

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

733

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 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 Naden-Horley (7.38 to 7.52 pm).

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bradshaw

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 December 2020 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Hicks Seconded Cllr Thomas

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 6th January 2021 were duly approved and will be signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Hicks Seconded Cllr Cole

4. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda:

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

5. Meeting open for public consultation.

The Chair welcomed the visitor.

County Cllr Naden-Horley informed the Council that all processes of establishing the new North Northants Authority have been put into place and that she was optimistic of a smooth transition from the old County Council to the new Unitary Authority. She was also pleased to report that NCC spending was under budget this year and that a healthy reserve had been established. It was still as yet unknown whether the 2021 May elections would take place as they may be deferred to the autumn. The Council commented that it was crucial to know who the rural representatives are at the earliest opportunity.

The Council confirmed that it was in close communication currently with the County Council Highways and Flood and Water Team regarding mitigation of the risk of flash flooding from water runoff from fields at the top of The Hill. Cllr Naden-Horley offered to become involved if the Council thought it was necessary and asked to be sent a video of the flood on 23 December, for reference.

Cllr Freeman passed on the Council's thanks for the excellent resurfacing works carried out by County Highways on the junction of the A427 with the B670.

The Chair thanked the visitor who duly left the meeting.

6. Orchard and Open Space:

It was noted that the overgrown vegetation in the fenced off area between the Orchard and 37 Main Street had been cut back and was looking good. This had taken longer than was expected but the contractor, Welland Valley Landscaping, had agreed to honour the original quote of £250.

The Council approved the quote of £125 for replacing the two broken paving slabs.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

7. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Feedback from the recent flooding – The Council referred to the recent flooding on The Hill, the junction of Main Street, Ashley Road and The Hill and further down the Ashley Road on 23 December. Cottages on The Hill and houses at the junction had been protected from flooding but Oakley Park had flooded and lost power. Councillors commended the sterling work of 25 volunteers from both Middleton and Cottingham who had turned out in the dark to assist building makeshift flood barriers and redirect water away from properties. Residents had selflessly donated materials to make the barriers and remained at the site until the threat subsided. At points in the evening the water had been one and a half feet deep at the junction and would have overwhelmed the kerb and entered properties had it not been for the swift action of the volunteers.

The Middleton Community Pathfinder Resilience Group has been in discussion with the farmer of the fields at the top of the Hill, the manager of East Carlton Park and the Highways department. Very thorough ditching work has been undertaken by the farmer on the fields at the top of The Hill, which had stopped water cascading across the field and onto the road but had increased the flow of water directly across the fields towards East Carlton Park. County Highways have exposed and cleared the culvert under the road and a gully along the wall of the East Carlton Park, submerged by soil and verge for decades, had been dug out and was now running freely. The Group will monitor progress carefully.

Discussions were also taking place under the aegis of this project with landowners on the Ashley Road beyond the sewage works about improving ditching given the flood water pooling in that area.

Concern was raised at the way in which the Highways and Flood teams at the County Council records incidents such as the one that occurred in the village on 23rd December. It was expected that this would be a matter tackled by the Flood Resilience Team in its discussions with the County Council.

The Council **agreed** to fund the hay and straw bales provided by the stables on 23 December and used in the temporary flood barriers at the junction and outside Oakley Park, at a cost of £180.

Purchase of Hi-vis jackets – The Council discussed the need for members of the Parish Council to be visible when carrying out Council duties and **agreed** to purchase 8 Hi-vis waistcoats, labelled with MPC at a cost of £76.70.

Litter – The Council noted the receipt of loan equipment from Kettering Borough Council and commended again the committed volunteers clearing the litter from the two villages and surrounding lanes on a regular basis. Cllr Thomas has volunteered to coordinate a separate ‘Litter Pick’ WhatsApp group and will update the main village ‘Neighbourhood Watch’ group on a monthly basis (*action MT*).

Lighting – Two faulty lights were identified in Glover Court. Cllr Freeman will report to Corby Borough Council (*action TF*).

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. Local First Responders:

The Council referred to a correspondence from Ashley Parish Council regarding a request for a donation towards a replacement defibrillator for the local first responder based in Wilbarston and who covers a number of local villages. The Council considered this and whilst it felt that the first

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

responder could collect the parish equipment based in the phone box if attending in the village, it acknowledged that this was an important service and **agreed** to pledge £100 on the proviso that this was matched by the Parish Councils of the other serviced communities.

10. Monthly Crime Report:

The Council noted a few incidents of antisocial behaviour around the village which hadn't been reported and urged again all residents to be vigilant and to report any such incidents as well as those of theft or criminal damage, however small, to the police by calling 101 so that accurate statistics can be collated.

11. Copyholder's Field:

There was nothing further to report on this item.

12. Dog Nuisance:

The Council referred to correspondence from Cottingham Parish Council regarding reports of dogs off lead and a request that both Parish Councils consider a common approach to the concerns of residents. Cottingham Council identified a problem relating to a dog living in Middleton and the Council agreed that this needing tackling. The Chair will draft a note to request that dog owners are mindful of the law which states that dogs must be 'under control' at all times (*action SB*).

13. Police Liaison Representative:

The Council referred to a request from NCALC to appoint a Police Liaison Representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police. This Police Liaison Rep will receive regular updates from the police and an invitation to an annual briefing and could be a member of the Council or a member of the public. The Council identified a number of residents who would be suitable for the role; the Chair will make contact to gauge interest in the position (*action SB*).

14. Planning:

20/00458/COU Residential Site for 6 Caravans, Ashley Road

It was noted that the above application is to be heard at Corby Borough Council Planning Committee meeting on 16th February. The Chair informed the Council that she would be requesting that either more time was allocated to each speaker or that a greater number of people could speak at the meeting given the very large number of objections to the development.

20/00484/DPA 1 New Dwelling Land off Main Street

The Chair informed the Council that as agreed, she had written to Mr Etherton, the Landowners agent, stating that if there is to be a revised application it needs to be submitted to CBC for further consultation by residents and the Parish Council.

15. Finance:

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

101623	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	349.02
101624	FFX – Parish Strimmer	171.80
101625	ICO – Data Protection	40.00
101626	Welland Valley Landscaping – Orchard Clearance	250.00
101627	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00
101628	CPRE – Membership	36.00
101629	Sally Carson – Donation towards flood defence	180.00
101630	MF Safety Workwear – Hi Vis Waistcoats	76.70

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,180.09
Business Reserve	167.16
Community Account	4,209.34
Total:	£9,556.59

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

At this point the Council approved the grass cutting quote for the 2021 season which remained unchanged from last year.

16. Correspondence:

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

NCALC – eUpdates

CBC – Safer Corby Team Updates

NCC Highways – Newsletter and Weekly Services

Wilbarston PC – Update on Community Bus Service

CBC – Gretton Neighbourhood Plan

NPFCC – Budget Consultation

CBC – North Northants Budget Consultation

17. Dissemination of Information:

It was agreed to remind residents to report to the police any incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour, however small.

It was also agreed that when finally confirmed by Corby BC, to notify residents of the CBC Planning Committee meeting on 16th February at which the new residential site on Ashley Road will be heard.

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

18. Business for next meeting:

None identified at present

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 due to a Corby Borough Council Planning Committee meeting on the 16th.

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