

# MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



Open Gardens weekend –  
more inside.



## NEWSLETTER

July 2025



### Editorial

This is a bumper edition this month, mainly due to the double set of Parish Council minutes and reports from their annual meeting. I apologise for the small print for those of you with the paper copy – at least the online version you can enlarge the text! (I had to reduce because otherwise it would take the printing costs to around £230.)

A few people during Open Gardens weekend expressed an interest in a possible lace making workshop – I am happy to organise one in the autumn if it was serious interest. Let me know on the email address below.

Contributions for the August issue can be emailed to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Rd by **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July please.**

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual.

Also to be found on the Parish website: [www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk](http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk)

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



Thank you everyone who supported the MCC Midsummer Quiz on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

A shady spot was found for picnics and brain teasing!

The eventual winners (after a steady battle with the Friday Coffee Club) were the Locksmiths.

A team of 'Shady Characters' took the wooden spoons.

£138 profit was made.

Thank you all

MCC committee.



## Thank you!



Thank you for your support on the recent **Moonwalk**, a 26-mile sponsored overnight walk in aid of cancer charities. We are delighted to have raised just shy of **£2,400**, so thank you to everyone who helped us!

**Connie & Hannah Magee**



**Paget House is open for National Garden Scheme 13<sup>th</sup> July 11am-5pm.**

**Apologies to villagers in advance that this may cause increased traffic. Parking will be at the playing field so hopefully not too much congestion.**

Join in the fun by coming along to

## Village Summer Boules

**Saturday 19th July**

Start at 10:00am

Boules pitch at

The Recreation Ground

No experience necessary, make up a pair or  
join one on the day. £1/player  
jenricht@btinternet.com



*Open to all, always lots of fun and a great way to  
participate in Village life.*

### Chamber Music in East Suffolk

## Concerts at Cratfield 2025



#### SUNDAY 6 JULY 3PM

BEN GOLDSCHIEDER *horn*  
OFER FALK *violin*  
REIKO FUJISAWA *piano*  
Mozart, York Bowen, Huw Watkins,  
Esa-Pekka Salonen, Brahms

#### SUNDAY 20 JULY 3PM

BARBICAN QUARTET  
Haydn, Ligeti, Rebecca Clarke, Mendelssohn

#### SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 3PM

GUY JOHNSTON *cello*  
MELVYN TAN *piano*  
Richard Strauss, Ravel, JS Bach, Saint-Saëns

#### SUNDAY 17 AUGUST 3PM

ROSL Gold Medal Winners  
RYAN CORBETT *accordion*  
JACK HANCHER *guitar*  
Franck, Zolotaryov, N Boulanger, Weber,  
Dowland, Albeniz, Laura Snowden, Dani Howard

#### SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 3PM

COCO TOMITA *violin*  
SIMON CALLAGHAN *piano*  
Schubert, Debussy, Beethoven, Arvo Pärt

#### SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 3PM

SACCONI QUARTET  
ANNA TILBROOK *piano*  
Jonathan Dove, Shostakovich, Elgar

St Mary's Church, Church Road,  
Cratfield, East Suffolk, IP19 0BU  
[www.concertsatcratfield.org](http://www.concertsatcratfield.org)



Sunday July 6th marks the start of this year's Concerts at Cratfield, six concerts held on alternate Sunday afternoons, running until September 14th. Our opening concert features Middleton's very own concert pianist, Reiko Fujisawa, alongside violinist Ofer Falk and star horn player Ben Golscheider. There are only a few tickets available for the opening concert and you can book here:

[https://concertsatcratfield.org/G & J](https://concertsatcratfield.org/G&J)





## Middleton Primary School: Can You Share Your Skills With Us?

At Middleton Primary School, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom—and some of the best teachers can be found right here in our village!

We're reaching out to the wonderful residents of Middleton with an invitation: do you have a skill, talent, or area of knowledge you'd be happy to share with our pupils?

Whether you're a keen gardener, a talented artist, an enthusiastic baker, a musician, a local historian, or have experience in a particular trade or craft—we'd love to hear from you! Our children benefit enormously from hands-on learning and real-life stories, and your experience could help inspire the next generation.

You might be able to run a short session, give a demonstration, talk about your career, or even lead a simple workshop—we'll work with you to make it easy and enjoyable. No teaching experience is needed—just a willingness to get involved and share what you love.

If you'd like to find out more or have an idea in mind, please get in touch with the school office by emailing [office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk](mailto:office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm wishes,

**The Middleton Primary School**



Join Emmeline and Friends on their adventures and learn all about fairies, hairies and the other inhabitants of this magical and mystical world

The perfect gift for anyone in your life who believes (or wants to believe) in fairies, and ideal for children aged 4-10

Offering kindness, reassurance, some valuable life lessons and lots of fun, fairies and hairies will deliver a sprinkle of magic right to your door, or a door close to your heart!

*Personalised, handwritten and colourfully illustrated letters to delight little minds*

\*includes a very special fairy-sized gift and story every month

£9.90/month, including story, personalisation, gift, packaging & postage



For more information you can email or call Helen Dixon; [hels@emmelineandfriends.com](mailto:hels@emmelineandfriends.com) 07905 683468

Visit [www.emmelineandfriends.com](http://www.emmelineandfriends.com) to subscribe. During checkout, QUOTE FAIRY20 for an introductory 20% discount

**FOUND** on the playing field, silvery coloured linked bracelet . contact Rebecca [middletonpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:middletonpavilion@gmail.com)

## July Nature Notes

In a garden in Middleton I was recently shown what the owner suspected were antlion pits. This indeed was the case with a row of some 6 - 8 pits present in sandy soil beside a wall. As far as I am aware this is the first record of antlions in Middleton, but I suspect there could well be earlier records.

Antlions (*Euroleon nostras*) had only been seen a handful of times in Britain before 1994 when antlion pits were discovered in the neighbouring parish of Westleton. Though, at this time there must have been quite large populations in Westleton, as from 1998 pits were found in all of the quarry sites as well as roadside verges and bulldozer scrapes. They have subsequently spread to other parts of the Suffolk coast and in Britain antlions are still found almost exclusively in the Suffolk Sandlings. Antlions belong to the insect order Neuroptera, or net-winged insects, which in Britain also includes lacewings. Adult antlions are large insects with a wing length of over 30mm. Looking rather like a cross between a lacewing and a dragonfly. The rounded hairy larvae are about 10mm in length with large formidable mandibles. They live for two years before becoming adults. Only one species of antlion occurs in Britain, but there are several other species around the world.



Adult antlions are rarely seen, but evidence of their presence is given by the distinctive conical pits made by their larvae. These pits are made by the antlion larva crawling backwards, using its abdomen as a plough to dig up the soil. Using one of its front legs, it places heaps of loosened particles upon its head which it then flicks clear. As it slowly moves round and round, the pit gradually gets deeper and deeper, until the slope angle reaches the steepest angle the sand can maintain, where it is on the verge of collapse from slight disturbance. An average-sized larva digs a pit about 50mm deep and 75mm wide at the edge. Once dug the larva bury themselves in the sand at the bottom of the pit, with only the jaws projecting above the surface, waiting for an unsuspecting ant to tumble into the pit. When that happens, the trap has been sprung, and the ant's chances of survival are slim. The larva now starts phase two of the hunt, flicking grains of sand at the struggling ant to knock it back into the base of the pit - right into the pincers of the waiting predator. Which then injects a venom that paralyses the prey and starts to digest it and as the antlion starts sucking the juices from the ant.

Peter Vincent

# SINGOUT!

Community Choir  
Musical Director - Gretel Dowdeswell

## Concert

Saturday 5 July

@7.30pm

St Peter's Church  
Yoxford

Entrance Free - Donations to Charity

[www.singoutyoxford.co.uk](http://www.singoutyoxford.co.uk) [singoutyoxford@gmail.com](mailto:singoutyoxford@gmail.com)

## Jo Hannon Design

### Building and Interior design

Domestic extensions, kitchens,  
bathrooms and furniture

[Jo@johannondesign.com](mailto:Jo@johannondesign.com) 07815 295927

At our June meeting we welcomed Mark Mitchells to give us a talk on "The Suffolk Coastline". He began by saying our coastline is one of the least developed in the country. There are rivers running inland from the sea with few ways to get across them, therefore there is no major road that runs directly down along the coast. Mark told us interesting facts about most of the places from Corton in the north to Felixstowe in the south. Over the centuries erosion and silting up have done much to change the geography of the coast. Corton was once a village, now mostly lost to the sea. The harbour at Lowestoft once had 600 East Anglian and 1000 Scottish drifters catching herrings, 10,000 people worked in that industry and now it is all gone. Nearby Oulton Broad was created in the Middle Ages by the digging for peat, local farmers then used the waterway to move their produce about on barges. Holiday makers use it now. Pakefield and the beach at Sizewell were notorious for smuggling. Smugglers when caught and tried were often found not guilty by the jury since the defendants were considered one of them. Covehithe was once a port with a large 15th c. church which was demolished in the 17th c. to build a smaller one in the ruins but the tower of the first one was kept for navigation purposes. With cliff erosion at 13 feet a year, the church will go in 10 years. Moving on to Southwold where the Battle of Sole Bay (1672) between the Dutch and the English took place and is now a holiday hotspot (36% second homes). The pier was recreated in 2001 and with its water clock, remembrance plaques and shops is a successful attraction. Across the river, Walberswick (40% second homes) became popular when in the 1880's the artist Philip Wilson Steer mentions it as perfect for artists. In 1879 a 6-carriage small gauge railway connecting Halesworth, Wenhamston, Blythburgh and Southwold was built. It only went 6mph and was eventually replaced by buses in 1928. In the Middle Ages Blythburgh was thought to become a great port so a cathedral was built there. The port didn't come about but across from the church there is a field that was the site of the Battle of Bulcamp in 654; the East Anglians fought the Mercians. On to Dunwich (39% second homes): in the Domesday Book it's mentioned as one of the 10 great cities, a port with 10,000 people. In 1328 a gigantic storm caused hundreds of houses to fall and shingle to fill in the harbour entrance. Most of Dunwich is now a mile out to sea. Now there is The Flora Tea Rooms named after a barge called "Flora" which sank off Dunwich. In 1908 Thorpeness was built as a holiday village by the Ogilvie family inspired by J.M. Barrie author of "Peter Pan". The 90-acre mere was dug by hand (Irish workmen). Moving down the beach, Aldeburgh also lost land to the sea (the Moot Hall was once the centre of town). The composer Benjamin Britten lived there, and another famous resident was Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first woman to qualify as a doctor in England, she became Mayor. Her father, Newson Garrett, had also been Mayor. Newson built the original maltings (barley to malt) at Snape which when no longer in use and derelict, Benjamin Britten turned it into The Aldeburgh Festival Concert Hall. Newson was the grandson of Richard Garrett who founded the renowned engineering works in Leiston. We travel south past Slaughden to Orford and its 12th century castle built to keep the Bigods of Framlingham at bay, south past Havergate Island RSPB reserve, past the Butley River, Bawdsey Manor and then to Felixstowe to finish. Felixstowe with its Landguard Fort started by Henry VIII, was in Victorian Times transformed from a fishing village to a fashionable resort for sea bathing. In 1886. George Tomline, a local businessman, who had brought the railway branchline to Felixstowe from Ipswich established the Port of Felixstowe. He wanted it to rival and be bigger than that of Harwich across the river. He didn't live long enough to see his dream come true! We thanked Mark for the very interesting and informative tour of the Suffolk coastline. Our July meeting will be the annual Garden Party in our president's garden.



#### **A12 Darsham – Temporary Nighttime Road Closure**

Most of you will already have seen a letter from SZC about this but in case you haven't the A12 will be closed from 8pm – 5am Monday – Friday from 7<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> July.



## Middleton Dark Skies

**July Highlights.** We are still hanging on to the lighter evening skies this month, especially out towards the North and Northwest, so the best observations will be looking towards the South.

**Planets on View.** **Venus** is still a morning object, rising at around 2 AM. On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month, it will have a slender crescent Moon for company. **Mars** is sitting low in the West after sunset, much dimmer now as it slips further away from the Earth. **Jupiter** reappears from behind the Sun, rising at around 3.30AM towards the end of the month. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> the crescent Moon will be sitting just above Jupiter, low down in the pre-dawn sky. **Saturn** rises at around 11.30 PM, it's not particularly bright at the moment, but binoculars will still show it as slightly elliptical due to the angle of its rings.

**Constellations.** A couple to look out for in the Southern sky this month are **Sagittarius** (The Archer, in Latin or Centaur) and **Scorpius** (The Scorpion). As with most constellations, **Sagittarius** is associated with a figure from Greek myth. In this case it is Chiron the centaur. It is also associated with Crotus, a Satyr who, according to myth, invented archery! Sagittarius consists of 22 main stars, 8 of which can be seen with the naked eye, and form the rough outline of a teapot, with accompanying steam from the spout, courtesy of the adjacent Milky Way. Many of the stars are known to be orbited by planets, over 30 have been found so far. **Scorpius** represents the scorpion that, in Greek myth, was sent down by the goddess Artemis, to kill Orion after he boasted he would kill all animals. The constellation consists of 14 main stars and, as with Sagittarius, many of them are known to have orbiting planets.



### Sagittarius (Main stars)

### Scorpius or Scorpio

**The Moon.** Known as The Buck Moon this month, due to the growth of the buck deer's antlers, or Thunder Moon, due to the thunderstorms that form at this time of the year. Full moon this month occurs on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Due to the Earth's tilt, which leads to the Sun being high in the sky during the day at this time of the year, the Moon stays low down as it tracks across the southern horizon.

**Meteor Showers** A couple of showers to look out for, both occurring towards the end of the month. These are the Alpha Capricornids and the Delta Aquariids. Not too many an hour forecast and the Delta Aquariids are quite faint, but the Alpha Capricornids are known for producing slow moving fireballs, usually yellow in colour, so the latter could well be worth a look. Both showers peak over the nights of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The moon is almost half full on these dates, and rises around 11 PM, so not ideal this year.

Brian Near



Graham Cooke *DipMIT MPTA*  
Piano Tuner/Technician

Tel: 01728 648900  
Mob: 07812 249654  
E-mail: grcooke@btinternet.com



N.J. Day Builders

07946386665 (01728)648659



You can hire  
the Middleton Pavilion

A space to relax, party  
or play sports...Your choice

middletonpavilion@gmail.com

Middleton Pavilion, Suffolk

## HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

### Church Services during July

#### Sunday 13 July

#### 11 am Poetry and Pastries

A welcome return for Poetry and Pastries. Whether a regular or giving it a go for the first time, please join us. Simply come along with 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 have read on your behalf) and, along with coffee and a croissant, we will sit together around a table and share these...

#### Sunday 27 July

#### 11am Holy Communion

The Benefice service this month will be at St Peter's Theberton Sunday 6 July at 10am  
Please come along

#### Church Warden

We are delighted to let you know that Rita Pateman has agreed to continue being Holy Trinity's Church Warden for another year. A person of many quiet kindnesses, her resolute commitment and unwavering support are hugely appreciated by all of us on the PCC and beyond.

Should you need to contact her with a church enquiry, her number is 01728 648377

#### Middleton Open Gardens 2025

Despite a yellow warning of bad weather, Middleton managed to miss most of it and the visitors came in good numbers to make our Open Gardens weekend a great success and raising £3000 for Holy Trinity. This amount enables us to make a generous donation to East Suffolk NSPCC and to Leiston's Project40Seven. The PCC would like to thank those who opened their gardens and for the wonderful support given in so many ways by so many. Whilst the sum raised is wonderful it is also a special community event of coming together - thank you.

#### Rita Pateman, Church Warden

The weather was forecast to be poor, with rain, thunderstorms and strong winds. It didn't stop people coming; they took the opportunity to dodge the showers, linger in each garden, and ask questions of the head gardeners about their ideas. The head gardeners were generous with their time, and I know that some of them had aching jaws from smiling so much. The feedback from the visitors was that everyone they met was friendly. I pushed them on what their favourite gardens were, but they were unanimous, and with one voice declared that there was something special about every garden. Many had made a special trip to get here, and said that it had been really worthwhile. One person, a visitor who has frequented many open gardens across England, said it 'was one of the best', and a village resident, who visited every garden over the weekend, said it had been the 'best ever Middleton Open Gardens'.

There were 18 gardens on show over the weekend, with 6 new gardens (one which was only started this year), and there were 2 favourites returning after a break. The Manor House had finally reached year 10 of their 10-year project.

All the gardens, and their head gardeners, were captured on camera by Mark Mitchels, you can see them by clicking the link here <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCixbi>  
Or by visiting [www.flickr.com/photos/3istheperfectnumber/albums/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/3istheperfectnumber/albums/)

At the Village Hall, some of our creative residents put together a display, sale, and exhibition. Some of the paintings were on show for the very first time, and the Burma Mule exhibition generated some very interesting discussion. This year the plant stall was provided by Woottens of Wenhasdon. There was a bug hunt in one of the really wild gardens, and Peter thinks one of the young girls that visited, may have captured a rare (for Suffolk) sawfly.

Although visitor numbers were down for this year, we still managed to raise £3,295. This means that the NSPCC (East) will receive £500, and Project 40seven (IP17) will receive £175; the remainder will go toward the upkeep of Holy Trinity; a place to celebrate, for reflection, to be at peace, for hospitality, and to journey in faith: joining with others to



help in the building of a flourishing community. For the first time, a short service of celebration, themed around 'the act of gardening', took place in the church (it had been planned for the churchyard, but the winds were getting up by this point).

Open Gardens 2025 truly was 'of the people, by the people, for the people'; creating our own small but beautiful resistance to the diminished countryside nearby. So, once again, thank you to all those who opened their gardens, big and small; all inspiring, all works of love, dedication and creativity; to the cake makers, who feed us body and soul; to all those who helped and worked hard to make the event such a success, with such warm heartedness; to those of you who attended and took part, and made this event take root, shoot, and grow.

**David Burgess, on behalf of the Middleton Open Gardens committee**



New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

9 July - Mark and Liz

23 July - Val and Camilla

6 August - Trish and Graham

### Thought Poem for the Month

(a taster for poetry and pastries and happy memories of Open Gardens...)

### The Gardener by Mary Oliver

Have I lived enough?  
Have I loved enough?  
Have I considered Right Action enough, have I come to any conclusion?  
Have I experienced happiness with sufficient gratitude?  
Have I endured loneliness with grace?

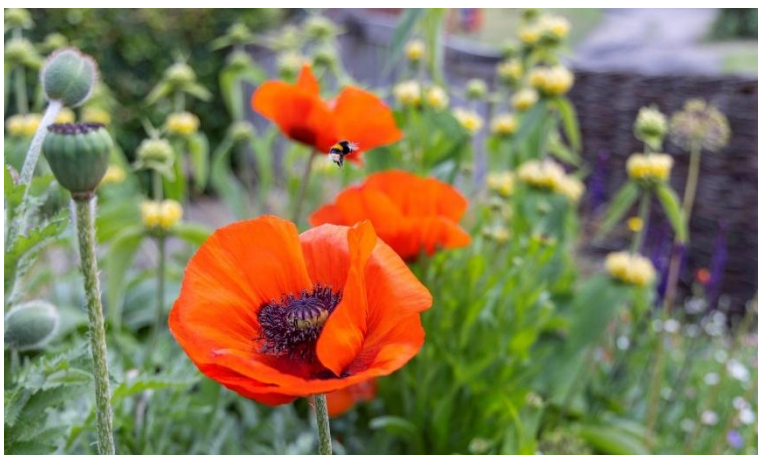
I say this, or perhaps I'm just thinking it.  
Actually I probably think too much.

Then I step out into the garden,  
where the gardener, who is said to be a simple man,  
is tending his children, the roses.

**The following are a *small* selection of Charlies 79 photos as not everyone will have the facility to open the link to Marks photos, and there just isn't room to show them all!**







Spot the bee



We did have visitors, honestly !

MacMillan Coffee morning is back on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at The Middleton Bell 10-12

We look forward to seeing old friends and new at this great fundraising event in Middleton. We have been going for some years now and have raised at huge amount for this very worthwhile charity.

Please come along and support us, enjoy coffee and cake, make friends and help us raise money to for those diagnosed with cancer and their families. Cancer has I feel touch everyone of us at sometimes in our lives either directly or through a family member or close friend. It is a difficult time and MacMillan is there to make it that little bit easier and less frightening.

If you want to help in the organisation of this event please do get in touch.

Fiona Cusack  
Tel 07730474004



**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe (6.40pm)

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Michelle Kendall

**In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
Members of the Public x 7

**2 Annual Reports**

Public attendance was acknowledged along with the high standard of reports received from the village organisations. It was confirmed that the following Reports had been received and circulated to the Parish Council.

Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council taken as read and attached as Appendix A  
Middleton Community Council taken as read and attached as Appendix B  
Middleton Village Hall taken as read and attached as Appendix C  
Holy Trinity Church taken as read and attached as Appendix D  
Women's Institute taken as read and attached as Appendix E  
Middleton Moor Management Group taken as read and attached as Appendix F  
Middleton Newsletter taken as read and attached as Appendix G  
East Suffolk Council taken as read and attached as Appendix H

**3 Annual Reports from any other groups.** None received.

**4 Q&A Session.**

Q – Does the Parish Council have a plan in place, should travellers pitch up on the Moor?

A – First point of call would be to contact the Travellers Community Liaison Officer at East Suffolk Council, followed by contacting the Police. It is advised not to intervene directly.

Q – Could we prevent this happening by creating ditches and/or hedges around the Moor.

A – Following discussion, it was agreed that this matter could be considered by the Moor Management Group.

Q – Where exactly is the B1125 footpath going?

A – The existing footpath would extend on the eastern side of the road all the way down to the metal man on the corner, and then all the way down to the bridge, joining the existing straight track. There is a meeting in early July to take this forward.

Q – Was the £2,800 spent on the recreation ground solely for clearance of the northeast corner, or was it spent elsewhere?

A – The quote was for removal of the multiplay gym, including hire of a skip, plus removal of imbedded matting beneath and applying topsoil and re-seeding. Part of the quote was to repair the flat seat swings and the Burma Bridge. The work on the swings is not complete.

Q – Was the work put out to tender?

A – No, it was not.

Q – Should it have been?

A – No, not according to our Financial Regulations, because the sum was lower than our required tender amount. The contractor has worked on our playground for many years and is very experienced at dealing with specific issues in this context.

It was suggested and acknowledged that asking the Summer Winers Group for assistance would have been a good solution.

Q – Can we have a meeting addressed by SZC for residents, advising on what is going on and what future devastation we might expect?

A – This request was raised at the Northern Transport Forum. SZC are considering the request. The two meetings they attended at Yoxford and Theberton were considered not at all constructive and SZC are therefore reluctant to commit. MPC will continue to pursue.

Q – Mr Chairman, you have been shown around the site?

A – Cllr Macdowell and I were shown around the SZC Link Road works.

Cllr Macdowell advised the meeting that he has plans of the Link Road for viewing should anyone be interested.

A – It is not easy to find up to date drawings. Can these ones be added to the newsletter?

Q – The maps are large (A1) in order that they can be read.

It was agreed to put a link/QR Code/URL in the newsletter and on the village website to access the maps, via a direct route, on the SZC website.

Q – How often is the playground inspected?

A – Our current contract is with East Suffolk Services for monthly inspections.

Q – If this became an emergency, why wasn't it raised previously?

A – For many years our inspections were done by David Bracey and no issues were raised with the multiplay. He retired at the end of last year. There was an interim period where no inspections were carried out, except by volunteers, for 3 months over the winter. Significant deterioration of the timbers was noted during the winter period and the inspector came in with a new set of eyes, resulting in multi criticisms of splits and rotten wood throughout the structure and classified it as high risk. It is not the inspector's job to tell the PC what to do but the PC felt that with a high-risk assessment it was incumbent upon us to reduce the risk to the public by putting it out of use.

Q – Did anyone look at the cost of hiring Heras fencing as opposed to buying it?

A – We did not buy it, we hired it.

Q – Did anyone look at the difference between buying and hiring the Heras fencing?

A – Yes. It was not that significant, and we would not have an ongoing use for Heras fencing. Storage would be an issue.

Q – Are there any warranties on the equipment?

A – There is no warranty on the multiplay. Other play equipment was in place before the current PC.

Q – Is there going to be new play equipment, and when?

A – We do not have a definite date or proposal. This is not just a decision for the PC but rather a collective decision involving all those that want to get interested. It is anticipated that the Recreation Group will be resurrected, and the Summer Winers will be involved. Results of the survey carried out last year will also be taken into consideration.

Q – Does the pavilion group have an amount of money that could go into that, because during Covid, if it wasn't for the pavilion being built, there would be no grants given out. As the financial problems with the pavilion are being lumped in with the playing field, as a whole item, could the amount of money the pavilion got be used as well?

A – We present the accounts of the Recreation Ground Trust on an annual basis, as it is a registered charity and they are viewable on the Charity Commission website. The accounts will show a substantial amount of the reserves that accumulated from those grants during Covid have now been spent. A lot of money was spent on fencing and new flooring in the pavilion. The pavilion runs at an annual loss given the amount that we spend on insurance, utilities and staffing is more than the income that we have. The funds have diminished quite rapidly.

Q – Two grants were given out during Covid and if there was no pavilion we would not have got a penny so the problem that you have is the pavilion, but the money has been spent on the recreation ground part and not on the pavilion, apart from the floor.

A- The grants were made to the Trust, and the grants were not specifically for the pavilion but for the recreation ground.

Q – Without more play equipment you will not get any bookings for the children's parties, which is a reasonable income, isn't it?

A- Yes, it would certainly put some of those bookings at risk. There is no intention that we would not replace the play equipment. It is a question of working out what we want to do.

Q – If you are thinking about doing something to the other field could you not pinch a little of that money to use for the field that is already there, for the play equipment? Could you adapt that field more, the top bit never gets used, rather than worry about having another one?

A – It's a wonderful opportunity to purchase as an asset for the village and unlikely to become available again. There are strict rules when applying for the SZC Community Fund in terms of what the PC is trying to mitigate. The aim of buying Hastoe Field will offset the diminished access to open spaces caused by SZC. It would be harder to construct an argument when asking for play equipment.

Q – Do you really think it would be an asset to the village?

A – The replacement play equipment will happen and for which there are funds available. The Hastoe Field is an entirely separate issue, specifically to help the village (and neighbouring parishes) mitigate the SZC destruction.

Q – What are you worried about what someone else will get the field for?

A – If the PC wasn't interested in the field, it is speculated that SCC, who own the land, might develop the entire site for housing.

Q – Would that be a problem?

A – It would be a problem to some and not to others. It could be purchased by a farmer, whereby you would see arable rotation. None of these are terrible but there are several people who have, until now, used Sizewell walks and beach area as part of their lives. There is a lot of stress in the village caused by SZC works. We are concerned as a PC about the wellbeing and mental health of our residents, and we feel strongly about providing a place for quiet enjoyment/picnics/allotments.

It was suggested to contact SZC with regards to putting in a grant application for play equipment, whilst continuing with the Hastoe Field grant.

Q – How do the PC go to SZC asking for £150,000 when they do not want SZC, isn't that hypocritical?

A – That does not give the PC a problem. If something is happening in your community that you have opposed through democratic and proper means and a democratic decision has been made that it should go ahead, a decision taken by the Secretary of State it seems perfectly appropriate, on behalf of your community, to try and get hold of funds to mitigate the impact. I make no excuses for that.

Q – If you do get the grant for Hastoe Field, are you going to put some money on our taxes?

A – The way we have structured the business plan at the moment, we would have three years of annual spend in addition to the upfront capital spend to the acquisition of the land and set up. After 3 years there will be no more money available from the SZC Community Fund, by that point is hoped that we would have done most of the establishment works with the grant money and that we would be into a maintenance period and there will be ongoing funding for that, as there is for maintenance of other village assets, we think it would be economic to employ a part time grounds person. There will be ongoing expenditure, but it is anticipated to make it as low maintenance as possible. There may be some income generating opportunities, we are looking at solar panels and allotment hire. In extremes there will be some money coming onto the Precept.

Q – Will people be charged for having an allotment?

A - Yes, not a huge amount. The charges are regulated.

It was suggested that the recreation ground and Hastoe Field be amalgamated to get funding for both.

Meeting closed at 7.10pm.

## APPENDIX A

Report of the Parish Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

### Sizewell C

The impacts of the Sizewell C (SZC) project on the Parish have become much more obvious in recent months, with major removal of trees and vegetation along the route of the Sizewell Link Road and ever increasing SZC traffic on the B1122. While the planning process in the form of a Development Consent Order (DCO) was signed off by the Secretary of State in 2022, the necessary £40 billion or so funding of the project, whether by the Government, EDF or other investors, has still not been secured in a Final Investment Decision (FID).

The Parish Council remains opposed to SZC but takes part in meetings of the B1122 Working Group established under the DCO. This Group's purpose is to consider what can be done to reduce the negative impact of traffic through Middleton Moor and Theberton in the 'early years' of the project before the proposed Link Road is operational in mid 2027. On a positive note, things should then start to look up, although we also need to be ready for the thousands of workers that are expected, many of whom are likely to occupy holiday rentals in the village. We continue to be represented by Parish Councillor Charles Macdowell on the various community forums set up under the DCO.

### Planning

The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications for land and buildings in the Parish. Middleton cum Fordley is classified as a 'Small Village' in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan which means that new housing will normally be restricted to 'Small groups of new housing and infill within Settlement Boundaries'.

The Parish Council ensures that all planning applications are considered at a duly convened meeting held in public and has normally been supportive of proposals to improve the existing housing stock.

### LionLink

The Parish Council continues to follow plans for the LionLink cable between Walberswick and a proposed converter station outside Saxmundham. It now looks highly probable that it will pass between the village and Middleton Moor and will be registering as an Interested Party when its DCO process starts.

### Causeway Farm

We have continued to work closely with Suffolk County Council and local residents to explore options for Causeway Farm once the current tenancy ends. One key element of this amongst a number of ecological options for the division of Causeway Farm, is the potential for the Parish Council to acquire a ten-acre field and to turn that field into a wildlife and community resource. This has broad (although not universal) support across the village, as was demonstrated at the most recent well attended community meeting. This plan, devised from feedback from villagers at our initial public meeting and presented as conceptual at a subsequent public meeting for further comment, we believe, would offer significant mitigation to the ecological destruction and attendant distress and loss of access to nature being experienced by villagers and other locals from the construction of Sizewell C and related infrastructure (particularly the Sizewell Relief Road). Given this we are in the process of applying to the Sizewell C Community Fund (administered by Suffolk Community Foundation). We are hoping to secure funds to buy and transform the field.



Given some of the concerns expressed to the Parish Council, we will further engage with villagers before any final decision is taken. However, we are confident that many, if not all, of these concerns can be mitigated.

### **Finances**

The Parish Council receives income mainly from Council Tax, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other occasional grants. CIL is levied on all new housing developments and can only be used for improvements to local infrastructure.

At the end of March 2025, the Parish Council had general reserves of approximately £6,300 (2024- £7,000). This is approximately 65% (down from 70%) of the annual

Council Tax received by the Council, which remains above our 50% financial planning guideline. This gives us scope to consider environmental or infrastructure projects (subject to our limited powers) within the Parish and the Council would welcome proposals from residents. The Council's financial statements are undergoing the normal annual internal audit process and will be presented to the June meeting of the Council for approval.

### **Recreation Ground Trust**

Successive generations of residents have always taken care of and valued the 'playing field' which is owned by the Recreation Ground Trust and operated by the Parish Council. Use of the facilities for community events and private parties continues to grow, benefiting from the work of our part-time pavilion manager. Some of the older play equipment has been taken out of use as it became uneconomic to repair to current safety standards. The Council will be consulting on replacements.

### **Middleton Moor**

Middleton Moor residents have been concerned for some time about the over-growth of vegetation in the pond near Norwood House. This was tackled this winter by specialist contractors but there is more to be done which might require heavier equipment to be deployed.

### **Councillors**

I would like to put on record my thanks to my fellow Councillors, all of whom have helped take forward the work of the Council over the last year by taking on one or more projects. Special thanks are due to Lesley Taylor for her outstanding work as Vice-Chair of the Council and for her service to the community.

### **Clerk**

Finally, I would like to record the Council's thanks to Rachael Salcombe who is doing a brilliant job as our Clerk.

**Julian Cusack**

**Chair Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council**

**May 11, 2025**

Reports for MCC, Village Hall, WI and Newsletter were published last month.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH REPORT 2024/25**

Holy Trinity is very lucky to have such an active PCC who enable us to open our church for a varied range of activities alongside lovely services which have seen a slight increase in those attending, for which we are very grateful and delighted to welcome.

During 2024 we were pleased the church wall to the south of the churchyard behind Central House & Fern Cottage was completed. We were very fortunate to secure some funding with Holy Trinity making up the rest of the amount required from its funds, this was a huge undertaking for our village church but a project we were happy to see done at last and our thanks to a PCC member who oversees all the paperwork and organising of fabric matters that require DAC approval. Of course we have further fabric matters to attend to which we hope to gradually deal with as and when finance allows or grants are obtained, we strive to be eco friendly when considering fabric matters especially lighting.

Pop Up Brunch and Poetry continue to be a huge success that will continue from time to time together with PCC led services, these have become necessary, but none the less important and presented with a great deal of thought, due to a shortage of clergy cover, again our PCC have organised all these events with care, devotion and time put into them. One other new edition was the 'Day of Meditation' with beautiful music playing all day in the background allowing those attending a time and place to sit in peace and read or meditate in a relaxing atmosphere, we were very pleased with so many who came and sat a while or returned later.

Once again we were very grateful to Reiko for another wonderful concert.

Open Gardens in 2024 was a great success again and enabled us to support 2 worthy charities. Remembrance Sunday, The Carol Service and Christmas Eve services were all well attended and we were pleased to offer refreshments afterwards at The Bell for two of them.

As always, thank you to everyone in Middleton who support our lovely church in various ways, this allows us to continue offering a beautiful place to worship or spend quite time within and to enjoy the various non religious events we offer. The church door is always open, not just for services but for quiet time when needed and all denominations, or none, are very welcome.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **MIDDLETON MOOR report**

Over the last year by far the biggest event has been the start of construction of Sizewell C power station. It would be impossible to say anything good about this turn of events. The B1122 was refurbished prior to the start of works but those in charge of the refurb forgot to paint the white lines in the centre of the road where it runs closest to residents' homes. They also forgot to put the 'cats eyes' back in the centre of the road. Hundreds of HGVs thunder past Middleton Moor each day and there are many wide loads escorted by possies of policemen – some on motorbikes and others in Range Rovers. This B-road has started to develop ruts due to the heavy usage by vehicles and residents have been told that it will be at least two years before the relief road will take all the heavy traffic.

Littlemoor Road and Fordley Road have both witnessed removal of most of their trees in anticipation of the Sizewell relief road being started. Residents have been devastated by the wanton hacking down of trees some of which would have been several centuries old. Littlemoor Road in particular has been left full of ruts and dangerous surfaces but no attempt has been made for repairs and locals may well ask if anybody in authority cares about the mess that has been left by the myriad of contractors careering about in their 4x4 vehicles.

The main pond has received some attention in that bullrushes have been removed to allow a clear patch of water between the pond edge and pond centre. This work, which was previously undertaken by volunteers, also extended to the clipping of willow trees which have started to form an island in the pond centre. Whether or not this work will limit the spread of the island or possibly accelerate the destruction of the pond remains

to be seen. Moor funds have been spent on this project and the verdict about its success or otherwise will be evident in the fullness of time. Cutting of the Moor grass progressed in the customary manner in July 2024 by David Boden and latterly he has trimmed hedges and also vegetation that had started to grow in the pit at the centre of the Moor. Efforts to put an electricity substation on the Moor have been successfully thwarted. The creation of neo-lay-bys has been a constant threat countered by putting tree trunks along the grass edge of Moor Road and Fordley Road. Trees planted around the pit have flourished and volunteers have trimmed other trees near the entrance to Moor House.

The Chair of Middleton Moor Management Group Mrs Jane Etheridge has been in hospital recently and we wish her well.

## APPENDIX H

### East Suffolk Annual Town and Parish Report

This report is extremely lengthy – should residents wish to read it in full please go to the Parish website.

East Suffolk Council has agreed a historic, new approach to recycling collection, and with it, a commitment to greatly improve environmental outcomes for the district.

In September, East Suffolk hosted the final stage of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain for Men.

Last summer, East Suffolk Council set up a series of roadshows, in a variety of locations across East Suffolk, aimed at connecting with the local community.

Last winter, a network of venues offering residents a warm, safe space to socialise over the winter reopened for the third year. Meanwhile, numerous organisations across the district provided fun and enriching activities and food as part of a programme of experiences for children and young people over the Christmas holidays.

Our innovative new Youth Council entirely comprising young people from across East Suffolk met for the first time this year, ensuring the ideas and concerns of younger people are heard.

East Suffolk Council has secured a provisional allocation of £5.9m to help improve the energy performance of social housing as part of the Government's Warm Homes Plan.

In a report submitted to government on Friday 21 March, Suffolk's five district and borough councils united to present an interim plan which would revitalise local government and put the needs of local communities first.

An innovative new commercial development has opened its doors in the heart of Lowestoft's PowerPark energy hub.

A new fund has been established to provide immediate, short-term financial support to East Suffolk communities affected by future emergency events.

East Suffolk Council is supporting the efforts of The Deben Climate Centre to deliver "a radical and ambitious plan to regenerate the Deben River for people and nature".

Plans for a major development which will reinvigorate Lowestoft's town centre have been given the green light.

More than 80,000 people have logged onto free Wi-Fi while visiting East Suffolk towns during the first two years of a project to boost connectivity and business.

East Suffolk Council has developed a Tree and Hedgerow Strategy, seeking input from residents, community groups, and experts to identify key priorities and requirements for tree and hedgerow planting and management of existing trees across the district.

East Suffolk Council has pledged to extend its support for town centres with the launch of a new programme designed to foster long-term prosperity and sustainability.

Funding of over £400,000 has been agreed to extend a scheme which helps young people in East Suffolk to find employment.

East Suffolk Council is investing £1 million in car park infrastructure, including new contactless payment terminals, EV chargers, new cycle racks and signage, as well as introducing a suite of new parking tariffs in the district.

East Suffolk Council has pledged more than £64million towards delivering quality key services for residents while continuing to invest in projects for the benefit of local communities.

### **MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025 AT 7.15pm 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](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)".

#### **1 Election of Chair**

Cllr Macdowell proposed Cllr Cusack; Cllr Thorpe seconded. There were no other nominations, Cllr Cusack was duly elected as Chair.

#### **2 Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Cusack proposed Cllr Thorpe; Cllr Macdowell seconded. There were no other nominations, Cllr Thorpe was duly elected as Vice Chair.

#### **3 Attendance and Apologies**

##### **Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Graham Lacey

##### **Apologies:**

Cllr Michele Kendall

##### **In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
Members of the public x 2



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

**5 Public Forum.** Dist. Cllr Whitelock reported the following:

- A survey is being conducted locally, with emphasis on the current infrastructure/energy projects and their impact. Provisional results indicate that the projects are challenging for residents, particularly the loss of wild spaces. The survey asked what would make residents feel better, with the answer being 'other wild spaces that we can visit'. This demonstrates that the PC's proposals for Hastoe Field are in line with what residents are requesting. The survey is due to finish in June. Cllr Whitelock will share the survey with MPC. It is intended that the results of the survey will also be submitted as part of the Sealink planning enquiry. It is hoped that Suffolk MIND will also recognise those people whose lives are surrounded and disrupted by long term construction work. It was noted that although Middleton are less impacted by Sealink than other parishes, the village do have an interest; unless the converter station at Saxmundham is approved Lionlink cannot happen.
- Primary school children (year 6) across East Suffolk will shortly receive a new resource to help support their mental wellbeing. Funded by East Suffolk Council's Community Partnership Board, Me (and My Mind) aims to be a relevant, accessible, and supportive resource for children during a key transitional stage in their lives.
- In a report submitted to government on Friday 21 March, Suffolk's five district borough councils united to present an interim local government reorganisation plan which would revitalise local government and put the needs of the communities first. A response has been received in the form of a thank you.
- A conservation scheme which will create over 100 spaces for the benefit of wildlife is returning for another year, with a new name and a brand-new look. 116 wild spaces will be left to grow during the spring and summer as part of East Suffolk Council's 'Nature at Work' scheme, which is being delivered in partnership with environmental charity Groundwork East.

Cllr Whitelock was asked about the new waste collection/recycling services. It is intended that there will be a food recycling caddy (a legal requirement) emptied weekly. A separate recycling bin for paper and card (to keep it clean so that it may be used as a recycling material). Glass bottles may be placed in the second recycling bin. The grey waste bin (being used less due to the increase in recycling) will be emptied once every three weeks. Special arrangements will be made for items like nappies and for people living in flats.

A member of the public advised of repair works to the Church clockface. Scaffolding will be required for accessing at a cost of approximately £1,000. The Church have applied to the SZC grant for funding. Enquiries for a grant have also been raised with Lionlink, although funding will not be available until after the DCO is approved, anticipated to be in 2027.

**6 Minutes**

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 April 2025.
- b) Matters Arising and Action Points
  - Cllr Macdowell has been in touch with SZC regarding damage to road verges, inviting them to view the damage. The Middleton Moor Group will also be invited.
  - Cllr Cusack has responded to the residents' email regarding Hastoe Field.
  - Cllrs Cusack, Thorpe and Piercy have met to discuss next steps for the application to the SZC Community Fund.
  - SZC have responded to the Clerk's enquiry regarding the location of the planting of 26,000 trees; '*Over the last decade c25,000 trees and shrubs have been planted across the estate and hundreds more hectares of land have been acquired and transformed into thriving habitat...*'.
  - Cllr Macdowell has requested a meeting with SZC on behalf of the residents of Middleton; awaiting a response.
  - Cllr Macdowell to share Cllr Lacey's email with SZC contacts c/f (destruction of hedgerows and poorly placed temporary traffic stoppage notices in Fordley Road)
  - Cllr Kendall has agreed to liaise with the primary school.
  - ESC has been advised of the PC's position on Planning Application DC/25/1303/AND.

**7 Councillors**

The following responsibilities were agreed:

- a) Village Hall Management Committee – Cllrs Thorpe and Rowe  
Middleton Primary School – Cllr Kendall  
Middleton Moor Management Group – Cllr Cusack
- b) Finance – Cllrs Cusack, Thorpe and Piercy  
Recreation Ground – Cllrs Piercy and Reynolds  
Energy Projects – Cllr Macdowell  
Highways, Footpaths and Trees – Cllr Thorpe
- c) The PC have a vacancy following the resignation of Lesley Taylor. A couple of residents have been approached, one of which declined and we are awaiting a response from the other. A resident, who has been on the council previously, has expressed an interest and has been added to the list of candidates. It was agreed that when canvassing for candidates has been exhausted, an interview panel will be created and interviewees invited.

Cllr Cusack reminded the meeting of the process for electing a new councillor. The Clerk notifies ESC, who in turn publish a notice of vacancy and anyone in the parish who can get nine people to support them can call for an election, but this must be done within 14 days of the notice. Should this not happen ESC will confirm to the PC that they may appoint someone under the process called co-option. The PC is currently at this stage. It was agreed that the vacancy could be an opportunity to improve diversity within the PC. Cllr Cusack reminded the meeting that although election is two years away, it is worth thinking about whether members wish to stand for re-election.

**8 Causeway Farm.** The PC have written to SCC again, enquiring when the existing tenancy is coming to an end. The meeting was advised that SCC were unable to provide an update. The PC will continue to keep in touch with SCC on this matter. The grant

application to the SZC Community Fund is being discussed, in principle, at their meeting in June. It was agreed that contingent approval would be needed; until we know whether we can buy the land, we cannot be sure about needing the grant. Unless we know that we have the grant we cannot make an offer on the land.

- 9 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.** MPC have registered to become an Interested Party in Sealink, which will entitle the parish to make representations and speak at the Enquiry.  
Cllr Macdowell reported on SZC
- The electronic traffic sign at Mill Street will be erected in the next 6/8 weeks.
  - The 30mph average speed camera should be erected by the end of June.
  - The footpath work on the B1125 will take place during the summer.
  - There is a 600 HGV daily cap along the B1122. Traffic monitoring to date indicates a peak of 378 during the month of March.
  - It was confirmed that some blue SZC identification stickers are being placed inside the HGV cab, rather than stuck on the back of the vehicle, this is because some vehicles are not continuously being used for SZC. It was agreed that this positioning makes identification harder, in which case, it was advised to note the number plate, date, time and location of the vehicle for reporting purposes.
  - How SZC deals with emergency traffic procedures - freight will be stopped at either end of the emergency, including buses. Notification will be issued on a matrix board for those leaving the SZC site, advising of the correct journey to avoid the incident. Diversions are the responsibility of SCC.
  - A complaint has been received regarding pile driving noise, thought to be caused by the new bridge being built across the SSSI. SZC have agreed to investigate permitted thresholds for noise and a noise mitigation plan.
  - A decision has yet to be made regarding returning the B1122 to 60mph upon completion of the SLR.

**10 Emergency Planning Group – c/f**

**11 Councillors Reports**

- a) Village Hall. Nothing to report.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. Permissive paths were discussed.
- d) Middleton Moor. Nothing to report.

**12 Finance**

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Bank Reconciliation for Q4 2024/25 was received and accepted by all.
- c) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Cutting back brambles and hedge cutting	BE & EF Boden & Son	£240 (ratify)	LGA 1972 s.137
Clerk wages for 25/26	Rachael Salcombe	£6750.82	LGA 1972 s.112
Pavilion Manager wages April – Sept 2025	Rebecca Reynolds	£984.00	LGA 1972 s.112

- d) Re-declaration of Compliance with The Pensions Regulator was noted. **Action: Clerk to seek advice regarding the Pavilion Manager's pension status.**
- e) The Community Infrastructure Levy Statement for the financial year 2024 – 2025 was approved and signed off. **Action: Clerk to send to ESC.**
- f) It was agreed that the finance working group would review the revised financial regulations and tailor them to MPC's needs.

- 13 Village Path approach to Church.** Cllr Lacey met on site with Rita Pateman to advise on the scope of works and proposals, in order that she may report back to the PCC. It was agreed that the works would be a vast improvement. An adjacent neighbour was approached to advise of the proposed works, and they confirmed their agreement. The new path will create wheelchair access.  
**Action: Cllr Lacey to resurrect the contract.**

**14 Planning Application**

Planning application DC/25/1339/ROC. Conversion of redundant barn and associated buildings to one holiday unit including alterations to and use of existing vehicular access (revised scheme). The PC have no objection to this application.  
**Action: Clerk to advise East Suffolk Council, Planning Department accordingly.**

- 15 Correspondence.** As mentioned above (minute 7c) a response has been given to the resident showing an interest in the councillor vacancy.

A response to Cllr Cusack's email to the residents' email regarding Hastoe Field (minute 6) has been received, acknowledging the points made but re-emphasizing the view that the PC should be supporting a community diagnostics centre at Saxmundham, as an application for the SZC Community Fund. A response was sent by Cllr Cusack, noting the points made and that further consultation will take place.

A resident in Roke Drive has been corresponding with the PC regarding noise and vibration disturbances. Upon several investigations the PC have been unable to locate the source and advised the matter to be reported to ESC, Environmental Health Dept. (The buzzing from the BT green exchange cabinet has been ruled out.)

- 16 Items for Next Agenda.** Approve/sign off the AGAR. Apologies Cllr Macdowell.  
The following actions were raised at the Annual Parish Meeting (to be addressed at June's PC meeting).

- a) **Clerk to contact ESC for clarification of protocol regarding travellers.**
- b) **Cllrs Macdowell and Piercy to provide the village newsletter and Clerk with direct online links to access SZC maps.**
- c) **Cllr Piercy to make enquiries with SZC regarding a possible grant application for play equipment.**

- 17 Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST**  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025 AT 8.20pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Chris Reynolds

**Apologies:**

Cllr Michele Kendall

**In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
Members of the public x 2

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

**Minutes**

- a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 9 April 2025.  
b) Matters Arising. None.

**To review Safety Inspection Report.** The annual inspection has taken place, although the report has not yet been issued. The PC are in receipt of an email detailing moderate to high-risk items, with recommendation to either fence off or remove the flat swings. Cllrs Cusack and Piercy will be meeting with the contractor on site Friday 16 May to discuss further.

**Finance**

The following payment was authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Pavilion Sundries	Rebecca Reynolds	£5.20	1972 s.137

**Correspondence.** No correspondence

**Matters for discussion.**

It was agreed that hooks may be placed on the pavilion to allow for the hanging of bunting.

It was agreed to waive the hiring fees of the pavilion for the Middleton Community Council.

**Action:** Clerk to advise MCC committee.

**Items for the next Agenda.** None.

**Next Meeting.** Date of next meeting Wednesday 11 June 2025 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025 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](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)".

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Michele Kendall

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds

**In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
Dist Cllr Sarah Whitelock  
Members of the public x 3

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

**3 Public Forum.** Dist. Cllr Whitelock reported the following:

- Village halls, community centres and other 'community hubs' across East Suffolk are invited to apply for a grant of up to £15,000 for upgrades, improvements and essential repairs.
- East Suffolk residents are being urged to recycle their electricals as new kerbside collections roll out across the district.
- Suffolk's five district and borough councils are launching [a county-wide survey asking people for their views](#) on the future of vital local government services. As part of the wider engagement work the district and borough councils are carrying out, residents, businesses, community groups and other organisations can now [have their say](#) on what is important to them, in the areas in which they live and work. The survey, which closes on 25 July 2025, can be found at [www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr)
- Leisure Centres cost the district council large sums of money due to the high heating bills, furthermore the greatest emissions of carbon come from leisure centres. On the back of the district council's desire to be carbon neutral by 2030, The Leisure Team at ESC



have obtained a grant of almost £3million, with a further £2million from ESC, thus allowing for the installation of solar panels, insulation and heat pumps at Lowestoft, Leiston and Woodbridge Leisure Centres. Once the leisure centres are not paid as much for heating bills, they will start to become 'earners', thus protecting the facilities.

#### 4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14 May 2025. (May's minutes will be included in July's newsletter.)
- b) Matters Arising and Action Points
  - Upon enquiry, the clerk confirmed that the Re-declaration of Compliance with The Pensions Regulator does include the Pavilion Manager's pension status.
  - Village path approach to Church. Cllr Lacey to resurrect contract. **Action: Clerk to seek an update.**
  - Clerk advised ESC Planning Department on planning application DC/25/1339/ROC (no objection).

The following actions were taken from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2025.

- **Clerk to contact ESC for clarification of protocol regarding travellers.** The relevant information has been sourced and shared with the councillors. It was agreed at this meeting to share the information with the Middleton Moor Management Group. **Action: Clerk to supply details, including telephone number and email address.**
- **Cllrs Macdowell and Piercy to provide the village newsletter and clerk with direct online links to access SZC maps – c/f.**

#### 5 Causeway Farm. No update available from SCC. SZC Community Fund will consider our bid at their next panel meeting on 19 June 2025.

#### 6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects. In Cllr Macdowell's absence, Cllr Cusack provided the meeting with an update.

- The government have announced another £14bn of funding, creating another step towards the inevitability that a final investment decision will be made, possibly at the end of July. The majority of the project will be funded by the taxpayer.
- A lot of disinformation has been circulating regarding both the cost of the development and direct jobs. It is thought that contractor jobs are included in the 10,000 direct jobs figure supplied.
- 'Stop SZC' continue to campaign, urging supporters to write to the various companies who are thought to be considering investing in SZC.
- PM Keir Starmer was expected to visit SZC yesterday morning but did not attend, for reasons unknown.
- B1122 average speed cameras have been installed.
- Electronic traffic warning sign at the Mill Street/B1122 junction should be fitted this summer.
- A member of the public advised that there are 27,000 workers at Hinkley and that this is what we must look forward to.
- Although Sea Link does not go directly through the parish, it was agreed that the PC should register an interest nevertheless because Lion Link will come through the parish on its way from Walberswick to Saxmundham and is more likely to go ahead if there has been prior approval for one converter station at Saxmundham; there will be less resistance for another one to take Lion Link that way also. **Action: Cllr Cusack to confirm with Cllr Macdowell.**

#### 7 Emergency Planning Group – c/f

#### 8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. Nothing to report.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. Nothing to report
- d) Middleton Moor. Making hay on the Moor is normally undertaken in July (weather permitting). Last year the hay was mown, baled and taken off site (at no expense to the PC) by Watermill Farm. This year the work will be undertaken by Thorington Theatre (again at no expense to the PC) where the hay will be supplied to equine establishments, including their own. This was agreed by a Middleton Moor Management Group representative at this meeting.

#### 9 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Internal Audit Service 2025	SALC	£219.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Norton Virus Protection Subscription Renewal	Cllr Cusack	£89.99	LGA 1972 s.111

- c) Annual Accounts for the financial year 2024-2025 approved.
- d) Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR approved.
- e) Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR approved.
- f) Certificate of Exemption approved.
- g) Exercise of public rights agreed as 16 June to 15 July 2025.
- h) Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2024-2025 reviewed, with recommendations noted.

**Action: Clerk to upload Internal Audit Report, AGAR, Annual Accounts and Exercise of public rights date on village website. Clerk to send Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor.**

#### 10 Councillor Resignation. The meeting was advised that Cllr Graham Lacey has stepped down from his role as councillor. Many thanks go to Cllr Lacey for his work on the PC, particularly in relation to the village hall and village pathway to the church. **Action: Clerk to advise ESC and post notice of the vacancy on the village website and noticeboards.** Cllr Rowe agreed to be on the panel for an informal meeting with prospective applicants, along with Cllr Cusack.

#### 11 Village Path approach to Church. **Action: Clerk to seek an update.**

#### 12 Re-adopt Updated Model Standing Orders. This document provides a comprehensive framework of procedural rules for Parish and Town Councils in England. The changes are to Section 18 to comply with new procurement legislation, Section 14 to better reflect Code of Conduct requirements and finally, the language in the document has also changed to gender neutral. **The Council agreed to adopt the model Standing Orders.**

**13 Correspondence.** The Chair is in receipt of a letter from The Department of Rural Affairs, regarding the Moor. The Moor is in a designated nitrogen zone, therefore any operations on the Moor must be managed in such a way that nitrogen will not run off into the waterways. It was noted that the only operation carried out on the Moor, of significance, is mowing hay, which does not produce run off of any kind.

**14 Items for Next Agenda.**

**15 Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 July 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall. The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

**THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025  
AT 7.45pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Michele Kendall

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds

**In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
Members of the public x 3

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

**Minutes**

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 14 May 2025.

**Matters Arising.**

\* Clerk advised MCC that hiring fees for the pavilion are waived for MCC village events.

**To review Safety Inspection Report.** The report has been circulated and noted. The junior flat swings have been roped off due to the high-risk safety finding from the inspector (the top bar was not attached to its supports). A quote has been provided to make good, and the contractor has been instructed to carry out the works.

Cllr Piercy confirmed that volunteers within the village have come together to form a group to oversee the recreation ground. The group, which have met two times to date, includes four parish councillors, the pavilion manager and several village residents. There is a strong desire to replace the play equipment with new, along with suggestions of rewilding, improvements to the pavilion, fencing-in the play equipment and a separate fenced off area for dogs. There is no money available in the PC nor Trust reserves, and so finance will be sourced through grant applications.

Further discussions are needed regarding the running of the pavilion and the recreation ground. Fixed running costs are £2,500 per annum. Generated income is approximately £600 per annum, raising the question, how do we make this sustainable into the future? Although, it was agreed that the play equipment is the current priority. Cllr Giles has contacted SZC Community Fund (in addition to the application for Hastoe Field), with initial feedback favourable to the idea. The working group intend to create, with the involvement of residents, a prioritised costed list for the recreation ground.

The next deadline for the SZC Community Fund is 20 July, with the following deadline on 28 September. The working group are keen to produce an application for 20 July and to this end are meeting again on 25 June.

A member of the public advised the PC that any SZC grant application must relate directly to the impact that SZC is having. This includes the mental health impact, which should play a large part in the application.

Cllr Cusack reiterated that the SZC Community Fund will consider the number of potential beneficiaries, compared to the cost, seeking good value for money. Therefore, the application must emphasise that the recreation ground receives many visitors from outside the village. Cllr Cusack advised the meeting that the Heras fencing previously erected is still in place, although 'off hire'. Leiston Plant Hire made a couple of attempts to collect but were unable to access the area. It was agreed to move the Heras fencing to the car park for collection. **Action: Cllr Piercy to request that the Summer Winers move the fencing to car park.**

**Finance**

The Parish Council are in receipt of the following Non-Domestic Rate Demands.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Non-Domestic Rate Demand 2024/25	Suffolk Council	£112.28	1972 s.149
Non-Domestic Rate Demand 2025/26	Suffolk Council	£112.28	1972 s.149

For the past 8 years the PC have received 100% discretionary charitable relief against the non-domestic rates for the pavilion. Cllr Cusack made enquiries regarding the above and has, subsequently, completed the relevant form to request 100% charitable relief; a reply has been received advising of a high volume of requests and to not, therefore, expect a response in less than six weeks. The PC is unsure why these two bills have been issued and, indeed, what has changed since previous years.

**Correspondence.** The Pavilion Manager contacted the clerk asking whether any councillors know of the whereabouts of the pavilion folder that houses details regarding the cooker, lights and building. Also, there are two broken tables that she would like to be replaced. **Action: Cllr Giles to take table request to the Recreation Ground Working Group, with the view to achieving a cost-effective solution.**

**Action: Clerk to advise pavilion folder location unknown.**

**Matters for discussion.** None.

**Items for the next Agenda.** None.

**Next Meeting.** Date of next meeting Wednesday 9 July 2025 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

## DIARY DATES 2025

### July

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sing Out concert, Yoxford Church <b>7.30pm</b>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Vinyl Night at the Bell from <b>6pm</b>
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry and pastries – Holy Trinity <b>11am</b>
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Paget House – National Gardens Scheme – open <b>11am-5pm</b>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	WI – Garden Party
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Boules Competition – <b>10.00 am</b> at the playing field
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion - Holy Trinity <b>11am</b>

### August

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Annual Village Fete - Playing Field <b>2pm</b>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	'Folk in the Garden' Manor House , charity fundraiser

### September

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Vinyl Night at the Bell from <b>6pm</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	WI – Village Hall, Julie ~ Chocolate Makers, Beccles (History, testing , discount sales) <b>7.15pm</b>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Macmillan Coffee morning, The Middleton Bell <b>10-12</b>

### October

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	MCC Autumn Fayre
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	WI – Village Hall, Barbara McElroy - Apples 'A Miscellany' <b>7.15pm</b>

### November

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	WI – Village Hall, AGM tea & cakes <b>2.15pm</b>

### December

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	'Santa Boules' Festive fun at the playing field <b>10.00 am</b>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Vinyl Night at the Bell from <b>6pm</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	MCC Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	WI – Village Hall , end of year celebration. <b>7.15pm</b>