

# MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

724

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30 pm via Electronic Conferencing on account of the Government social distancing requirements.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole (Vice Chair), Freeman, Freestone, Hicks and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and County Cllr S Naden-Horley.

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1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bradshaw

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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 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Hicks      Seconded Cllr Freestone

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4. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda:

The Chair reported on the recent zoom meeting between the project team and the co-ordinator of the Community Resilience Pathfinder Project run by Northamptonshire County Council. A map of the area has been provided on which to mark out the flooding hotspots and the owner of the land at the top of The Hill, from which there can be much water run-off during heavy rains, has been invited to join the scheme.

A Section 19 investigation has been instigated in to the Manor House flooding.

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5. Meeting open for public consultation.

The Chair welcomed County Cllr Naden-Horley.

Cllr Naden-Horley reported that following the Local Government Reform, Northamptonshire County Council had managed to balance its budget and now holds some healthy reserves. She advised that the Highways Authority now had much better machines for tackling larger areas of pothole repair and road resurfacing.

Cllr Hicks raised the painting of the white lines and 30mph road signs which had been scheduled but pushed back again into November. Cllr Naden-Horley will pursue with Sarah Barnwell.

The Chair thanked Cllr Naden-Horley who duly left the meeting at 7.57 pm.

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6. Orchard and Open Space:

The Chair advised the Council that she had spoken with the contractor TCM regarding the Japanese Knotweed. This was being dealt with at 37 Main Street under guarantee and the recommendation from the contractor was to cut back the overgrown vegetation in the fenced off area between the Orchard and 37 Main Street. The Council **agreed** to contact a local gardener who had been working at 37 Main Street to assess the work and to quote for clearance (*action SB*).

It was noted that two slabs had been broken adjacent to one of the benches. The Chair will also ask the local gardener to quote for replacing these (*action SB*).

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7. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

**Village Sign** – The Clerk advised that she had contacted a local specialist painter who had agreed to quote for the refurbishment of the village sign. This was expected shortly.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

**Highway Repairs** – The Council noted the imminent closure of both The Hill and Ashley Road for carriageway repairs.

**Litter** - Cllr Hicks drew the Council's attention to road signage and sand bags which had been left behind following works to Wire Lane. Cllr Hicks had reported this and the signage had since been removed and an apology issued. The asbestos, also left on Wire Lane, has also been reported for specialist collection.

**Occupation Lane** - The Chair informed the Council that now that signs had been installed at the entrance to Occupation Lane, she has contacted the tenant farmer to request that the fence is repaired so that access to the river by the foot bridge is prevented.

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

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

The Clerk had checked the defibrillator and recorded the inspection on the Webnos site.

#### 9. Budget 2021/22:

The budget for 2021/22 was presented to the Parish Council for consideration.

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the Middleton Parish Council budget for 2021/22

Proposed by Cllr Freestone      Seconded by Cllr Cole

This was signed by the Chair.

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the level of precept set at £8,723.00 for the financial year 2021-22

Proposed by Cllr Brant      Seconded by Cllr Thomas

The Clerk will submit the Precept Demand to CBC (*action JM*).

The Council **agreed** to fund short term costs associated with the Copyholders Field out of reserves.

#### 10. Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan:

The Chair informed the Council that she had received a hard copy of the Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan. This will be passed round to all Councillors for their comments and the Chair will then coordinate a response on the Council's behalf.

#### 11. Fireworks:

The Council discussed the use of fireworks by residents following an incident caused by fireworks at the local stables. It was suggested that a note be drafted for the Village Newsletter raising awareness that farm animals and pets can panic and be hurt during the firework season and to ask people to be mindful when letting them off.

#### 12. Monthly Crime Report:

The Council was concerned to note a growing number of reports of antisocial behaviour across both Middleton and Cottingham. Advice and attendance at a zoom meeting with the Chairs from the two Councils had been requested with the PCSO team. Suzanne Preston from the 'Safer Corby' team had been advised of this too.

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.

#### 13. Copyholder's Field:

There was nothing further to report on this item.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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

The Council noted ongoing communication with the Corby Borough Council enforcement officer regarding the number of caravans on the site which was in breach of the planning regulations. Corby Borough Council has committed to serving notice on the site with regard to the number of caravans. The Council noted that although lodged, the appeal had not been allocated to a Planning Inspector and therefore the process of its consideration and the deadline for comment were not yet known.

15. Finance:

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

101613	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	343.92
101614	Steve Morphy – Grass Cutting	200.00
101615	Jamie Bradshaw – Fence Repairs and Culvert	270.00
101616	St Mary Magdalene Church – Donation	250.00
101617	Lady Haig's – Poppy Wreath	42.00

## SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,180.09
Business Reserve	167.16

Community Account	6,307.72
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Total:	<b>£11,654.97</b>
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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 / Consultation on Social Housing  
 CBC – Safer Corby Team Updates  
 NCC Highways – Notification of Local Works  
 Wilbarston PC – Update on Community Bus Service  
 Local Resident – Horse riding on the Glover Court green.

17. Dissemination of Information:

The Council would like to thank all those Middleton residents who volunteered with the clearance of the graveyard.

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

18. Business for next meeting:

Purchase of strimmer

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.03 pm

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

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