!

Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit

Please return your Bag2School on:

20th May at 9am



01609 780 222



www.bag2school.com



helpdesk@bag2school.com

SUFFOLK SKIES



An exhibition of photographs featuring scenes of Aldeburgh and the surrounding areas by Middleton photographer:


DAVID CALVERT FRPS FBIPP

9th - 15th May 2025

The Fisherman's Hut Gallery, Beach Road, Dunwich. IP17 3EN

(Next door to the Flora Tea Rooms)

www.calvertfineart.co.uk

 [calvertfineart](https://www.instagram.com/calvertfineart)

I want to thank everyone who joined in with the most wonderful Middleton "hug" on the occasion of my 80th Birthday! And also for the magnificent sum, which Marilyn collected (hopefully without menaces!!!) for me from you. We are going for an outing soon to purchase a Parasol for my garden! Thank you so much!

Jenny Merrirew

Middleton-cum-Fordley WI

May's meeting will be on ~

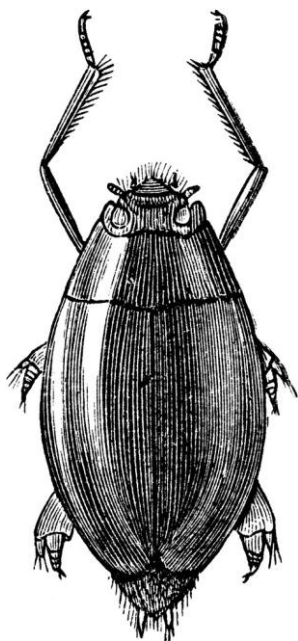
21st May 7.15 pm in Middleton's Village Hall.

The speaker is Lesley Abery, Ash Farm Vineyard. She will be bringing tasters and we will be toasting VE Day. Members have been asked to wear red, white and blue and are welcome to bring guests.



Nature Notes

Anyone who has gazed into a garden pond cannot have failed to notice a number of small beetles swimming on the surface, which when alarmed start to swim rapidly in circles; these are, for this reason, commonly known as whirligig beetles. In spring adults start to appear after overwintering below the surface, clinging to vegetation.



Whirligig beetles belong to the family Gyrinidae. There are twelve species known from Britain, but only six from Suffolk, and of these the common whirligig *Gyrinus substriatus* is by far the most common, occurring on almost any man-made pond or ditch. Other species have more specialised habitat requirements. Most species are very similar in general appearance, although varying in size from 3.5mm to 8mm in length depending on species. They tend to be flattened and rounded in cross section and ellipsoidal in plan, with the legs fitting closely to the streamlined surface. The middle, and hind, legs are adapted for swimming; they are greatly flattened - paddle like and fringed with bristles that fold to aid swimming action. In contrast the front legs are long and adapted for grasping food or prey; food for whirligig beetles being floating detritus, or struggling insects that have fallen in.

The surface swimming behaviour of whirligig beetles appears to make them vulnerable to predation, but they have evolved a number of strategies to prevent capture. To help detect potential predators from above and below whirligigs have four eyes, two looking up and two down; the top eyes are normal, but the bottom ones are large, presumably to detect movement in the weaker light underwater. They also give off a strong odour which is toxic to fish and amphibians, and which make them spew out any whirligigs they happen to swallow. Whirligig beetles are gregarious, forming large rafts, which when disturbed turns into a swerving mass, in an attempt to mesmerise a potential enemy. It is thought that larger groups of whirligig beetles detect approaching predators sooner than smaller groups because there is a greater probability that at least one beetle in the group will see the predator (the many eyes hypothesis). However, their most impressive survival strategy is their high speed manoeuvrability and rapid gyrations, achieving sudden accelerations greater than any aquatic insect. Whirligigs also can fly well, even taking off from water if need be, this can be to

avoid predation, find a mate, or to colonise new ponds. Their life cycle is quite simple, eggs are laid in early summer with larvae hatching within two weeks. They live in deep water until it is time to pupate, when they climb on a plant growing well above the surface and form a cocoon. Adults emerge in late summer, when 'schools' of many hundreds if not thousands of individuals can be observed together.

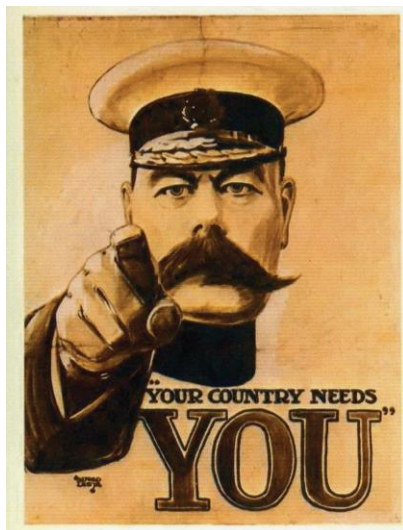
Peter Vincent

WE NEED YOUR SOIL!

Calling all gardeners - we need your soil! The Village Hall garden is in desperate need of soil. We've found the level area of 'soil' between the disabled parking bays and the steep bank is in fact mainly leU over building sand, which despite numerous aWempts of 'sandy soil' planXng really isn't working given moisture retenXon and nutrients (I'm ignoring the enthusiasXc aWempts by Peter Rabbit's descendants to excavate the area).

So we're calling out for donaXons of 'villagers soil' be that surplus topsoil or from last years pot / container compost - a bucket or wheelbarrow load depending on your proximity or ability would be gratefully received this May - dumped directly on the 'sandy soil' please. Our Village Hall gardening volunteers will dig it in!

I've kicked it off with a bag of topsoil! Should we have a surplus, that will be used on the top of the slope. So please if you are in a posiXon to donate we would love your soil this May as will the planXngs that will follow.



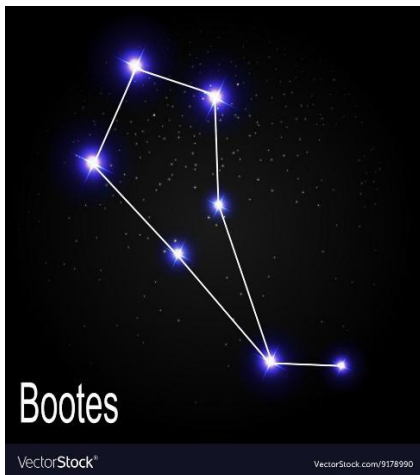
Steve Thorpe
(Just one of the Village Hall Committee
members and
Mr. McGregor's team of
Horticultural labours.)

Middleton Dark Skies

May Highlights

Planets on view. **Venus** will be a brilliant object in the pre-dawn sky out towards the East. It will have **Saturn** close by all month. They both rise at around 4 AM at the beginning of the month, with Saturn being first up towards the end of the month. If you are up at that time, a good pair of binoculars and a steady hand will show Saturn as a slight ellipse, due to the angle of its rings. **Jupiter**, still in Taurus, and **Mars**, now in Cancer, are still visible in the NW sky after sunset. Jupiter is fading now as it gets further away from the Earth and sets around 11 PM. Mars sets some three hours later.

Constellations. The constellation of **Boötes** is front and center in the Southern sky this month. It is one of the largest constellations in the northern hemisphere, with its four brightest stars forming a distinctive 'kite' shape. The name Boötes comes from the Greek word Boötēs, meaning, upon other things, Herdsman. It contains the third brightest star in the night sky, Arcturus. Five of the stars that make up the constellation have been found to have planets orbiting them. **Ursa Major** and **Ursa Minor**, The Great and Little Bears respectively, remain overhead this month, and as always, are well worth looking out for



The Constellation of Boötes



The Great and Little Bears

The Moon Known as The Flower Moon this month, after the emerging spring flowers. It is also known as Hare Moon, Mothers Moon and Corn Planting Moon. Full Moon occurs on the 12th this month. On the 3rd, the Moon will be positioned just above Mars, while on 23rd, in the pre-dawn sky, the Moon will be sitting between Venus and Saturn.

Meteors The Eta Aquarid shower reaches its peak in the early hours of the 6th, but unfortunately is all but washed out by a bright Moon.

Artificial Satellites. Plenty of these to see, just stand out for 30 mins or so and you should be able to spot several moving across the sky. They usually move from the West to the East, but there are also several that move South to North. Some satellites move in small groups or in a line, so always fun to watch out for these. It's also worth checking out online when the Space Station will be overhead.

Brian Near

SHAME UPON SZC!

AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING BEAUTY HAS BEEN SWAPPED FOR AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING UGLINESS

Those living in Middleton and its environs knew that once preparation for SZC started, there would be disturbance and upset to people and the environment. However, nothing could have prepared them for the mindless devastation that has followed the mere beginning of this enormous project. Power station workers have hacked down more than 25,000 trees in a once beautiful area and that figure continues to rise at a most alarming rate. Areas enclosed by steel rail mesh fencing did need to lose some trees, but SZC has gone much further than this. Trees and hedges well outside the boundaries of the fencing have been chopped down and grubbed out. So much for SZC regarding itself as a 'green' company.

Perhaps one good thing may follow - we may learn better to appreciate and cherish some magnificent trees that remain. In the Middleton area there is an oak tree which is more than 1000 years old. What a tribute to its stubborn tenacity for life and its indifference to humans. At the top of The Causeway there is an enormous holly tree that, judging by its girth, is at least 100 years old. By early December, it is covered with bright red berries, but for those aspiring to borrow a twig or two for the festive season bad luck follows. On or about 10th December a flock of redwings will appear and pinch all the berries. Good for them, as the seeds these birds drop are set to continue the family line. Apart from insects making the holly tree their home, a tawny owl often perches in the branches keeping a beady eye on the road below. Surprisingly, an enterprising badger has started a set adjacent to this tree. A trail of sand stretches across the road and he has been seen trooping along it late at night. Possibly he is seeking fallen apples in the adjacent orchard.

Between Middleton and the coast, mountains of sand have been raised up by mighty bulldozers. With trees now missing, the sand will be blown away to produce sand hills and dunes elsewhere. We are told that all this will help to make us 'greener', but it is quite possible that exactly the opposite will be achieved. Many will recall their primary school teachers explaining that deserts are caused by mindless deforestation.

AB.



Holly at top of the Causeway



*A local oak tree, still going strong at 1000 yrs.
Germination of the acorn from which it came
would have occurred 40 years before the Battle
of Hasting*

WI April Meeting News

We welcomed David Naylor from RSPB Minsmere. In 2020 David retired and moved from Derbyshire to Suffolk. He was always a keen birdwatcher and amateur photographer which led him to become a volunteer at Minsmere. Over the years he has carried out surveys of bird migrations, numbers, species and nesting places, observed the weather effects on the reserve and monitored the mammals and reptiles living there. He gives guided walking tours and is now going out and giving talks to interested groups (like WI's). He uses his own photos of the birds, wildlife and Minsmere landscapes to illustrate his talks. The RSPB came about in 1889 when 2 women's groups, The Plumage League and The Fin, Fur and Feather Folk, campaigned to stop the use of animal fur, skins and bird feathers in the fashion industry. RSPB Minsmere was founded in 1947 on 2,500 acres of land rented from the local Ogilvie family who could see the terrain was a special place for migrating and nesting birds. A few decades later the RSPB was able to purchase the land. Minsmere has distinct areas of habitat: reed-beds/meres, the River Minsmere, lowland heath and heather, woodland, and acid grassland. These areas sustain a wide diversity of wildlife. The reed-beds are home to bitterns, bearded tits, great crested grebes (hunted for their feathers), water voles and otters. Lowland heath, woodland and grassland support nightjars, nightingales, stone curlews, dartford warblers, red deer, badgers, muntjacs, red fox and stoats. Soaring above Minsmere can now be seen the Marsh Harrier which has reappeared after the use of DDT was banned. In the spring and autumn there are migrating birds on their way to and from Africa. In the near future David told us, there is a good chance that the osprey and the white tailed sea eagle will become residents in our reserve. Both have been reintroduced to southern England. Rita thanked David for his very interesting talk and his stunning photos, one of which had been chosen for The Country File Calendar!

LV

The May meeting will be on the 21st at 7:15pm.

Our speaker will be Lesley Abery from Ash Farm Vineyard (with tasters). All are welcome to join us. We will celebrate VE Day with a Red, White and Blue theme.

LV



Beaux Belles Winter League Triples

In the Winter League each team has to play a triples game followed by a doubles and a singles game. It is an interesting format and can lead to unpredictable results.

This year we played in Division 1 against four other teams, all local to Middleton so not too much travelling!

We managed to win five of our eight matches and ended up in second place with a total of fourteen points.

In the Cup match we were knocked out in our first match but then entered the Plate competition which we eventually won. This is the first time we have won this type of competition so who knows, it could be Cup winners next year.

Thanks to all those who have played and supported us and thanks also to the Bell for enabling us to host the other teams at a variety of times.

Richard Turner, Team Captain.

You can hire the Middleton Pavilion



**A space to relax, party
or play sports...Your choice**

 middletonpavilion@gmail.com

 Middleton Pavilion, Suffolk



Graham Cooke *DipMIT MPTA*
Piano Tuner/Technician

Tel: 01728 648900
Mob: 07812 249654
E-mail: grcooke@btinternet.com

N. J. Day Builders



07946386665 (01728)648659

THE MIDDLETON BELL



N.B. the kitchen is currently Closed Mon/Tue.

**WE ARE NOW SERVING FOOD
ON WEDNESDAYS AGAIN**

Coffee at The Bell

Every **Wednesday** from 10-12 the Bell is open for Coffee - whether Americano or Cappuccino or a cup of tea. Only £1 per cup.



Thursday Morning VILLAGE HALL Group

Don't forget the
Thursday Coffee morning .
No need to book - just drop in
to the Village Hall from 10.45
am for a warm welcome with a
cuppa and usually cake!



OPEN TO ALL !

P.S. it's not instant coffee - we do have a machine!!!

For a lift contact Lynda on 01728 668977

Middleton-cum-Fordley

Annual Parish Meeting

Village Hall

Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 6pm

Do you have questions on Sizewell C, LionLink, Causeway Farm or any other local issues?

If so, please do join us at the Annual Parish Meeting.

This year we will be offering a Q & A session with the Parish Councillors, along with the usual updates from local groups/committees.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to speak with your Parish Council and find out what is happening in your village.

Work across all Sizewell C sites continues to progress at pace.

At Friday Street, a works compound has been created on the car boot sale field. The car boot sale is not affected by this. The next steps involve establishing the Friday Street site, including necessary vegetation and tree removal, overseen by an ecological clerk of works to ensure the protection of nesting birds. This activity will be visible from the A12 when travelling to or from Stratford St Andrew and Farnham village.

The Friday Street roundabout will connect the new two- village bypass around Stratford St Andrew and Farnham to the A12. Preparation for the bypass construction includes further vegetation clearance and tree removal, with Heras fencing being installed along the site boundary.

Railway works in and around Leiston are also progressing. Vegetation and some trees have been removed to create space for track reconstruction and overall operational improvements. Work to upgrade the area's level crossings is ongoing, with surveys underway to assess requirements.

Earthworks at the Yoxford roundabout will begin later this month, starting away from the A12 to ensure no disruption to the road.

At the Northern Park and Ride site, vegetation clearance is complete, and archaeological investigations continue. Archaeology at the Southern Park and Ride is ongoing and expected to conclude in autumn. As areas are cleared, phased construction will begin this summer. Work to realign BT Openreach network wires along the slip road is also ongoing and expected to continue until the end of May.

Visit the website szcworkstracker.co.uk

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 April 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 Charles Macdowell
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Graham Lacey

Apologies:

Cllr Michele Kendall
District Councillor Sarah Whitelock

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 3

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest. Cllr Macdowell declared an interest relating to Planning Applications DC/25/1101 and 1102/FUL.

3. Public Forum Discontent was voiced over the pond works recently carried out, although it was acknowledged that the water has been 'opened up' (a condition of the grant) and that the work has provided evidence/information on how to proceed next.

Significant damage to the road verges, by SZC traffic, was also reported. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to report this to SZC.**

Cllr Macdowell confirmed, upon enquiry, that the SLR will be open Summer 2027.

4. Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 March 2025.

- * No dog fouling signs were handed to Cllr Macdowell for instalation.
- * The village green is being cut.

5. Causeway Farm

An application to the SZC Community Fund has been drafted and shared with Sarah Mortimer (Fund Project Manager), the PC are currently awaiting feedback. It was agreed to submit the application (for either the 20 April deadline or the following 20 July deadline), in order to keep options open, but no decision to proceed will be made until after further consultation with residents.

Correspondence voicing concerns regarding the possibility of a Community Park at Hastoe Field has been received from some residents. The issues raised were discussed, with responses as follows:

No clear mandate. The meeting was widely publicised, with most attendees in favour of the project. Only a small amount of direct feedback was received via the village newsletter and village website. Twenty three out of the 40 attendees replied positively to the survey handed out at the end of the meeting. It was agreed that opinion is divided but the PC will continue to progress as planned.

Alternatives? We are limited by SZC guidelines and what their Community Fund will approve. The focus must very much be on mitigating the impact of SZC on the community. Although, it was noted that alternatives could be pursued through other grant opportunities.

Maintenance Costs. The SZC grant, if approved, will provide three years' worth of payments, therefore it will be beyond these three years that revenue funding will be required. Below is an example of what may be required:

A provisional estimate of £8,530 per annum for the employment of a grounds person one day per week and equipment hire was discussed. This would, it is hoped, be partially offset by other funding but if entirely added to the precept, it would represent approx. 69p per week extra, per Band D (average) household. It was noted that current maintenance of the pavilion and playing field costs fall partly on the precept.

Action: Cllr Cusack to respond to residents' email.

Action: Cllrs Cusack, Piercy and Thorpe to meet to discuss next steps.

6. Sizewell C and other Energy Projects. Cllr Macdowell reported back on Lion Link.

- Footprint measures 30 metres wide. Cables buried 2 metres down. For the crossing of rivers, streams, roads and railways the cables will be buried 6 metres down.
- It is anticipated that works will be completed in a single season.
- Currently in the consultation phase (ending at the end of this year).
- DCO will be submitted to the Government in October 2026.
- Build will take place 2029/30.
- A haul road will run alongside and within the 30-metre gap, for two years.

A member of the public attended the recent meeting in Saxmundham and advised that Lion Link staff were unable to answer questions put to them.

The meeting was advised that vegetation must not be planted where the cables run.

It was agreed that the PC should be represented at the Lion Link public enquiry.

A bullet point recap of the SZC Community Forum on 27 March was supplied to the Councillors by the Clerk. Questions were raised as to whether 26,000 trees have been planted and if so, where? **Action: Clerk to seek clarity from SZC.**

A request was made by a member of the public that MPC arrange a public meeting for Middleton residents with SZC to discuss the multiple areas of devastation, this was agreed by the PC if SZC agree to organise/ chair/publicise and fund), although with limited expectation that anything positive will be achieved. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to liaise with SZC.**

Cllr Lacey has written to SZC regarding yet more destruction of hedgerows along Fordley Road and poorly placed temporary traffic stoppage notices. Prior notice of the works was not provided to residents. Cllr Cusack also contacted SZC regarding this road closure and the inadequate signage. The average time for SZC to reply is 4/5 days. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to share Cllr Lacey's email with other SZC contacts.**

Cllr Macdowell reported back on the latest Main Development Site Forum.

- Average speed cameras due by the end of June.
- Electronic warning sign on Mill Lane junction with B1122 due by the end of June.
- Between August and October Leiston Station Road level crossing will be closed for 18 days.
- A new grant fund, East Suffolk Trust Fund, will be opening for bids next Spring.
- Via a zoom meeting, a member of staff from Hinkley shared problems that have been experienced including light pollution, an increase of workforce from an original figure of 6,000 to 12,000, with 500 employees a week going through induction. A large percentage of workers are not local. The extra workforce is causing feeding and sewage issues. Traffic is a problem, with fly parking a big issue. Negative impact on local rental market. The change to a unitary authority in Somerset has proved unhelpful with the loss of many Hinkley experts. There is a big nighttime economy with fast food joints that are doing well. They now have their own health and police set up. Spent fuel will be stored on site (60 years' worth).

7. Emergency Planning Group – c/f

8 Councillors Reports

- Village Hall. No report
- Middleton Primary School. No report. It was agreed that a PC councillor liaise with the school. **Action: Cllr Rowe to ask Cllr Kendall.**
- Highways, footpaths and trees. No report, other than SZC destruction.

- d) Middleton Moor. Cllr Cusack confirmed an outstanding action to write to Natural England seeking permission to use machinery to help clear over-grown vegetation from the pond.

The Rural Payments Agency have made contact requesting the PC's completed application form for the next payment of the Stewardship Grant. Cllr Cusack has made several requests for a claim form, but nothing has been received to date. Deadline is 15 May.

9 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Hire of Village Hall 2024/25	Middleton Village Hall	£260.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk Expenses (travel/working from home)	Rachael Salcombe	£207.15	LGA 1972 s.111
Payroll Services period ending 31.3.25	SALC	£54.00	LGA 1972 s.112
SALC Membership 25/26	SALC	£213.95	LGA 1972 s.111

10. **Village Green Grass Cutting.** See above.

- 11 **Village Path approach to Church.** It was agreed to accept the quote from Nice Touch Landscapes in the sum of £2,475.00. **Action: Cllr Lacey to i) accept the quote, ii) produce a written contract, iii) administer the work and iv) advise the two neighbours accordingly.**

12. Planning Applications.

- i) DC/25/1303/AND. Non-illuminated Advertisement Consents – advertisements at 11 Sizewell C project construction site access. The PC does not approve the application. The boards are considerably larger than is necessary for deliveries and traffic management at the construction sites. Given the current mood in Middleton and neighbouring villages over the wide scale removal of trees and hedgerows, it will be seen by many as provocative and will invite graffiti. The advertisements as proposed will therefore be contrary to good community relations between Sizewell C and local communities. We suggest that Sizewell C be invited to reapply with considerably smaller and less intrusive advertising panels.
- ii) DC/25/1101/FUL. Proposed conversion of Agricultural Building at Valley Farm House, Leiston Road, Middleton. The PC approve this application.
- iii) DC/25/1102/LBC. Proposed conversion of Agricultural Building at Valley Farm House, Leiston Road, Middleton. The PC approve this application.

Action: Clerk to advise East Suffolk Council, Planning Department accordingly.

13. **Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting (14.5.25).** It was agreed to offer a Q&A session at this year's Annual Parish Meeting. **Action: i) Clerk to invite annual reports from village groups and ii) prepare an advertisement for the newsletter.**

- 14 **Gov.uk email address(es).** The PC noted the arguments for gov.uk email address(es) for the parish clerk and councillors, as recommended by the Government, however, it was agreed to carry out more research into cost and necessity.

9. **Correspondence.** Brave Futures email was shared and discussed. It was decided not to make a donation at this time.

10. **Items for Next Agenda.** Emergency Planning Group

11. **Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meetings (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting) are scheduled for Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 6pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST**
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2025
AT 8.30 pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Chris Reynolds

Apologies:

Cllr Michele Kendall
Dist Cllr Sarah Whitelock

In attendance: Rachael Salcombe – Clerk
Member of the public x 1

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

3. Minutes

- a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 12 March 2025.
- b) Matters Arising. None.

4. To review Safety Inspection Report.

The multi play unit has been deemed 'high risk' and is fenced off for safety reasons. The latest inspection report also noted several low-level problems, and it was acknowledged that some of the equipment is coming to the end of its useful life, including the Burma Bridge, with wood splitting through the line of the fixings.

A quote of £2,880 has been provided by a contractor to remove the multi play unit and make good the grass area. It was also confirmed that no parts of the existing multi play unit are suitable for repurposing. The quote also includes making good the Burma Bridge. **Action: Clerk to advise contractor to carry out removal of the multi play unit and repairs to the Burma Bridge.**

It was agreed to consider grant applications for a new multi play unit or alternative replacement play equipment, following consultation with residents.

Action: Clerk to arrange for a blanket email to be issued to villagers advising on the latest recreation ground play equipment.

Action: Cllr Cusack to provide a notice for the recreation ground, advising of the closure of the multi play unit.

The PC and MCC used to meet regularly to discuss the recreation ground, and it was found to be useful. It was agreed to i) contact MCC with a view to re-introducing the meetings and ii) include the WI.

Action: Cllr Piercy to liaise with MCC.

Action: Cllr Thorpe to liaise with WI.

5 Finance

To approve the following payment.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Miscellaneous (Westleton Village Stores)	*Rebecca Reynolds	£8.43	1972 s.137

It was also agreed to pay £288 to Leiston Plant Hire for the emergency fencing off of the multi play unit.

*A further £16.25 for hand soap was also agreed.

6 Correspondence. No correspondence

7 Matters for discussion. None

8 Items for the next Agenda. None.

9 Next Meeting. Date of next meeting Wednesday 14 May 2025 to follow the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL
Annual General Meeting

will be held on
Monday 19th May 2025 at 7pm
in the Village Hall

Everyone is welcome

MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting

will be held on
Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm
in the Village Hall

Everyone is welcome

DIARY DATES 2025

May	
Thursday 1 st	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Monday 5 th	Literary Evening - details to follow - possibly combined with VE celebrations TBC
Monday 12 th	Community Council AGM – Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 14 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Monday 19 th	Village Hall Management AGM 7pm
Wednesday 21 st	WI – Lesley Abery, Ask Farm Vineyard (with tasters) 7.15pm
June	
Thursday 5 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Sat/Sun 7 th /8 th	Open Gardens
Wednesday 11 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 18 th	WI – Mark Mitchells ~ The Suffolk Coastline
Saturday 21 st	MCC Quiz
July	
Thursday 3 rd	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Wednesday 9 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 12 th	Vinyl Night at the Bell from 6pm
Wednesday 16 th	WI – Garden Party
Saturday 19 th	Summer Boules Competition
August	
Thursday 7 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 23 rd	Annual Village Fete - Playing Field 2pm
Sunday 24 th	'Folk in the Garden' Manor House , charity fundraiser
September	
Thursday 4 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 6 th	Vinyl Night at the Bell from 6pm
Wednesday 10 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 17 th	WI – Village Hall, Julie ~ Chocolate Makers, Beccles (History, testing ,discount sales) 7.15pm
October	
Thursday 2 nd	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 4 th	MCC Autumn Fayre
Wednesday 8 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 15 th	WI – Village Hall, Barbara McElroy - Apples 'A Miscellany' 7.15pm
November	
Thursday 6 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Wednesday 12 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 19 th	WI – Village Hall, AGM tea & cakes 2.15pm
December	
Thursday 4 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 6 th	'Santa Boules'
Saturday 6 th	Vinyl Night at the Bell from 6pm
Wednesday 10 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 13 th	MCC Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 th	WI – Village Hall , end of year celebration 7.15pm