

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 20th October 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 County Cllr S Naden-Horley (arrived 7.45pm).

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

There were none.

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.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 15th September 2020 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Thomas Seconded Cllr Freeman

4. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda:

The Chair thanked Cllr Freeman for staking the fallen tree at the entrance to the orchard.

It was noted that the resident who had enquired about sponsoring a memorial bench had withdrawn their interest. The Council considered the suggestion that it should review the cost of sponsoring a bench as they are no longer new but noted that with regular maintenance the benches have a considerable life expectancy. The Council will however keep the charge for sponsorship under review.

The Chair informed the Council that the Community Resilience Pathfinder Project run by Northamptonshire County Council had requested an electronic meeting with all relevant participants.

5. Meeting open for public consultation.

The Chair welcomed County Cllr Naden-Horley.

Cllr Naden-Horley updated the Council on the current position regarding the Local Government Reform. The new Shadow Authority is in place with all key persons appointed. Children's Services is expected to become a Trust as of 1st November. It was expected that current services provided jointly by Corby and Kettering Borough Councils will remain as far as possible unchanged and parish councils will remain as statutory consultees in the planning process. Cllr Naden-Horley expected parish councils to be more, rather than less involved in local matters under a Unitary Authority.

The Chair thanked Cllr Naden-Horley who duly left the meeting.

6. Orchard and Open Space:

The Chair advised that she was awaiting a response from the contractor TCM regarding the Japanese Knotweed which had been detected in the fenced off area between the Orchard and 37 Main Street. Cllr Freestone will attend any site visit with Cllr Brant (*action SB and AF*).

The Council considered the vegetation along Swinglers path and around the obelisk and **agreed** that it was currently all at an acceptable length. The Council will continue to monitor the area. Cllr Cole offered to purchase weed killer to treat the area around the Obelisk.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

7. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Village Sign and Finger Post – The Clerk will follow up recommendations on specialist painters from local decorator John Connachie for a quote on repainting the Middleton sign. It was noted that a number of the posts on the fingerpost had been sawn off and removed. The Clerk will check that this has been removed for refurbishment by County Highways (*action JM*).

Cllr Hicks will pursue the repainting of the 30 mph road signs which was still outstanding.

The Clerk will refer the poor state of the road surface at the Hill junction with the A427 to County Cllr Naden-Horley for some assistance with getting this area properly resurfaced (*action JM*).

The Council thanked Cllr Freeman for putting up the signs on Occupation Lane requesting visitors keep to the footpath and informing them that the fields are private land with no access to the river.

The Chair will now contact the tenant farmer to request the fence is repaired so that access to the river by the foot bridge is prevented (*action SB*).

8. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

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

The Clerk advised that the defibrillator had been checked and recorded on the Webnos site.

9. Monthly Crime Report:

The Council was concerned to note an incident of theft of trees outside the entrance to a property on the Ashley Road and damage to the fence along the Jurassic Way footpath.

As always, the Council urged residents to be vigilant and to report any incidents of theft or criminal damage, however small, to the police by calling 101.

10. Copyholder's Field:

The Chair informed the Council that a draft legal agreement for the transfer of the land and guidance on how the Councils may manage it had been received from the lawyers.

11. Planning:**Traveller's Site, Ashley Road**

The Council noted that an appeal, reference number 20/00097/COU, has now been lodged by the occupiers of the traveller's site against the decision by Corby Borough Council to refuse the retrospective application. The Council considered a fee proposal provided by a recommended Planning Consultant with experience of this type of application. This service would provide for the preparation and submission of a statement on behalf of the Parish Council and appearance at any virtual hearing at which the appeal might be considered. The Council unanimously approved the fee of £500 and noted that a review of this fee may become appropriate should the hearing take place as a live event or if the appeal is to be determined by way of a public inquiry. It was suggested that other local parish councils be contacted to find out whether they would be prepared to offer any financial contribution.

12. Finance:

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

101608	Joe's Lawn Care – Autumn Maintenance	98.00
101609	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	351.72
101610	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	400.00
101611	Besthost – Website	17.25
101612	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00

Receipts

None

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,180.09
Business Reserve	167.16
Community Account	7,413.64
Total:	£12,760.89

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

CBC – TVAS Programme

NCC Highways – Notification of Local Works

Northants Police - Guidance for Remembrance Day

14. Dissemination of Information:

There was no information identified to share.

Those residents which haven't already and wish to receive information by email, please contact Jane Smith on jane@le.com .

15. Business for next meeting:

2021/22 Budget

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36 pm

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

Signed.....Chair

Date.....