

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2024 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 Lesley Taylor
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Steve Thorpe

Apologies:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Michele Kendall

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
District Cllr Sarah Whitelock (7pm-7.30pm)
Members of the public x 3

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum. A member of the public referred to, and raised concern, over the removal of trees and hedges, as part of the archaeological works preceding the SZC link road, Yoxford roundabout, Darsham P&R, Wickham Market P&R and the two-village bypass. It is the PC's experience that protests to date have mitigated little satisfaction, furthermore, where works are being carried out on private land, the PC have no voice. It was agreed that much of the destruction appears unnecessary. The PC continue to ensure that works are carried out in line with the DCO but, unfortunately, the DCO is a vague document and therefore difficult to challenge. District Cllr Sarah Whitelock offered to investigate/make some enquiries.

A member of the public reported that Lionlink have been carrying out trial works on their land and that they have been visited by a senior tunnel engineer who advised that disappointment, destruction and disruption of the environment will be kept to a minimum. An offer of visits to Lionlink in Lincolnshire was also mentioned by the engineer, by way of reassurance.

The request for Lionlink and SZC to work together regarding the link road was highlighted again.

Cllr Whitelock reported the following:

- The proposed recycling scheme (discussed at last month's meeting) has been presented to full council and agreed.
- Wellbeing/mental health leaflets have been distributed throughout the ward. MIND completed a survey that indicated that mental health in this area is lower than the rest of East Anglia, and indeed the country. Training is to be made available to residents of Friston, initially, with regards to talking about mental health issues. Should this be successful it may be extended to other villages. Cllr Whitelock will keep the PC informed.
- A Youth Council has been established, in order that young people can have some influence over what happens at the Council. This will take place via schools, with two representatives from each school in the district.
- Residents are encouraged to complete the Community Safety Survey (details available on the village website and village hall noticeboard). The results of this survey will form a baseline for comparison with the completion of the same survey in several years' time. It is anticipated that this will eventually create a powerful document of evidence.
- A member of the public informed the meeting of a term used by the agricultural community 'Answer as a Percent'; whereby an indication of wellbeing is presented by a number and is

used as a conversation starter. ESC is putting together a conference for farmers, recognising current challenges and ways to work in the current environment. More information to follow.

4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2024.

b) Matters arising and Action Points

- * Cllr Cusack to arrange for cutting of the hedge at the burial ground c/f.
- * The Asset Register has been updated and is on the village website.
- * Information regarding temporary road closure of Fletchers Lane has been sought.
- * £200 contribution to the Summer Winers has been made.
- * Upon investigation, the driveway at Moor House does not need works carried out.
- * A new section on the village website for planning application meetings has been created.
- * Cllrs Cusack and Piercy are booked on the Emergency Planning Workshop, with a following meeting to discuss an emergency plan for the village, arranged for Monday 4 November.
- * Necessary contacts have been advised regarding the change of day for the parish meetings (Wednesday, starting 13 November).
- * A positive response to Middleton Community Hub has been received from the WI and Holy Trinity Church. The Clerk is still waiting to hear from the Village Hall Community and Middleton Community Council.
- * Poppy wreath has been ordered.
- * Cllr Taylor to write an article for the newsletter regarding interest in public transport for the village c/f. The PC are considering replicating a service that Aldeburgh provides, called Agnes (Aldeburgh Good Neighbours Scheme). Cllr Taylor has researched the workings of Agnes, with an investigation into implementation to follow. Currently, Cllr Taylor is waiting for a response from the individual that set Agnes up. Private residents' cars are use, along with a dedicated phone system. Insurance details are currently unknown, along with feasibility on a smaller scale, under WhatsApp. It was noted that CATS (Coastal Accessible Transport Service) provided an update in the village newsletter, seeking volunteer drivers.
- * Cllr Cusack has furnished Cllr Taylor with details of the ESC Community Partnership Meetings.

5 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects

Cllr Taylor to attend the Community Forum on 9 October.

Clerk to attend the Main Development Site Forum on 15 October.

Cllr Lacey to attend the Northern Transport Forum on 6 November.

6 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. It was reported that the hall has dry or wet rot. Although the hall is owned by the PC, the Village Hall Management Committee are responsible for the upkeep. Cllr Rowe will attend the next VH meeting and discuss further.
- b) Middleton Primary School. An introductory email from the Headteacher was shared at the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Cusack has made contact, with a view to visiting the school. Cllr Rowe also offered to visit.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. It was agreed that Cllr Thorpe will write to Cllr Whitelock regarding the 'destructive' archaeological works (as mentioned above). **Action: Cllr Thorpe to share the PC's thoughts with Cllr Whitelock.**
- d) Middleton Moor. A member of the public advised that the 'no parking' signs have been destroyed following the topping of the Moor, although it was understood that the signs had been removed prior to the works and stored in a safe place.
- e) Causeway Farm. Deliberations continue. SCC have advised the PC to engage with and include District Councillors regarding this matter. **Action: Cllr Piercy to email Cllr Whitelock an update with the current position at Causeway Farm.**

7 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
PC Insurance Renewal	CAS Ltd	£521.15	LGA 1972 s. 111
P30 Q2 Income Tax	HMRC	£117.00	LGA 1972 s. 112
Waste Toner Cartridge – TonerGiant.co.uk	Rachael Salcombe	£19.45	LGA 1972 s. 111
Clerk Expenses	Rachael Salcombe	£239.82	LGA 1972 s. 111

8 CIL Spending. c/f

- 9 **Village Path approach to Church.** Cllr Lacey has arranged a meeting, on site, with Nice Touch Landscapes on 12 October. A meeting date with East Coast Landscapes is yet to be arranged.
- 10 **Village Green Grass Cutting.** Cllr Piercy was thanked for cutting the village green and has kindly agreed to repeat, if necessary, this year. A permanent solution is yet to be sought, and the contractor for the recreation ground was mentioned as a possible option.
- 11 **Flooding/Maintenance/Emergency Plan.** See Matters Arising above.
- 12 **Funding/Grant Opportunities. Middleton Community Hub.**
Cllr Taylor confirmed that an application has been submitted, in the sum of £2,000, to the East Suffolk Cost of Lining Community Grant Fund. It is hoped to hear by the end of this week whether we have been successful. Although we meet the criteria, the grant is heavily over-subscribed and there is no guarantee of success. It was reiterated that this venture is very much reliant upon being a joint working group project.
- 13 **Correspondence.**
Confirmation has been received from ESC that The Bell Inn is now registered as a Community Asset.
Head, Middleton Primary School – see above.
Young People Taking Action. The charity's aim is to ensure that all young people living in the area have somewhere fun and safe to go which gives the opportunity to participate in positive activities and where they can access information, support and/or guidance on issues which may be affecting them. The charity is looking to apply to the Sizewell Community Fund to secure funding to purchase a minibus to transport young people to their sessions and allow access to the services that they offer. It was agreed to put a note in the village newsletter to seek interest.
Action: Clerk to create a piece for the newsletter and respond to the initial contact accordingly.
Correspondence was shared from The Trust Farm regarding the problem of obscured traffic when exiting onto the B1122 and the possibility of obtaining signage, like that proposed for Mill Lane.
Action: Cllr Macdowell to raise with the Northern Transport Forum.
- 14 **Items for Next Agenda**
CIL Spending
- 15 **Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13 November 2024, at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.