

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 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 (7.40pm)
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Giles Piercy (Chairman, in Cllr Cusack's absence)
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Graham Lacey

Apologies:

District Councillor Sarah Whitelock

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Member of the public x 1

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum. None

4 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2025, save 'minute 6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects', bullet point 6, last sentence should read 'Middleton's recommendation to move the entire carriage way and create a footpath was rejected on the grounds of cost'.

b) Matters arising and Action Points

- Cutting of the hedge at the burial ground has been carried out. Invoice to follow.
- The end date of the existing tenancy at Causeway Farm is confirmed as 5 April 2025.
- Cllrs Cusack and Piercy to liaise in preparation for an Emergency Planning meeting c/f
- SZC have been advised that the proposed foot path along the Moor is not required.
- Contact was made with the contractor that carried out the recent pond works. He is unable to provide a report because he does not have professional indemnity insurance.
- ESC has been advised on planning application DC/25/0106/FUL.
- Advertisement for a councillor was placed in the village newsletter.
- CIL may be used for the purchase of waste bins.
- Cats and Volunteer Community Car Drivers have been given permission to advertise on the village noticeboards.
- ESC has been advised on TPO/179/2024.
- The Bell Inn has been furnished with details of the Bike Maintenance Station. It is understood that the Parish Council will be provided with a spare set of tools and will be responsible for the maintenance thereof, ESC will install the station.
- Yoxford photographer has been advised accordingly following a request for a venue in the village and advertising options.

5 Hastoe Field

The success of the public meeting on 26 February was reported on. Most attendees are in favour of the Community Park, although it was acknowledged that a sizeable minority are not in favour, for a variety of reasons, including maintenance/upkeep, impact on residents of Roke Drive, use of good agricultural land and that there are enough wildlife areas.

The SZC representative was impressed by the meeting, which represented exactly the type of evidence that the community fund is looking for.

Disappointingly, SCC declined the offer to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that the PC should continue to apply for funding through both the Community Fund and Environmental Fund but that this did not imply a firm decision to proceed with the project which would require further work and consultation with residents. It was noted that timings need to be considered and agreed in terms of receipt of funding (should we be successful) and payment to SCC.

Regarding Causeway Farm, the end tenancy date was confirmed as 5 April, and it will be after this date that the PC will be able to engage with SCC in more detail on what happens next. There remains an interest in the farm from both the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and a Care Farm.

6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects

Cllrs Cusack and Macdowell met with SZC and Theberton PC on 4 March regarding the Sizewell Link Road. A drive around the area demonstrating works to date followed a power point presentation. It was anticipated and hoped that the meeting would provide information on anticipated works, rather than works that have already been carried out.

Trees are still being felled and hedges removed. It is understood that the felling of trees and removal of hedges cannot take place after February, however SZC are able to seek permission to override the guidelines by way of a special license.

Fordley Road has been closed during the day this week, for more tree felling. SZC advise that they have reduced the amount of vegetation removal from what was originally proposed.

Cllr Piercy offered to attend the next Community Forum on 27 March.

Cllr Macdowell will be attending the Lionlink exhibition at the Town Hall in Saxmundham, this Friday, 10am -4pm.

7 Emergency Planning Group. c/f

8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. It was reported that the rot in the hall has been taken care of and is not cause for concern. Work has been carried out to check for lead pipe leakage which resulted in no problems reported. A working group is to be created to tidy up the village hall garden.
- b) Middleton Primary School. No report
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report
- d) Middleton Moor. It was agreed that the correspondence (an email, not a report) received from Peter Frizzell may be used when corresponding with Natural England/Suffolk Wildlife Trust to strengthen our position regarding the use of an excavator to dredge the pond. No works may take place now until the winter.

9 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Hastoe Field A3 prints for 26/2 mtg	Leiston Press	£30.00	LGA 1972 s.142

10 Administration

The following documents were re-adopted by the PC.

- a) Model Standing Orders
- b) Financial Regulations
- c) Internal Controls
- d) Code of Conduct
- e) Risk Assessment
- f) Asset Register

11 Agree engagement of SALC for 2024/25 audit

It was agreed to employ SALC to carry out the internal audit, at a cost of £183 exc.VAT.

12 Agree to include October CIL figure for bin costs

Following last month's meeting and the agreement to use £225 CIL monies towards the purchase of a waste bin and dog refuse bin for the recreation ground, it was brought to the attention of the PC that a further CIL figure of £450 is available to spend before October 2025. It was agreed to also include this CIL figure towards the cost of the bins, representing a total of £675. The bins cost £755.16 exc. VAT.

13 Election of Vice Chairman

All councillors formerly agreed to appoint Cllr Thorpe as Vice Chair to Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council.

14 Village Path approach to Church

Cllr Lacey met on site with contractors. The scheme has been reduced to make it more cost effective, and a revised quote is expected by the end of this week. It was agreed to advise the respective neighbours of the works before commencement.

15 Correspondence. The problem of dog fouling around the perimeter of the recreation ground was raised again, with a noticeable increase during school holidays. This same problem was raised at the PC meeting on 11 June 2024. The clerk contacted the resident, at that time, who confirmed that they were happy for signs to go up. **Action: Cllr Charles to source signs.**

Village green grass cutting. **Action: Clerk to confirm availability of suggested contact.**

16 Items for Next Agenda.

Emergency Planning Group

17 Next Meeting. The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

Thanks were given to Cllr Piercy for chairing the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8pm.