

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 11th JULY 2023 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell

Apologies:

No apologies

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Two members of the public

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum

- a) A resident from the Village Green Group thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to enhance the village green, along with two residents of Minsmere Rise for their assistance. The Open Gardens Committee were also thanked for the £200 donation, which will be spent on a new bench. It was also reported that there is a need for new signs to read Do Not Park on the Green. It was agreed that three signs are required, and Cllr Cusack suggested Leiston Press for the purchase thereof. Cllr Cusack also confirmed that a financial contribution was offered to the Village Green Group by the Parish Council, evidenced in the minutes at the time of the request, and that this offer still stands, subject to submission of a plan for how the money would be used.

Cllr Cusack raised the issue of the two refurbished ploughs and their location within the village. This was originally proposed to be in the Recreation Ground car park area; however, it has also been suggested that consideration be given to the ploughs being placed on the Green and it was reported that the Village Green Group are happy with this suggestion and felt that the ploughs would be a good addition. Thus, placement of the ploughs on the Green was supported by the Parish Council, subject to agreement from the residents that surround the area. Cllr Thorpe offered to be the point of contact between the Village Green Group and the Parish Council.

It was reported that The Summer Wine Group had kindly agreed to absorb the cost of creating an appropriate base for the ploughs and ensure that they are safely and securely fixed in place and all sharp edges removed.

- b) A second member of the public addressed the Council regarding the recent road traffic accidents on the B1122, and whether it would be possible to install speed cameras. This was followed by a request to replace three missing road signs. Cllr Thorpe advised that members of the public can access the Suffolk County Council Highways Department portal to report issues such as missing signs. It was also suggested that photos be taken. Again, it was confirmed that the Highways Department are

responsible for overgrown vegetation on verges and the removal thereof, which too can be reported through the portal.

The Councillors were advised that a resident has offered to purchase and supply a defibrillator for the village hall.

An enquiry was made about the zip wire on the Recreation Ground and Cllr Cusack advised that it is to be dismantled due to rotten timbers. The decision on whether to replace like for like or purchase something completely different has not been made (the cost for a new zip wire would be over £10,000).

Upon request, **Cllr Cusack to enquiry how long it takes to carry out the monthly playground inspections.** [Subsequent to the meeting it was ascertained that the monthly operational inspections take between 30 and 45 minutes.]

- c) County Councillor report. None.
- d) District Councillor report. None.

4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 13th June 2023 as accurate.

- b) **Matters arising**

The large banner sign on the Village Green outside Norwood House has been removed, although other smaller signs remain.

Cllrs Thorpe and Macdowell have submitted their Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Lacey has made contact with Richard Turner (village hall), as the PC contact.

Cllr Thorpe is making progress with contacting holiday let companies/dog fouling and discussions with local farmers regarding footpaths.

Cllr Lacy made enquiries about the option of a longer reach machine to clear the pond at Middleton Moor. This is not a cost-effective option. Cllr Cusack thanked Cllr Lacey for following up.

Parish Council support for planning application DC/23/2037/FUL (The Yews, Back Road) has been entered on the Planning Portal.

5 Councillors' Reports

- a) Village Hall. Next meeting will be in September.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report.
- c) Energy Project, including Sizewell C. See below.
- d) Highways, footpath and trees. Cllr Reynolds advised that pulling out of Title Road has become dangerous due to overgrown vegetation. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to report on Highways Portal.**
- e) Middleton Moor. See above.

6 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Authorisation was given for the payment of £35 to the Information Commissioner's Office.

7 B1122/B1125 Sizewell C Early Years Joint Parishes Meeting

Cllr Macdowell reported on the joint parishes meeting that took place on Tuesday 27th June. The purpose of the meeting was to refine the draft letter. The contents of the letter were briefly discussed and furnished to all Councillors. The letter will be sent tomorrow (Wednesday 12th July) along with an email referencing the recent road traffic accidents, mentioned above. Later that day the letter will be issued to the local media, with Cllr Cusack as contact.

In other Sizewell news an application for Judicial Review has been turned down and is now being appealed, funded by TASK and Stop Sizewell C.

8 Correspondence

Cllr Cusack has replied to issues raised by a resident regarding the Middleton Green Group.

9 Items for the Next Agenda. None.

10 Next Meeting

Cllr Cusack asked the councillors for their thoughts on a longer strategy review for village improvements/projects and whether this was a good idea, which was agreed. **Action: Clerk to email Councillors requesting availability during August.**

The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12th September 2023.

The meeting closed at 8pm.