

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

680

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Freeman, Freestone and Hicks, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Thomas – Holiday Commitment

2. Declaration of Interests on Items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interests.

There were no changes to the members Registers of Interests.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 18th June 2019 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Freeman

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

5. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The Chair welcomed the visitor.

Mr Etherton explained that he wished to discuss with the Council a potential proposal for a single dwelling with vehicular access on half of the land at the end of Main Street at the junction with The Hill and Ashley Road.

The Chair confirmed that the land, although privately owned, has been designated by Corby BC as green space and is within the Conservation Area. As the land is not owned by the Parish it cannot be part of the maintenance/mowing schedule and it is currently very overgrown and not a great asset to the village. Many villagers assume that it is public open space but this is not the case and the land could be fenced off by the owner and used for grazing at any time.

Mr Etherton asked the Council to consider whether it would support a potential planning application for the building of a modestly sized, one and a half story three bedroom house on the easterly end of the plot, on the proviso that half of the plot was bequeathed to the Parish Council for use as a green space/village green, in perpetuity. It was noted that in the recent housing need survey there had been a need expressed for additional three bedroom houses within the village.

The Chair thanked Mr Etherton who duly left the meeting at 7.41pm
(Meeting closed to the public.)

6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

The Chair informed the Council of a public meeting on 1st August to explain the rationale behind the Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Trust (Northants) being dissolved in order to change its charitable status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in order that it can take ownership of the Village Acre on which the new Community Hub is to be built. There will be another fundraising workshop arranged for the beginning of September.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

The Fete Organising Team and all volunteers were commended for a very successful village fete which despite the inclement weather was well attended and raised £6,235.63 towards the new village hall.

7. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council referred to correspondence from residents of Glover Court regarding the overgrown shrubbery around the obelisk. The Council **agreed** to remove the shrubs and gravel around the obelisk and to reseed so that the area may be maintained in the routine mowing schedule. The Clerk will obtain three quotes for the work (*action JM*).

Cllr Brant will cut back the overgrown Dog Rose which has fallen over the path in the Orchard and the shrubs at the pedestrian entrance at the north east corner of the orchard (*action SB*).

8. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Signage – The Council noted that the second damaged sign on the bend at the junction to The Hill had been reported to NCC via Fix my Street. Cllr Freeman volunteered to cut back the overgrown vegetation around the TVAS sign on the Ashley Road and Long Vehicle signs on The Hill (*action TF*).

Swinglers Path - The issue of overgrown vegetation along the path was raised. The Council **agreed** to write to homeowners whose vegetation is overhanging the path and to form a working party to clear along the fence line on the path side (*action JM and SB*).

Lighting – Cllr Freeman reported that EON would be replacing with a modern fitting the top part of the lights outside the Manor House and on Glover Court. The faulty light on The Hill will be processed as a new order.

Grit Bins – Cllr Freeman informed the Council that the damaged bin on the bend of School Hill was unfit for repair. It was decided to ask local residents whether they used this grit bin before agreeing to purchase a replacement.

Litter Pick – The Council suggested a date of Sunday 6th October for the joint Cottingham and Middleton litter pick. The Clerk will refer this to Cottingham Parish Council and Cllr Hicks will organise the necessary equipment (*action JM and GH*).

9. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

The Clerk reported that local decorator John Connachie had volunteered to re-varnish the notice board free of charge. The Council expressed its appreciation to Mr Connachie and **agreed** to replace the signage on the notice board which will be removed during the process. The Clerk also reported that the bench on Main Street would be re-varnished imminently.

All other parish assets were in order.

10. Local Government Reform:

There was nothing further to report on this item at present.

11. Monthly Crime Report:

The Council referred to the monthly crime statistics as detailed online via Police UK website. There were no new recorded crimes in the parish.

All information pertaining to local crime can be found by entering the relevant postcode on www.police.uk

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

12. Planning:

Land off Main Street – The Council considered in more detail the matter that had been presented in the open forum.

With the caveat that any support would depend on the specific design proposal put forward in a planning application, the Council confirmed its commitment both to sympathetic in-fill and the retention of green space for the benefit of residents. The Council considered that taking ownership of half of the existing green space to maintain it in perpetuity for the benefit of residents would be an improvement on the current situation where the space could not be accessed by residents and was not well kept. It was also noted that if there was a development approved, the approval would need to include the creation by the developer of a wheelchair accessible ramp, to enable access to the half of the plot bequeathed to the Parish.

19/00337/DPA 20A Main Street Middleton LE16 8YU Proposed extension to the existing house

The Council considered and agreed to support this application.

17/00180/OUT Outline application for a sustainable urban extension comprising 4,500 dwellings and associated infrastructure works.

It was noted that Corby Borough Council is still in the process of assessing this application and that the issues raised surrounding highways and flood risk are largely resolved. The Borough Council will notify the Council once a Committee date has been confirmed and then a meeting can be organised in which Corby Borough Council alongside Northamptonshire Highways will report back to the local parishes on the highways issues raised.

13. Finance:

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

101539	Clerk – July/Aug Salary and Expenses	650.00
101540	Cottingham VHMC – May Hall Hire	12.00
101541	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	420.00
101542	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00
101543	Cottingham VHMC – June Hall Hire	12.00

Receipts

None

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	40,840.72
Business Reserve	166.86
Community Account	2,888.27
Less Allocation for Village Hall	35,990.50
Total:	£7,905.35

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

14. Correspondence:

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

NCALC – Mini eUpdates

NCC Highways – Weekly Schemes Works Programme

CBC – Rural Area Forum Meeting 18th July – Cllr Brant will be attending.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

15. Business for next meeting:

There was nothing new identified at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 17th September 2019

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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