

## **MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

714

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30 pm via Electronic Conferencing on account of the Government social distancing requirements.

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

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1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

There were none.

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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 Meeting of the Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Hicks      Seconded Cllr Freeman

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4. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda:

There were none.

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5. Meeting open for public consultation.

The Chair welcomed the visitor.

Mr. Etherton presented the proposed plans (prior to submission of a planning application) for a new dwelling on the land off Main Street where it meets The Hill, explaining the architectural cues that informed its overall design and position. Having discussed the proposed elevations provided, the Council considered that the scale, layout, materials and landscaping were a considerable improvement on the previous proposal and were in keeping with the street scene and conservation area. Mr Etherton explained that the area remaining could either be a visual amenity (with no access) or could be used as an accessible public space. These options were discussed, as was the size of the open space. The Council noted that to be a useful public space the section of the plot passing into Parish ownership would need to be larger than currently shown on Mr Etherton's drawings and would need to have ramped access created by the developer. The Council would be likely to support an application on that basis and would welcome the remaining land being transferred into Parish ownership to preserve the remaining visual amenity, subject to appropriate access.

The Chair thanked Mr Etherton who duly left the meeting at 8.10 pm  
Meeting closed to the public.

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6. Orchard and Open Space:

The overgrown brambles which were starting to obstruct the entrance to the east of the orchard and those overhanging the path in front of the orchard had been cut back by the working party. It was not known whether the fence and loose slabs had been repaired, the Clerk will pursue with the contractor (*action JM*).

An enquiry had been received from a resident regarding the possibility of sponsoring a bench. The Clerk informed the Council of the previously agreed cost, accounting for depreciation, and undertook find out the cost of memorial benches in East Carlton Park for comparison (*action JM*).

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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

**Speed Signs** – Cllr Freeman had cut back the overgrown vegetation around the vehicle activated speed sign and it was noted that this had been working correctly. The Council will continue to monitor that the sign is functioning properly.

**Village Sign** – Cllr Freestone advised that she had explored whether any local residents are in a position to assist with the refurbishment of the sign and will follow up the partial quote received (*action AF*).

The Chair raised concerns over the rotting finger post on the junction of Main Street and Ashley Road. The Clerk will report via Fix my Street (*action JM*).

**Parish Council Grit Bin on School Hill** - The Chair thanked Cllr Thomas on behalf of the Council for cutting back the overgrown shrubbery around the grit bin at the top of School Hill.

### **Tree obstructing the Jurassic Way beyond Camsdale Walk**

It was noted that a fallen tree from a garden on Main Street has fallen and is obstructing the Jurassic Way footpath to the east of Camsdale Walk. Cllr Hicks believed that the tree had fallen from the garden of no.32A Main Street. The Chair undertook to raise the matter with the householder concerned (*action SB*).

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### 8. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

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

The Clerk advised that the new pads needing fitting to the defibrillator and will contact the Community Heartbeat Trust for advice on how to fit these and to monitor the battery life to ensure that the battery isn't drained (*action JM*).

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### 9. Monthly Crime Report:

The Chair informed the Council that she and Cllrs Freeman, Freestone and Thomas had walked along Occupation Lane to review the littering problem and to decide on the best place to erect signs asking visitors to keep to the footpath and informing them that the fields are private land with no access to the river. One quote had been received for these signs and the Chair will obtain a second comparative one from Brunel Signs (*action SB*). The land owner and tenant had been contacted, were content about the erection of signs and will repair the fence so that access to the river by the foot bridge is prevented.

It was agreed to request that local residents refrain from collecting any litter from the area until the signs were erected and the fence made good.

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### 10. Pension Scheme for Clerk:

This item was deferred to the end of the agenda after the clerk had left the meeting (minutes taken by Cllr Sarah Brant).

A paper on this agenda item had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Pensions Act 2008 requires that an employee in the Clerk's salary bracket is entitled to be entered into a pension scheme at her/his request but the employer is not required to make an employer's contribution. The Clerk has requested to be entered into a pension scheme and therefore the Council AGREED to register with the NEST pension scheme run by the government with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020. The Council noted that the Clerk should take advice from an Independent Financial Adviser to ensure that this is the most effective way to meet her retirement needs.

In light of the Clerk's length of service the Council AGREED to make an employer's contribution of 3% of salary into the scheme. The employee contribution is a minimum of 4% of salary. As the

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Council's Financial Officer the Clerk will be responsible for the administration of the scheme and her job description will be amended accordingly. As it is some time since the job description was written, it was agreed that it should be reviewed by Cllrs Brant, Bradshaw and Thomas in consultation with the Clerk.

#### 11. 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 relevant documents had been sent to the appointed lawyer. The Copyholders had agreed to some new fencing and a new gate and were writing to the occupants of the Travellers Site regarding the fence newly erected by the Travellers. Discussions are ongoing with a potential tenant for the field.

#### 12. Planning:

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

The Council noted that this application had been determined by Corby Borough Council Development Control Committee at a 'Zoom' meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July and broadcast on Youtube. Representations had been made by three local parishes and two neighbouring land-owners. The application was unanimously refused by the Committee on the grounds of environmental and highways concerns.

The Chair advised the Council that she would contact Corby Borough Council with regards to the next stage should an appeal against this decision be lodged (*action SB*). She also informed the Council that a representative from Corby Borough Council would be attending the next Rural Area Forum meeting to discuss the Borough's Gypsy and Traveller site provision.

#### 13. Finance:

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

101597	Joe's Lawn Care – Orchard Maintenance	98.00
101598	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	687.84
101599	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	210.00
101600	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00

Receipts

None

#### **SUMMARY OF BALANCES**

National Savings	5,180.09
Business Reserve	167.16
Community Account	9,752.92

**Total: £15,100.17**

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 – eUpdates

CBC – Rural Area Forum Agenda 16<sup>th</sup> July

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

ACRE – Parish Councillor Networking Event  
Local Resident – Enquiry about memorial bench

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15. Dissemination of Information:

The Council discussed the importance of making sure that relevant information is passed on to residents. Vehicles such as the village newsletter and Facebook page, website, notice board, WhatsApp Neighbourhood Watch group and leaflet drop will be used.

Notification that the result of the Travellers Site retrospective application which can be viewed on Youtube, has been sent to the editor of the Village Newsletter and Cottingham / Middleton email. Those residents who haven't already and wish to receive information by email, please contact Jane Smith on [jane@le.com](mailto:jane@le.com).

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16. Business for next meeting:

Nothing identified at present.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Signed.....Chair

Date.....