

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16th March 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Phillipson (Acting-Chair), Ainge, Brumby, Curtis, Dickens, Mrs Medwell (Clerk) and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Allsop and Freestone

2. Declaration of Interest: Councillor Phillipson declared a non-prejudicial interest in the Middleton Village Hall project, owing to his position as chairman and trustee of the Middleton Village Hall trust.

3. Minutes: The minutes were duly approved and signed.
Proposed Cllr Curtis
Seconded Cllr Dickens

4. Matters Arising:

The Clerk informed the Council that a letter had gone to Fishers regarding the division of legal costs involved in the transfer of ownership of the bus shelter to Middleton parish council. No reply had yet been received.

Cllr Brumby, who was co-opted on to the Parish Council in February, made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of Cllrs Phillipson, Ainge, Curtis and Dickens.

The Clerk distributed village maps to all Councillors as requested.

5. County Councillor's Report:

County Councillor did not attend.

6. Borough Councillor's Report:

Borough Councillor did not attend.

7. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

Mrs Maggie Silcock and Mrs Jean Hodge talked to the Council about their plans for Cottingham/Middleton VE Day celebrations on May 8th 2005. The council expressed their wish to encourage and support the event and the Chair suggested that they put their specific requests for any funding and support in writing.

(Meeting closed to the public)

8 (a) Village Annexe and (b) Meeting Room Update.

(a) Cllr Curtis reported on the last VHMC meeting. Building regulations have been submitted to CBC, as has an application for funding to Shanks. Cllr Curtis commented that there is to be an annual inspection of the annexe soon, which could be cause for concern in terms of disabled facilities and electrical wiring. The Council noted that they were still not in receipt of any business plan for the future development of the annexe.

(b) Cllr Phillipson informed the Council that Middleton Village Hall Trust had also applied to Shanks for funding for the construction of a Middleton Village Hall. Corus had also been approached and the next big application would be to the Lottery Fund. Cllr Phillipson raised the point that in the event of a shortfall of grant and charitable funding, a decision would need to be made by MPC about additional parish funding by way of the precept.

9. Traffic Calming:

In the absence of Cllr Freestone, the Clerk read out a short report from the meeting between Highways and Councillor Allsop, who stood in for Cllr Freestone who had been unable to attend.

Cllr Brumby informed the Council that Cottingham parish Cllr Simms had had a car accident. The Council wished him a speedy recovery.

10. Planning:

16 Main Street – In light of further correspondence from CBC and a site visit by the Council, the latter wished to make an objection based on the loss of a mature Yew Tree, and the aesthetic impact of the view of the site from the street.

Cllr Phillipson suggested that because planning applications were sometimes received from Corby Borough Council at short notice, often not in time for full parish council consideration, a Planning Sub-Committee should be created. The function of this sub committee would be to get an early sight of applications and to fast-track to all councillors any application that they considered to need urgent action. In the case of controversial planning issues, members of the sub committee would contact any possible objectors and interested parties to the application, and report objections and proposals back to council members in good time to take an objective view of the application.

Councillors Allsop, Dickens and Brumby were nominated as the planning sub committee.

Proposed Cllr Phillipson

Seconded Cllr Ainge

11. Village Action Plan:

Cllr Phillipson reported on the progress to date. Cllr Dickens **agreed** to take on the role of ‘Environmental Watchdog’.

The Council **agreed** to write to Northants Police Department about the level of dissatisfaction with local police services as indicated by the parish plan survey.

12. Grass Cutting:

The Council **approved** the quotation from John O’Conner for 2005 Grass Cutting.

13 Finance:

The Clerk distributed a List of Balances and Cash Flow statement for review and discussion.

a) The following cheques were presented for signature and **agreed**:

100878	VHMC	10.00
100879	Clerk Salary and Expenses	464.59

100880	VHMC – Grant	500.00
100881	Newsletter	120.00
100882	Best Host – Website	120.00

b) SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	7,344.73
Business Reserve	1,616.65
Community Account	2,504.62
Total:	<u>11,466.00</u>

14. Quality Council Status:

Cllr Phillipson circulated a report on the Councils current situation with respect to Quality Status, which criteria is already met and that to be achieved. Cllrs Phillipson and Ainge attended a meeting on Quality Council Status on 9th March and informed the Council that in the long term this status may become compulsory, also that achieving this would have no financial cost to the Council.

Cllr Phillipson asked the Clerk to find out when the Council had formally adopted its Code Of Conduct, which was a mandatory requirement for Quality Council Status (*action JM*).

Clerks Gratuity on Retirement:

Cllr Ainge compiled a report, which he circulated to the Council. This was discussed and the Council **agreed** that in light of the position of temporary clerk, this matter should be re-examined in the future if appropriate.

16. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items:

East Midlands Waste and Freight Strategy
 CBC – Housing Strategy / Council Meeting / Full Council Minutes
 Minutes – Cottingham, Gretton, East Carlton
 ACRE – Village Viewpoint / Playing Field
 NCC – Minerals Local Plan Inquiry
 Standards Board – Code for the future
 NALC- National Agreement / Update
 CPRE - Fieldwork

17. AOB:

Cllr Phillipson commented on the continuing problem of parking on the pavements in the village causing obstruction to pedestrians with prams, wheelchairs and dog walkers. It was agreed to write another letter to the police authority on the matter, as no response had been received to a previous complaint a year ago.

Cllr Phillipson suggested that there should be an additional light opposite the junction of The Hill and School Hill. A very dark area of footpath has been created when the new houses replaced the single storey Middleton Garage. Cllr Phillipson agreed to write to CBC with respect to this (*action DP*).

The Council **agreed** for Cllr Ainge to provide the ET with details and dates of meetings

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on 20th April 2005

Signed.....Chairman Date.....