

## **MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 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 Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Michele Kendall  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Lesley Taylor  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
District Councillor Sarah Whitelock

##### **Apologies:**

Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk

**In attendance:** None.

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

#### **3 Public Forum.**

District Cllr Whitelock (8pm) referred to the Statement on Government Devolution Plans taken from the January ESC Leader's Monthly Bulletin. It is still very early days and there will be further discussions across Suffolk and within East Suffolk as things become clearer.

There will be an increase in car parking fees throughout East Suffolk.

More wellbeing leaflets were distributed amongst councillors for circulation in the area.

#### **4 Minutes**

a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2024.

##### **b) Matters arising and Action Points**

- Cllr Cusack to arrange for cutting of the hedge at the burial ground c/f
- Village hall booked for Tuesday 28 January, 7pm, public meeting re: Hastoe Field.
- 2025/26 Precept submitted to ESC.
- Donation Policy uploaded to the village website.
- Revised Eco Planning Application – ESC has been informed of the PC's position.
- ESC and village groups have been informed of the cancelled Middleton Hub venture.
- 2025 Meeting dates uploaded to the village website.

#### **5 Causeway Farm.** Cllr Piercy confirmed no update on Causeway Farm, and this will be so until the current tenants have vacated in April.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to move the public meeting for Hastoe Field from 28 January to 26 February. The meeting will be announced in the village newsletter along with an email to residents. The format for the evening will be similar to that of last year's community meeting in March; an introduction (Cllr Cusack) and update (Cllr Thorpe), following which residents will form small groups to discuss proposals and ideas. It is hoped that District Councillors will also attend the meeting along with SZC Community Fund staff and councillors from Theberton, Yoxford and Kelsale.

The field will consist of approximately 10 acres with a capital requirement of £125,000 (excluding solar panels) and revenue support for a maximum of three years, following which any revenue implications will be picked up by the Precept.

Cllr Cusack reported back following a meeting with Sarah Mortimer, SZC Community Fund advisor, who confirmed that the emphasis is very much on benefits for the community, rather than biodiversity and natural habitats. Mention was given to an Environmental Impact Fund that SZC will be offering soon, and it was suggested that MPC apply through this fund also.

Applications must focus on outputs and outcomes, which were explained as follows: -

Output - an inventory of the physical elements that will be delivered, in this case, a community park, allotments and solar panels.

Expected Outcomes - will likely include 1) Health and Wellness, 2) Biodiversity (linked to education and health & wellbeing) and 3) Community Cohesion.

The application will also need to include the number of people who will benefit from the project. It is understood that the amount of money applied for is divided by the number of people that will benefit. Applications made so far have been in the region of £10-£20 per person. Our figures will need methodical consideration.

It was recommended that before the project starts, MPC interview several residents within the village (taken randomly from the Register) to assess wellbeing and SZC impact etc. The expectation, following this, would be to carry out the same survey the following year, two years and three years to measure the success of the project.

It was agreed that this venture should include the involvement of village residents and various village groups, not just MPC, therefore, a survey will also be undertaken on the night of the meeting to establish interest and seek volunteers to form a steering group.

It was agreed to give the project a working title of Middleton Community Park.

Hastoe Field public meeting plans were shared with Cllr Whitelock, who suggested that the invitation be extended to Leiston Town Council.

**Action: Clerk to issue invites to local parish/town councils, district councillors and SZC Community Fund staff.**

**Action: Clerk to write an invitation to be published in the next village newsletter and to arrange for a blanket email to be issued to residents.**

A new meeting date was agreed for Wednesday 26 February. **Action: Clerk to cancel 28 January booking and book the village hall for Wednesday 26 February.**

## **6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.**

- Archaeological works continue.
- The construction of the SLR (a two-year process) is out to tender and is being awarded this month.
- Local road improvement schemes on the B1125 and B1122 are ongoing over the next two quarters, including footpath widening and the cutting back of vegetation.
- Average speed cameras will be erected this quarter, one at the B1125/22 junction, another at the far side of Theberton and one at Westleton.
- The results of a traffic survey carried out in October last year have been released. HGVs (not all SZC) going through Middleton Moor were around 300 per day, which is half the peak figure of 600. The average speed was 29.9mph through the Moor, but 85% of cars passing through were

going 3mph faster; it is hoped that this will be improved with the installation of the average speed cameras.

- The continuation of works without an FID (final investment decision) was raised, along with questions regarding construction of the SLR and whether Littlemoor Road will continue to be used for construction traffic. Cllr Macdowell offered to raise these issues at next week's Main Development Site Forum. It is believed that the routes currently being used are not those that were given originally. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to raise at next MDS Forum.**
- The new Yoxford roundabout will be operational before completion of the SLR.
- Sealink have requested that MPC register as an interested party for the DCO process. **Action: Cllr Macdowell.**

Dist. Cllr Whitelock advised of a two-year road closure at Georges Road/Abbey Lane with Theberton traffic being diverted through Leiston. This will be raised at the MDS Forum next week.

## **7 Councillors Reports**

- a) Village Hall. No report
- b) Middleton Primary School. No report
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report
- d) Middleton Moor. The pond works will now be taking place in January.

## **8 Finance**

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) The following payment was authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
P30 Q3 Income Tax	HMRC	£76.91	LGA 1972 s.112

- 9 Affiliation to East Suffolk Planning Alliance.** A group of 54 town and parish councils are affiliated from across East Suffolk. The alliance meets quarterly with the Planning Department at ESC to discuss planning issues. Cllr Cusack is familiar with the group, having previously chaired a conference on behalf of the alliance. It was agreed to become affiliated with ESPA. **Action: Clerk to advise.**
- 10 Village Path approach to Church.** Dale Johnson will be providing a price quotation by the end of this week.
- 11 Funding/Grant Opportunities.** No new opportunities.
- 12 Correspondence.** No correspondence.
- 13 Items for Next Agenda**
- 14 Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.