

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Cross, Freeman and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and PC (820) Brad Wilson.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Hicks, County Cllr Heggs and Borough Cllr Rutt.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 18th October 2016 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Freeman Seconded Cllr Cole

4. Matters Arising:

The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Hicks for co-ordinating and the residents involved on the day for a successful litter pick.

It was noted that the 'give way' sign on the junction of Ashley Road and Wire Lane was still on the angle.

5. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The Chair welcomed the visitor.

PC Wilson reported that there were no concerns regarding the rural areas at present but highlighted the need to be vigilant regarding lead theft from church roofs. He detailed the changes in the structure of policing in the County and encouraged the involvement of the cadets in community projects. PC Wilson asked that the Council give thought in identifying a location in the parish that could be used as a 'Community Hub' – an area with internet access that could be used for police report writing. He advised that the police regularly use a Twitter account - @corbypolice.

(Meeting closed to the public.)

6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

There was nothing further to report at present.

7. Orchard and Open Space:

Maintenance – The Council **agreed** a quote for £160 from local gardener Richard Thomas for winter maintenance. It was **agreed** to ask him to look at the Culvert too (*action JM*). The Clerk informed the Council that Eliminate had been contacted again regarding the moles and work to eradicate should have been done. The Council noted that the telescopic apple picker was a great success and most apples harvested and taken away. Clerk to contact Steve Morphy regarding oiling the benches and the black bin bags of grass cutting left in the orchard (*action JM*).

Japanese Knotweed – The Chair informed the Council that the contractors Ebsford had been contacted regarding the knotweed and were reassuring regarding its control. The grass had been checked for any knotweed presence and any weed would be dormant over the winter. The next visit from Ebsford would be the first week of June 2017. The Chair said she would pass this on to CBC (*action SB*).

8. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Speed Warning Signs – The Council was disappointed to note that the temporary speed

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

sign still had not been installed on the Ashley Road by County Highways Officer Steve Barber.

Lighting Update – The Council noted correspondence from a lighting contractor with an approximate guide of £900 for a new additional light on the footpath alongside the culvert in Glover Court. The Clerk will follow up the next stage of a site visit (*action JM*). The Clerk reported that repair to the obelisk light had been chased up.

Salt Bins – The Council **agreed** not to purchase any additional salt or salt bins. It was however very disappointed to learn from NCC Highways that its request for gritting along the Harborough Road (Old A427) had been refused.

The Council acknowledged the improved state of the road side following visits from the Kerb Cleaner and expressed its thanks to Cllr Freeman for painting the bollards on Swingers Path with high visibility paint.

9. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

There was nothing to report on this item at this time.

10. Defibrillator Project:

The Chair advised the Council that further to the enquiries made by the sub-group, it was felt that the case containing the defibrillator should be locked. This was supported by PC Wilson who said in his experience all cases were locked. The Chair will refer this back to the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) who will then liaise with BT to provide the power for the defibrillator (*action SB*).

12. Planning:

16/00422/LBC 7 Camsdale Walk Re-instatement of former frontage and widening of access road

The Council supported this application and welcomed the widening of the road which would facilitate access for the residents.

16/00448/DPA 10 Darescroft Single store rear extension with balcony over

The Council considered this application and made no comment.

The Chair referred to correspondence from Corby Borough Council regarding Part 2 Local plan for Corby. There is to be a public exhibition which Cllr Brant will attend. It was **agreed** to circulate the consultation document to all Cllrs and to co-ordinate with Cottingham Parish Council to formulate a response to this consultation before the deadline on 20th December.

13. Finance:

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

101366	BDO – External Audit	250.00
101367	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	350.00
101368	Clerk – Sept/Oct Salary and Expenses	294.54
101369	Green Thumb – September Orchard	63.00
101370	Cottingham VHMC – July Hall Hire	36.87

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	55,651.85
Business Reserve	166.41
Community Account	9,968.57

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Less Allocation for Village Hall	49,590.50
Total:	<u>16,196.33</u>

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

c) **External Audit Report:**

The Clerk reported that the 2015/16 Audit had been successfully completed by the external auditor. The Council observed the comment arising from the audit of the minutes not signed or initialled and noted that all Middleton Parish Council minutes are approved and each page signed at the following meeting.

d) **Annual Review of Clerk's Salary**

It was **agreed** that the Clerk's salary be increased from SPC 23 to SPC 24 with effect from 1st April 2017.

Proposed Cllr Bradshaw Seconded Cllr Cross

e) **To set Budget 2017/18:**

The draft budget was presented to the Council for consideration. The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the Middleton Parish Council budget for 2017/18

Proposed by Cllr Thomas Seconded by Cllr Cole

This was then signed by the Chair.

Subject to the receipt of the Concurrent Expenditure Grant from CBC of £2,444, the Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the level of precept of £4,162 for the financial year 2017-18. This is to remain at the same level as the current year.

Proposed by Cllr Thomas Seconded by Cllr Cole

The Clerk to submit the Precept Demand to CBC (*action JM*).

14. Correspondence:

CBC - Rural Area Forum 17th November / JAG info

NCALC – Big Friday Round Up

CBC – Electoral Register

The Cllrs signed the necessary register request forms.

Precept Referendum – The Council had previously received correspondence from NCALC urging all councils to respond to the Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation on precept capping by writing to the local MP. The Council discussed this and **agreed** to use the template letter drafted by NCALC to write to Philip Hollobone MP expressing its concern about the proposals set out in the consultation to introduce referenda principles and precept capping (*action JM*).

Proposed Cllr Freeman Seconded Cllr Brant

15. Business for next meeting:

There was none identified at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 20th December 2016

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

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