

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

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

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

County Cllr Naden-Horley

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 21st January 2020 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Freeman

Seconded Cllr Bradshaw

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising not already covered on the agenda.

5. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The Chair welcomed the visitor.

Borough Cllr Rutt referred to fly posting on Corby road signs and advised that this would be removed imminently. He also raised concerns over the odours arising from Rushton tip, which had been raised with the Environment Agency. He advised that any residents affected by this should report the matter to Corby Borough Council environmental department. Cllr Rutt understood that enforcement action would be taken regarding the site on Ashley Road if planning procedures were not complied with.

The Chair thanked the visitor who duly left the meeting at 7.47pm

(Meeting closed to the public.)

6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

Cllr Freeman informed the Council that the trustees of The Mill Community Hub, Cottingham and Middleton were in the process of making a bid to the National Lottery for funding. The next stage is to appoint a project manager to oversee the build, after which the project can go out to tender. The Chair asked that residents keep an eye out for various fund-raising events which will be advertised in the Village Newsletter and Facebook page.

7. Orchard and Open Space:

There was nothing to report on this item.

8. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Village Walkabout – Cllrs Brant and Freeman, the Clerk, County Cllr Naden-Horley and Sarah Barnwell from NCC Highways department had met recently to look at various highways issues around the village. These included the signage on the bend at the top of The Hill; the damaged road surface at the corner of Main Street/Ashley Road/The Hill and outside the school on Mill Road and the damaged pavement outside Manor House on Main Street.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Ms Barnwell will refer these issues back to NCC Highways for consideration. The Council noted that additional signage on the Hill would be unlikely but that NCC Highways were proposing the installation of reflective marker posts on the grass triangle at the top of The Hill to reinforce the road direction. The Clerk was asked to follow up on the enforcement action on the repair to the pavement outside Manor House (*action JM*).

The Council also noted the correspondence from a local resident regarding the large and unexpected bill from County Highways arising from the installation of temporary traffic lights on The Hill for the period during which he repaired his damaged wall which had fallen onto the road. Whilst the Parish Council appreciated that Northamptonshire Highways has a responsibility to ensure that roads are safe to use and free from hazards, it considered that in this instance the County had been unreasonable in not giving the land owner any idea of the likely costs involved for putting in the traffic lights. The Clerk will forward the correspondence to County Cllr Naden-Horley who had agreed to look in to the matter (*action JM*).

Manor House Parking – The Council referred to correspondence from a local resident regarding increased parking around the junction of Glover Court with Main Street which is reducing visibility for motorists using the junction, and in some cases is contravening the Highway Code regarding parking in the proximity of a junction. Contact had been made with the owner of the Manor House to request urgent restitution of the drive and footpath and asking when the retirement home would be in a position to re-open its car park. The owner of the Manor House responded that he was as keen as everyone else to get this matter resolved and is awaiting a contractor to find a window in his schedule to start the works.

Lighting –It was noted that the faulty lamps already reported, on Main Street and School Hill still had not been repaired. Cllr Freeman will pursue the matter again with Corby Borough Council (*action TF*).

It was noted that a small fallen tree is blocking the bus stop on Main Street. It appears to have fallen from the hedge between Wantage Mews and the lawn on Main Street. The Clerk will investigate and request that the land owner remove the tree (*action JM*).

9. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

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

10. Review of Risk Assessment:

The Risk Assessment had been circulated to all councillors for review prior to the meeting. No changes were made to the current policy which was approved by all Councillors and duly signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

11. Elections 2020:

The Council discussed the forthcoming parish council elections on 7th May 2020. Existing councillors would be prepared to stand again, however a number would consider standing down if there are other residents who are interested and able to take on the role. The Council would encourage any residents interested in representing the community either as a councillor or in a less formal capacity, to contact the clerk in the first instance for information about what is entailed.

12. Monthly Crime Report:

There were no incidents of crime to report this month.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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

13. VE Day 8th May:

The Chair informed the Council that she had met with representatives of Cottingham Parish Council to discuss potential activities to commemorate VE Day on 8th May. The Village Shop and Store and the Valley Voice Choir will be approached to ascertain whether they wish to participate in the day's events.

14. Planning:

Travellers Site, Ashley Road – The Council noted the response from Corby Borough Council Enforcement Officer who was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting. Following a site visit, the Enforcement Officer was able to report that at the time of his visit the number of mobile and touring vans on site was in accordance with planning permission but a retrospective planning application is required for the new access and the sub-division of the site. The occupants have confirmed that they have approached an agent to deal with the applications but proof is needed by Corby BC by the end of this week that the matter is being dealt with otherwise formal action is likely to take place.

15. Finance:

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

101571	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	325.00
101572	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00

Receipts

N S & I – Interest	329.87
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SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	41,170.59
Business Reserve	166.86
Community Account	4,429.07

Less Allocation for Village Hall	35,990.50
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Total: **£9,776.02**

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 / Membership Survey

CPRE – Planning Roadshow

Cottingham School – Request to plant daffodils in Orchard

17. Business for next meeting:

Review of Defibrillator

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 17th March 2020

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