

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21st March 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Allsop (Chair), Ainge, Cole, Dickens, Phillipson, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Claypole, Curtis and CBC Suzanne Preston

2. Declaration of Interest: Cllr Phillipson declared a non-prejudicial interest in the Middleton Village Hall project.

3. Minutes: The minutes of 21st February 2007 were duly approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Phillipson

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5. Rural Pride Officer's Report:

The Clerk circulated Rural Pride Officer Report which included reminders for the ACRE workshop to support village shops on 27th March and 'Smoke Free Legislation' meeting on 29th March.

6. Borough and County Councillor's Report:

Borough and County Councillors did not attend.

7. Community Support Officer Report:

CSO did not attend.

8. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The members of the public present expressed their concerns regarding the proposed meeting room, these being insufficient parking and inadequate width for passing cars along the access road.

The question of whose responsibility for grass cutting around the open ditches in Glover Court was raised and a request was made for these to be filled in.

The issue of persistent dog fouling was also raised (see item 13).

(Meeting closed to the public).

9. Village Hall Project:

The Council discussed Corby Borough Council's proposal to provide a long term lease with a peppercorn rent and their commitment to take responsibility for the culvert. The Parish Council **agreed** to accept this offer.

10. Traffic Calming:

Cllr Phillipson reported that all traffic data had been collected and that the next step was to put in an application to 'NCC Highway Improvement' with a view to getting vehicle activated signs similar to those in Wilbarston. Cllr Phillipson recommended setting up a working party, Cllrs Cole, Dickens and Phillipson agreed to be that working party.

11. Footpath:

The Councillors expressed their concern that the major repairs to the footpath adjoining Middleton and East Carlton had been carried out without consultation with

the Parish Council and asked that either Bob Birkett or Jim Cosford from NCC be invited to the next meeting (*action JM*).

12. Planning:

Land West of Ashley Road, Middleton 07/0005/COU – Approved

Middleton House, Middleton 07/0008/DPA – Approved

Little Meadow – Cottingham The Council commented that the approval on appeal for the travellers site had set a very dangerous precedent.

The Council discussed a proforma for estate signs in the village. Cllr Allsop agreed to raise this issue at Rural Area Forum meeting.

13. Dog Fouling:

The Council discussed the persistent problem of dog fouling particularly at the entrance to Darescroft and along the footpath in Glover Court. The Council **agreed** to source some ‘Under Surveillance’ posters to place at these sites (*action DP*).

14. Street Lighting:

Cllr Allsop informed the Council that, subject to approval, there would be a £50,000 budget over a five year period available to the villages. Cllr Allsop recommended that the existing lights be changed before filling in the black spots. Cllr Allsop agreed to draft a letter (*action KA*).

15. Finance:

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

100958	Clerk Salary and Expenses	582.00
100959	Loan and Playing Field Maintenance	326.96

b) SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	12,811.95
Business Reserve	158.92
Community Account	1,909.78
Less Allocation for Village Hall	12,000.00
Total:	<u>2,880.65</u>

16. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items:

Minutes – Cottingham, East Carlton, Stanion, Weldon and Gretton PC’s Rural Area Forum

Clerks & Councils Direct

CBC – Rural Pride Newsletter

NCC – ‘Putting the Customer First’

EMRAF – Rural Action Plan

Friends of Rockingham Forest - Newsletter

ACRE – Village Viewpoint / The Playing Field

CPRE – Countryside Voice / Fieldwork

Northamptonshire Police – Monthly Crime Report

Letters NCC Bob Birkett re Public Footpath Improvement Works
 Cllr Rutt re Little Meadow Site, Cottingham

17. Any Other Business:

The Clerk had circulated an e-mail regarding 'Parish Council support for Adult Learning in Local Communities' from Sara Mason of NCC Adult Learning Service. The Council requested that Sara Mason be invited to the next meeting to discuss this service further (*action JM*).

Cllr Cole stated that the door to the electrical box at the entrance of Glover Court is still broken. Clerk to contact Mr Tattersall (*action JM*).

Cllr Phillipson asked for 'Tree Warden' to be put on next months agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on the 18th April 2007.

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