

# MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

571

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Cross, Freeman, Thomas and Hicks, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Heggs and Borough Councillor Rutt.

## 1. Election of Officers:

The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Hicks nominated Cllr Brant and was seconded by Cllr Cole. Cllr Brant **agreed** to become Chair.

The position of Vice-Chair was opened to all Councillors. Cllr Hicks nominated Cllr Cole and was seconded by Cllr Freeman. Cllr Cole **agreed** to become Vice-Chair.

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## 2. Declaration of Acceptance:

The two Councillors then duly completed the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Responsible Financial Officer.

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## 3. Apologies for Absence: There were none.

Declarations of Interest: There were none.

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## 4. Election of Sub Committees:

This item was deferred to later in the meeting.

The Parish Council **agreed** to the following positions:-

- (i) Parish Plan – unfilled at present
- (ii) Planning – Cllrs Cole, Bradshaw and Freeman
- (iii) Highways / Rights of Way / Environment – Cllrs Hicks and Thomas
- (iv) New Village Hall and Recreational Ground– Cllrs Cross and Freeman

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## 5. Minutes: The minutes of the meetings on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Brant      Seconded Cllr Cross

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## 6. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising by the minutes not covered on the agenda.

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## 7. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The Chair welcomed the visitors.

County Councillor Heggs informed the Council that both he and Andy Bethall from County Highways had looked at the finger post and sign on the junction of Ashley Road and Wire Lane. He said that one will be replaced and the other refitted.

Borough Cllr Rutt raised the new Neighbourhood Warden Area and agreed to send through copies of the map detailing the area and designated warden. He also drew the Council's attention to sheep worrying and rustling in the area and asked that it be vigilant and report as necessary.

The Chair thanked the visitors who duly left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

(Meeting closed to the public.)

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Signed.....Chair

Date.....

The next item was brought forward

15. Finance:

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

101340	Green Thumb – Orchard Maintenance	63.00
101341	Clerk – May Salary and Expenses	291.67
101342	Ian Arnott – Internal Auditor	110.00
101343	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	370.00
101344	Cottingham VHMC – Hall Hire	12.00

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	55,651.85
Business Reserve	166.37
Community Account	7,392.64
Less Allocation for Village Hall	49,590.50
Total:	<b><u>13,620.36</u></b>

b) The Council unanimously **approved** the bank reconciliation which was then duly signed by the Chair.

c) Internal Audit Report:

The Clerk reported that following a successful internal audit, the 2015/6 accounts will be presented to the external auditor. There were no matters raised by the Internal Auditor.

d) Update of Financial Regulations:

New model Financial Regulations from NCALC had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Council noted the amendments and **agreed** to incorporate into the Parish Council's existing policy.

8. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

The Chair reported that the Village Hall Trust had been rejuvenated with Pete Bowman as the new Chair and that the monies held by the Parish Council for the new Village Hall would pass over to the Trust. The Council **agreed** to review the signatories for the NS & I savings account.

9. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

**Swingers Path – Purchase of Barriers** – The Council had received a further quote for the purchase of the barriers for the entrance to the path to deter horses and cyclists but to allow access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. It **agreed** to look at a drawing of the proposed barriers before making any decision to purchase.

**Speed Warning Signs** – The Chair said that there was no apparent pole on the Hill on which to site the speed signs but that there was a short lamp pole which could be used on Ashley Road. Clls Brant and Cross **agreed** to look again on Main Street the following day (*action SB and KC*).

The Chair also informed the Council that due to current budgetary constraints the County Council would not be funding yellow-backed signs at this time. It would however upgrade the signs, or could consider a timber entrance feature on The Hill as on Ashley Road if outside funding was available. Cllr Brant **agreed** to pursue costings for this (*action SB*).

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

**Lighting** – Cllr Freeman reported that he will continue to pursue the faulty light on the Hill and said he would circulate his lighting report.

The Council noted that the Corby Borough Council was responsible for the Obelisk Light and **agreed** to contact them regarding its repair (*action JM*).

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10. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council noted that the damaged grass in the open space had been reseeded and was very concerned to note the recurrence of Japanese knotweed which was sprouting again. This had been flagged up and both the Parish Council and the contractor Ebsford will be monitoring this very closely.

The quality and quantity of grass cuts was raised, the Council **agreed** to contact Steve Morphy to request that all cuttings are picked up and the grass cut as frequently as possible within the budget (*action JM*).

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11. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had carried out an inspection of the parish assets and stated that all other than the bench on Main Street were in order. The Clerk to pursue with Steve Morphy (*action JM*).

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12. Village Fete – 25th June:

The Council noted the Village Fete on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The Chair said she would be attending and would show a presence at the combined Cottingham / Middleton Parish Council stall.

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13. Memorial Benches:

The Council had been approached by a local resident with regards to sponsoring a memorial bench and planting a rose in the Orchard. The Council reiterated that it had previously agreed that plantings were not permitted but **agreed** to offer the remaining memorial bench at the previously agreed price of £550. Clerk to contact resident with the Council's decision (*action JM*).

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14. Planning:

**Partial demolition of double garage and construction of a new dwelling at 16 Main Street, Middleton, LE16 8YU**

**Appeal reference: APP/U2805/W/15/3141328** - Awaiting a decision from Planning Inspectorate

**Appeal APP/U2805/W/15/3005683– Land off Bury Close** - Awaiting a decision from Planning Inspectorate

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16. Correspondence:

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

CBC - Community Funding through Tesco

NCC Highways – Withdrawal of Bus Service 67

NCALC – Updated Financial Guidance / Invitation to Think Big Event / Training Schedule

CPRE – Roadshow

NCC – Consultation on Street and Road Works Permits

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17. Business for next meeting:

None identified at present.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Owing to holiday commitments there is to be no parish council meeting in June.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Signed.....Chair                      Date.....

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