

# MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole, Cross, Freeman and Skipwith, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk), Borough Councillor Riley, PCSO's Tooley and Loveday and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Bradshaw and Hicks.

2. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

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3. Minutes: The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were duly approved and signed.  
Proposed Cllr Cross      Seconded Cllr Cole

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4. Matters Arising:  
There were no matters arising.

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5. Meeting Open for Public Participation:  
The Chair welcomed the visitors.

PCSO Mark Tooley reported on the crime statistics for the Rural West area including thefts in East Carlton Cricket Club, criminal damage in Middleton and East Carlton and an incident of a dog bite. He informed the Council that the travellers who had been visiting the site on the Ashley Road, had moved on following the Easter break.

Borough Councillor Riley queried whether the leak on Ashley Road had been repaired. The Council confirmed that it had.

Discussions took place regarding the outcome of the consultation on the TRO undertaken by Northamptonshire County Council on The Hill. Dr Arshad showed photographs of the site, talked through the hazards of parking on the road opposite the Red Lion and addressed the objections raised during the consultation.

The issue of the water leak on Main Street was discussed. Many calls had been made to Anglian Water by a number of residents reporting the leak and chasing progress in resolving it. Anglian Water now aim to repair on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and will cone off the area in advance so that they are not inhibited by parked vehicles. Cllr Brant to monitor (*action SB*).

The Council thanked the visitors who duly left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

(Meeting closed to the public.)

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6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

Cllr Brant informed the Council of a meeting next Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April with NCC, Corby Planning Department, the architect and Cottingham School to discuss the planned access to the new Village Hall. Cllr Cross to check whether she was available to attend the meeting also (*action KC*).

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7. Orchard and Open Space:

**Summer Picnic** – The Council had not as yet received a response from the local Valley Voice Choir regarding their idea of holding a summer picnic in the Orchard in July.

**Culvert** – The Council were awaiting Richard Thomas to commence work on the culvert bank. Cllr Cross confirmed that she had arranged for the bark chips to be provided free of charge. The Chair said that Suzanne Preston would be providing a contact name at CBC in regards to the management of the Knotweed outbreak.

### 8. Highways and Rights of Way:

**Proposed Traffic Regulation Order** – The Council expressed concern about cars parking on the Hill opposite the Red Lion public house as cars in that location often park on the pavement to ensure that the road is passable for buses etc. which obstructs pedestrians. Parked cars in that location cause problems with visibility for those leaving the drives of the houses opposite the Red Lion.

The Council considered the objections to the TRO, as summarised by NCC and was of the view that

- the proposal was unlikely to hinder parking for other residents as the majority of the Hill's residents live and park on the other side of the road.
- There is a large dedicated car park in East Carlton Park for the use of visitors to the Park which they can use if there are no parking spaces on the Hill
- Delivery drivers to private homes are parked for a very short period and deliveries to the pub can park on its forecourt
- Cars of the pub's patrons will be displaced further up the Hill, but that is not dangerous and requires only a short walk to reach the pub.

In summary, the Parish Council felt that the objections did not outweigh the advantage of the installation of double yellow lines as proposed. The Council **agreed** to support the TRO as proposed. The Chair to write to NCC Jim Whiting and County Cllr Stan Heggs (*action SB*).

**Speeding** – The speed and volume of heavy traffic through the village was discussed – the Chair reported that Sarah Barnwell of Northants Highways had been made aware of the problem and would be attending a meeting with Council members on site to observe this and to talk about potential measures for traffic calming. The Chair to arrange this meeting (*action SB*).

**Dog Fouling** – The Chair reported on a meeting with CBC Suzanne Preston and the Clerk of Cottingham PC. Corby BC offered a letter to residents with a form attached to report those that were not clearing up after their dog, which Council members thought would be a good idea. Corby officers have also been undertaking a Stop Check locally asking dog owners to show that they have dog mess bags with them. CBC was in the process of purchasing some new 'Anti-dog fouling' posters. The Council did note that there seemed to be an improvement in clearing up dog mess after the previous leaflet drop.

**Litter Pick** – The Chair drew the Council's attention to a proposed Cottingham/Middleton Litter Pick on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – this is to be advertised in the newsletter and village website.

### 9. Website:

The Council **agreed** to use the services of Adam Curtis to create a new Parish Council website, the design of which was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **agreed** to the initial set up cost of £195 plus £10 per month for maintenance.

### 10. Parish Elections:

It was noted that there were six nominations for the position of Councillor, a list of these are displayed on the Parish noticeboard. There would therefore be an uncontested election on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. A casual vacancy now exists – this will be advertised after the elections.

### 11. Planning:

#### **15/00091/DPA Construction of New Dwelling 16 Main Street**

At its Planning Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, the Council noted that the plot under consideration is within Middleton's conservation area and is surrounded by a number of listed buildings. The Council was mindful of the need for any development on this site to protect and enhance

the heritage significance and setting of the listed buildings surrounding it and to complement the surrounding environment (in line with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031).

All of the drawings and supporting documentation presented by the applicant were considered by the Council. The Council had sympathy with the applicant's wish to develop the plot in question to house members of his family, but all present at the meeting were unanimous in their concern over the design, siting and height of the proposed dwelling as its visual impact was not considered to be in keeping with the street scene in the immediate vicinity of the site. The Council considered that the dwelling proposed was not in proportion with the size of the site and that the drawing number 1607 was potentially misleading in relation to the space available for driveway, parking and turning space. It would be important that any dwelling constructed on this site had sufficient space for off road parking as Main Street is narrow at this point and the road bends. The Council has significant concerns over the speed and volume of traffic along Main Street and any development that adds to parking along Main Street would aggravate traffic congestion.

The Council considers that the height of the proposed building would not be appropriate given the immediate street scene and the rising slope of the land south of Main Street. The proposed building would not provide an appropriate setting for the listed buildings surrounding it and in the view of the Council any development on this site should be two-storey, with the roof height no higher than the ridge line of Cornerstones at 12 Main Street. Furthermore it is considered that if this site is to be developed into a dwelling it should display the characteristics of a cottage, in keeping with the cottages either side of it. The Council considers that any development should replace the existing brick garage and should front onto the pavement, as do numbers 12 and 18 Main Street. Any development should be in stone, similar in colour to numbers 12 and 18 Main Street with a slate roof. The Council would not support dormer windows in the north-facing aspect of the roof facing the road or windows on the first floor of the west-facing elevation overlooking Cornerstones. These views have been conveyed to the Corby BC Planning department.

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## 12. Finance:

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

101279	Clerk (March) - Salary and Expenses	239.92
101280	BestHost – Website Hosting	17.00
101281	Cottingham VHMC – Hall Hire	24.00
101282	NCALC – Annual Subscription and Membership Fees	246.34

## b) SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	55,237.57
Business Reserve	166.27
Community Account	7,549.61
Less Allocation for Village Hall	50,180.50
Total:	<b><u>12,772.95</u></b>

The Council **agreed** to opt out of the NCALC Internal Audit Service and **agreed** to use an Independent Auditor Ian Arnott.

c) The Council were presented with the accounts which had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The Council **approved** the Statement of Assurance and the appropriate

documents were signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The necessary documents will now be presented to the internal auditor.

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13. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items, all e-mailed:

- NCALC – Local Council Award Scheme
- ACRE – Village Viewpoint
- CPRE – Notification of 31/03/2015 Meeting
- Planning Resource – Online Planning Seminar
- CBC – Information on Elections including Nomination Papers

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14. Business for next meeting:

- Funding of the Village Community Shop
- Rockingham Wheelers fund raising campaign for a defibrillator
- Village Fete – 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Meeting with Sarah Barnwell of Northants Highways department re traffic volume and speed through the village

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.13 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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