

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2021
AT 7:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr. Roy Dowding – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Lesley Taylor
Cllr. Chris Reynolds
Cllr. Colin Whitbread
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread
Cllr. Dennis Peel

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Steve Thorpe – written and accepted
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
5 members of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) The Chairman invited the members of the public present at the meeting to make representations to the Council during the discussion of specific agenda items.

b) County Cllr. Richard Smith said the examination period for Sizewell C concludes this week. At the latest Issue Specific Hearing, the Examining Authority considered the proposals for the desalination plant where EDF admitted they have no long-term plans for potable water. Cllr. Smith paid tribute to the Planning Inspectorate; they have acted fairly, clearly been on top of their brief and have allowed time for observations and questions. Cllr. Smith also commended the community for all the work it has done and the arguments put forward. If the DCO is approved, EDF still needs to find £20 billion which will be difficult to raise unless the government makes the public pay. He said if Sizewell C goes ahead then he will support the efforts of the County Council to ensure the community gets the best possible mitigation and compensation for the coming years.

Cllr. Smith said that the County Council are undertaking a review of HGV routes through Suffolk. The review will begin on 22nd October, last for eight weeks, and will be conducted through Town and Parish Councils which demonstrates local democracy. The HGV routes were last reviewed in 2011. Cllr. Smith asked the Council that, if it raises issues local to its parish, it is mindful that HGVs have to go somewhere and therefore to make recommendations that do not impact greatly on neighbouring parishes. The County Council will also look at sat nav routes for HGVs.

c) The Council acknowledged the District Councillors' previously circulated monthly report. District Cllr. Russ Rainger referred to the upcoming ESC briefing about the proposed Nautilus Interconnector energy project. He said there may be construction management and access road impacts for Middleton cum Fordley. The Clerk informed Cllr. Rainger that the Council had not been invited to participate in the briefing. Cllr. Rainger said he would look into this as he thought two representatives from each of the parishes he represents had been invited to participate.

d) District Cllr. Tom Daly introduced himself to the Council. Cllr. Daly endorsed Cllr. Smith comments about Sizewell C and said he hopes sense prevails. He has been involved with all the energy projects in the area and he believes there needs to be a coordinated approach which he will be bringing forward at a Full Council meeting. He hopes to obtain an explicit statement from the Leader of the Council. Cllr. Daly said he was happy to provide further information about the emergency works at Thorpeness cliffs, the recently launched Small Business Grants Scheme and the legalities around lighting bonfires.

4. Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 10th September 2021 and the ordinary meeting held on 14th September 2021.

5. Matters Arising

A member of the public, referring to item 6 about Sizewell C, offered his commissioned report from Create Consulting which the Council may find useful when liaising with Suffolk County Council and Kelsale Parish Council. The Chairman accepted his offer with thanks.

6. Casual Vacancy

The Chairman said there was two candidates for co-option to the Council. An informal panel met both candidates separately and its view was that both were excellent candidates and they were recommended to the Council. At the Chairman's invitation, both candidates addressed the Council on why they would like to join the Council.

The Chairman, following advice from NALC, proposed that the Council revokes Standing Order 3s 'voting on a question shall be by show of hands' in order to conduct a secret ballot. Seconded by Cllr. Roy Dowding. All in favour. The Clerk issued ballot papers which were completed by the Councillors. The Clerk counted the votes and declared Graham Lacey the winner. Graham Lacey completed the Declaration of Acceptance Form, witnessed by the Clerk, and joined the Council with immediate effect. The Chairman thanked the other candidate and invited him to apply again when the next vacancy arose.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council of the co-option.

7. Energy Projects

a) The Chairman reported that he spoke at the latest Issue Specific Hearing on Traffic and Transport and his written representation will be made available on the village website. The Chairman summarised his draft final submission to the Planning Inspectorate. It was agreed that the final representation would be in two parts, firstly to set out Middleton cum Fordley parish's:

- opposition to the construction of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell;
- support for a relief road if Sizewell C does go ahead and for this to be in place before construction starts;
- opposition to the proposed route of the Sizewell Link Road;

and secondly, if the DCO is approved, to request that EDF and the County Council be required to give full and serious consideration to measures to mitigate the impact of the SLR to Middleton cum Fordley and surrounding parishes. The outcomes demanded of the measures are:

- continued connectivity south from Middleton to Kelsale and Saxmundham for motor vehicles, pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists;
- the removal of any material risk of Fordley Road or the B1125 being blocked by 'rat-running' traffic due to congestion on the A12 or elsewhere;
- safe(r) passage for non-motorised road users along the B1122 especially in the 'early years' when construction traffic will not yet be using the SLR and along the B1125.

Following a request from Cllr. Lesley Taylor, a demand was added for the following measures to be taken to mitigate the impact of construction traffic on the properties along the B1122 including:

- quiet surface dressing;
- assessment of vulnerable properties adjacent to the road for noise and vibration before the start of the early years and continuous monitoring for damage throughout the construction period
- the offer of secondary or triple glazing to property owners adjacent to the B1122.

The Council approved the content of the final submission with the exception of Cllr. Colin Whitbread. Cllr. Whitbread said he does not support the proposal of any mitigation measures as he believes it would give a clear message to EDF that if we accept mitigation then we accept the development. The Council accepted and understood Cllr. Whitbread's position but felt that it had a duty to its residents to propose and document mitigation measures to the Planning Inspectorate so it fully understands the impacts the development and its associated infrastructure will have on the parish and its residents.

b) Cllr. Roy Dowding summarised the traffic calming measures and realignment proposals for the B1122 which were agreed by a majority of B1122 Action Group members. It was noted that this is an independent view and not the Council's view. The Council discussed the difficulties presented by the realignment proposals including taking land from the Moor and the resultant legal process of turning common land into highway, the ecological damage to an important part of the Moor, and the timing and impact of closing the road to undertake the work. The Chairman noted that if the SLR comes into operation there may be an opportunity to narrow the B1122 and create footways, although this may not be possible at pinch points.

c) Cllr. Roy Dowding reported that he attended the latest EDF briefing arranged by SALC. EDF were asked about the arrangements being made to enable Town and Parish Councils to have ongoing dialogue with them. They replied that the Deed of Obligation will publish details about a series of fora, two transport and one community, which will meet quarterly and will include representatives from EDF, the Local Authorities and one elected Councillor or Clerk per parish. All the parishes surrounding the development are included in the Community Forum and Middleton cum Fordley is included in the Transport North Forum. The Chairman said there will be a Traffic Review Group operating above the Transport Fora where EDF have a voting majority. The Chairman has asked for the Traffic Review Group meetings to be held in public for reasons of transparency.

d) A member of the public asked for speed limit reductions and enforcement on the Quiet Lanes as some have a 60 mph limit. Cllr. Graham Lacey replied that he has a meeting pending with EDF and Highways and he will address speed limit issues. The Chairman said he had also asked for a meeting with EDF and Highways and he will speak to the County Council to understand the process to reduce speed limits in the parish.

e) The Council agreed not to respond to the Nautilus Interconnector public consultation as it is not a statutory consultation and the proposals lack the necessary details to comment on.

8. Planning

a) The Council agreed to support planning application DC/21/4418/FUL – reinstatement of a pre-existing car port – Flint Cottage, The Street.

b) The Council agreed to support planning application DC/21/4473/FUL – internal and external alterations to an existing chalet bungalow to improve functionality and living conditions – Heath View, Leiston Road provided the applicant submits a landscaping scheme for pre-approval of the planning authority as a pre-commencement condition. This would enable the planning authority to secure the retention of trees and hedgerows within the site thus safeguarding natural screening for the benefit of neighbouring properties.

9. Councillors' Reports

a) Highways/Footpaths – the Council acknowledged Cllr. Steve Thorpe's previously circulated note about contacting the Westleton farmer for his views about how to prevent another occurrence of cows attacking footpath users and dogs.

b) Village Hall:

i) Roof – Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that the Village Hall Management Committee has secured a grant and has funds in hand to repair the Village Hall roof. The Chairman said he had obtained legal

advice which confirmed that it is the responsibility of the Management Committee to keep the building in good repair and not the Council which is the Custodian Trustee. Cllr. Graham Lacey offered to help assess the three quotes obtained by the Management Committee.

ii) Drop-In Centre – Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that she had secured a grant for £500 from the District Council’s Community Partnership Small Grants Fund.

iii) Defibrillator – Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that the Management Committee are looking into providing a defibrillator for the Village Hall.

ACTION: Clerk to provide a list residents who previously attended defibrillator training.

c) Primary School – Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that volunteers have been invited back into school.

d) Village Green Bench Repair – Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that following an inspection of the broken bench it was deemed cheaper to replace it. The Council noted District Cllr. Russ Rainger’s previously circulated note about the availability of a grant from the District Council’s Community Partnership Fund for Talking Benches.

ACTION: Clerk to apply for a grant.

e) Telephone Box – the Council briefly discussed ideas such as a book exchange, a seed exchange, an information centre and an advertising space. It was decided to ask for further ideas and volunteers via the village newsletter.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

10. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Council agreed to postpone consideration of a joint community event to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee until the next meeting.

11. Administration

The following agenda items were also postponed until next month:

- a) To conduct the annual review of the Risk Assessment.
- b) To approve the continuation of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.
- c) To agree to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils as internal auditor.
- d) To conduct the annual review of the insurance policy to ensure the terms of the policy remain acceptable and that all known risks and assets are adequately protected

12. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipt of £0.07 bank interest.
- b) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 2 2021-2022.
- c) The Council noted the bank reconciliation for Quarter 2 2021-2022.
- d) The Council authorised expenditure of £35 for a Remembrance Day poppy wreath (LGA 1972 s.138b)
- e) The Council agreed to donate £50 to Citizens Advice (LGA 1972 s.142)
- f) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk’s Salary	Sharon Smith	£274.45	LGA 1972 s.112
Pavilion Electricity	British Gas	£37.21	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19
Stickers for Village Signs	EPS Transfers	£59.40	LGA 1972 s.111

13. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 9th September 2021 and 6th October 2021.

14. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Monday 8th November 2021 at 7:30 pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

The Council postponed the following agenda items until next month:

1. Status and finances of Trust - Chairman to report.
2. Update on play equipment including approval of quotation for replacement of swing.
3. Update on pavilion awning and flooring.
4. To consider replacement of the damaged sign in the car park.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.