

# MIDDLETON ~ CUM- FORDLEY



## NEWSLETTER

*June 2023*

Editorial

How quickly a month goes by! A sentiment echoed by some of our regular contributors. The Coronation picnic was well attended – almost 100 people, and we were blessed with lovely weather despite the dire warnings during the week from the Met. Office. The front cover shows Rebecca about to cut the marvellous cake superbly made by Jenny and Peta, alongside the cupcakes made by Fiona. More photos included later in this issue.

Contributions for the next edition to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June**.

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).

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MIKE'S 80TH

I would like to say a big thank you to so many friends who helped me to celebrate my 80th birthday recently at The Bell. You made an old man very happy !

The voucher that you gave me has been used to purchase a very smart new golf bag, with a new club yet to be decided upon. Those of you that have seen me play will know that sadly my game is unlikely to improve but thanks to your generosity I will at least look the part!

Thank you all once again.

Mike



**NEXT CHARITY QUIZ at The Bell, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June . 7pm**

**LOST.**

**Somewhere around the village green/pub carpark/school a red iPhone with a clear plastic case. If found please call 07733282072 .**

As a follow on from the lost phone, Dennis kindly forwarded this information that folk might not know .

**Can I take the opportunity to tell everyone that a simple free app can be downloaded so you can find your phone if lost or stolen.**

**The App will also take a photograph of the person that attempts to open it. This then can be viewed on another smart phone or computer.**

**Another option that few people know is that you can put a note on the locked screen, giving a phone number and contact to call if someone finds the phone.**

Middleton Village Hall

**Cake and Coffee Club**

**Every Thursday Morning – all welcome**

**10.45 am to 12 pm**

*Please let Lynda know if you would like a lift Tel: 01728 668977*



**N.B. This is not now being run by the Parish Council, but is supported by The Community Council and Village Hall Management.**

# Middleton Open Gardens

3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> June

11am to 5pm

18 Gardens, formal and informal, large and small

Adults £5.00 - children free (pay at the Pavilion or Middleton Moor)

Refreshments at the pavilion available all day



Maps available from: Pavilion at the Recreation Ground, IP17 3NZ  
& at Middleton Moor (B1122) IP17 3LW

[https://www.opengardens.co.uk/open\\_gardens.php?id=1011](https://www.opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens.php?id=1011)

Major fundraiser for Holy Trinity Church Middleton,  
Also supporting 'FIND' (Families in Need), who offer a lifeline to people in East  
Suffolk who are experiencing poverty and despair and the Middleton Village Green  
project.

Contact: Christine Burgess 01728 649020 or 07826 840478  
christineburgess29@gmail.com

Does anyone have any pickles or jams they might like to donate to the catering team for Open Gardens? Or if you might possibly have some small flowers for table decorations that would be great. If so could you email Michele [michele.kendall59@gmail.com](mailto:michele.kendall59@gmail.com)



Thank you.

Please can the very kind people who are donating cakes to deliver to the pavilion by Saturday am at the latest. Can be delivered to myself or Kathryn on the Friday if necessary.

Thanks

Michele 07427421943

## HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY



### Services during June

Sunday 11 June	11am Morning Praise
Sunday 25 June	11am Holy Communion

*The Benefice service this month will be at Yoxford*

***Sunday 4 June at 10am. There will be a presentation by Daisy Mansfield from The Leprosy Society***

***Please come along***

In memory of

**Joy Kemp**

So soon after John we gathered together again, with family and friends, in Holy Trinity to say a fond farewell to Joy. It was a bright sunny afternoon for the lovely service which was taken by Rev. Tim, Rev. Christine Redgrave and Rev. Christine Brooks, with organists Andrew & Tricia.

Joy spent many years in charge of our flower rota and flower festivals, so several pretty floral arrangements adorned the church for her. She will be especially remembered for the beautiful Easter Garden on the chancel steps each year which she did with so much care and love, including small posies of flowers from her own pretty garden where you would often see her pottering.

Joy will be missed a great deal, not least for her support and love of Holy Trinity, but comfort comes from knowing she is reunited with her beloved John.

Our thoughts are with Jenny, Lis, Susan & families at this difficult time.

Rita Pateman

Church Warden,

on behalf of our PCC

### JUBILATE CHOIR EVENSONG

On Sunday 21st May we welcomed the Jubilate Choir to Holy Trinity for Evensong.

As on previous visits we enjoyed their beautiful singing for a lovely service with refreshments prior to the service provided by members of the PCC. Rev. Tim officiated and the sun shone through the windows which added to a lovely atmosphere that the many attending thoroughly enjoyed.

We thank them for giving us such an enjoyable evening and look forward to them visiting us again.

Rita

## Holy Dusters 🙇

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none...

7 June - Mark and Liz

21 June - Margaret and Nicola

12 July - Amanda and Paul



### **Give and Take Food Bank** **(which may now include essential toiletries)**

Working happily in tandem with the new G&T initiative in the village phone box on the green, we are continuing our small 'give and take' food bank now situated in the church porch. People are welcome to either donate or collect dried and tinned food as their circumstances allow. Following a one-off donation to FIND at the end of May (to support the Open Gardens charity this year) any food remaining at the end of each month is being delivered to the foodbanks in Saxmundham and Leiston. With thanks to all who have already contributed to both these initiatives.

Thought for the month

'Tell me, what is God?'

'He is the breath within the breath.' Kabir



## 3<sup>rd</sup> MCC Outdoor

## Midsummer Quiz



MCC are once again tempting fate weatherwise by arranging our third outdoor quiz for Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>.

As per last year it will be bring your own picnic and drinks though a limited bar will be available. (Should it be inclement weather we will revert to the Village Hall.)

Teams of up to 6      £2.50 per person to enter      Inevitable raffle (donations welcome)  
6.30 to claim a table for a 7pm start

Bring your own chair, (umbrella, blanket, hot water bottle, suncream ...!!!) pens and scrap paper

Please book teams with [tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com](mailto:tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com)

As always if you can't make up a table of 6 let us know and we'll try and link you up.





This is a copy of the certificate received by The Community Council from The Eden Project Communities "Big Lunch" organisation as our picnic was mentioned on their website map. The project also wanted to know about the volunteering that happens here (as the Monday after the coronation was designated a volunteering day).







# NEWS FROM MIDDLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer 2023



Ash class designed an outfit fit for a king or queen. As part of this, we have been learning about different dyes and how to dye materials. We learnt all about tie dyeing. The children all took it in turns to dye a pair of socks and were amazed by all the different colours they had made.

On Friday the whole school enjoyed an enrichment afternoon, to celebrate the King's Coronation and enjoyed learning all about our new King. This also links to this terms curriculum of Great Britain, so it is truly wonderful that the children have been able to see such a key historical event.

We have also been working hard in our garden, so we hope you all enjoy the view when you pass by.



Silmor will be back live at The Bell on  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 3.30 -6pm  
June 25<sup>th</sup> at The Eels Foot 3.30 – 6pm  
(Apologies for omitting the latter  
venue last month!)

Next “Squit Night” at The Bell is Thursday June 1st - for the uninitiated it’s an ‘anything goes’ musical/ recited evening that anyone can take a turn to perform at or just spectate.



## WI News

At our May meeting we welcomed Richard Allenby-Pratt, a professional photographer, to give us a talk on his work called "The Suffolk Project". Richard grew up in the west of England, was in the forces and then became a commercial photographer. He was based in Dubai for 16 years. While there he started to take personal pictures of man's effect on the environment in the UAE: photos of the oil fields, container shipping, quarries, aggregate waste covering vast areas, half-built tower blocks. They are stark landscapes devoid of human life, just a single wild animal inserted for effect. But he also took an interest in the wildflowers that bloomed in the desert after a rain. This interest in the environment stayed with him when in 2014 he, his wife and son moved back to Suffolk where she was from. After all that time in the desert, the change of seasons was striking which led Richard to taking many photos of wildflowers and grasses. The "Suffolk Project" was born: a series of photos capturing all aspects of Suffolk life including agriculture, conservation, the character of Suffolk and childhood.

**Agriculture:** the farming photos showed all aspects of farming from intensive one crop big machinery to diverse mixed crop small machinery to specialist wheat production for thatching using old threshing machines and scythes. We loved the photo of "Achilles", the Suffolk Punch workhorse, and his handler. Achilles has sired 70 foals at the Suffolk Punch Trust.

**Conservation:** the pictures were of the marshes at Darsham, Carlton, Snape, wildflower meadows, coppicing the woods, Konick wild ponies and cattle grazing the grasslands. He mentioned the work of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Wild East.

**Character of Suffolk:** photos of landscapes that probably have not changed in generations, old farms, barns, pigs and sheep. As Richard wandered, he took photos of people going about their business on farms, in shops, in trades of all kinds. Some had been here for many generations and others had just recently decided to call Suffolk home.

**Childhood:** Richard had loved his rural upbringing and was anxious for his son to have the same experience. He and his 9-year-old went for many long walks through the countryside. He showed photos of his son encountering insects, toads, butterflies, small mammals and other natural treasures that can delight a child, even stopping to take in the view.

All in all, Richard showed us over 200 beautiful photographs which were enhanced by his running commentary on the why and where of each one. We thanked him for his very interesting presentation. Our next meeting will be Wednesday June 21st at 7:15pm. Sylvia Hawes will be talking about her Guide Dog. Everyone is welcome.



## June Nature Notes

The sight of a hobby is always exciting whether hunting low over the fields or a swift-like silhouette high overhead. The hobby is a fast and agile summer visitor - (not arriving in Britain until well into May), recognisable in flight by its long, swept back wings, square tipped tail and rapid hunting tactics. Its interesting scientific name *Falco subbutteo* is nothing to do with table football but simply means falcon smaller than a buzzard. (The name of the table football game Subbuteo relates to the games creator Peter Adolph, who was an ornithologist, not been granted a trademark to call the game hobby).

From a distance the hobby looks completely dark, although the white throat is always evident. On closer inspection the hobby has a dark eye ring and moustache stretching below the beak and a white throat leading down to bold dark streaks on the breast, the back is dark grey and the thighs are a rusty-red colour. The presence of these red 'trousers' is the easiest way to distinguish the hobby from other falcons such as the similarly-sized kestrel and the much larger peregrine although this feature is missing on the juveniles. Sexes are similar but juveniles are generally much browner, and do not have the red thighs and vent of adults.



Hobbies are opportunistic feeders with a wide variety of insects and around 96 species of bird documented as prey items. They have the ability to catch birds in the air either by chasing them or in a diving stoop from height; Swallows and martins are its most common prey, but the hobby is one of the very few birds of prey capable of outflying and catching swifts; perhaps at a speed approaching 100mph. Although, when catching dragonflies at the height of summer their flight is more relaxed, with short accelerations and turns. The prey is then consumed on the wing during a short glide. Large eyes allow the hobby to be very active at dusk when it is highly successful at hunting bats and insects in the twilight, well after sunset or ambushing swallows as they come in roost.

Hobbies nest in mature woodland, hedgerow trees, and copses; they choose disused crow and sparrowhawk nests or squirrel dreys as like other falcon species, they do not build their own nest. Breeding occurs well into the year from late May to August and this allows the adults to feed chicks on an abundance of dragonflies and fledgling birds. They first breeds at two years, laying 2-3 eggs in a single brood; After the young hobbies leave the nest, their parents continue feeding them but within a few days they will hunt slow-flying beetles before turning their attention to such rapidly moving prey as dragonflies. Only much later, following prolonged aerial games, do they try hunting birds or bats. The hobby population has grown significantly in recent decades. It's thought this could be linked to an increase in flooded gravel pits and reservoirs having led to a rise in dragonfly numbers. It has also been suggested that the species may be benefitting from the UK's warming climate.

Peter Vincent

With thanks to Nigel for his photo of a hobby in flight.

# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2023

## Sizewell C

The potential impact of the Sizewell C (SZC) project on the Parish has continued to take up much of our time in Parish Council meetings. The Development Consent Order (DCO) was approved by the Secretary of State on July 20, 2022, but funding for the project has not yet been secured and no final decision to proceed has yet been taken by EDF or the UK Government.

The Parish Council remains opposed to SZC but has taken part in meetings of the B1122 Working Group established under the DCO. This Group's purpose is to consider what can be done to provide relief from the impacts of construction traffic through Middleton Moor and Theberton in the 'early years' of the project before the proposed Sizewell Link Road is operational. We are also working with neighboring Parish Councils to work out how best to respond.

## 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.

## County Broadband

Some residents have registered for the proposed full-fibre broadband service to be installed by County Broadband. We have reports of letters having been received by some residents referring to wayleave agreements. The company has confirmed that at this stage they are only looking for confirmation that they have the correct landownership details and that this implies no further obligation to allow any works or enter into a wayleave agreement. If that is required they will get back in touch with more information.

## 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.

During the year we also continued to receive support from East Suffolk Council to continue the operation of the Drop-in-Centre at the Village Hall.

At the end of March 2023, the Parish Council had general reserves of approximately £6,800. This is approximately 80% of the annual Council Tax received by the Council, which is at the high end of our financial planning guidelines. 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.

## 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. The orchard planted by Middleton WI has continued to thrive. Use of the facilities for community events and private parties continues to grow.

Regrettably, the wooden supports for the zip wire have reached the end of their safe life and this facility is currently closed pending a decision on its future.

## Elections

There were only six nominations for the nine Parish Council places which means that all six were elected unopposed on May 4, 2023. The Council has the power to co-opt residents to fill the vacancies and would welcome applicants.

## Parish Clerk

Our Clerk, Sharon Smith, resigned during the year to pursue her career elsewhere and her expertise and diligence will be missed.

**Julian Cusack, Chair Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council May 11, 2023**

## **Annual Report 2022/23 for Middleton Village Hall**

**All regular activities have resumed without restrictions, a welcome return to normality.**

**Pilates sessions have increased with the addition of more one to one sessions and monthly Bone Density classes.**

**The Heritage Quilters have booked for most of the year and indoor bowls have played league, cup and practice matches.**

**Thursday coffee mornings have continued and also provided a Christmas lunch for regular attendees. Thanks to Lesley and Lynda for their much appreciated efforts. Six new chairs with arms have been purchased to provide safer and more comfortable seating and a new portable screen has been acquired to support talks and lectures.**

**The main hall has been professionally redecorated. There has been community use of the broadband facility.**

**New floors have been laid in all three toilet areas providing a more hygienic and more easily maintained surface. Thanks to our Secretary Trish Cooke for organizing visits and quotes. The fire alarm system has been upgraded to comply with current regulations.**

**Giant thistles were sprayed successfully but will need further attention this Spring. The area behind the disabled parking bays has been weeded and cleared by a working party under the capable supervision of Steve and Mandy from Manor House. Rope netting has been laid to stabilize the soil and a selection of suitable plants have been planted which, once established, should help to bind the sandy soil.**

**Three projects have been planned for next year which include the replacement of the flat roof on the kitchen and Committee Room section of the hall which has been repaired several times but has lasted since the 1980's, the renovation of the main hall floor to return it to its former glory and centenary preparations are in hand to celebrate the hall's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**Thanks go to our regular cleaner, Kevin Whitmore, who has helped us to maintain high standards of cleanliness.**

**Many thanks go to all members of the Village Hall Management Group for their continuing support and advice..**

**Richard Turner, Chairman, on behalf of Middleton-cum-Fordley Village Hall Management Group April 2023.**

## **Holy Trinity Church**

2022/23 saw a change with members of the PCC conducting some services alongside our Holy Communion clergy led service. This became necessary with Rev. Brian Jolley stepping down. This change has been successful and will continue.

Open Gardens was, as always, very successful and we owe our thanks to all who helped make it so. The school children held their Harvest & Christmas services in church which is always a pleasure to be involved with.

Leading up to Christmas Mark gave another interesting talk. Christmas Carols and the Midnight Service followed with good attendance at all events, for which we are very grateful.

We were extremely sorry to lose Margaret Perrett as joint church warden but wish her well in her new home and thank her for her dedication to the position and support of Holy Trinity over many years.

We have introduced a 'Give & Take' food bank into the church porch with anything remaining at the end of the month going to Saxmundham food bank. Thank you to all who are supporting it.

Thank you to all for the support you give to our beautiful church.

Rita  
Church Warden



## **Annual Report of Middleton-Cum-Fordley Community Council 2022/23**

It has been a very positive year with more community involvement in every event we have organised, along with monies contributed to chosen causes. We have had a mixture of larger fundraising events, such as the Summer Fete and Autumn Fayre and many community engagement activities, organised for the well-being of the village and residents.

The Midsummer Quiz was, once again, held on the playing field and was hosted by Quiz Master Peter Vincent. The evening was very enjoyable.

We provided the opportunity for different community groups to attend a First Aid training day at the Village Hall. DAC Education presented the course and those who attended left feeling confident of their up to date training and shared three improvements we could all make to our lives. – Know your what3words locations to help emergency services, register to use text for 999 emergencies, know how important time is when needing to use an AED. This led to requesting a second AED for the Village. A Community First Aid Kit was advised and purchased for trained First -Aider's when at events.

The July boules competition was attended by so many, the car park was used as an extra pitch. Jenny and Richard Turner were awarded the first prize.

Also in July, we celebrated the late Queen's Jubilee at the playing field with music from the last seven decades, photos of past Jubilee celebrations and a picnic, complimented by sparkling drinks and a lovely cake.

The Summer Fete took place on the playing field with easy access for all our equipment, great facilities in the Pavilion and ample parking space. The fete had a wide selection of food and drink on offer, many village stalls and games staffed by volunteers from the village. Silmor entertained us with live music and the Dog show arena was a constant hubbub of activity. The event was a great success and raised nearly £2,000.

The Autumn Fayre was held in October at The Bell. The Random Blues Band entertained everyone from the barn and there were marquees to give cover if required. All sorts of fun activities were available, mainly tailored to the young-at-heart, creative and food orientated. It was very well attended and raised over £700.

Remembrance Sunday saw a wreath laid on behalf of the Community Council by the Reynolds family.

Santa Boules in early December was a busy affair, with plenty of festive competition. Jenny Turner and Graham Cooke took first place.

A Christmas Celebration for the whole village was held on the Village Green and at The Bell. It began with the switching on of the new LED lights on the green at 4:30pm, followed by a procession back to the Bell to be entertained by Wrentham Brass Band. Everyone dressed warmly and enjoyed the nibbles, singing and raffle. This year the proceeds of the raffle were split between local Shelter and Leiston Food Bank.

Our celebration picnic for the coronation of King Charles III was very well attended, the sun shone, we chatted, and residents enjoyed a marvellous cake whilst listening to Piccadilly Swing.

The Community Council have bought another two heavy-weight gazebos which we also loan out to other village organisations and events. We purchased another large circular bench for the playing field and provided online Food Hygiene training for members.

The £100 Young Person's Bursary was awarded to Amy Heather towards the purchase of a bigger lens for her camera and every child/young person under 18, resident in the village, received a £10 voucher for Christmas.

Written on behalf of Middleton-cum-Fordley Community Council.

Rebecca Reynolds

## MIDDLETON-CUM-FORDLEY W.I. REPORT for the PARISH COUNCIL AGM May 2023

We have recently had our yearly membership meeting, so total numbers joining for this year are not known at this time. We hope the membership will remain steady at 25+. Some of our oldest and dearest members have moved from Middleton, some have not continued with their membership due to ill health. We will miss them all. However we have gained new members from other villages such as Peasenhall and Sibton.

Our clubs, continue to be attended well, including Cinema, Gardening, Lunch & Book Clubs. We started a new art club this year and members have enjoyed developing their skills using watercolours. We hope to celebrate club members art work with an exhibition of paintings in the autumn.

We always try to have talks by knowledgeable, entertaining people from the local area, and we have enjoyed a variety of fascinating speakers this year. Gary Doy spoke to us about the Southwold lifeboat, Luke Fitzgerald gave us an amazing talk about his skills as a master thatcher. Later to come this year we have Sylvia Hawes who will be bringing along her guide dog, later in the autumn we will be hearing from Steve Everett from Minsmere discussing red deer.

Other meetings included a vote for the W.I. Federation to campaign for 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife'. The W.I. will work with other organisations such as the Rivers Trust to put pressure on the government and water companies to stop polluting bathing waters and areas in rivers.

The Summer Garden Party was held at the Recreation Ground, despite the extreme windy conditions. We welcomed over 30 guests and everyone enjoyed a glass of Pimms whilst appreciating a delicious selection of food kindly donated by members.

As ever, the WI year included participation in the usual village events, from Open Gardens in June, the August Summer fete & Autumn Fayre, providing home-made cakes, jams and chutneys. The Garden Club is working hard to enhance our plant stall and have been growing on a wide selection of plants. In the autumn W.I. members will be planting 1,000 daffodil bulbs around the village.

The committee has been restructured recently with new and old members taking on new responsibilities. We look forward to another year with our amazing members as we continue to entertain, enlighten and give support where we can.

L.Whitbread. May '23

### Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2023 - Middleton Newsletter

10 years ago when I took over the editing we were still producing each issue on the school photocopier and a team of volunteers collated and stapled it together. Thank goodness we have moved on and now have each issue printed by Leiston Press. We do still have some of the original band of volunteer deliverers along with some new ones who all do a great job in delivering the Fisherman to all properties and the newsletter to some on each street. Thank you, team, and thank you to the regular contributors who send in articles and reports.

As it has since its inception in 1984 the newsletter relies on donations for its finances, from private individuals, village organisations and advertising by residents. Printing costs vary according to the number of pages in each edition and how many copies are ordered. Currently approximately half of residents like a hard copy and half are happy to receive it as an email attachment. (It currently is not possible to send everyone an email version). It is also published on the village website.

The accounts for 2022 (published in the February 2023 edition) showed a loss of £672 which ate into the reserves. There have been ongoing discussions about whether to make it compulsory to make a donation for hard copy, whether to make it solely an email version (not a practical option) or perhaps to revert to black and white printing again which would be cheaper. All of these are not really steps I, as editor, would wish to take at this moment in time until it became absolutely necessary.

Barbara Barker, Editor

## MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 AT 6.30pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

### 1 Election of Chair

Cllr Taylor proposed Cllr Cusack, Cllr Reynolds seconded. There were no other nominations and Cllr Cusack was duly elected as Chair.

### 2 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Cusack proposed Cllr Taylor who was further nominated and seconded by Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Macdowell. There were no other nominations and Cllr Taylor was duly elected as Vice Chair.

### 3 Attendance and Apologies

#### Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack – Chair

Cllr. Steve Thorpe

Cllr. Lelsey Taylor

Cllr. Graham Lacey

Cllr. Chris Reynolds

Cllr. Charles Macdowell

District Cllrs. Tom Daly and Katie Graham

#### Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock

County Cllr. Richard Smith

**In attendance:** Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk

### 4 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

The online register of Parish Councillors 'interests' was last revised, by our Parish, in 2019 and, therefore, needs to be updated.

**Action: Clerk to seek advice from SALC and report back to Councillors.**

### 5 Public Forum – n/a

### 6 Minutes

a) The Council approved as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

b) Matters arising.

- (i) Cllr Macdowell confirmed that Planning Permission has been approved for the work at Valley Farm discussed at the last meeting (and in respect of which Cllr Macdowell declared his interest as the applicant).
- (ii) County Broadband cabinet. Cllr Cusack has objected, on behalf of the Parish Council, to the placement of the cabinet (on the Moor). The application states that the land is owned by East Suffolk Council (it is in fact common land) and it was agreed that the Council should have consulted with the Parish Council regarding the location, since it is the Parish Council which is charged with management of the Moor. The Openreach cabinet is better located. Cllr Thorpe mentioned a letter received by residents from County Broadband, concerning rights across properties; Cllr Cusack advised that the letter was to establish land ownership and that he had communicated to the Company that the letter was confusing.

District Councillors Tom Daly and Katie Graham were welcomed to the meeting and, in turn, thanked everyone for their participation in the recent election and invited the Parish to raise any issues with them. Cllr Daly advised that a representative will regularly attend the Parish meetings thus allowing the opportunity to address any issues. Cllr Daly also advised of three specific areas of support: assistance for anyone wanting to start a business or have started one in the past 12 months, a digital springboard to advertise company presence and support for low carbon emissions.

### 7 Councillors

a) Councillor's responsibilities agreed as follows:

Cllr Lacey – Village Hall Management Committee

**Action: Clerk to advise Richard Turner that Cllr Lacey will be representing the Parish Council**

Cllr Reynolds – Middleton Primary School



Cllr Thorpe – Summer Wine Group  
Cllr Taylor – Middleton Moor Management Group

- b) Cllr Cusack and Clerk - Finance  
Cllr Reynolds – Recreation Ground  
Cllr Macdowell – Energy Projects  
Cllr Thorpe – Highways, Footpaths and Trees
- c) The model Code of Conduct 2020 which has been distributed with the Agenda was adopted.
- d) It was noted that there are three vacancies on the Parish Council. Cllr Cusack confirmed that we can operate with six Councillors but ideally we would have more. It was confirmed that anyone who lives in the Parish is eligible to be co-opted. It was also highlighted that aside from Cllr Cusack there is no Councillor from within the village centre. Cllr Macdowell offered to draft an advertisement for the Newsletter to try and drum up some interest.

## **8 Sizewell C**

Cllr Cusack reminded the Council that the B1122 Working Group has had two meetings and plans have been produced by the highways engineers showing some improvements to footpaths and road signage. One meeting with adjacent parishes has been held. In terms of traffic impact, Kelsale is concerned with rat running, Walberswick is concerned with speeding and Yoxford is concerned about increased traffic through the High Street. A letter has been drafted regarding these and other concerns and requesting an enforcement of speed limits (funded by EDF).

**Action: Cllr Macdowell to organise the next meeting within the parishes.**

Each parish will feed into the process individually, as well as collectively.

It was noted that traffic is already diverted from the A12, due to accidents, incidents and/or roadworks, the impact of which will only worsen with the increase in HGVs, and the personal vehicles of Sizewell workers. There is also the issue of sharp corners on the country roads coupled with the Government's latest approval for longer HGVs. Cllr Cusack asked Cllr Macdowell that this concern be added to the above-mentioned letter.

## **9 Finance**

- a) The Annual Accounts for 2022/2023 were approved.
- b) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was approved including the Annual Governance Statement, the Accounting Statements and the Certificate of Exemption
- c) It was agreed to set the period for exercise of public rights from 5 June 2023 to 14 July 2023
- d) The Community Infrastructure Levy Statement 22/23 was approved.
- e) The Internal Audit Report 22/23 was discussed and approved.

Cllr Cusack advised that outgoing Clerk Smith has set up online banking that requires only one user/signature. The responsibility has been temporarily passed to Cllr Cusack to control the accounts until such a time that it is passed onto Rachel Salcombe, as Responsible Financial Officer.

In line with the Internal Audit recommendation, it was recommended that bank statements are circulated to the Councillors each month to demonstrate clearly that all payments made have been duly approved by the Council. All payments, as detailed in the Agenda, have been agreed plus £84.52 to Cllr Taylor for the Drop-in Centre and £140.80 as an advance to the Clerk for wages due for April. It was agreed that the Council should engage SALC to operate its payroll function at a cost of £8 per month plus an annual charge of £38. It was further agreed that the Council would purchase a mobile phone for the use of the Clerk at a cost of £134.

## **10 Planning application DC/23/1113/LBC**

See 6b (i) above.

## **11 Correspondence**

- a) LionLink (previously EuroLink)  
National Grid are requesting access to private land within the Parish to carry out ecological investigations in the form of non-invasive surveys. Cllr Macdowell reported that National Grid have agreed to share the results of their surveys with the landowners.

Cllr Daly meeting with Graham Stuart (minister) tomorrow (Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May) to discuss how most affected communities can be helped. Cllr Daly will push for the offshore option and Cllr Cusack asked that Cllr Daly reflects the views of the Parish in opposition to cable corridors through our area.

Cllrs Daly and Graham were thanked for their input and left the meeting.

b) Replacement Bench

Cllr Cusack advised the Council of an email received from Trish Cooke regarding a broken bench on the village green. She has enquired as to whether the Parish will provide a plaque (In memory of Alec Robert Smith) for fixing to the new bench.

Action: Cllrs Reynolds and Thorpe to investigate.

Action: Clerk to advise Trish Cooke

Cllr Lacey shared photographs of a large tree that is leaning over Fordley Road. There is concern that once the tree goes into full leaf, coupled with possible high winds, it will come down. Cllr Cusack advised Cllr Lacey to log the concern on the County Council's Highways Reporting Portal. Cllr Lacey also enquired whether funds were available for additional signage on Fordley Road to read Unsuitable for HGVs. It was agreed that the Parish would write to the local authority.

Action: Cllr Cusack/Clerk to request new signage for Fordley Road.

Cllr Macdowell reported that several signs have fallen within the Parish. Cllr Cusack advised that he take photos and upload onto the Highways portal.

Action: Cllr Macdowell to take photos of fallen signs. Cllr Thorpe to enter onto portal. Cllr Thorpe to circulate Highways link to the Councillors.

Cllr Macdowell enquired whether the Councillors would like to set up a process for permissive paths. Cllr Cusack indicated that he was in favour of committing funds (irrespective of whether Sizewell C goes ahead).

Action: Cllr Cusack to open a discussion with local landowners.

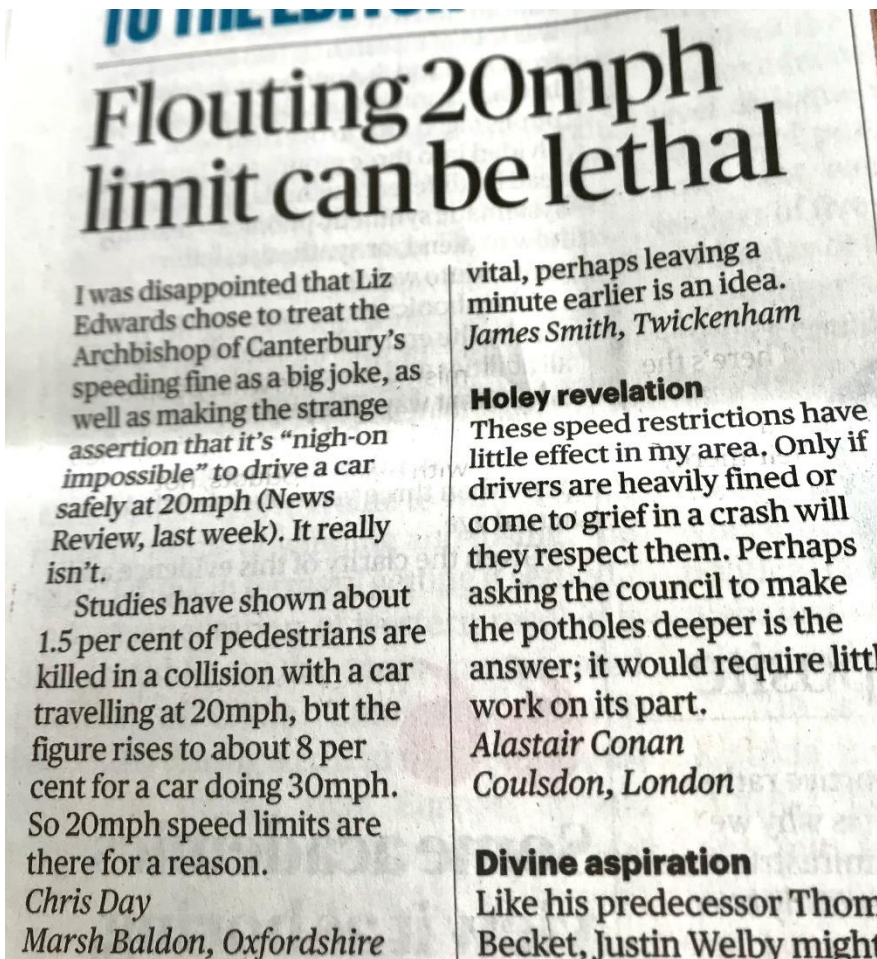
12 Schedule of meetings

It was agreed to continue to hold the monthly Parish Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 June 2023, 7pm, Village Hall.

=====



Letter to the editor

Dear Barbara

I wonder if there's any room for these articles from this week's Sunday Times? After at least one cat death, one loss of cat limb & my own cat's loss of 3 canines and a nasty gash on his jaw after being hit by a car, it can't be long before a person is injured. Maybe introducing more potholes IS the most likely way to reduce speeds in the village? Easton has had chicanes built - maybe we should?

Caroline Howlett.

## Middleton Bell Cribbage

Members of The Bell Crib team attended the recent Finals Night at The Riverside Centre, Stratford St. Andrew knowing already they would return with a trophy – the Knockout Cup, but lo and behold they returned with 3 trophies which now take pride of place on the Bell windowsill. Rebecca was triumphant in the Champion of champions competition with a win over Kath from Theberton and Barbara & Terry L. retained the mixed pairs trophy won last season, with a win over Min & Sue from The Eels Foot.

The knockout cup final was held a couple of weeks prior to the finals night as it takes an evening on its own to complete, and we had a resounding victory over Theberton Lion. The team is pictured below minus 2 who couldn't make it on the night – Trish and Peter.



The Bell also hosted a charity 'Crib Drive' on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, attended by 18 pairs. A great night was had by all – judging by the feedback received – and £184 was raised for the Ipswich Hospital Blossom Appeal.

The winners after 10 rounds were Chris and Leroy, closely followed one point behind by Jimmy and Barbara. Both pairs *almost* managed to travel round the room to every table!

Next season starts in September – if you are interested in joining our team please let Barbara know, or leave a message at The Bell. Likewise if you'd like to learn to play feel free to get in touch.

[Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com)

**Middleton Carpet bowls** also takes a break now for the summer, we will restart probably towards the end of August.

Anyone for Croquet? Sadly no offers as yet.

Before lockdown a group of residents played croquet on a Wednesday afternoon during the summer on the playing field. The equipment is sitting in the MCC shed awaiting such time as the activity might resume, (not necessarily on a Wednesday) although Michael who organised it previously and kept the pitch mown and marked is currently unable to do so. There are those who would like to play again but it needs someone physically able to manoeuvre the large mower to get it started again. Can anyone help?

(Contact Barbara in the first instance)



# ADVANCE NOTICE – Summer boules tournament for the Middleton Cock Trophy – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.



All welcome – all ages, all abilities. More info next month.

## Middleton Community Council

### REMINDER : CALLING ALL YOUNG RESIDENTS

Each year the Community Council offers a bursary of up to £100 to support young village residents to participate in a worthwhile activity. So far most grants have been for travel, camera lenses, music lessons or instruments. All it takes is a letter, handwritten or electronic, putting your case and request and it will be considered by the committee. This year it could be you!

Please contact: [tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com](mailto:tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com) Central House, The Street.



Quite a lot of attention was taken by this large extendable crane recently in Minsmere Rise.

It was being used to lift materials over the roof of one of the bungalows.

Sarah Hepworth  
HEPWORTH HOME & GARDENS  
Decorating and Garden Maintenance  
sarah.252hepworth@yahoo.com  
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(David is a new resident in Minsmere Rise.)

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**Graham Cooke** *DipMIT MPTA*  
*Piano Tuner/Technician*

Tel: 01728 648900  
 Mob: 07812 249654  
 E-mail: [grcooke@btinternet.com](mailto:grcooke@btinternet.com)

To book the Village Hall contact Richard Turner on [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) or 01728 648345

To book the pavilion on the Playing Field contact Lesley Taylor [taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk) or 07970257329

## Diary Dates 2023

### June

Thursday 1st	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Sat/Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup>	Open Gardens
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	"Silmor' Live music at The Bell from <b>3.30pm</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Charity quiz @ The Bell <b>7pm</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Sylvia Hawes - 'Guide Dogs' <b>7.15pm</b>
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	MCC outdoor quiz - Recreation Ground <b>6.30pm</b> (Village Hall if wet)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	"Silmor' Live music at The Eels Foot from <b>3.30pm</b>

### July

Thursday 6th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Vinyl Night at The Bell
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Summer boules - Playing field -open to all not just regular players. <b>10am</b>
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	"Silmor' Live music at The Bell from <b>3.30pm</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	WI -Garden Party
Sat/Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup>	Centenary Archives for the Village Hall

### August

Thursday 3rd	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Live music at Manor House - 'Honey and the Bear'
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Village Fete <b>2pm</b>

### September

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Vinyl Night at The Bell
Thursday 7th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Steve Everett - Red Deer <b>7.15pm</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	A Talk on Samuel Pepys by Mark Mitchels, Holy Trinity Church <b>7pm</b>

### October

Thursday 5th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Fair
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Katie Osborn - 'Beach bonkers' <b>7.15pm</b>

### November

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Cheese & Wine evening + AGM <b>7.15pm</b>

### December

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Santa Boules - Recreation Ground <b>10am</b>
Thursday 7th	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	MCC Christmas Party
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Christmas celebration <b>7.15pm</b>