

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 September 2025
AT 8.15pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Giles Piercy

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Kathryn Rowe

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 1

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

3 Minutes

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 9 July 2025.

Matters arising

- June's Safety Inspection Report successfully sent to councillors.
- Insurance has been renewed with Ansvar, via CAS Ltd.
- Year-end accounts have been sent to the Charities Commission.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report. The latest report has been received and noted. It was questioned whether the cost for inspections would increase should the amount of play equipment/items at the recreation ground increase. **Action: Clerk to liaise with The Play Inspection Co.**

5 Finance

a) To approve the following payment.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Insurance Renewal	CAS Ltd	£419.30	1972 s.111

An invoice was presented to the meeting from Deben Carpets and Flooring for new flooring in the pavilion, following the flood. The invoice, representing a 50% deposit of the total cost, was approved for payment in the sum of £2,158.20. This sum will be claimed back from the insurer.

The dehumidifiers are still operational in the pavilion and will remain so for two more weeks. As a result of running the dehumidifiers, the latest British Gas bill has doubled. It was agreed to contact the insurers to establish whether this extra cost may also be claimed on the insurance. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Cusack.**

6 Grant Application for play equipment etc. The Recreation Ground Working Group have been meeting monthly and have prepared a final draft grant application. The application seeks funds for play equipment for 0-11 year-olds, play equipment for 11+ and teenagers, adult exercise equipment, a new container for storage, and solar panels. It was noted that the PC have received several letters of encouragement from both village residents and village groups for the recreation ground proposals, all of which will boost the chances of a successful grant application.

The question was raised as to whether we can reclaim VAT as the Recreation Ground Trust; this may impact the grant figure. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Cusack.**

The Trust's insurance will be impacted if the PC are successful in their grant application, with the potential increase of £120,000 of new equipment. This increase will therefore need to be added to the grant application. **Action: Clerk to request a ballpark insurance figure, to include £120,000 of new play equipment.**

- 7 Recreation Ground Working Group – website document update.** This document has been updated and readopted accordingly. **Action: Clerk to replace with existing on the village website.**
- 8 Correspondence.** None.
- 9 Matters for discussion.** None.
- 10 Consider Items for the next Agenda.**
- 11 Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 8 October 2025 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.