

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 19th May 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, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

Item 7 – Meeting open for public consultation was brought forward.

The Chair welcomed the visitor, Mrs Debbie Revell, who explained the detail and rationale behind the planning application at 3 School Hill. She stated that the proposed development was not overlooked and should have no impact on neighbours. It would not have an impact on the street scene as it could not be seen from the road

The Chair thanked Mrs Revell who duly left the meeting at 7.39 pm.

1. Election of Chair:

The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Cole nominated Cllr Brant and was seconded by Cllr Freeman. Cllr Brant **agreed** to become Chair.

Cllr Brant will duly sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

2. Election of Vice Chair

The position of Vice-Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Brant nominated Cllr Freestone and was seconded by Cllr Bradshaw. Cllr Freestone **agreed** to become Vice Chair.

Cllr Freestone will duly sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

3. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

County Cllr Naden-Horley, Borough Councillor Rutt and CBC Suzanne Preston.

4. 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.

5. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 21st April 2020 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Freeman

6. Matters Arising:

The Council noted that the sign on the gates on the Jurassic Way between The Hill and East Carlton Park requesting that these be kept shut had been removed but that the gates had not been tied open since. If the gates are tampered with, more signs will be attached to the gates. The Chair has asked NCC for more permanent signs stating ‘please shut these gates’ which will hopefully be forthcoming after the ‘lockdown’ period, when the Footpaths Officer returns to the office.

The Council advised that due to government regulations on social distancing the Annual Village Meeting had been postponed until next year.

An email had been received from ‘The Cottingham Cum Middleton Copyholders’ confirming that they propose to gift their field on the Ashley Road to Middleton Parish Council or Middleton and

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Cottingham Councils jointly. The Council would have liked the Copyholders to have maintained an interest in the land, jointly with the Parish Councils given the Copyholders' rich history in the villages. The Council welcomed the opportunity for the field remain in civic ownership and the Chair will contact Cllr Grayson of Cottingham Parish Council to discuss the proposed gift.

8. New Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

The Chair informed the Council that the archaeological survey of the Village Hall site on the Village Acre, a condition of planning consent, would be commencing the following day.

9. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council noted that a swarm of bees had recently settled on a tree in the Orchard. These had since been safely re-homed by a resident of Cottingham.

The Council approved a quote of £210 to repair the damaged fence at the back of the Orchard. Two loose paving slabs were identified, one at either entrance to the Orchard and the Clerk will ask the contractor to secure these at the same time (*action JM*).

10. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Damage to road surface Ashley Road / Main Street junction– The damaged road surface had been brought to the Council's attention once again. This has been repeatedly reported to County Highways but was considered not to meet current criteria for repair. The Council **agreed** that it was indeed a severe hazard, particularly to cyclists and will refer this on to County Cllr Naden-Horley requesting that she take the matter further. It was also noted the blocked drain on the entrance to the Jurassic way footpath needed clearing again – the Clerk will refer this to the County Councillor too (*action JM*).

The outgoing Cottingham footpath warden had identified that a footpath fingerpost indicating the route of the footpath from the old A427 to path GS15, had become overgrown and was no longer visible. The Chair had cut the hedge around the sign and it is now more visible.

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

11. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole reported that all parish assets were fit for purpose. The Clerk reported that defibrillator is in order but suggested that a notice be included in the cabinet to notify the Council if it had been used and required new pads (*action JM*).

Review of Insurance Cover – The Council considered the current cover and **agreed** it was sufficient for existing business and purpose.

12. Annual Accountability and Governance:

a) Approval of Certificate of Exemption 2019/20

The Council noted that neither its gross income nor gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 in the year ending 31st March 2020 and therefore **agreed** to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Proposed Cllr Bradshaw Seconded Cllr Cole

The Certificate of Exemption was then duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer and will be returned to the External Auditor (*action JM*).

At this point the Clerk informed the Council that the accounts had been successfully presented to the Internal Auditor with no issues raised. The Clerk was thanked for her work on the annual accounts.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

b) Approval of Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

The Council considered and **approved** the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

Proposed Cllr Brant Seconded Cllr Freeman

This was duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer

c) Approval of Annual Accounting Statement 2019/20

The Clerk had prepared the 2019/2020 Financial Accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Council considered and **approved** the Annual Accounting Statement 2019/20.

Proposed Cllr Freestone Seconded Cllr Brant

This was duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer.

13. Monthly Crime Report:

The Council noted a couple of cases of intimidation by unknown youths in the village and urged all residents to be vigilant and look out for their neighbours.

It was noted that since the good weather had started groups of youths had been seen walking towards Occupation Lane and the Welland River where they appeared to be congregating in breach of social distancing regulations. In addition, they inevitably left large amounts of litter behind them which was unacceptable. This had been reported to the police by the Council. The police have asked that all such incidents are reported by calling 101 to report any concerns.

14. Planning:**20/00116/HHA 3 School Hill Single Storey Garden Room Extension**

The Council considered and supported this application.

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

The Council noted that the consultation period for this application had been extended to 22nd May after which a decision would be made by Corby Borough Council to refuse the application or put it to the Planning Committee. The Council **agreed** to liaise with the neighbouring parish councils with regards to making representations at that committee meeting. A letter had also been written to local MP Tom Pursglove making him aware of the position at the site and seeking his support as far as objecting to the application. Tom Pursglove has written to the Chief Executive of Corby BC supporting the Council's concerns.

The Council also noted that recent earthworks on the land adjacent to the site had in fact been requested by the enforcement officer who had required the travellers to level out the heaps of soil previously piled up in that field.

15. Finance:

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

101585	Ian Arnott – Internal Audit Fee	150.00
101586	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	343.92
101587	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	420.00
101588	Zurich – Insurance	164.44
101589	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00

Receipts

CBC – Precept 8,448.00

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,180.09
Business Reserve	167.16
Community Account	11,799.44
Total:	£17,146.69

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 and weekly Coronavirus Briefings

NCC – Northants Together Newsletter / Reinstatement of Footpath at Manor House

CBC – Safer Corby Team Update

Local Resident – Re closure of Jurassic Way footpath gates

Local Resident – Re Ashley Road planning application

17. Business for next meeting:

Nothing identified at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 16th June 2020

Signed.....Chair

Date.....