

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

"Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents 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 Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies accepted for absence:

Dist. Cllr Katie Graham

In attendance:

County Cllr Richard Smith
Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 5

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum. None.

4 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 November 2025.

b) Matters arising and Action Points

- * Cllr Ian Widginton was welcomed to the parish council. Apologies were made for the incorrect surname used in November's minutes.
- * A donation has been made to the Royal British Legion.
- * Correspondence continues with Nice Touch Landscapes to improve the village path to the church.
- * Safeguarding and EDI policies have been sent to SZC Community Fund and uploaded onto the village website.

5 Causeway Farm. Nothing to report.

6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects. A discussion took place regarding problems relating to Fordley Road. One of the main concerns of the residents of Fordley Road is the decision for it to join with the SLR, thereby stopping access to Middleton village via Fordley Road. It is understood that an underpass will be created at the railway line for farm machinery, but completion is not anticipated until February 2028. Fordley Road will be closed in September 2026 and will not reopen until October/November 2027. Residents are concerned that when the road does reopen as a direct access to the link road it will be used as a rat run. The meeting was advised that MPC have made multiple representations to SZC regarding this matter, who have in return, advised that their vehicles must follow designated routes and that SCC are unwilling to consider additional speed limits as they do not meet their guidelines. It appears that SCC are also reluctant to move resources into the area to manage problems with traffic congestion.

A resident of Fordley Road reported that where the road narrows several cars were forced into his driveway to allow oncoming cars to pass. Furthermore, there is no weight restriction on the road, lorries are frequent users and the verges are destroyed. The residents of Fordley Road would like 1) a 30mph speed limit, 2) specific designated passing places and 3) a weight restriction (7.5 tonnes).

It was confirmed that Fordley Road landowners would be willing to contribute their land for the purpose of passing places. MPC will push for a meeting with SCC to discuss Fordley Road and the B1125 issues early in the new year.

It was confirmed that access to the village from Fordley Road, via cycle/walking routes would be available following the completion of the SLR. As plans stand currently pedestrians would need to cross the SLR

There was an expectation that SZC would resurface the B1122, outside the cottages on the Moor, add white lines and cats' eyes, before Christmas. Nothing has been done to date.

Concerns were raised again about the use of Middleton laybys as lavatories. It is understood that SZC are looking into providing temporary toilets for their drivers, as they are aware of the problem. A date has not been provided.

'No SZC traffic' signs have been requested for these laybys, but the response was 'no' (due to cost). Our local MP has since made a request, with no reply received to date.

The B1125 is suffering from rat running and high speeds. MPC would like to see 1) a 30mph extension of the B1125 Westleton to the B1122 junction, 2) an extension of the B1125 30mph limit to the B1122 junction, 3) conventional speed cameras near Middleton Garage, facing both ways, 4) pinch points (or chicanes), narrowing the road to a single lane, as part of the new pedestrian crossing which is being implemented by SZC early next year and 5) additional chevrons at Yewtree Corner.

The B1125 Action Group has been created to address the problems that are being experienced. The mitigation required is speed limit restrictions and potentially other restrictions to make it less attractive to use the B1125.

The water main between between Westleton and Middleton is going to be replaced early next year. The road between Middleton and Westleton will be closed for two months.

7 Emergency Planning Group – c/f

8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall Management Committee. Nothing to report.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. It was noted that one of the doors has come off the noticeboard by The Bell Inn. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to source a quote for making good.**
- d) Middleton Moor Management Group. The meeting was updated on pond clearance. The contractors who carried out pond clearance last year have declined to do any further work. It is now too late for the works to be carried out, and it was agreed to get a plan of action arranged for next winter.

9 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) The bank reconciliation for Q2 2025/26 was received and accepted by all.
- c) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Basic DBS Check, GOV.UK (ratify)	Parish Clerk, pd 16/10	£21.50	LGA 1972s.111
Toner Cartridge, Toner Giant (ratify)	Parish Clerk, pd 20/10	£37.20	LGA 1972s.111
Waste Toner, Toner Giant (ratify)	Parish Clerk, pd 6/10	£20.83	LGA 1972s.111
Village Newsletter donation (ratify)	Village Newsletter, pd 4/12	£500	LGA 1972s.137

d) The cost of EDI training for the Safeguarding Lead at a cost of £30.00 + VAT was agreed.

- 10 Report from Finance Working Group – Budget for 2026/27.** MPC will possibly need to make a transfer to the Trust to continue operating the recreation ground and pavilion, in the sum of £2500. This does put a strain on the parish council's budget, and that together with other increases in costs will require an increase of the precept to £12,005. This represents a 15% increase in the parish precept, and thus a £6 increase to Band D properties for the year. This budget also includes the annual review of the clerk's salary and other provisions. (If we are successful with our application to the SZC Community Fund for money to invest in the recreation ground, then we will have less need to subsidise that operation from the parish precept.)

Approval was given for the new precept and budget figures. **Action: Clerk to notify ESC of the precept request.**

- 11 New Councillor.** See above.

- 12 Village Path approach to Church update.** Contact has been made with the contractor to return to site and apply a resin bond to the shingle, to make it pushchair/wheelchair friendly. **Action: Clerk to continue with request.**

- 13 Document Re-adoption.** Anti-harassment & Bullying Policy, Information Protection Policy and Document Retention Policy were reviewed and readopted at the meeting. **Action: Clerk to upload onto village website.**

- 14 2026 Meeting Dates.** Meeting dates were agreed. **Action: Clerk to add to village website.**

- 15 Correspondence.** MPC are in receipt of a Planning Appeal for Moles Meadow, Yoxford Road. The original planning application, (to remove the condition only allowing the property to be used as a holiday home) came to MPC in April of this year for consultation. No objection was submitted to ESC. The planning office have turned the application down citing that the property is part of East Suffolk tourist accommodation and policy is to maintain this at its current level. It was agreed by MPC to write to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the landowner for removal of the condition. It was noted that the village has a high proportion of second homes and holiday accommodation already and that permission was given for the lodges in Title Road. **Action: Clerk to advise the Planning Inspectorate accordingly.**

Following the £500 donation towards the running of the village newsletter, it was agreed that contact with MPC may be made during the coming year, if more funds are required. Figures for newsletter funding will be published in February's edition.

A request has been received from a village resident requesting a pump track (for BMX bikes) at the recreation ground. It was felt that there would not be enough interest in the village to support what would be an expensive endeavour. **Action: Cllr Piercy to advise accordingly.**

A request was made for salt to be available for icy roads in the village. The meeting was advised that all grit bins in the village are full and ready for use. The salt may be used for public roads and pavements but not for private driveways or businesses.

- 16 Items for Next Agenda.** None

- 17 Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

