

MIDDLETON

CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Editorial

Thank you to all those who have sent in Christmas greetings and generously donated to the Newsletter. Our accounts are looking quite healthy at the moment – so we can continue for now with colour copies which are much nicer. Advertisers please let me know if you wish to continue with your adverts into 2024.

December seems to have arrived all of a sudden – festivities loom, trees are adorned, lights go up on houses. From the newsletter team may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(The next edition won't be till the end of January.)

Contributions for the next edition by email preferably as a WORD doc please to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 23rd January**.

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual. Also to be found on the Parish website. www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

Donations may be made to: HSBC
Middleton Newsletter
sort code 40-28-33
account number 61054236

RACKFORD FARM CHRISTMAS TREES

Free delivery to 5 miles

Fresh cut traditional spruce

6'-8' from £30

Available from 1st December

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I would like to say a huge thank you to the Summer Winers. I have just spent a most enjoyable hour watching and listening to their enlightening and entertaining methods of situating the beautifully restored plough (restored by the Winers) on the green. I'm sure it will be photographed and talked about by many locals and visitors in the coming years. Thank you again (and I didn't have to burn a thing!) Sue Peel



There is also now a new bench on the green dedicated to John & Joy Kemp who loved the view from their house across the green to the church, and so enjoyed being part of Middleton life.

Friends of Middleton Primary School PTA

Christmas Raffle

The draw will take place at Middleton Primary School on the 13th of December after our KS1 Christmas Performance. Everyone welcome.

Some of the prizes: The Bell Middleton - roast dinner for 2, Snape Maltings - £25 gift voucher, The English whisky company - tour voucher, Pleasure beach - complimentary wristband voucher, Tilley and Grace - scarf, Rspb - garden wildlife book, Tobys pet shop, Halesworth Bookshop, The Railway Inn Framlingham, Wheelers and Minsmere - chocolate hamper, Easton Farm Park - entry voucher, Baylham Rare Breed Centre - entry voucher, Mama Bears voucher, Westleton Crown voucher, Hot Wheels... and more

Tickets from School, The Bell or Susan Robinson

In all 10 teams took part in the recent village hall quiz. Congratulations to the winning team – Lynda, Pat and company. The quiz raised just over £400 for the village hall – thank you to everyone who took part.



Community Council Christmas Party - Saturday 9th December



Doors open 6pm for welcoming drinks

At the time of going to press there a few tickets left – contact Richard on 648345 or jenricht@btinternet.com

As at the previous parties before Covid we will have drinks available but should you wish to bring your own particular choice of wine please feel free.

We are currently including gluten free and vegetarian options, please let us know asap if you have any other dietary requirements.

We will be holding our charity raffle as usual – this year the committee have nominated the Suffolk Lowland Rescue organisation.

Parking is likely to be tight so if you are bringing a car and could double up with others please do or let us know if you could pick someone up en-route. Thank you. MCC



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Holy Trinity Church would like to wish all our friends and neighbours in Middleton-cum-Fordley a Joyful Christmas and we join you in hoping for a Peaceful New Year With heartfelt thanks for your continuing support, both seen and unseen.



Church Services during December

Sunday 10 December

11am Morning Prayer

Friday 22 December

6pm Carols on the Green

on the Village Green (in the church if wet) "mice"pies (not a typo!) and mulled wine

Sunday 24 December

11.15pm Midnight Mass

The Benefice advent service this month will be at Westleton on

Sunday 3 December at 10am

For anyone who would like to attend church on Christmas Day, please see The Fisherman for details of available services across the Benefice

Church Services During January

Sunday 21 January

11am 'Poetry and a Pastry'

Back by popular demand!

Please bring a poem, a prayer, some prose or perhaps a piece of music you have found inspiring and that you would be happy to read/play aloud (or to be read on your behalf) and, along with coffee and a croissant, we look forward to sitting together around a table and sharing these.

Sunday 28 January

11am Holy Communion

The Benefice service – Epiphany and Plough Sunday - this month at Westleton on Sunday 7 January at 10am

THANK YOU, ALAN

After many years of dedicated service and attention to Holy Trinity churchyard Alan has decided to stand down.

We are immensely grateful to Alan for keeping our churchyard looking so neat and tidy enabling those tending graves or walking through to do so in very pleasant surroundings.

With our sincere thanks and very best wishes.

Rita - Church Warden

On behalf of all on Holy Trinity PCC

Proceeds from Reiko's concert

The proceeds from Reiko's wonderful concert in October have now been distributed to support community projects and activities in Middleton. Thanks to all those that came and, of course, to Reiko the PCC have been able to offer significant financial support to the following:

- The village newsletter
- The weekly coffee/soup morning in the village hall
- Middleton Community Council
- Middleton Primary School to fund a teacher to deliver an age-appropriate Money/Finance Course (run by CAP – Christians Against Poverty)

With thanks once again to Reiko and everyone who was able to join us.

Paul Taylor On behalf of Holy Trinity PCC

In response may I sincerely thank Reiko and the PCC on behalf of the above-mentioned groups. Barbara.



New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none



Christmas Clean

14 December 11-12pm

mince pies for all comers...



10 January: Paul and Rob

24 January: Trish and Graham

7 February: Amanda and Irene

21 February: Camilla and Val

13 March: Margaret and Nicola

27 March: Mark and Liz

Thought for the Month

“Be not afraid!” Or, as we say it today, “Merry Christmas!”



Obituary

In memory of Maisie Keeble who lived in Middleton by the church all her married life, who passed away on October 30th aged 96 in Aldringham Court nursing home. She will be sadly missed by family and friends and the dogs.

Her funeral was held in Middleton Church on November 14th.

Seasons Greetings and a healthy & Happy New Year to all our neighbours, friends & acquaintances in Middleton!

Mandy & Steve



Wishing all my lovely friends in Middleton a wonderful Christmas and see you all in the New Year.

Yvonne xx

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all our friends in Middleton

Renny and Mike



Wishing all my neighbours and friends in Middleton a very Happy Christmas.

Carol Michel



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.

Jim Adams



The Reynolds Family would like to say Happy Christmas to all our friends and we raise a glass to a prosperous New Year 2024 to you all.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. From us all at Watermill Farm.



'We wish all in Middleton a very Happy Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year! Love from Gilly & Sicunder'



Here's wishing a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our chums in Middleton.

Nigel & Marilyn



Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Rita & Ian



Julian and Fiona Cusack wish all our friends and neighbours in Middleton a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Wishing a Very Happy Christmas and New Year to all our friends in Middleton.

Douglas and Sally Bone.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all our friends in Middleton

Rhonwen & Terry





To wish all our friends in
Middleton

A very happy Christmas and

A wonderful New Year.

Colin & Lynda xx



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

from all the Cookes at Central House

We would like to wish our friends in Middleton
and beyond **A Very Merry Christmas** and
A Happy New Year!



[We are donating to Cardiac Risk in the Young
(CRY)]

*Jenny and Richard Turner wish all of their
friends and acquaintances a happy, healthy
and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*



*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to all.*

Jean



Hannah, Charlie and Connie would like to wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



*A very Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to all our
friends and neighbours
Brian & Barbara*



Reflexology & Reiki

Thank you to all my clients this
year. I wish you a healthy and
peaceful Winter and I look
forward to seeing you in the New
Year.

Rebecca



WI News



Our November meeting turned out to be quite a tasty one. We had decided that our AGM would be preceded by cheese and wine. Members Fiona and Bev decorated the tables with autumnal flowers, leaves and colours and then provided us with a delicious selection of Suffolk cheeses served on trendy slates. We ate Suffolk Gold, Suffolk Blue, Baron Bigod and St Helena with French bread, biscuits, grapes, celery, apples, almonds, red onion chutney and Lucy's homemade fig jam. It was enjoyed with a glass (or 2) of wine and fruit juice. We thanked Bev and Fiona for arranging such a splendid repast!

We were then fortified and ready for our AGM. Lynda gave us the President's and Secretary's reports for the past year. She also read the Treasurer's report for 2022-23. Lynda was re-elected as President and the Committee, with the members approval, remained the same with one exception. Clare has resigned as programme coordinator. Lynda thanked her wholeheartedly for her dedication and services for the past 8 years, especially for providing us with many delightful and interesting speakers at our meetings. In appreciation we gave her a gift and card and a big round of applause. Shirley and Rosemary have taken over her job.

Our December meeting on the 20th at 7:15pm will be our "End of Year" celebration with food and entertainment. Guests are welcome.

In January 2024, our meeting will be on Wednesday the 17th at 7:15pm. We will have a talk on "Scams" given by a member of the Suffolk Police. All are welcome to attend.

LV



MIDDLETON BELL

We have negotiated with our supplier 'The Cheesewheel' to supply cheese baskets to retail @ The Bell Inn for Christmas presents or for your own pleasure over Christmas. This basket will be considerably cheaper than most retailers. More info will be put up at the Bell in the next few days.

Tel : 648286

QUIZ TIME!

CHARITY QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT @ THE BELL INN

THURS 21ST DECEMBER

7PM START

MAX 6 MEMBERS PER TEAM

£7.50 PP

PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL 01 728 648286

THE BELL INN CHRISTMAS HOURS 2023

BAR

Xmas eve 12pm till late
Xmas day 12pm till 2pm drinks
Boxing day 12pm till 11pm
Wed 27th – 30th 12pm till 11pm
New years eve 12pm till late
New years day 12pm till 7pm

FOOD

Xmas eve 12pm till 8pm
Xmas day kitchen closed
Boxing day 12pm till 3pm
Wed 27th 12pm till 3pm
Thurs 28th - 30th 12pm till 2.30pm / 6pm till 9pm
New years eve 12pm till 8pm
New years day 12pm till 3pm

Two Courses £26.00
Three Courses £31.00

The Bell Inn Festive Menu

To Start

Pork & Game Terrine with Piccalilli & Toasted Sourdough (DF)
Panko King Prawns, Bloody Mary Ketchup, Spring Onions & Chillies (DF)
Kiln Roasted Salmon, Dill Cream Cheese, Rocket & Shaved Fennel on Toasted Sourdough
Butternut Squash & Saffron Arancini, Sun Blush Tomato & Olive Tapenade (GF/DF)

Main Course

Pan Fried Hake, Parmentier Potatoes, Chorizo, Celeriac Puree & Crispy Kale (GF)
Roasted Venison Loin, Confit Potato, Wild Mushrooms, Seasonal Greens & Red Wine Jus (GF/DF) (£2.50 supplement)
Breadcrumbs Chicken Burger, Smoked Bacon, Brie, Cranberry Sauce & Stuffing, Fries & Salad
Braised Beef Brisket, Garlic & Chive Mash, Charred Shallot, Seasonal Greens, Bacon & Onion Gravy (GF)
Butternut Squash Steak, Garlic & Rosemary Roasted Potato, Seasonal Greens & Gravy (VGN) – Nut Roast Alternative Available (Not GF)
Chicken, Bacon, Leek & Mushroom Pie, Mash, Seasonal Greens, Bacon & Onion Gravy

Desserts

Christmas Pudding, Redcurrants & Brandy Sauce
Sticky Toffee Pudding, Toffee Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream & Toffee Crumb
Warm Chocolate Brownie, Chocolate Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream
Winter Berry Pavlova
Vegan Sticky Toffee Pudding & Brownie Available

Booking & Pre-Order Only 01728 648286

The Bell Inn Winter Menu

Breads £3.50 Olives £3.00

Sun Blushed Tomatoes £3.00 Hummus & Pitta Bread £7.00

Starters

Wild Mushrooms Sauteed in Garlic & Parsley Butter on Toasted Sourdough £8.50 (VG)
Panko King Prawns, Dressed Salad, Chilli & Lime Mayonnaise £8.50
Grilled Halloumi, Sweet Chilli Sauce & Dressed Salad £8.50 (GF/VG)
Torched Mackerel Fillet, Shaved Fennel & Beetroot £9.00 (GF/DF)
Butternut Squash & Saffron Arancini with Sunblushed Tomato & Olive Tapenade £8.50 (GF/DF/VGN)
Soup of the Day Served with Warm Bread & Butter £8.00 (VG) Can be made VGN

Mains

Adnams Beer Battered Haddock, Hand cut Chips, Garden Peas & Tartare Sauce £17.00 (DF)
Braised Beef Brisket, Herb Mashed Potato, Seasonal Greens, Charred Shallot, Bacon & Onion Gravy £20.00 (GF/can be made DF)
The Bell Rump Steak Burger with Bacon & Cheese, Crispy Onions, Fries & Salad £16.50
Pan Fried Sea Bass, Parmentier Potatoes, Samphire, Lemon & Brown Shrimp Butter Sauce £17.50 (GF)
Wholetail Breaded Scampi, Hand Cut Chips, Salad & Tartare Sauce £16.00
Courgette & Roasted Mediterranean Vegetable Tagliatelle, Pesto, Feta & Rocket £16.50 (VG)
Whole Rack of BBQ Glazed Ribs, Fries, Coleslaw & Corn on The Cob £19.00
Roasted Butternut Squash, Red Onion & Spinach Gnocchi with Toasted Pumpkin Seeds £16.00 (DF/GF/VGN)
Local Pigeon & Pork Sausages, Mashed Potato, Seasonal Greens, Bacon & Onion Gravy £16.50 (Can Be DF)
(May Contain Shot)
Choice of Aubergine or Panko Chicken Katsu Curry, Rice, Mango Chutney & Poppadom £16.00
Aubergine (GF/DF/VGN) Chicken (GF/DF)

Please Speak to a Member of Our Staff About any Food Allergies or Intolerances when Placing Your Order

The Bell Inn Deserts

The Bell Inn Crumble with Custard or Vanilla Ice Cream £8.00
Double Chocolate Brownie, Chocolate Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream £8.00
Sticky Toffee Pudding, Toffee Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream £8.00
Winter Berry Pavlova £8.00
Warm Treacle Tart & Cinnamon Ice Cream £8.00
Bell Inn Cheeseboard, Miller's Crackers, Grapes, Celery & Marmalade £10.00
Trio of Ice Cream £6.00

Vegan, Gluten Free Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding with a Choice of Coconut, Vanilla Ice Cream or Raspberry/Lemon Sorbet £8.00
Chocolate Brownie with a Choice of Coconut, Vanilla Ice Cream or Raspberry/Lemon Sorbet £8.00

Beverages

Espresso £2.20, Americano £2.30
Cappuccino £2.70, Latte £2.80
Flat White £2.70, Macchiato £2.30
Ristretto £2.00,
White Hot Chocolate £3.10, Dark Hot Chocolate £3.10
White Mocha £3.40, Dark Mocha £3.40
Liquor Coffee £4.95
Small Tea £2.30
Large Espresso £3.20
Liquor Hot Chocolate £4.95

Please Speak to a Member of Our Staff About any Food Allergies or Intolerances when Placing Your Order

Paninis

All Served With Side Salad & Root Vegetable Crisps

Bacon, Brie & Cranberry Sauce

£9.50

Roasted Vegetable, Rocket & Hummus (VGN/DF)

£9.00

Ham, Mozzarella & Mustard

£9.00

Sun Blushed Tomato, Pesto & Mozzarella

£9.00

Tuna Melt (Tuna Mayo, Red Onion & Mozzarella)

£9.00

Sides

Hand Cut Chips £4.50, Skinny Fries £3.50, Dressed Salad £3.50

Please Speak to a Member of Staff About Any Food Allergies or Intolerances When Placing Your Order





Thursday Morning Group



The Thursday morning group is very pleased to report that it has the funding to continue offering soup and a roll, along with a hot drink at the Village Hall well into the New Year. All welcome - and it's **FREE** !

Please contact Lynda if you have a friend or neighbour in the village who you think might like to attend but is maybe shy or nervous of asking for a lift.

07890 067054

FREE TO A GOOD HOME:

16" T.V.

Tel: 01728 648649

December Nature Notes

The connection between Christmas and partridges is essentially based on the Christmas carol, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas, where the partridge is famously featured as being in a pear tree. In Britain there are two partridge species, grey and red-legged, both familiar birds of this area and true arable farmland birds.

The Grey Partridge, also known as the Common or English Partridge or Englishman is Britain's native partridge. It was formerly widespread and very common; in the 1950's it was one of the 10 most common birds in the country, but has since seriously declined (92% since 1967) and now is considered of highest conservation priority. It is however, one of our most studied birds and the reasons for this decline are well understood. Principally herbicides were used to kill off arable weeds, which supported insects (particularly sawfly larvae), which the young partridges rely on in the first weeks of life. Additionally, the disappearance of nesting cover as field boundaries, to improve farming efficiency, results in lower brood production from increased predation. Conservation measures such as headlands of weeds and tussocky grass are being used to reverse this decline, but have been of limited success.

The Red-legged or French Partridge also Redleg or Frenchman is as the name suggests an introduced species. In 1770 the Earl of Hertford imported eggs from France, they were brooded under domestic hens and released onto his estate at Orford. After this success many landowners followed suit and now Red-legged Partridges have colonised most of the country, helped by annual releases of over six million hand-reared birds. The decline in the Grey Partridge is often blamed on the Red-legged Partridge but there is no evidence to support this. In fact, when both species occur together, the Grey Partridge are usually in greater numbers.

Given a good view identification of the two species on the ground is straightforward. The grey is a medium-sized predominantly brown bird with a distinctive orange face and distinct chestnut horseshoe patch on the breast. Whereas the gaudy red-legged are larger with a large white chin and throat patch, bordered with black. It has a greyish body with bold black flank stripes and with of course red legs. However, in flight or when a covey is flushed they are much harder to distinguish. They are then best separated by their calls on rising, the grey uttering a creaky *rick rick rick* call, and the red-legged, which is more prone to run than fly, often rises in silence before repeating a churring *tchree-agh* alarm call in flight.



Unlike greys, red-legged perch in trees and therefore many people therefore have assumed that the partridge in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" is a red-legged. In addition the song has a French origin and this has further strengthened the notion that the pear tree bird is this species. This is a false assumption because both species occur widely in France. Indeed, the whole thing is most likely a language misunderstanding and that the pear tree is in fact supposed to be *perdrix*, French for partridge and pronounced *per-dree*, and was simply copied down incorrectly when the song was transcribed. The original line would have been: "A partridge, une perdrix."

Peter Vincen

Hedging plants/trees have been given to the village by The Woodland Trust. These include Oak, Hornbeam, Field Maple and wild Plum. Each comes with a stake and protective tube.

There is no charge. The trees are two years old and bare rooted. If you are interested please email Ashley Brown at

raherebrown@gmail.com



Remembrance Sunday in Middleton, 2023



Thank you Nigel for the photos of the service of which this is a representative sample.

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jenricht@btinternet.com or 01728 648345

To book the pavilion on the Playing Field contact Lesley Taylor

taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk or 07970257329

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair	Cllr Katheryn Rowe
Cllr Graham Lacey	Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Lesley Taylor	Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Charles Macdowell	Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Michele Kendall	District Cllr Katie Graham

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
One member of the public

Apologies: No apologies

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum

- a) A member of the public presented the council with an invitation to attend the Air Cadets presentation evening, taking place in Leiston on Friday 24 November. Cllr Macdowell has kindly accepted the invitation on behalf of the PC.

Regarding the recent flooding, it was reported, by the member of public, that Fordley Road has always flooded and that worse conditions have been seen prior to recent events. Furthermore, cleaning ditches by the Environment Agency (predecessors to the Internal Drainage Board) was personally unhelpful and that he would prefer his land to flood as the clearing of ditches leads to an increase in water speed and thus loss of land. It was further commented that the pipe running beneath the B1122 is the reason why nothing could be done, about flooding, in the past. It was agreed that professional advice needs to be sought regarding these matters.

- b) County Councillor report. None.
- c) District Councillor Katie Graham was welcomed to the meeting. It was confirmed that the Leader's Monthly Bulletin and Parish Report had been received and circulated.

Flooding. Cllr Graham requested feedback regarding the recent storms and subsequent flooding. Cllr Lacey gave an account of Fordley Road; seven stranded cars, one of which ended up in the ditch and one left for over a week before being recovered. Cllr Lacey advised that he has opened up/cleared the roadside grips (dug out verges adjacent to the road). The flooding has made evident (again) a lack of maintenance; an issue previously raised with Highways but with no response to date. It was agreed that this matter does need addressing. Cllr Cusack visited The Mill House property, following the storm, which suffered extensive flooding in the back garden and fields, and it was noted that the ditch was full of debris. It was also noted that the Causeway was surprisingly not flooded, and that water was flowing fast and freely.

The resident of Mill House pays a drainage rate to the Internal Drainage Board, and it was agreed that the IDB are the appropriate people to speak with regarding responsibility for this waterway, but it is unknown whether they are responsibility for any other waterways in the area. Cllr Cusack reported that, as far as he is aware, there was no damage to homes in the village, but that some gardens (backing onto the main river) flooded at a higher level than normal (these gardens are part of the flood plain). Cllr Lacey provided Cllr Graham with photographs of the flooding in Fordley Road.

Cllr Graham confirmed that she will feed back this information and advised that there is government relief for homes and businesses affected. The council were further advised that ESC would like to be better prepared for such events in the future. To this end ESC are urging town and parish councils to put plans forward in preparation for storm events. She enquired whether we would want to do this and, if so, whether we need any help. Cllr Cusack advised that the process of creating an emergency plan was started five years ago but did not get finished. Cllr Graham confirmed that necessary training will be provided by the council. In addition, two places will be made available to each town/parish council for rest centre training on 23 November at East Suffolk House, Melton.

Sealink. Although the parish is not directly affected by Sealink, it is affected by Lionlink and it was agreed that both projects should be recognised by each other thereby creating a more coherent consultation process. Cllr Macdowell highlighted this issue by reporting that the Lionlink consultation maps do not show any of the other proposed energy projects and thus give no indication of how each proposal would in any way coordinate or conflict with other projects; is there any potential for one hearing for approval and consideration rather than separately (this would help the Government to move the planning process forward faster by reviewing, considering and approving, or not, in one sitting)? Cllr Cusack has spoken to the portfolio holder for energy, councillor Tom Daly urging him to include in the SCC letter to the Secretary of State a request for the public examinations to be held jointly. Cllr Graham agreed to reinforce this message and confirmed that ESC is asking for a proper review of the offshore options and the coordinating of these two projects together, along with better coordination of the consultation processes to reduce the quantity of work and strain put on town and parish councils.

New Oil and Gas Licenses. In response to the government's decision to issue new oil and gas licenses following the King's speech, East Suffolk Council have confirmed that they will no longer accept any tenancies from companies dealing with oil and gas and that green energy companies will be put to the forefront for business opportunities. ESC will only accept business from companies dealing solely in renewable energy.

4 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th October 2023.

b) Matters arising.

A donation of £500 has been made towards the Parish Newsletter.

An agreed date was reached for the B1122 Working Group meeting; Wednesday 15 November 2023.

Causeway Farm tenancy renewal. Cllr Piercy has agreed to pursue this matter regarding SCC's intentions for the farm. This is a publicly owned farm, and it was agreed that, as a village, we are entitled to a point of view. **Action: Cllr Cusack to provide Cllr Piercy with relevant correspondence to date.** (Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Cusack has provided Cllr Piercy with relevant documentation and Cllr Piercy has been in touch with Richard Smith at SCC requesting that the parish residents be involved in some way in determining the future of the farm.)

5 Councillors' Reports

a) **Village Hall**. Nothing to report.

b) **Middleton Primary School**. Nothing to report.

c) **Energy Projects, including Sizewell C**. Cllrs Cusack and Macdowell will be attending the B1122 Working Group meeting tomorrow afternoon, with Theberton PC, SCC and Sizewell C. Plans will be shared regarding footpaths and signage. The noise mitigation process will also be raised (double glazing, to the front of buildings). Cllr Cusack previously wrote to Richard Knight regarding the noise mitigation process, and it was confirmed at the 8 Parishes meeting (19 September) that EDF would be flexible regarding the 50-metre distance from road to property requirement. Cllr Macdowell reported that the planning process, for those that qualify, is vague but believes that the onus is on the homeowners to obtain two quotes from approved providers and go through the application process personally, rather than being carried out by EDF (the deadline for submissions has passed). Additionally, there will be planning issues for listed buildings regarding equipment that may need to be attached to the buildings. It was felt that EDF should reimburse the planning fee and any relevant reports that need to be created. Advice from EDF to residents appears to be inconsistent, with no one from the company able to give a definitive answer on the process. (Cllr Macdowell has received a request from a local resident on Mill Street to take up her case.)

d) **Highways, footpaths and trees**. Cllrs Cusack, Macdowell and Thorpe to meet for a discussion on permissive paths (mentioned in previous minutes). **Action: Cllr Macdowell to provide dates for meeting with Cllrs Cusack and Thorpe.** Cllr Cusack updated the council regarding the pothole in the Causeway (beyond the cottages) and that it is still untreated.

e) **Middleton Moor**. Cllr Taylor is in possession of the drainage reports but has been unable to get hold of Crispin Walker and furthermore advises that since our last meeting a tree has fallen into the pond and as such needs to be added to the job list for the area. In view of the time constraints and difficulties getting hold of Crispin Walker it was agreed to consider other contractors, sympathetic to the issues. **Action: Cllr Cusack to forward Barry Day's details (known to have worked for the RSPB) to Cllr Taylor. Action: Cllr Taylor to liaise with Barry Day and/or other possible contractors.** Cllr Lacey suggested drainage contractor, Les Cotton as another option.

Cllr Taylor has been in correspondence with local resident, Jane Etheridge, who has requested a meeting with residents and the parish council. She has offered her home as a meeting place. It was agreed to attend the meeting, with the PC being represented by Cllr Cusack and/or Cllr Taylor. **Action: Cllr Taylor to advise Jane of the PC's agreement to meet.**

The dangers surrounding HGVs and the B1122 was raised again, and it was agreed to reinstate the speed camera to collect some meaningful data. **Action: Cllr Taylor to arrange.** (Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Taylor has been in touch with Paul Collins requesting assistance in setting up the speed camera and recording application so that we may extract meaningful data.)

6 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Actual Vs Budget Q2 was received and accepted by all.
- c) Finance Group for 2024/25 budget. Cllrs Taylor and Piercy will join Cllr Cusack to form a finance working group to produce a budget for 24/25 and thus raise a precept based on an up-to-date inventory of the properties in the village. This process needs to be completed by the end of December; therefore, the working group meeting must take place before the December PC meeting to allow for the recommendation to be approved by all before submission. **Action: Clerk to organise a convenient date for all attendees and research supportive information regarding the procedure.**

7 January 2024.

The postponed Sizewell C presentation will now take place on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at the Village Hall at 7pm. Cllr Cusack is unable to chair due to a previous commitment and the meeting will be overseen by Cllr Taylor as Vice Chair.

8 Correspondence

- a) Advertising signs. (One double sided sign close to the highway facing west and one recruitment poster outside the entrance of Norwood House.) A village resident has written to the PC stating that the signs are inappropriate for displaying on common land and that we, as a PC, should arrange for their removal. This raised the question about which signs/posters are acceptable and which ones are not e.g., Stop Sizewell C signs and/or advertisements for village fairs and open gardens etc. Cllr Cusack reiterated previous correspondence with the proprietor of Norwood House regarding these signs, who too raised the question of all signs or no signs for fairness. There is business advertising, temporary advertising, village advertising, location of signs and size of signs to consider; how does one differentiate? Cllr Taylor reported of a personal issue whereby visitors to Norwood House mistakenly enter her driveway and suggested that existing signs need to be relocated or new signs (of the brown variety) located in a better place (this problem has been raised with and acknowledged by the owner of Norwood House. There have been no problems since). It was agreed to write to the owner and invite him to replace the temporary sign with a permanent sign giving clear directions to the property. It was agreed that a brown sign, albeit expensive, would blend into the environment nicely, although there is a question as to whether a brown sign (normally associated with tourism) can be used for this purpose. **Action: Cllr Cusack to put this request to Norwood House.**
Fordley Road. Unsuitable for HGV signs. The initial reaction from Suffolk Highways was positive but more recent correspondence has been received advising that evidence for the need of these signs is required by way of surveys, at a cost of £615. (The PC noted that we can also provide photographic evidence.) The possibility of sharing this cost with Kelsale PC was considered and agreed. In the meantime, it was agreed to request a contribution from EDF. **Action: Cllrs Cusack and Macdowell to raise at the B1122 working group meeting to be held tomorrow (Wednesday 15 November). Action: Cllr Cusack to write to Kelsale Parish Council.**

9 Items for Next Agenda. None

10 Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8pm.

DIARY DATES 2023 / 24

December

Saturday 2nd Santa Boules - Recreation Ground **10am**
 Thursday 7th "Squid Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
 Saturday 9th MCC Christmas Party, Village Hall **6pm**
 Sunday 10th Holy Trinity Morning Prayer **11am**
 Tuesday 12th Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**
 Saturday 16th Vinyl Night - Christmas Special, Bell Inn from **6pm**
 Wednesday 20th WI - Village Hall - Christmas celebration **7.15pm**
 Friday 22nd Carols on the Green **6pm (if wet in church)**
 Sunday 24th Holy Trinity Midnight Mass **11.15pm**

January

Thursday 4th "Squid Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
 Tuesday 9th Sizewell C Presentation, Village Hall, **7pm**
 Wednesday 17th WI - Village Hall - "Scams" - Suffolk Police **7.15pm**
 Sunday 21st Holy Trinity "Poetry and a Pastry" **11am**



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