

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025
AT 7.45pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 3

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

3 Minutes

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 14 May 2025.

Matters Arising.

* Clerk advised MCC that hiring fees for the pavilion are waived for MCC village events.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report. The report has been circulated and noted. The junior flat swings have been roped off due to the high-risk safety finding from the inspector (the top bar was not attached to its supports). A quote has been provided to make good, and the contractor has been instructed to carry out the works.

Cllr Piercy confirmed that volunteers within the village have come together to form a group to oversee the recreation ground. The group, which have met two times to date, includes four parish councillors, the pavilion manager and several village residents. There is a strong desire to replace the play equipment with new, along with suggestions of rewilding, improvements to the pavilion, fencing-in the play equipment and a separate fenced off area for dogs. There is no money available in the PC nor Trust reserves, and so finance will be sourced through grant applications.

Further discussions are needed regarding the running of the pavilion and the recreation ground. Fixed running costs are £2,500 per annum. Generated income is approximately £600 per annum, raising the question, how do we make this sustainable into the future? Although, it was agreed that the play equipment is the current priority. Cllr Giles has contacted SZC Community Fund (in addition to the application for Hastoe Field), with initial feedback favourable to the idea. The working group intend to create, with the involvement of residents, a prioritised costed list for the recreation ground.

The next deadline for the SZC Community Fund is 20 July, with the following deadline on 28 September. The working group are keen to produce an application for 20 July and to this end are meeting again on 25 June.

A member of the public advised the PC that any SZC grant application must relate directly to the impact that SZC is having. This includes the mental health impact, which should play a large part in the application.

Cllr Cusack reiterated that the SZC Community Fund will consider the number of potential beneficiaries, compared to the cost, seeking good value for money. Therefore, the application must emphasise that the recreation ground receives many visitors from outside the village.

Cllr Cusack advised the meeting that the Heras fencing previously erected is still in place, although 'off hire'. Leiston Plant Hire made a couple of attempts to collect but were unable to access the area. It was agreed to move the Heras fencing to the car park for collection.
Action: Cllr Piercy to request that the Summer Winers move the fencing to car park.

5 Finance

The Parish Council are in receipt of the following Non-Domestic Rate Demands.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Non-Domestic Rate Demand 2024/25	Suffolk Council	£112.28	1972 s.149
Non-Domestic Rate Demand 2025/26	Suffolk Council	£112.28	1972 s.149

For the past 8 years the PC have received 100% discretionary charitable relief against the non-domestic rates for the pavilion. Cllr Cusack made enquiries regarding the above and has, subsequently, completed the relevant form to request 100% charitable relief; a reply has been received advising of a high volume of requests and to not, therefore, expect a response in less than six weeks. The PC is unsure why these two bills have been issued and, indeed, what has changed since previous years.

- 6 **Correspondence.** The Pavilion Manager contacted the clerk asking whether any councillors know of the whereabouts of the pavilion folder that houses details regarding the cooker, lights and building. Also, there are two broken tables that she would like to be replaced. **Action: Cllr Giles to take table request to the Recreation Ground Working Group, with the view to achieving a cost-effective solution.**
Action: Clerk to advise pavilion folder location unknown.

- 7 **Matters for discussion.** None.

- 8 **Items for the next Agenda.** None.

- 9 **Next Meeting.** Date of next meeting Wednesday 9 July 2025 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.