

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

691

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole (Vice Chair), Freeman, Freestone, Hicks and Thomas and Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk).

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bradshaw

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 15th October 2019 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Hicks

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

5. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

There were no members of the public present.

(Meeting closed to the public.)

6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

The Chair notified the Council of various fundraising events planned including a Christmas Bazaar on 30th November, 1 to 4pm in the Village Hall Annexe. There are 'Mill' Christmas cards available for purchase from the Fundraising Committee.

7. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council was reminded that a risk assessment was required for use of the Orchard during the Christmas Eve 'Walking Nativity' Event. The Clerk will contact the organisers to request that one provided last year is reviewed and amended as necessary (*action JM*).

8. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Lighting – The Council noted that lamp no. 9 on Main Street was out and that the light outside no.11 Glover Court was still awaiting repair. Cllr Freeman will refer this to Corby Borough Council (*action TF*).

Litter Pick – The Council thanked Cllr Hicks and her husband for their recent impromptu litter pick around the village and for identifying and reporting to Northamptonshire County Council the blocked drains at the top of and down The Hill.

Flooding – The Council noted the damaged pavement and gravel spill on Main Street resulting from the flooding at the Manor House. The Chair will refer this to Sarah Barnwell of Northamptonshire Highways requesting that this is re-instated (*action SB*). The Council also noted a response to the recent report of blocked drains and gullies which referred to the problem of local ditches which need clearing in order to minimise the impact of heavy rainfall. This would reduce the flow of run-off onto the roads (and potentially into

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

property) and also reduce the amount of mud which gets washed into the gullies. The Highways Department will pursue this and contact the relevant landowners if necessary.

Signage – Cllr Hicks brought to the Council’s attention the recent collision with the wall on the bend at the top of The Hill, the third at this location this year. The Council discussed the need for extra or improved signage before the bend warning drivers or a crash barrier to protect the wall and deflect vehicles. The Clerk will contact Northamptonshire Highways to discuss potential options (*action JM*).

The troublesome TVAS on Ashley Road has been reported to the suppliers who have agreed to send an engineer to correct the problem.

9. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole reported that all parish assets were fit for purpose.

10. Local Government Re-Organisation:

There was nothing further to report on this item.

11. Welland Valley Wanderer:

The Chair updated the Council on the current position regarding the community bus service. It was expected that the parish councils involved with the scheme would contribute through precept ahead of any possible contributions from Corby and Kettering Borough Council’s. The Council **agreed** its contribution of £360 for the year 2020/21.

12. Monthly Crime Report:

Following two incidents of car crime in the parish including theft of a vehicle on Main Street during the night, the Council circulated a note to all households in the parish requesting that they be vigilant in locking their house and car and removing contents that might make it a target. Residents were also encouraged to report any suspicious activity, however small, to the police with a registration number if possible.

Cllr Freestone had researched the possibility of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She suggested setting up a closed ‘Whatsapp’ Group which could easily and quickly be used to notify and share information. The group could include any resident of Middleton wishing to join as well as the local community police officer if that was permissible. Cllr Freestone will research further (*action AF*).

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

13. Budget 2020/21:

The final budget for 2020/21 was presented to the Parish Council for consideration. The Council **agreed** to increase the grass cutting budget to £2,000 and to add a sum of £360 as its share of the subsidy of the Welland Valley Wanderer.

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the Middleton Parish Council budget for 2020/21

Proposed by Cllr Brant Seconded by Cllr Thomas

This was then signed by the Chair.

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the level of precept set at £8,448.00 for the financial year 2020-21

Proposed by Cllr Brant Seconded by Cllr Thomas

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

Signed.....Chair

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

There was nothing further to report on this item at this stage. The Chair advised the Council that she would continue to pursue the matter of the existing bridleway, which runs through the proposed development, as it appears to be no longer identified in the plans (*action SB*).

Travellers Site, Ashley Road - The Council noted that unauthorised works including the creation of a second access into the site had been carried out. Corby Borough Council Enforcement Officer is currently monitoring the site.

5. Finance:

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

101558	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	679.32
101559	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	200.00
101560	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00
101561	Joes Lawn Care - Orchard	98.00
101562	Cottingham Parish Council - Rechargeable Expenses	1,484.24
101563	VHMC – Hall Hire	24.00

Receipts

None

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	40,840.72
Business Reserve	166.86
Community Account	5,729.52
Less Allocation for Village Hall	35,990.50
Total:	£10,746.60

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

16. Correspondence:

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

NCALC – eUpdates / Elections 2020 / Budget Information
CBC – Rural Area Forum 14th November

17. Business for next meeting:

None identified at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 21st January 2020

Signed.....Chair

Date.....