

MIDDLETON CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Editorial

This month’s front cover photos are recent aerial shots of the flooded fields in and around the village. Thank you Charlie for those.

Once again we have an abundance of pages from the Parish Council. One article in particular stands out – the pages about Causeway Farm, to which residents feedback is requested, particularly as there are pockets of land attached to the farm in various parts of the village and not just on The Causeway.

We also have a new hopefully monthly, informative feature – entitled Middleton Dark Skies.

Contributions for the next edition by email preferably as a WORD doc please to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 26th March**.

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

Jill Near

Jill passed away at home on 7th February 2024, aged 69. Her funeral will take place at Colchester Crematorium on Monday 4th March at 12.15.

Sincere thanks for all the cards and messages, Jill knew that she lived in a very special place.

Brian Near



Dear Barbara.

Just a quick note to thank you for posting that my lost Keys had been found and handed in at the Bell. They have been safely returned to me and the finder will be rewarded in some way.

Again such a valuable service you supply and offer the Middleton Community and its residents.

My personal thanks,

Dennis Peel

Heather Cottage.

Please feel free to post this and perhaps a copy in the next issue.

Pleased to be of service Dennis, glad you got them back. Thanks to the finder for asking for it to be sent out. BB

Large shed needs new home

8 foot by 16 foot

Double locking doors on short end. Single locking door and glass windows on long side. Roofing felt will need replacing when re-erected.

Free if collected from the centre of the village. The shed comes to pieces (12 pieces).



Call Charlie 07831 093730.

Middleton-cum Fordley Community Council
presents an entertaining talk by local residents

Neill from Fen Lodge:

The Principles of Planting Design - how to improve your beds and borders

Mandy & Steve from Manor House

The Evolution of a Garden

Middleton Village Hall
Saturday 6th April 2024

7pm start

Doors open at 6:45pm

Cheese & Wine Refreshments

Entry is free, but donations are gratefully received

Charity Vintage Tea Party

Brought to you by Teatime Glory

at: **Hill House, Middleton** IP17 3NF

Homemade Cakes Proper Tea in Teapots
Vintage Music

Saturday 6th April 10am-12:30

What better way to spend a Saturday morning!



In aid of **The Eve Appeal** – Every pound raised can help to fund life saving research into all five gynaecological cancers.

*Please join us to raise money and spread the word. **Make Time for Tea***

For more information or if you would like to bake, contact: Rebecca:
07777 689428 curlyreynolds@gmail.com

Donations can be made via: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/hillhouse>



Middleton Dark Skies

Hello and welcome to the first monthly look at the night sky over Middleton for the upcoming month. The aim is to highlight any naked eye objects that can be seen from dusk until dawn. Nothing particularly technical or in depth, but just a few things that might be of interest. If you have a good pair of binoculars (7 x 35 or 10 x 50) or a small telescope these could well come in handy.

Observation tips.

Firstly, dress to suit the conditions. You could be out for up to an hour, and even in summer it is surprising how cold it can get. Most, if not all, observations can be done from your own back garden. It can take up to 30mins for your eyes to fully adjust to the darkness, but as there is generally little light pollution in Middleton, then the brightest stars will be visible practically straight away. Try not to look at your phone as you will ruin your night vision! It can be more comfortable to sit or lay down, preferably on a reclining chair.

March Highlights

Planets on View Jupiter is the only planet that is easily visible to the naked eye this month, sitting in the western evening sky until setting at around 10.30 PM. Good binoculars or a small telescope will reveal Jupiter as a disc with its four largest moons (Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto). These moons will change position daily, so one evening you might see all four to one side of Jupiter, then on the following evening perhaps two either side. You should also be able to make out several of Jupiter's cloud belts. On the 13th look out for Jupiter just to the left of the crescent moon.

Constellations With the winter constellations now setting into the west, the southern sky is occupied by Virgo, Leo, and Gemini. Leo (The Lion) is the central of these three and in mid-March is due south at 10.00 PM, and can be identified by the backward question mark that forms the face and front legs of the lion and a triangle of three bright stars that form the back legs and tail.

Ursa Major (The Great Bear, the Plough, or Big Dipper. These last two make up the rear and tail of the bear) is practically overhead this month, albeit a little north. The Plough is one of the easier constellations to spot, consisting of seven stars shaped like a big saucepan.

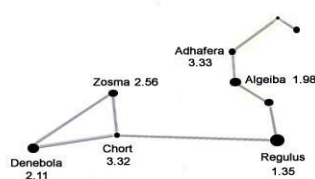
Ursa Minor (The Little Bear, Little Dipper) With such dark skies over Middleton it is also possible to pick out Ursa Minor. To find it, locate the Plough and then look for the two 'pointer' stars at the edge of the 'saucepan.' Trace a line towards the north (about 5 times the length of the distance between the pointer stars) and you will come to Polaris (The Pole Star). Polaris is at the tip of the tail of the Little Bear. Like the Plough, the Little Bear is made up of seven visible stars and also resembles a saucepan, albeit smaller.

The Moon Full Moon this month occurs on the 25th Name, amongst others, Worm Moon due to the appearance of earthworms signalling the end of winter!

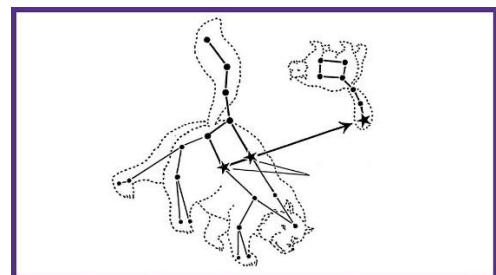
Meteor Showers None due this month, but always the chance of catching a lone meteor (shooting star), although usually out the corner of your eye!



Jupiter and its 4 largest moons



Leo



The Great and Little Bear

And don't forget the clocks 'spring' forward on the 31st March at 1.00 AM

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services during March



Sunday 17 March	11am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 24 March	11am Holy Communion	Palm Sunday
Sunday 31 March	11am Holy Communion	Easter Day

The Benefice service this month will be at Peasenhall on Sunday 3 March at 10am

Benefice Easter Services

Washing of Feet, Maundy Thursday at Darsham, 28 March, 6.30pm

Meditation Service, Good Friday in Theberton, 29 March, 2.30-3pm

Stations of The Cross, Good Friday in Westleton, 29 March, 2pm

Sunrise Beach Service in Dunwich, 31 March, 5.45pm

Please come along



In memory of Jill Near (Mill Street)

Holy Trinity PCC were very sorry to hear that Jill had passed away after such a brave battle with her illness. We extend our sincere condolences to Brian and family at this sad time.

Rita
Church Warden

HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Holy Trinity Church, Middleton APCM will be held on Wednesday 1st May at 2.30pm in the Church. Everyone is welcome.

 Holy Dusters 

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

13 March: Margaret and Nicola

27 March: Mark and Liz

CONGRATULATIONS and Best Wishes to Christopher Marshall, Causeway Cottages, and Beth Edwards on the occasion of their wedding in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday February 24th.





Pop-up Brunch

Sunday 7 April 10-11.45am

Holy Trinity Church

Seeking to make more use of this lovely old building and wondering how to complement and collaborate with the other good things going on in our village, it struck us that quite a few of us are 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 or something sweet on a Sunday morning...

To this end we would like to invite you to a pop-up brunch in Holy Trinity on Sunday, 7 April any time between 10 and 11.45 – leaving you free to saunter over to the pub when it opens at midday if you choose, or home for lunch!

There will be a small charge – just enough to cover our costs.

If you are free and this strikes a chord, please do join us.

You are welcome to simply turn up but, if this is going straight in your diary now, do let us know as it would be helpful to have a rough idea of numbers.

Many thanks and hope to see you there

Holy Trinity PCC

To book, or if you have any questions about this event, please contact Amanda Taylor: 07990 602 563 or ajt.opom@gmail.com or Camilla Sim: 07740 427414 or camillasim9@googlemail.com

Thought for the Month

‘Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.’ Desmond Tutu

Save the date
Middleton Open Gardens
1st and 2nd June

Looking forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to our annual open gardens in Middleton; natural, formal, cottage, wildlife, courtyard, and gardens in progress, with people coming back time and again to see the development through to completion. <http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk/>

MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS



In early spring before the more the rampant vegetation takes over, then in areas beside hedgerows and in woods you won't need to walk far before you find the heart shaped leaves of the wild arum (*Arum maculatum*). Nationally this plant has many local names, it is sometimes known as, arum lily - although it does not belong to the lily family, adam and eve, devils and angels, lords and ladies, parson in the pulpit, naked boys and wake robin, but there are a plethora of others, many which have fallen out of use. The most well known name is cuckoo pint. The 'i' in 'pint' in cuckoo pint is pronounced similar to the i in mint, and not, as most assume, as in 'a pint of beer'. This pronunciation comes about because 'cuckoo pint' is derived from the Old English cuccopintle meaning 'cuckoo's penis', which it apparently resembles.



Wild arum is a variable species. In Suffolk, the form with the unspotted leaves is the more frequent. The shape of the leaves of both forms also varies considerably. Some have rounded lobes at their bases, others are more arrow shaped. The veining also varies, with some plants having conspicuous white veins, whilst in others they are scarcely noticeable. In early spring the leaves soon show. A few weeks later followed by the flowers borne on a poker shaped inflorescence called a spadix. The purple spadix is partially enclosed in a pale green or leaf-like hood or spathe. The flowers are hidden from sight, clustered at the base of the spadix with a ring of female flowers at the bottom and a ring of male flowers above them.

The whole inflorescence has been modified into a bizarre trap. The spadix generates its' own heat (the temperature inside the floral chamber can be 15 degrees Celsius higher than outside) rather unique in a plant, to vaporise amine molecules. This gives off a foetid odour which attracts psychodid flies also known as 'owl midges' into the spathe, which in trying to escape, pollinate the stigmas. The flies are imprisoned by downward-pointing hairs until the male flowers mature, when the spathe drops off revealing the berries.

Wild arum is a strange looking plant with an unattractive smell and is also poisonous in all parts, even though edible starch can be extracted from the roots, provided it is carefully prepared. The attractive red berries are the most poisonous parts of this plant, though readily eaten by blackbirds and thrushes in the autumn. However, fatalities are rare due to the burning sensation in the mouth when the berries are eaten. This is followed by swelling of the tongue, strong convulsions, nausea, vomiting and severe gastroenteritis. Higher amounts lead to arrhythmia and paralysis of the central nervous system.

Peter Vincent

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WI News

As February is a cold, dark month and no one likes going out at night, we made a decision a couple of years ago not to have an evening meeting in February. It was a popular decision. Our "meeting" this month is an opportunity to treat ourselves to a 2/3 course lunch. There are fifteen members going to the Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh on Wednesday the 28th. We shall enjoy our chance to relax in a lovely setting with good company and delicious food. No shopping, cooking, or washing up!

Our next meeting will be in the evening on March 20th at 7:15pm. Our speaker will be the author Francesca Armour-Chelu who will give us a talk entitled "Pen to Published". All are welcome.

Causeway Farm

Middleton residents may be aware from reports in the Newsletter that the tenants of Causeway Farm will be retiring toward the end of this year. The farm, which covers roughly 100 acres of marsh and higher ground, occupies much of the land around the village. It is owned by Suffolk County Council which is now considering its future. The Middleton Parish Council has approached the council to ascertain if there is any scope for the village to become engaged in the decision-making process for the eventual benefit of its residents. The County Council has subsequently invited representations.

Whilst probably not capable of providing a full-time living to a tenant engaged only in mainstream agriculture, Causeway Farm has significant potential for wildlife conservation. In its north-west corner it runs along the Minsmere River and is contiguous with the Darsham Marshes reserve of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Informal inquiries have been put to the Trust as to whether it might wish to become involved in the future management of part or all of the farm.

The drier, higher ground could possibly be utilised for some form of horticultural or niche enterprise, or by a tenant with an additional source of income beyond the farm itself. In either case it would be hoped a tenant could be found who would be sympathetic to the various conservation measures currently being promoted by the government through the restructured agricultural grant schemes.

Causeway Farm also includes the field adjacent to the Village Recreation Ground behind the new Hastoe housing on Back Road. This field could well be appropriate for the creation of a community woodland or a conservation project, or additional development along back road if that was deemed a priority by the village.

It is possible the County Council may be open to suggestions for new permissive paths to be established. It may also be open to proposals for using the land and buildings for wider social purposes, perhaps related to education or health and care issues. There are many examples of farms being involved in this kind of activity. At this stage any option can be considered.

Alternatively the County Council may wish to break up the farm by letting to a number of tenants or indeed by selling the house and/or land in various lots. In this regard the farm does of course have considerable development value which the County Council may seek to realise to augment its budgets. However, it is to be hoped it will be guided by input from the Parish Council and village residents, and by its own recent review of policy regarding the County Farms portfolio (see link below).

The Parish Council therefore invites input from residents with a view to holding a public meeting at 7pm on 18th March at the Village Hall if there is sufficient interest. In particular the Parish Council hopes to discover the general feeling of residents to the following questions:

- Would it be a good idea for the Parish to be involved in the management, or possibly ownership, of part or all of Causeway Farm, for instance the Hastoe field?
- Do residents think it would be a good idea to develop a care farm or similar social enterprise at Causeway Farm?
- Should the Suffolk Wildlife Trust be invited to play a part in the management of part or all of the farm?
- Is improved public access (e.g. permissive paths) and/or rights of way of any interest?
- What is your feeling about further housing development and/or the possible sale of the farm buildings for conversion?

- Should Causeway Farm be re-let as a farm/smallholding?

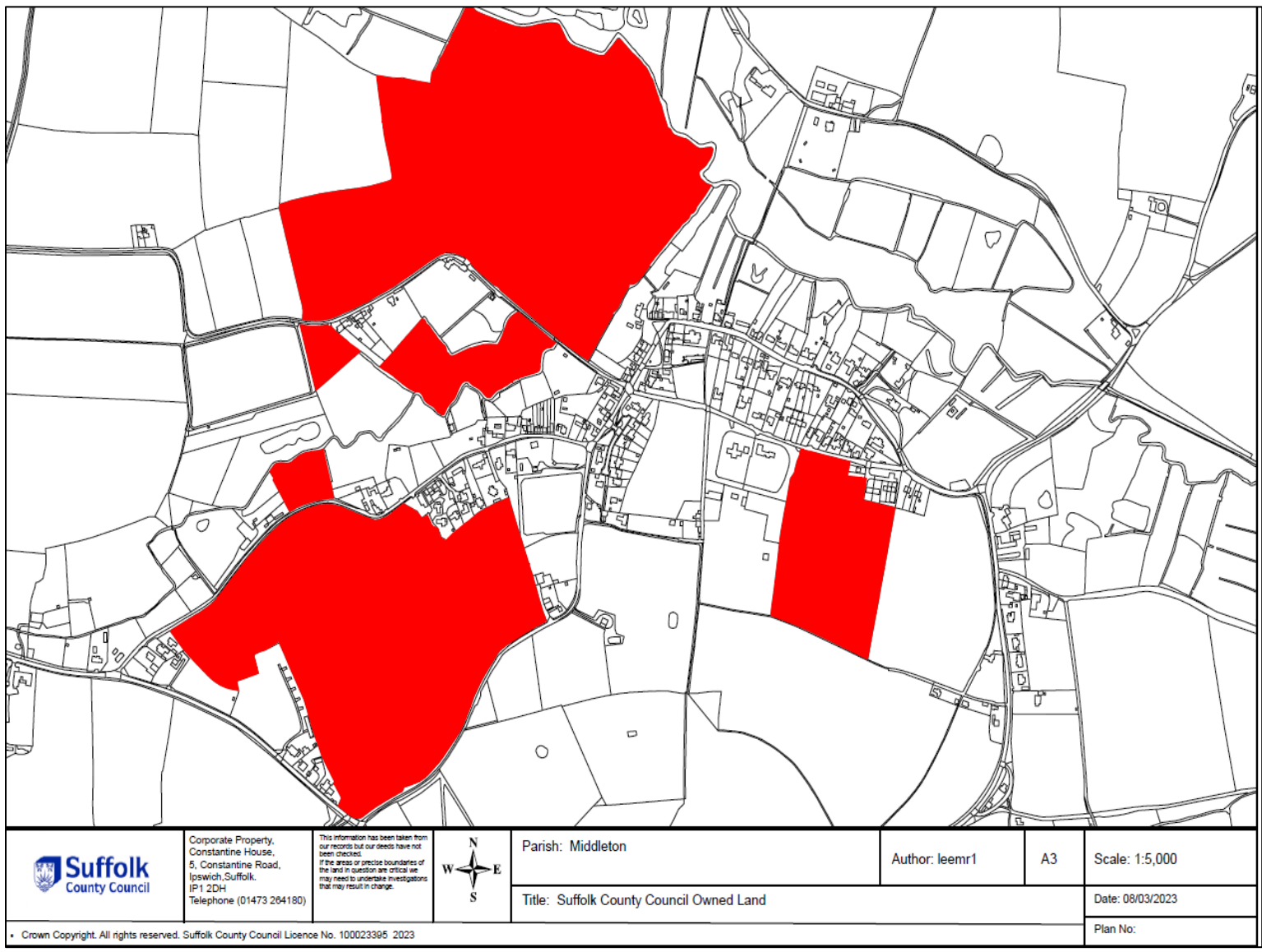
It should be emphasised here that this community consultation is merely a preliminary step in presenting the views of the Parish to the County Council which as owner will have the definitive say.

Any comment prior to the meeting can be made via the village website <https://shorturl.at/kmrvD> or directed to Rachael Salcombe (Middleton Parish Clerk) at parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com

A map of Causeway Farm is available on the village website <https://shorturl.at/BIN28> and is also printed here.

Suffolk County Council’s farms policy <https://shorturl.at/cloqw>

Map of Causeway Farm





The Friends of Middleton School
invite you to battle your wits and
have fun at our 2nd annual...
QUIZ NIGHT
Sat 23rd March 7:00 start
At Middleton Village Hall
Tables of up to 6
£7 per person
Cash Bar SUPPER Raffle
To book your table contact Rebecca
curlyreynolds@gmail.com
All proceeds to Middleton School PTA

Middleton Community Council

Dear Tricia,

I am writing on behalf of the Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue Charity (1091537) to acknowledge and thank the Middleton Community Council for the donation that was made at the end of last year.

As an organisation that is purely voluntary, with grants and donations funding our vital work, we cannot ever say thank you enough when donations are made. The money sent will go directly to support those we are tasked to find, and their families.

On behalf of us all we wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2024.

Best wishes,

Debbie Durrant

ADVANCE NOTICES:

MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT - AGM 2024

Monday May 20th 7pm at the Village Hall.

The current management group of 7 works hard to maintain and improve the hall structure and facilities for the use of the village and external bookings BUT - we need a few more volunteers to make sure we can continue to 'keep up the good work'. In the past there have been 3 representatives from the Parish Council (as they are custodian trustees) in line with our constitution, but for whatever reason that hasn't been the case for a few years now. So we are actively looking for new faces to join us – particularly with costs of everything rising we are eating into our reserves at a rate of knots and fundraising has had to start again. Grant funding for projects is getting harder to obtain though we have recently received some from Adnams. Could you offer to help in a fundraising venture?

We only meet formally 4 or 5 times a year, issues can often be dealt with in the interim periods by email. Could you volunteer perhaps to be the 'odd job person' we could call on when minor maintenance needed attending to? Why not come along to the AGM to meet us?

The Community Council remit is to organise social events for the village, which it has been doing most successfully for over 50 years. It is not connected to the Parish Council in any way but it does have registered charity status.

It doesn't matter if you are new to the village – come along and see what we are about. Bring us some new ideas that you'd like to see introduced, or simply let us know you wouldn't mind helping out at things like the fete without being on the committee.

We value your feedback – at any time - come and tell us if we are doing a good job or could do better. If you have an idea but can't make the meeting just drop an email to the secretary tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com

MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

will be held in the Village Hall

Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7pm

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe

Apologies:

District Cllr Katie Graham

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
County Cllr Richard Smith
One member of the public

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None

3 Public Forum. A member of the public enquired after the disposal of spoil from the proposed Middleton Moor pond works. Cllr Taylor advised that the spoil will be disposed of in the clay pit where it will rot down/decompose.

4 Minutes The Council approved the minutes of the previous meetings held on 12 December 2023 and 9 January 2024.

Matters arising and Action Points.

12 December

- a. Cllr Cusack has written to Norwood House re: advertising signs. No reply received to date.
- b. 20mph speed limit request to County Cllr Richard Smith – see 5 Sizewell C below.
- c. Cllr Cusack reported that the use of CIL money for works to the pond may not be consistent with the aims of CIL to encourage development within the parish and it was, therefore, decided not to pursue this avenue of funding.
- d. The Clerk reported that research into grant possibilities was disappointing with the National Lottery Grant being the only viable option to date.
- e. The old PC laptop is not suitable for refurbishment, and it was agreed to ask PC Wakeup Ltd to recycle it.
Action: Clerk to contact PC Wakeup and make the request.
- f. The Clerk has submitted the 2024/2025 precept to ESC.
- g. 2024 meeting dates have been put onto the village website.

9 January

- h. Clerk has been unable to load Sizewell C presentation slides onto village website. **Action: Clerk to speak with HugoFox (website provider) for assistance.**
Action: Clerk to upload Northern Transport Forum slides onto village website.
Action: Clerk to create a new section within the village website for Sizewell C.

7.25pm, County Councillor Richard Smith was welcomed to the meeting and shared his intentions to discuss the budget, Sizewell C and Causeway Farm. The total net spending in the next financial year, by Suffolk County Council is £753 million, 77% of which will be allocated for social care needs. Everything else that the council is responsible for, including Highways, will be funded out of the remaining 23%. A 4.99% council tax rise is planned.

5 Sizewell C Cllr Macdowell reported back on various Sizewell C matters.

- The Northern Transport Forum that took place on 6 February was disappointing, with the meeting being badly organised and Sizewell C representatives ill-prepared.
- We are now in the Early Years Phase (2/3 years) triggered by the DCO. An increase in traffic has been noted, without sound and vibration mitigation put into place.
- Resurfacing of the B1122 will commence in March/April, this will take place at night. Mill Street to Leiston (East) will be resurfaced, and the works will include fixing of flood areas. It is understood that resurfacing will produce less traffic noise.
- Construction of the Yoxford roundabout will commence at the end of this year and will take approximately 9 months to complete. It is intended that the current junction will continue to be used alongside construction.
- Construction of the Sizewell link road will commence at the end of 2025.
- Darsham Park and Ride will be implemented at the end of the Early Years Phase, starting in 2025 and will take 12/15 months to complete.
- Procedures for dealing with traffic calming and speed measures is very slow and it is felt that Suffolk County Council need to make this a much faster process.
- The PC agreed that a 20mph speed limit needs to be introduced through Middleton Moor. Although we have not had the speed camera in operation for long, speeding figures are high from data collected to date. A 20mph temporary speed limit has been agreed for Theberton. Cllr Smith has agreed to consider the same for Middleton, once relevant data and a traffic report professionally prepared has been received.
- Eleven properties are struggling with the mitigation scheme and Cllr Taylor is assisting residents with this process. It was confirmed that there is no end limit to residents applying for noise mitigation. The PC are challenging the use of double glazing over acoustic glass. (It was noted that mitigation was scheduled to happen three months before the Early Years Phase.)
- Surveys concerning vibration damage will be carried out prior to and after completion of Early Years. The closing date for residents on the B1122 to put themselves forward for this was the end of January.
- There are three back/rural roads in our parish that will become dead ends (stubs). These roads will be cut off by the link road and there is concern that they will attract flytipping. A request has been made to Sizewell C to provide gates to combat this potential problem. Cllr Smith advised that a legal order would need to be made before erection of gates may be carried out.
- HGV's will be issued with a tracker to ensure the use of the B1122, rather than the backroads. It has been advised that it is not possible to monitor speeds. The public are welcome to report speeding, although it was agreed that this will be difficult to prove. Cllr Reynolds advised that there is technology available to monitor speed. **Action: Cllr Reynolds to furnish Cllr Macdowell with relevant information.**

- Progress is being made to ensure that all Sizewell C vehicles, including private workers, are provided with an identifiable vehicle sticker (back and/or front).
- It was mentioned that Sizewell's online works tracker does not include all wide load movements. Cllr Macdowell enquired after this and was advised that the information is available on the Sizewell website under 'News'. It was further noted that the weekly notification of the wide load movements merely states Monday to Friday; no dates or times are provided.
- In the event of an incident/hold up on the A12 Operation Herald (used at Hinkley) will be put into place, a holistic incident management plan.
- Cllr Taylor reported that the level crossing sign, damaged some time ago, due to two large vehicles meeting each other has been repaired. However, the sign has since been taken out again.
- It was noted that there is no working group to cover the Sizewell link road.
- It was agreed to continuing working with surrounding parish/town councils.
- Acknowledgement was made of the mental health impact.
- It was agreed that the administration of meetings and forums is appalling and that the interface between local committees, district and county councils and Sizewell C is poor and badly managed.

6 Councillors Reports

- Village Hall. Cllr Lacey will be attending a meeting on Monday 19 January 2024.
- Middleton Primary School. None
- Highways, footpaths and trees. All actions still open, but currently on hold.
- Middleton Moor.

- Pond. Cllr Cusack received a 'glowing' reference from Suffolk Wildlife Trust for Barry Day & Sons and thoroughly recommended them as the right contractors for this type of sensitive conservation work. Cllr Cusack has been in contact with the Rural Payments Agency, who act on behalf of Natural England, to give notification of the intended works and to seek confirmation that it is in line with our HLS (Higher Level Stewardship) agreement, following which a formal sign off will be given. **Action: Cllr Taylor to contact Barry Day & Sons to confirm their approval as contractor and that we are waiting for confirmation of compliance.**

Cllr Lacey provided information regarding Great Crested Newts, confirming that Barry Day & Son will require a license from Natural England before carrying out the works (The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981). Skilled Ecology Consultancy Ltd provided Cllr Lacey with this information and are able to deal with the licensing process, if required. Works need to be carried out in June/July.

It was agreed to pursue the National Lottery for a grant. **Action: Clerk to begin the application process.**

- Meeting with Jane Etheridge. **Action: Cllr Cusack to liaise and advise PC.**

iii) Speed camera data feedback. See 5 Sizewell C.

iv) Advertising Signs – see 4b Matters Arising.

Cllr Taylor raised the problem of verge damage through Middleton Moor, caused by the increase in traffic, rat running and wet weather. The question was raised whether there is some form of protection that can be put in place. Several options were discussed; however, it was noted that the first metre (give or take) of land is council owned and we would, therefore, be unable to do anything to the verge. The damage is a direct result of Sizewell C and it was suggested that they fund any improvements/preventative measures needed.

- Causeway Farm.

It was agreed by Cllr Smith that village/community views may be shared with the council via the PC. Although current policy states that the property cannot be sold, in whole or in part, this can be changed. Cllr Cusack confirmed the parishes' strong desire for the land not to be developed and that it is indeed prime biodiversity land. Cllr Smith acknowledged the community interest and confirmed that he will attend our PC meeting in March with further/updated information. Cllr Piercy advised that the PC would like to get a communication out to the villagers and share their views with Cllr Smith at the March PC meeting. It was agreed, as a matter of courtesy, to make the current tenants aware of our plans.

8.15pm Cllr Smith left the meeting.

7 Finance

- The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- The Actual vs Budget Report for Q3 was approved.
- Authorisation was given for payment of i) village hall heating £10, ii) stationery £12.876 and iii) Uncontested Election fee for 2023 £67.32.

8 **Laptop**. See 4b Matters Arising.

9 **Deed of Covenant with Sizewell**. Explanatory notes were circulated, and the document signed by Cllrs Cusack and Taylor and witnessed by the Clerk. **Action: Clerk to return to solicitors Herbert Smith Freehills.**

10 **Working with other parishes on Sizewell**. Cllr Lacey reported that Kelsale PC are funding 'unsuitable for HGV signs' using CIL money. It was also reported that they would welcome the opportunity to combine funding with Middleton PC and the signage request is presented as one. **Action: Cllr Lacey to liaise with Kelsale PC and confirm our agreement to combine funds and work together.**

11 **Flooding/maintenance/Emergency Plan**. Cllr Lacey advised that he has been unable to obtain any form of assistance from either the Highways Department or the Environmental Agency, other than confirmation that there is no money available. A question was raised as to whether the PC should consider commissioning a survey of the drainage challenges within the parish, the results of which may encourage the better management of water coming off farmland. It was considered beneficial for the PC to understand where the problem areas are. The PC already have photographic evidence to support the problems. **Action: Cllr Lacey to seek initial advice/costs from relevant professionals.**

12 Correspondence

Cllr Graham, who was unable to attend the meeting, has confirmed with Cllr Cusack that she will get the responses to questions raised by Cllr Taylor to him via email.

An anonymous thank you letter has been received regarding the home cooked meals provided to residents this winter by Cllr Taylor. This letter will be used to help secure further funding.

13 Items for Next Agenda. None.

14 Next Meeting.

The date and time of the next PC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12 March 2024, at 7pm, at the Village Hall.
The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024
AT 8.55pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Katheryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe

Apologies:

No apologies

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe - Clerk
One member of the public

2 To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations. None.

3 Minutes

a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 12 December 2023.

b) Matters arising and Actions.

Cllr Reynolds confirmed that the Summer Winers have disposed of the logs.

Replacement fence and posts have been completed.

Cllr Kendall advised that the Summer Winers are concerned about health and safety regarding refurbishment of the wooden train. Cllr Cusack suggested that a plan of works and materials to be used is produced and given to David Bracey, our inspector. The improvements can be signed off as safe following a post installation inspection (this is routine procedure).

Action: Cllr Kendall to liaise with Summer Winers and David Bracey.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report

December and January monthly play equipment inspection reports noted and accepted.

5 Correspondence. None.

6 Finance

Authorisation given for following payments.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Recreation Ground Fencing repairs	Aspect Home & Garden Ltd	£4438.16	LGA 1972 s.137
Playground Reports	David Bracey	£780.00	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19

7 Matters for discussion

a) Picnic Benches. Further information was provided regarding picnic benches, including an approximate cost of £1,000. It is likely that they will be delivered flat pack and the Summer Winers have agreed to assemble. **Action: Cllr Kendall to source an exact price for three adult tables.**

b) Survey Update. The survey continues to be a work in progress. A draft version will be available for the March PC meeting. It was agreed to carry out the survey in person by knocking on doors. Where contact has not been made, the survey will be put through the door, with completion instructions.

c) Bookings and pavilion supervision. Discussions have taken place regarding the management of the pavilion and whether this should be offered as a paid position. Cllr Kendall reported back that cleaning agencies are not interested in the work. It was agreed to advertise the role, which would be seasonal (April to September) and for 3 hours per week. Initially, we will advertise in the village newsletter with the possibility of advertising through the Suffolk County Council website, if necessary. **Action: Cllr Taylor to create an advertisement for the newsletter.** Cllrs Taylor and Kendall to carry out interviews.

Cllr Cusack took this opportunity to thank Cllr Taylor for all the work that she did last season with bookings and cleaning of the pavilion.

An existing/outstanding agenda item was raised regarding the church driveway and efforts to make it more accessible for churchgoers. Cllr Kendall is in receipt of a quote from Aspect Home & Garden Ltd for £7,975.82 to carry out the works, including improved access for wheelchair users. The project is expected to take between 1 and 2 weeks. It was felt that more information regarding the works involved is needed. **Action: Cllr Lacey to liaise directly with Aspect Home & Garden Ltd.** It was questioned whether the entire driveway needs attention rather than the construction of a pathway.

8 Items for the next Agenda. None.

9 Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 12 March 2024, to follow Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Sizewell C Update

While a legal challenge is continuing, and the finance to cover the (still secret) cost is yet to be agreed, activity for Sizewell C is planned to ramp up in 2024. While we hope for the best, we prepare for the worst. By the end of the year, the B1122 is expected to be taking 600 HGVs and buses a day, as well as many hundreds of workers' cars and delivery vans.

Sizewell Link Road (SLR). Archaeology and other preliminary works will take place through 2024. Construction is not due to start until late 2025.

Yoxford roundabout. Nine months of construction to start late 2024/ early 2025, preceded by archaeology.

Darsham Park & Ride: Construction to start early 2025, lasting 12-15 months.

Rolling resurfacing of the B1122 from Mill St through Theberton this month into early April.

Noise Mitigation and Vibration schemes. If you are unhappy with either of these on your property, please contact Councillor Lesley Taylor at taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk.

Behaviour. Please report Sizewell-related bad driving, drink, drugs and other bad behaviour on **0800 197 6102** (24 hrs) with as much information as possible, especially registrations.

Vehicle marking. We and others continue to pressure Sizewell C to introduce special markings on all SZC workers' cars, vans and HGVs.

Speed Limits. We are also pressuring Suffolk County Council and Sizewell C to implement planned new speed limits swiftly, including 20mph on Middleton Moor, and to set up an incident management plan for floods, accidents etc. With the SLR, we are also concerned about potential fly-tipping on 'stub roads' left once the new road severs four existing lanes.

You can see Sizewell C's presentations on the Sizewell C page of the parish website at www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk.

If you have any specific concerns, please let me know on cllrcharlesmacdowell@gmail.com.

Charles Macdowell, Middleton Parish Council.

Part-Time Job Vacancy - Manager for Middleton Pavilion

Middleton Parish Council have an opening for a part time role to manage the Pavilion. This is a summer position to run from April to September requiring 3 hours per week. Although the Pavilion is a popular venue for summer family events and receives repeat bookings, it is hoped that a Manager can market and promote this to be utilised more.

Duties involve managing and promoting bookings, cleaning, stocking and arranging any maintenance or repairs required. It would be helpful if applicants could be local to provide assistance on site if required but is not essential. Must be flexible to ensure cleaning is arranged around standing bookings.

Rate £15ph - 3 hours per week.

Please apply or if you wish to chat, to Councillor Lesley Taylor on Tel: 07970257329 or email taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk

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DIARY DATES 2024

March

- Thursday 7th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Tuesday 12th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 16th 'Silmor' Live at the Bell for (early) St. Patricks night from **8pm**
Monday 18th Possible Public meeting re Causeway Farm, Village Hall **7pm**
Wednesday 20th WI - Village Hall - 'Pen to Published' Francesca Armour - Chelu, author.
Saturday 23rd Middleton Primary School PTA Quiz, Village Hall

April

- Thursday 4th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Saturday 6th Charity Vintage Tea Party, Hill House, Title Rd. **10am -12.30**
Saturday 6th MCC cheese & wine with Garden Design Talks. Village Hall **7pm**
Sunday 7th Pop-up Brunch **10-11.45am** Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Wednesday 17th WI - Village Hall - Supper, Subs and Resolutions

May

- Wednesday 1st Holy Trinity APCM **2.30pm** in the church.
Thursday 2nd "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Tuesday 7th MCC AGM Village Hall **7pm**
Tuesday 14th Annual Parish Meeting **6pm** and Annual Meeting **7pm**
Wednesday 15th WI - V. Hall - 'Contemporary Hemporary' Claire Sullivan. Working hemp traditionally
Monday 20th Village Hall Management AGM , **7pm**

June

- Saturday/Sunday 1st/2nd Open Gardens
Thursday 6th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Thursday 6th 80th Anniversary of D-Day
Tuesday 11th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Wednesday 19th WI - Village Hall - 'Laughter and Tears' Malcolm Knott, a lifetime in law
Saturday 22nd Community Council Midsummer Outdoor Quiz, Playing Field

July

- Thursday 4th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Tuesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 13th Summer boules tournament, playing field, **10am**
Wednesday 17th WI - Garden Party (Venue TBA)

August

- Thursday 1st "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Saturday 24th Annual Village Fete, Playing Field, **2pm**

September

- Thursday 5th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Tuesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Wednesday 18th WI - Village Hall - 'Blood, Sweat & Fears' Mary Newton Pathologist

October

- Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Tuesday 8th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 12th MCC Autumn Fair,
Wednesday 16th WI - Village Hall - 'The True Cost of Fish', Andy Malcolm ~The Fishermen's Mission

November

- Thursday 7th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Tuesday 12th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Wednesday 20th WI - Village Hall - Cheese and Wine evening + AGM

December

- Thursday 5th "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**
Saturday 7th "Santa Boules" tournament - Playing Field **10.am**
Tuesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 14th MCC Christmas Party - Village Hall
Wednesday 18th WI - Village Hall - End of Year Celebrations Martin & Annie ~ Sizewell Gap musicians