

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Michele Kendall
District Cllr Katie Graham

Apologies:

Cllr Graham Lacey

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
One member of the public

2 **Co-option of new Councillor.** All Councillors formerly agreed to co-opt Michele Kendall onto the Council. Acceptance of Declaration of Office was signed.

3 **Councillors' Declarations of Interest.** None.

4 Public Forum

a) A member of the public made enquiries about the burial ground and the Council's intentions. Cllr Cusack reported that nothing is happening at the present time but that there are two issues being considered. 1) The Parish Council have no proof of ownership and would need to employ the services of a solicitor to seek registration of our title. 2) The idea, in principle, is to make the site attractive as a place for residents to visit, for contemplation. For this to happen vegetation would need clearing and the issue of parking and access would need to be considered in greater detail.

The member of public advised of their knowledge regarding the area, stating that 1) there are ashes to the front left-hand corner of the site (origin unknown), 2) trees and hedges have been removed in the past, including memorial plants, 3) the path shown on the map is positioned incorrectly, and 4) the layby at the front of the land is an official parking space (not a highway passing place). This parking space was paid for by the Parish Council.

b) Cllr Graham was welcomed to the meeting and apologised for being unable to attend previous meetings due to meeting date clashes. The following was reported upon.

- Cllr Tom Daly is continuing to meet with Sizewell C representatives.
- £1.1bn has been provided by the government for pre-commencement works at Sizewell C (SZC)
- Phase 2 of tree felling at the SZC construction site is complete, although how many is unknown.
- Accommodation provision has started at St George's Avenue in Leiston.

- An application to transport water from Levington to the SZC site, by road, is being considered by East Suffolk Council
- Consultation is underway with National Grid and the Netherlands for Lionlink (connecting offshore wind between the UK and the Netherlands).
- Consultation is underway with SeaLink (to reinforce the electricity connection between Suffolk and Kent).
- East Suffolk Council is accepting applications from local voluntary and social enterprise groups, as well as some small to medium sized businesses, for a £15,000-30,000 share in the newly launched Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF). Cllr Graham offered to share email address if we would like to apply.
- An Enabling Communities Budget is also available.
- There have been two meetings of interest 1) Government grants to put towards tree planting via the Forestry Commission and 2) Anglian Water exploring AONB in Suffolk. (Anglian Water also apparently stated that sewage is a low priority to the public.)

Action: Cllr Cusack to circulate report to Councillors.

Cllr Taylor asked how many water delivering tanks would be coming through the village. Cllr Macdowell advised that the maximum number of HGV's per day is 600 and that this figure includes the addition of water road tankers. Cllr Cusack advised that the Levington facility planning application is yet to be heard. Cllr Cusack reminded the meeting that we have requested low emission vehicles and that we do not want ESC to use their discretion to NOT require low emission vehicles.

Cllr Thorpe enquired what happens to the water when it arrives at its destination. Cllr Graham will liaise with Cllr Daley and email Cllr Thorpe with a response.

Cllr Taylor questioned whether it was possible to have a schedule of Sizewell-bound Abnormal and Indivisible Load (AIL) movements along the B1122. Cllr Graham advised that an interface has been launched, to provide information to residents, but is unsure whether it includes information regarding AILs.

Cllr Taylor highlighted the success of the weekly coffee/lunch at the village hall, but that it has become clear there is an issue for those that are housebound and/or vulnerable and unable to attend. **Action: Cllr Graham asked that Cllr Taylor email her with information/requirements.**

5 Visit from Sizewell C Community Relations Team to present an update on Project Progress. This visit has been postponed until after the next meeting off the Sizewell C B1122 working group (date unknown).

6 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2023.
- b) **Matters arising**
The monthly playground inspections take between 30 and 45 minutes.
Overgrown vegetation at the top end of Title Road has now been removed.

7 Councillors' Reports

- a) **Village Hall.** The new/revamped floor in the hall was noted with approval by the Council.

- b) **Middleton Primary School.** Nothing to report.
- c) **Energy Projects, including Sizewell C.** Cllr Cusack reminded the Councillors of the SeaLink statutory consultation taking place between 24 October and 18 December and that he will be attending the briefing on Tuesday 26 September.

Regarding possible cable routes, Cllr Cusack advised that Walberswick/Dunwich to Friston, east of Saxmundham could bring cable routes through Middleton parish. Although he does not believe this will be the chosen route and that the preferred option is more likely to be the beach between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. Cllr Macdowell confirmed that more than one 'route' option must be made available.

Following a conversation with Holmes Glazing, Cllr Taylor questioned whether the planned roundabout at Yoxford has been dropped. Cllr Macdowell has not heard that this is so, furthermore, the roundabout has been approved through the DCO (which also includes the two-village bypass).

The sound insulation process is moving forward, however, there appears to be some inconsistency regarding the distance requirements and who is entitled. This matter needs to be discussed at the group parishes meeting on 19th September.

It was agreed that the 'rumour mill' is considerable and unhelpful, thus highlighting the importance of a meeting with Sizewell C.

- d) **Highways, footpaths and trees.** Cllr Thorpe commented on the lack of speed getting fallen signs reinstated. It was also mentioned that oftentimes the work carried out is not that which was reported.

Cllr Macdowell advised that chevrons are still down at the Fordley Road junction following an accident, and does this need reporting?

Cllr Cusack confirmed that the reported pothole in the Causeway has been acknowledged and added to the action list.

The problem of the broken school sign on the Green has been escalated to the local Suffolk County Councillor

- e) **Middleton Moor**

Cllr Cusack reported that the rate at which the vegetation is growing in the island will change the nature of the pond and therefore the wildlife, if left unattended. It was agreed by all that the island needs to be removed. **Action: Cllr Cusack to liaise with a specialist contractor to provide an estimate for the works.**

Cllr Taylor reported that the Summer Wine Group have tidied the area but that the overflow channel that diverts excess water onto the Moor still needs attention. **Action: Cllr Cusack to advise the contractor of this matter also.**

The member of public mentioned and suggested the use of Marsh Mats, and this was noted.

Action: Cllrs Thorpe and Taylor will investigate the erection of a noticeboard between the pond and Norwood House entrance (as discussed at the strategy meeting in August).

Action: Cllr Taylor to enquire after new 'no parking' signs for the moor and the village green (also discussed at the strategy meeting).

8 Finance

- a) Actual vs budget for Q1 – noted and explanations for variances approved.
- b) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- c) It was agreed to select the Bronze option (£9.99 ex VAT) for the HugoFox village website monthly payment. Action: Clerk to set up DD.
- d) Authorisation was given for payment of 1) Clerk expenses, 2) Mobile phone monthly network charge and 3) Clerk training through SLCC.

9 Strategy Meeting 15th August 2023

- a) Burial ground, Action: Cllr Thorpe to manage/investigate the burial ground/contemplation area and develop a budget and plan.
- b) Permissive paths. Action: Cllrs Cusack, Macdowell and Thorpe to look at a map of the area and report back with routes discussed for possible permissive paths.
- c) Noticeboard and signs. See above.
- d) Enquiries were made regarding weak Broadband along Fordley Road and Cllr Cusack reported back, following correspondence with County Broadband, that County Broadband say their roll out (fibre to the house) will start sometime next year.
- e) Village survey. Action: Cllr Cusack to create a draft survey/questionnaire relating to development of the Recreation Ground.

10 Citizen's Advice Bureau

It was agreed to donate £100 to CAB. Action: Clerk to make this payment. Cllr Taylor reported back on possible training, to provide a service to the village (previously discussed at Strategy Meeting). The training is extensive and probably more than what is required, also, the closest location from which we could operate is Leiston. The possibility of offering informal advice, advertised via the village newsletter, was discussed.

11 Planning

Planning application DC/23/3127/FUL (Construction of a rear single storey conservatory – 2 Stone Cottages, The Street, Middleton). All agreed, no objection. Action: Clerk to enter on Planning Portal.

12 Correspondence. None

13 Items for Next Agenda. None

14 Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th October 2023.

The meeting closed at 8pm.