

# MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

711

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30 pm via Electronic Conferencing on account of the Government social distancing requirements during this Coronavirus Pandemic.

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

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**1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:**

Borough Councillor Rutt.

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**2. Declaration of Interests on Items on the Agenda or changes to the Members Register of Interests:**

There were no declarations of interests.

There were no changes to the members Registers of Interests.

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**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Bradshaw

Seconded Cllr Cole

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**4. Matters Arising:**

The Chair was pleased to inform the Council that the archaeological survey of the Village Hall site on the Village Acre had not found anything of significance that would delay the building of the Hall.

Following the election of Cllr Freestone as Vice Chair at the previous meeting, the Chair noted that at the last meeting the Council had omitted to record its thanks to Cllr Cole for his extremely valuable contribution as Vice-Chair for many years. The Chair apologised for the oversight and those present expressed their thanks to Cllr Cole.

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**5. Meeting open for public consultation.**

There were no members of the public present.

Meeting closed to the public.

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**6. Orchard and Open Space:**

The Clerk informed the Council that the contractor has been instructed to go ahead with the repairs to the fence at the back of the Orchard and loose paving slabs. Cllr Cole pointed out that overgrown brambles were starting to obstruct the entrance to the east of the orchard. A small working party was formed to cut these back early next week.

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**7. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:**

**Damage to road surface Ashley Road / Main Street junction** – The Council noted that the damaged road surface had been patched. The surface would be kept under review as the patch procedure appeared very rudimentary.

**Speed Signs** – Cllr Freeman had identified that the vehicle activated speed sign was not working. The Clerk had reported this to the supplier and requested it be looked at by an engineer. Cllr Freeman will cut back the overgrown hedge around it. Cllr Hicks raised the faded white lines and the 30mph sign painted on the tarmac on The Hill. The Clerk will report via Fix my Street and urged other councillors to do so too (*action JM*).

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

**Village Sign** – This was identified as in need of refurbishment. Cllr Freestone will explore whether any local residents are in a position to assist (*action AF*).

**Jurassic Way Footpath** – The eroding surface of the initial stretch of path leading from The Hill to East Carlton Park and the hazard it posed to pedestrians, had been reported to the County Council.

**Lighting** – The Council observed that all lights were currently working.

**Parish Council Grit Bin on School Hill** -It was noted that the grit bin located by the pull-in on School Hill beyond the houses was becoming overgrown by shrubbery. Cllr Thomas undertook to investigate and cut back if necessary (*action MT*).

#### 8. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

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

The Clerk advised that ambulance service personnel would replace any used pads on the defibrillator if and when they attended any call out in which the defibrillator was used.

#### 9. Monthly Crime Report:

The Chair advised the Council that she had written to the Police Commissioner regarding the illegal gatherings by the river along Occupation Lane which are in breach of the Covid regulations and also for advice on how to tackle the problem of drug taking and littering by the river. The Council was disappointed in the initial response from the local PCSO who stated that whilst the police were aware of the situation and take all concerns seriously, resources were stretched and policing the area was very difficult during this time. It was suggested that a sign be put on the bridge to deter gatherings. The Council will consider this option. The Council very much welcomed the offer by local residents to litter pick the area.

The Council reiterated that it is vital that residents report any unsafe or illegal activity to the police by calling 101.

#### 10. Copyholder's Field:

The Chair informed the Council that the Trustees of The Cottingham cum Middleton Copyholders were proceeding with the transfer of Round Close into Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils' joint ownership. The Copyholders will meet the legal fees for the transfer and were looking into the cost of constructing a fence alongside the neighbouring new fence. A lawyer specialising in Parish Council work, has been instructed. It was expected that a covenant will be placed on the land to keep it in public ownership for the benefit of the residents of the two villages.

#### 11. Planning:

##### **20/00097/COU Retrospective Planning Application Travellers Site, Ashley Road**

The Council noted that this application will be determined by Corby Borough Council Development Control Committee at a meeting provisionally booked for 7<sup>th</sup> July. All parties who have taken time to comment will be offered the opportunity to speak at the meeting and will receive notification from the Council approximately 14 days prior to the Committee date with an invitation to speak. The Council will liaise with the neighbouring parish councils with regards to making representations at that meeting.

The Chair informed the Council that a planning professional had been consulted for advice on this application. A detailed response referencing planning regulation had subsequently been sent to Corby Borough Council and the Planning Officer had confirmed that it would be taken into account in his committee report.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

12. Finance:

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

101590	Besthost – Website	17.25
101591	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	343.92
101592	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	210.00
101593	VHMC – March Hall Hire	12.00
101594	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00
101595	Tim’s Tech Support – IT support	80.00

## Receipts

HMRC – VAT Refund	89.68
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## SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,180.09
Business Reserve	167.16
Community Account	11,018.76

Total: **£16,366.01**

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

13. Correspondence:

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

NCALC – eUpdates

CPRE – Litter Picking Heroes Award

NCC – Have Your Say on making walking and cycling safer in Northamptonshire

Local Resident – State of surface to entrance of Jurassic Way footpath

Local Resident – Litter and gatherings along Occupation Lane

Two local residents – Ashley Road Planning application

14. Business for next meeting:

Communication and the dissemination of information regarding parish matters.

Pension scheme for Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.42 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Signed.....Chair

Date.....