

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



“Middleton goes to Latitude”

(More inside and with apologies for the quality of the reproduction of the photos!)

NEWSLETTER

August 2025

Editorial

Wow! What a great performance from Ralph Taylor and his band at Latitude on Friday which included Angus & Hebe Cooke. They performed in the 'Lavish Lounge' as part of 'BBC Introducing'. If you receive this as an email newsletter and you'd like a taster you can (hopefully) open the links to get a sample – albeit not the same as being there! Thanks to Karen for providing these.

[C:\Users\barba\Music\Ralph Taylor 1.MP4](#)

[C:\Users\barba\Music\Ralph Taylor 2.MP4](#)

[C:\Users\barba\Music\Ralph Taylor 3.MP4](#)

The next big event in the village is the Fete swiftly followed the next day by music in Manor House garden. Full details of both further on.

Contributions for the August issue can be emailed to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Rd by **Tuesday 26th August please.**

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

Also to be found on the Parish website: www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

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

MIDDLETON MIDSUMMER BOULES COMPETITION

In all 12 teams took part in this annual pairs tournament a couple of weeks ago – from the village, Theberton, Westleton, Chesterfield and even Brisbane Australia!!

The proud winners this year of the prized Cockerel Trophy were Rebecca and Archie with runners up and holders of the French cheeses Paul and Daisy.

Thanks to Richard and Jenny for organizing the event and selection of French themed food.



Letter to the Editor

Perhaps you might know why? It seems so silly.

You pass an averaging speed camera when you come into Westleton from Blythburgh. Then down to 30mph – fair enough.

Then up to 50mph between Westleton and Middleton. There can't be a more dangerous road.

Then you pass another averaging speed camera. 30mph from the Middleton sign up to the Sizewell Road.

Turn left towards Sizewell, there is yet another averaging speed camera. How do these cameras sort all this out.

How can it be justified 50mph along a twisting and dangerous road, then restricted traffic along the A12 and Sizewell Road to 30mph when the road is fairly straight.

And another issue on three occasions now coming back down the lanes from Saxmundham to Theberton I have come across heavy Lorries two with heavy diggers on them. Normally escorted by Police. Both of these were even bring down branches of trees in their wake. They are then getting back on the A12 just the other side of Saxmundham, so avoiding the 30mph speeding restrictions.

Sorry for venting off.

Best regards Dennis Peel

Heather Cottage



Our annual village fete is approaching very quickly and as always we are very grateful for all the help offered by residents to make it a success. Let's hope it's a dry one this year!

Thanks in advance to those who have offered (or been cajoled!!) to man stalls on the day – we are now seeking helpers on the Friday afternoon around 4pm for setting up, and/or Saturday morning at 9am and taking down after the fete. Offers of homemade cakes (please list ingredients) and raffle prizes very welcome. To offer any of these please email middleton.community.council@gmail.com

Children's Miniature Gardens at the fete.

We will be needing "materials" for the miniature Gardens! Please leave anything you can contribute at 7, Roke Drive, either the evening before the Fete or on the morning of the Fete. Michele will be on the Stall with me this year but I am stepping down next year, so she will be looking for a volunteer! Jenny Merredew



Residents of Back Road - may we apologise in advance for any inconvenience regarding excess traffic on Fete day. We will endeavour as in previous years to create a one-way system to try and minimize congestion. MCC

Sunday 24th August

Manor House Gardens open from 1.30pm

A fabulous afternoon/early evening of Folk Music from
SilMor, Kyson Point and Honey & the Bear (with Toby Shaer)

Please email Mandy on: mobilemandy@me.com
if you are interested and haven't already received full details.

*Anyone unable to come but wishing to contribute to the funds raised for Bowel Cancer UK,
can do so by bank transfer as follows:*

First Direct: Sort Code: 40-47-58, A/c: 30430498,

Name: Mandy Beaumont, Reference: Bowel Cancer UK.

Alternatively you can always drop off direct to Manor House, Leiston Road

We will also have a Plant Stall with home-grown plants for sale
- if you have any plants that you are happy to donate, please let us know 🙏

Thank you in advance!



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



MIDDLETON BELL CRIBBAGE

Pre- season informal get
together, Tuesday 26th August
7.30pm in The Bell.

New to the village? Enjoy
playing crib? Come and join us.

Like to learn or improve ? Come
and join us.



Graham Cooke *DipMIT MPTA*
Piano Tuner/Technician

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

WI Summer Garden Party



Our president Rita welcomed WI members and their guests to the WI Garden Party which was held in Rita's beautiful garden. We were so lucky with the weather, it had rained during the morning. Members brought along a delicious selection of food for the buffet table and the Pimms and conversation flowed. Rita whole heartedly thanked everyone for their contributions and for attending and wished everyone a wonderful summer.

The next WI meeting is on the 17th September at 7.15 pm. Julie, local chocolate maker from Beccles, is discussing history and providing taste testing.



The Middleton WI have decided to change 2 of their monthly meeting times in the Village Hall during the darker months therefore meetings in October and March will now be in the afternoons at 2.30 pm.

November and January meeting times will also continue to be held in the afternoons.



Middleton from the air

Ashley Brown

Church Services during August

**There will only be one service in Holy Trinity during August, but the church remains open as a place of peace and welcome for everyone.
And, look out for ‘poetry in the pews...’**

11am Holy Communion

***The Benefice service this month will be at St James Dunwich
Sunday 3 August at 10am***

Please come along

*** SAVE THE DATE! ***



The Late Summer/Early Autumn Pop-up Brunch
Sunday 14 September, 10-11.45am
Holy Trinity Church

Pretty sure we are most of us up to speed with these now but ... for any of us who have missed them or have recently arrived in Middleton and are wondering what they are about, they began with a desire to make more use of our lovely old church and, wondering how to complement and collaborate with the other good things going on in the village, realising that we were missing having somewhere - in walking distance - to read the papers, solve a crossword, maybe catch up with a friend while enjoying coffee and a sausage roll on a Sunday morning...

So please join us if you are free...

Any time between 10 and 11.45am - leaving you free to mosey over to the pub when it opens at midday if you choose, or home for lunch...

If you have any questions about this event, or would like a lift, please contact Amanda Taylor: 07990 602 563 or ajt.opom@gmail.com or Camilla Sim: 07740 427414 or camillasim9@gmail.com



Holy Dusters



New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

6 August - Trish and Graham

10 September – Christine and David

8 October – Val and Camilla

5 November – Trish and Graham

10 December - Rob

24 September – Christine and David

22 October – Paul and Amanda

19 November – Nicola and Margaret

Thought Poem for the Month...

(holding memories of July's Poetry and Pastries)

Little Summer Poem Touching the Subject of Faith by Mary Oliver

Every summer
I listen and look
under the sun's brass and even
into the moonlight, but I can't hear
anything, I can't see anything —
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green
stalks muscling up,
nor the leaves
deepening their damp pleats,

nor the tassels making,
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.
And still,
every day,

the leafy fields
grow taller and thicker —
green gowns lofting up in the night,
showered with silk.

And so, every summer,
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing —
I am deaf too
to the tick of the leaves,

the tapping of downwardness from the banyan feet —
all of it
happening
beyond any see-able proof, or hearable hum.

And, therefore, let the immeasurable come.
Let the unknowable touch the buckle of my spine.
Let the wind turn in the trees,
and the mystery hidden in the dirt

swing through the air.
How could I look at anything in this world
and tremble, and grip my hands over my heart?
What should I fear?

One morning
in the leafy green ocean
the honeycomb of the corn's beautiful body
is sure to be there.

Obituary

Pat Turner, former resident of The Street, Middleton, passed away on July 14th aged 84. Her funeral will take place in Holy Trinity Church, Middleton on Thursday August 7th at 12 Noon.

Many longer term residents of the village may remember Pat as Village Recorder and husband Jim as a church warden.



MacMillan Coffee morning is back on Friday 26th 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 a huge amount for this very worthwhile charity.

Please come along and support us, enjoy coffee and cake, make friends and help us raise money for those diagnosed with cancer and their families. Cancer has touched 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

MIDDLETON CARPET BOWLS

Restart – Thursday 28th August – 6.30 pm Village Hall - new members welcome, come and have a go.

Middleton Dark Skies

August Highlights

Perseid Meteor Shower The peak of the shower is on the night of the 12th /13th August, but unfortunately this year this occurs just 3 days after the full Moon, so observing the meteors will be hampered by the bright moonlight. The Perseids are visible from July 17th through to 24th August, but although in lesser numbers the further away from the peak, it could still be worth looking out for meteors from this shower a few nights after the peak. The radiant of the shower, which is the point in the sky that the meteors appear to originate from, is located out to the NE, just below the constellation of Cassiopeia, which is easily recognisable, as it resembles a big, if slightly wonky, W

The Milky Way. On the nights where there is little or no interference from moonlight, The Milky Way is a majestic sight, as it arches across the night sky from the NE to the SW. As with most observations, give your eyes 20 mins or so to adjust to the dark so as to get the full benefit of its almost cloudlike structure. Take a look through even a small pair of binoculars at any point along The Milky Way to witness thousands of stars

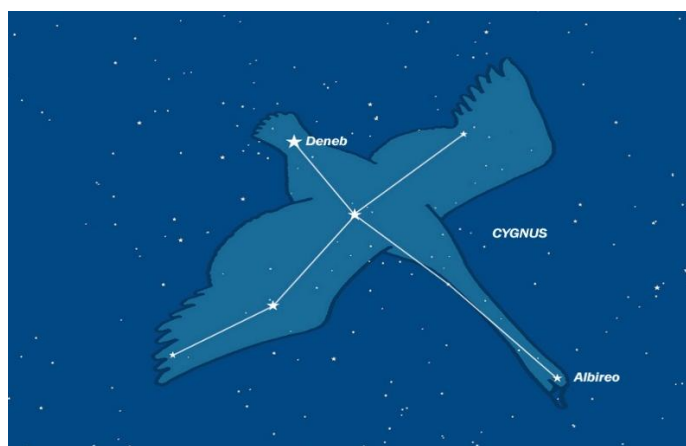
Planets on View The two brightest of the planets, as seen from Earth, **Venus** and **Jupiter** are both early morning objects, best seen between 3 and 4AM in the pre dawn sky out towards the East. On the 12th of the month, they will be at their closest point together in the sky just before dawn. They will be joined on the 20th by the crescent Moon, sitting just between the two. **Mars** is low in the western sky this month, and by the end of the month will have disappeared from view, not returning until next year. **Saturn** rises at around 9.30PM and will have **Neptune** for company. Towards the end of the month, when there is no Moon to worry about, a good pair of binoculars or small telescope should be able to pick out Saturn low down towards the SE with the much fainter Neptune sitting very close above.

The Moon This month full moon occurs on the 9th and goes by the name of Grain Moon or Red Moon, as it takes on a slightly red colour due to the summer haze filtering out the bluer wavelengths of the moonlight. On the morning of the 20th, the crescent Moon will sit between Venus and Jupiter, although this is best observed in the pre-dawn sky.

Constellations. A couple of relatively easy ones to find this month. Firstly **Cassiopeia**, which sits out towards the NE and is recognised by its distinctive W shape. As mentioned above, the radiant for the Perseid Meteors sits just below and to the North of Cassiopeia. The **Milky Way** passes through and along the length of the constellation, which is named after Queen Cassiopeia, from Greek myth, who was banished to the sky after boasting about her beauty...*harsh!* The other constellation is **Cygnus** (The Swan) which at this time of the year is practically overhead. It's one of the few constellations that doesn't need too much imagination to see how it got its name, as being cross shaped lends itself to having the outstretched wings and neck of a swan in flight. (Cygnus is also referred to as The Northern Cross). As with Cassiopeia, The Milky Way passes along the length of Cygnus, and appears to split down either side of the constellation. This 'split' is actually the result of a dark gas cloud blocking the light from The Milky Way beyond and goes by the name of The Great Rift.



Perseids Radiant



Cygnus (The Swan) or The Northern Cross

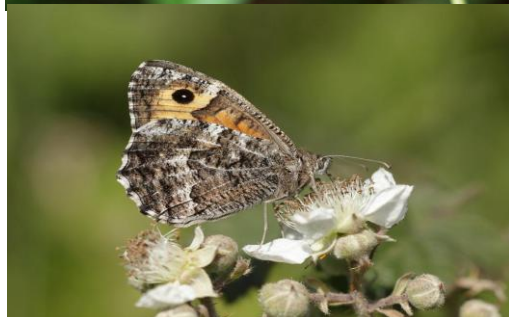
August Nature Notes

Biodiversity is in rapid decline, locally, across Britain and globally. Being large and relatively easy to identify butterflies are useful surrogates for helping us understand these changes. Where butterfly communities are rich and diverse, so too is the ecosystem. But the opposite is also true: if butterfly numbers are low and there are few species, it is a bad sign for the overall variety and abundance of life in the area. Butterfly sightings were among the lowest on record across the country in 2024, a low point in an already downward trend. The low numbers last year were in most part due to the weather, in particular the notably cloudy and wet summer. These are not ideal conditions for



butterflies. Butterflies, like all insects, are ectothermic (cold-blooded) and need the warmth and light of the sun to regulate their body temperature and give them energy to fly. While weather patterns vary, climate change is making unpredictable weather more common. Wildlife is under the immense combined pressure of habitat loss and climate change, and it is driving many species to extinction. Consecutive summers with poor weather can push many butterflies, and other insect species, towards at least local extinction.

Fortunately for butterflies, 2025 has so far been a stark contrast to last year.



After the driest spring since 1893, multiple early summer heatwaves and record sunshine levels, the numbers of butterflies appear to be bouncing back. This year's warmth has helped them move through their lifecycle quickly meaning their survival rate has been remarkably good; spending less time as caterpillars and as potential bird food. Many common species are having an excellent year. The white species, including the large white, small white and green-veined white, are faring particularly well. Peacock butterflies, red admirals and gatekeepers are also doing well. Some of the rarer local species also seems to be doing better, the silver-studded blue colony on Westleton

Heath appears to have had an excellent year as has the heath specialist butterfly the grayling and white admirals and silver-washed fritillaries have been seen in gardens for the first time. It is not all positive news, it has been a poor year for the ringlet, which struggles in dry summers as it requires damp conditions for its grass-feeding caterpillars and the once-ubiquitous small tortoiseshell continues its baffling disappearance, down to a level where it has now become a rare butterfly.

Finally, a word of caution, one better summer for butterflies does not redress the 50 years of decline, and although hot sunny weather is good for butterflies drought is not. Butterfly caterpillars and the larvae of many insects that eat plants need flourishing host plants to thrive. The impact of this year's dry weather will be seen in the next generation of butterflies.

Peter Vincent



Just a little thank you for my beautiful parasol bought with my birthday money.
Jenny M.



Advance notice - anyone wishing to book a table, contact Lynda at lynda@thewhitbreadfamily.co.uk

Recreation Ground Update - July 2025

As many people will be aware there is a need to replace the play equipment at the Recreation Ground. Following a survey conducted last year we identified other improvements that local people said they would be happy to see at the Recreation Ground. Several of us have been meeting recently to discuss plans for the Recreation Ground as reported in a recent newsletter. If you'd like to join this group, please get in touch.

There is no money in the village for replacing the play equipment or for other improvements, so we need to consider applying for funds externally to cover costs. People will be aware that there had been a plan to apply to Sizewell C's Community Fund, run by Suffolk Community Foundation (SCF), to purchase the ten acre field that lies to the east of the Recreation Ground ("Hastoe Field"). This field is part of Causeway Farm. However, due to the uncertainty about the future of Causeway Farm this no longer seems a realistic prospect in the short term. Also, in discussions with SCF they have indicated to us that an application to the SZC Community Fund, focussed on the Recreation Ground, would in fact be more attractive to them than one focused on buying the adjacent field. They are due to launch a fund shortly that will focus on environmental / nature improvements and that fund may prove more appropriate for plans related to Hastoe Field.

We are therefore developing an application to the SZC Community Fund, focussed on improvements to the Recreation Ground and we would really value feedback on these plans. The more evidence we have of input from villagers the stronger our application will be.

What are we thinking of applying for funding for?

There are a few elements to the improvements to the Recreation Ground that we are considering:

Play equipment for 0-14 year olds.

We want to significantly improve the play equipment, much of which is on its last legs or has already been removed. A potential list of items we are considering include: (please see www.Playdale.co.uk for more details)

Current equipment:

- 12m -6 yr Train,
- 12m-6 yr Swings,
- 2-14 yr Tyres

New play equipment:

- 0-10 yr Sensory Musical Bells
- 0-14 yr Two bay swing flat seat, accessible seat, team seat.
- 12m - 14 yr Burma Bridge
- 18m-6 yr Spring foal
- 3-14 yr Gravity Bowl / Spinner Bowl
- 5-12 yr Climbing Frame/Multi-play.
- 6-12 yr Aero Tilt
- 6-14 yr Rota Bounce
- 6-14 yr Swing Bars
- 3- 14 yr Zip wire

Adult exercise equipment

- Hip twister
- Air walker
- Tai chi spinners
- Trim trail bars
- Two additional trim trail units

Total installed costs c. £12,000

Total installed costs c. £90,000

Other improvements for teenagers and adults

- Replace back board of basketball net.
- Purchase single goal with backing to be separate from main football pitch, with rubber base.

Totalled installed costs c. £4,000.

Note: there would need to be at least 25m gap between play equipment for young children and all other sports equipment.

Improvements to the pavilion

- New storage cupboard
- New flushing system for men's toilet

Estimate £2,000

- Solar panels on roof

Estimate £10,000

Total installed costs c. £12,000

Other improvements

There is a suggestion to improve the storage at the Recreation Ground replacing the existing container and small shed with one bigger one.

Installed costs £8,000.

Summary

The total cost for all these proposed improvements and changes would be c. £126,000.

What have we decided not to ask for funding for and why?

- Wildlife enhancements - e.g. bird / bat boxes, additional tree planting. As these habitats are plentiful in the recreation ground and are linked all the way round with the unmown wildlife corridor.
- A fenced in dog walking area - we don't think there is much demand for this, and the ongoing maintenance of a fence (keeping weeds and grass down) would be a challenge.
- Allotments - we don't believe the Recreation Ground is the right place for allotments and nor are we certain there is demand for allotments.
- Fencing in the play area so dogs cannot enter. We don't think this is necessary or demanded and again the additional maintenance costs would be a burden.

You may well disagree with this - if so please let us know.

So, what do we need from you?

1. Do you support these plans?
2. Are there other things you would like us to consider?
3. Do you agree with what we have decided to exclude?

Please could as many people as possible give us feedback.

Please email any feedback or suggestions to parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com. Please put Recreation Ground as title of email.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WED. 9 JULY 2025 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".

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Giles Piercy

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:

- ESC has submitted the relevant representations to the Planning Directorate objecting to the National Grid Sea Link report.
- The planned upgrades to Leiston, Waterlane, and Deben leisure centres will focus on replacing outdated gas boilers with cutting-edge air source heat pump systems for heating, and CO2 heat pumps for hot water in some locations, significantly cutting energy use and emissions at all three sites. Additionally, Deben Leisure

Centre will benefit from a new roof, and all three centres will gain further solar panel installations to help offset increased electricity use from the switch to electric-only systems.

- 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.
- ESC has implemented an improvement programme to address issues following a comprehensive 'stock condition' survey of its social housing. The detailed survey commissioned by the Council has identified that some of the homes fall below expected standards and the Council is now working with the Regulator of Social Housing, to resolve these issues.
- A statement from Cllr Tom Daly, ESC's Cabinet Member for Energy Projects, following confirmation by the government of £14.2bn funding for the construction of the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station:
"East Suffolk Council believes that truly renewable energy, such as offshore and onshore wind and solar, provides a better long-term answer to the energy security and carbon reduction future of the UK. However, with this announcement, the Sizewell C project now proceeds with certainty, and we will work closely with Sizewell C Ltd and our technical advisors to ensure that the funding we secured for local communities will genuinely benefit the people we serve."
- More than a tonne of end-of-life fishing gear has been prevented from posing a potential hazard to marine life following a successful recovery programme. A four-day appeal for nets, ropes, plastic pots and fish crates were held in Lowestoft by a team of partner organisations belonging to the Eastern and Southern Plastics Coalition (ESPC), during the week of World Oceans Day. The activity recovered 1,194 kg for recycling, including gill nets containing the equivalent of several kilometres of filament, line and rope, as well as more than a tonne of additional material unable to be recycled but now destined for safe disposal.
- County Council elections and elections for the mayor will be held in May 2026. It is understood that the councillors elected next May will only serve for two years, up to 2028, when the new unitary authorities will be vested. It is expected but not confirmed that in 2027 there will be elections for the shadow unitary authorities, who will serve for one year, and when the authority vests in May 2028 these will become the councillors of the new authorities. It is also expected but not confirmed that the term of office of the current ESC councillors will be extended by one year to May 2028.

4 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 June 2025.

b) Matters Arising and Action Points

- Report on village path approach to church – c/f
- Clerk supplied Middleton Moor Management Group with details regarding travellers. It was agreed that individuals should not approach travellers and should either contact the police or the parish clerk, should the need arise. At a recent Middleton Moor Management Group meeting, it was agreed that it would be inappropriate and an overreaction to take measures to make access onto the Moor difficult.
- Cllrs Macdowell and Piercy to provide the village newsletter and clerk with direct online links to access SZC maps – c/f.
- The PC have registered as an interested party for the Sea Link enquiry.
- Audit 2025 documents have been uploaded onto the village website.
- Councillor vacancy has been advertised on noticeboards and village website. Closing date 10 July 2025.

5 Causeway Farm. Following the consultation with the parish (February 2025), interest was shown in focusing on the Recreation Ground, rather than the proposed Hastoe Field project. Following this, the Middleton Recreation Ground Working Group has been resurrected, comprising parish council members and village residents. An application is being prepared for the SZC Community Fund for play equipment and other upgrades to the recreation ground. It is understood that the village cannot put in an application for both the recreation ground and the proposed Hastoe Field project. Although disappointing, the PC are unable to progress the Hastoe Field application until it is known whether SCC are willing to sell the land to us, and as there is no sense of timing or valuation, there is a risk that we may keep this project going only for it to fizzle out. The meeting was reminded

that there is a) another SZC scheme, not yet 'open', that may provide further funding, and b) the possibility of a loan. Talks are still taking place between SCC and Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding the marshland on the farm.

6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.

- A Main Development Site Meeting took place last week. The final investment decision on SZC continues to be pushed back and is now anticipated for late summer.
- The Community Fund have dedicated over half a million pounds to date.
- SZC are funding a new college on the coast. There is a meeting regarding this on Wednesday 23 July at Leiston United Church.
- Illuminated, slow down signs are to be placed on the B1122. The slowdown signs will illuminate as a car approaches. Concerns were raised over light pollution during the night. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to request that they only operate between the hours of 7am – 11pm.** The exact location of the signs is unknown, but there will be two, one for each direction. **Action: Cllr Cusack to speak with residents.**
- Road Closures: -
11-13 July overnight, 8pm – 5am, Lovers Land crossing. Pretty Road will be shut for a long period over the autumn. 19-20 July B1122/A12 junction closed (water company)
- There will be no wide loads during Latitude and bank holidays.
- There is currently an average of 273 HGVs a day. This will be doubled by December. (There is a 600 HGVs per day self-imposed cap.)
- Aldeburgh Town Council enquired as to whether the community fund applications could be simplified.
- Both Middleton and Theberton PC representatives at the latest NTF, reported on the unacceptable, aggressive nature of the escort police experienced by locals.
- Both Middleton and Theberton PC representatives raised the lack of broadband for their villages, following SZC's proud announcement for recently supplying broadband connection to 5,000 homes. Cllr Macdowell wrote a press release voicing frustration and disappointment, and this has been carried by the EADT
- Leiston is having issues with HMOs (family homes are being sold and converted into housing with multiple occupancy), raising concerns about homelessness and parking issues. SZC confirm that they are 'alive to what is happening'.
- MPC invited SZC to give a briefing to the village, which was declined. SZC have, however, offered to speak with the PC, including a presentation followed by Q & A with councillors, not the public. It was felt that at the last presentation, the PC were spoken to rather than with by SZC causing some frustration. It was agreed to request a presentation later in the year, when more time has passed and there will be more to report on. MPC will be particularly interested in SZCs plans for landscaping around the link road. It was agreed to offer an invite to SZC for our October meeting.
- Cllr Macdowell provided the meeting with two websites for updates: [Sizewell C Works Tracker - Track SZC Projects & Get Alerts for New Activities](#) and [Roadworks in Suffolk - Suffolk County Council](#)
- It was confirmed that a Traffic Crisis Management system is in place. SZC will stop trucks leaving the site and warn individual workers leaving the site. It is the responsibility of SCC to manage the impact of non-Sizewell C traffic of incidents.

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. A problem in Rectory Road has been reported by two residents. The hedge by the substation is now extending out onto the highway causing an obstruction. A complaint has been made to UK Power Networks, who have agreed to visit the site and produce an action plan.
- d) Middleton Moor. Cllr Cusack attended the recent Middleton Moor Management Group meeting. A new fence and gate have been constructed adjacent to Middleton Moor on Moor Road. A hedge has been removed and replaced with a gate and fencing on adjacent land. Access is gained across common land to the

new gate. The PC was not approached to discuss this in advance and, to date we have not had an explanation although it has been confirmed that the works were not carried out by SZC.

A written request was made by the Middleton Moor Management Group that the PC lodge a complaint with ESC regarding the apparent unauthorised track across common land. It was agreed to wait until the PC hears back from the landowner.

[Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Cusack has established that the new access was created by the landowner to provide an alternative emergency access in the event that their normal access is interrupted by the works associated with the Middleton Moor Link Road roundabout.]

There is an ash tree opposite Moor House, near the pit, that the Moor Group would like a TPO against. The PC agreed to action this request. **Action: Cllr Cusack to make the request to ESC.**

The Moor Group have also requested that the PC contact SZC regarding rutting along Littlemoor Road, caused by works to create accesses. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to contact SZC with a request to make good.**

A member of the public raised concerns that there are still no white lines or cats' eyes along the B1122. Cllr Macdowell confirmed that attempts were made to have a meeting on site and that he has recently restarted the process.

9 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Data Protection Registration Certificate	Information Commissioner's Office	£52.00	LGA 1972 s. 142
P30 Q1 NI Contributions	HMRC	£61.62	LGA 1972 s. 112

- 10 **New Councillor(s)**. An interview was arranged between two councillors and a prospective councillor, who, unfortunately, was unable to make the appointment. **Action: Clerk to re-arrange.** The Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor for the second vacancy ends tomorrow (10 July). The vacancy may now be filled by co-option.
- 11 **Village Path approach to Church**. See above.
- 12 **Village Noticeboards**. A resident on the green has advised that during bad weather the doors on the noticeboard by the Bell Inn work themselves open. Upon inspection, it was reported that the doors probably come open due to the angle of the posts in the ground. It was agreed that a couple of bolts will rectify the problem, along with a coat of oil. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to make good the noticeboard by the Bell Inn.** It was noted that the village hall noticeboard would benefit from repair also. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to raise at the next VH meeting.**
- 13 **Website Accessibility Statement**. The meeting agreed to a) update the parish's Website Accessibility Statement, to include correct email address, address and telephone number, b) change reference from version 2.1 to 2.2 and c) add to the document 'If you have any problems accessing the material please contact the clerk'. **Action: Clerk to make necessary changes and upload new version to the village website.**
- 14 **Correspondence**. An Extraordinary meeting for planning application DC/25/2616/FUL was agreed for Tuesday 22 July, 6pm at the pavilion.
Following a request from Suffolk County Council, Children and Young People Services, it was confirmed that there are currently no Emergency Bleed Control Kits in the village. **Action: Clerk to report back.**
- 15 **Items for Next Agenda.**

16 Next Meeting. The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE
OF THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025 AT 8.15pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Giles Piercy

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 1

- 2 To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations.** None.
- 3 Minutes** Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 11 June 2025.
- 4 To review Safety Inspection Report.** Councillors were unable to access the report issued by the Clerk. **Action: Clerk to contact the provider and re-issue the report.**

The repair to the flat seat swings has been partially finished; the top beam has been secured to the posts. The contractor is awaiting a part to complete the repair.

Upon enquiry, it was confirmed that the Burma bridge is unrepairable, with the high-risk element removed. An update from the Recreation Ground Working Group confirmed that replacing the play equipment is a priority. There is no money available from the PC, or the Recreation Ground Trust, therefore monies must come from funding opportunities, including the SZC Community Fund. The wish list currently includes play equipment, adult exercise equipment, fencing, improvements to the pavilion and allotments. Feedback will be sought from residents before an application is submitted. It was confirmed that three play equipment companies have been engaged to provide their expertise/advise to help make the most of the area and meet the needs of the village.

The meeting was advised of the pavilion flooding a couple of weeks ago. The stopcock joint inside one of the cabinets had failed. The stopcock was turned off and the worst affected cabinet removed. A plumber has since been onsite and made good. There are further cabinets and worktop that need replacing and a contractor will be on site tomorrow to provide a quote. The damage is covered by our insurance policy and the claim has been reported to the insurer (Hiscox). It is currently unknown whether the freezer has been damaged so this will need to be investigated further.

Our current insurance is up for renewal and the broker, CAS Ltd, are suggesting that the PC move away from Hiscox to a new provider, Ansvar. It was agreed that, as the PC are about to make a claim, we go back to CAS Ltd and request a renewal quote from Hiscox, thus remaining with them. **Action: Clerk to liaise with CAS Ltd.**

5 Finance

a) To approve the following payments

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
P30 Q1 Income Tax – Pavilion Manager	HMRC	£117.00	1972 s.112
Fence Hire. Invoices 17718 and 17841	Leiston Plant Hire	£336.00	1972 s.137

b) Trust accounts for year ended 31 March 2025 were approved. Last year the accounts were viewed independently, however the accounts have been kept by the clerk this year and the year-end accounts completed by the Chair, thus it was felt unnecessary to involve a third party. **Action: Clerk to send year-end accounts to the Charities Commission.**

Grant Application for play equipment etc. See above.

Correspondence. None.

Matters for discussion. None.

Items for the next Agenda. None.

Next Meeting. Date of next meeting Wednesday 10 September 2025 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

DIARY DATES 2025

August

Thursday 7 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 23 rd	Annual Village Fete - Playing Field 2pm
Sunday 24 th	Holy Communion 11am
Sunday 24 th	'Folk in the Garden' Manor House, charity fundraiser from 1.30pm
Tuesday 26 th	Pre – season cribbage get together 7.30 pm The Bell
Thursday 28 th	Carpet bowls re-start – Village Hall 6.30pm

September

Thursday 4 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 6 th	Vinyl Night at the Bell from 6pm
Wednesday 10 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Sunday 14 th	Pop-up Brunch , Holy Trinity 10-11.45 am
Wednesday 17 th	WI – Village Hall, Julie ~ Chocolate Makers, Beccles (History, testing , discount sales) 7.15pm
Friday 26 th	Macmillan Coffee morning, The Middleton Bell 10-12

October

Thursday 2 nd	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 4 th	MCC Autumn Fayre
Wednesday 8 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm Wednesday 15 th WI – Village Hall, Barbara McElroy - Apples 'A Miscellany' 2.30pm

November

Thursday 6 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Wednesday 12 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 19 th	WI – Village Hall, AGM tea & cakes 2.15pm
Saturday 28 th	Christmas Craft Fayre – Village Hall

December

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



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 07905 683468

Visit www.emmelineandfriends.com to subscribe. During checkout, QUOTE FAIRY20 for an introductory 20% discount



You can hire the Middleton Pavilion

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

 middletonpavilion@gmail.com

 Middleton Pavilion, Suffolk



