

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

742

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 7.30 pm via Electronic Conferencing on account of the Government social distancing requirements.

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

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 17th February 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chair.

Proposed Cllr Hicks Seconded Cllr Cole

4. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda:

The Council referred to its decision at a previous meeting to provisionally pledge monies to the North Northamptonshire First Responders Team for a donation towards purchasing an additional defibrillator and emergency equipment for the local first responder based in Wilbarston, on the proviso that this was matched by the Parish Councils of the other serviced communities. It was noted that the other local parishes had contributed, therefore the Council unanimously agreed to donate £100.

5. Meeting open for public consultation.

The Chair welcomed the visitors who had attended in order to gauge the view of the Council on a potential development on land along the Ashley Road, a map of which had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The visitors outlined the type of housing, some of which had been identified in the last Housing Needs Survey (bungalows and more affordable smaller properties), that could potentially be accommodated in this location. The Council pointed out the unsuitability of the Ashley Road for development due to its susceptibility to flash flooding and proximity to the sewage works, which in planning terms is considered to be a 'bad neighbour'. The area in question is outside the settlement boundary and is on a narrow road without pavements or street lighting. Additionally, it was pointed out that an important stream feeding the River Welland runs along the eastern side of the Ashley Road and also that the West Corby SUE was destined to provide affordable properties within the parish.

The Chair thanked the visitors who duly left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

6. Orchard and Open Space:

Loose paving slabs were identified at both entrances to the Orchard. Cllr Freeman will have a look with a view to repairing these (*action TF*).

The Clerk confirmed that the 106 Monies for the Orchard and Culvert maintenance for the 2020 season had been received.

7. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

TVAS, The Hill – It was noted that NCC Highways Engineer Steve Barber had been out to look at where best to site the TVAS on The Hill and had emailed through information pertaining to this

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

earlier this evening. The Council **agreed** to look at this correspondence in more detail and to view siting points again before pursuing quotes as it was currently difficult to assess whether there would be enough sunlight for a solar panelled sign.

Cllr Freeman referred to the recent communication from NCC Highways regarding a pilot study for 20mph speed limits in villages in the County. The Council will be interested in the outcome of this study once completed and the results are disseminated to rural parishes.

Jurassic Way Spring and Blocked Drain – The Council was pleased to note that works had commenced on the entrance to the Jurassic Way footpath to rectify the ongoing problem of the springs surfacing in the fields above the Jurassic Way flowing down the path, blocking the drain and flooding and eroding both the footpath and road surface.

Occupation Lane – Cllr Hicks raised the access to the river by the bridge and following previous correspondence with the farmer, questioned what his intentions were with regards to blocking this access. The Chair will follow this up with the farmer (*action SB*).

Speeding – Cllr Thomas drew the Council’s attention to residents’ concerns over speeding in the area which had been raised through the ‘Next Door’ app. One particular car had been identified numerous times as speeding regularly through the village as had several incidents occurring during the time of the school run and drop off. It was **agreed** to write to the Head Teachers of the two local schools highlighting the issue and requesting that they alert parents to it as part of their regular communications. Cllr Thomas will draft a note to the schools (*action MT*).

Lighting – Cllr Freeman informed the Council that the faulty lights at the entrance to Glover Court had still not been repaired. Cllr Freeman will pursue this (*action TF*).

8. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole reported that all were in order.

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

9. Monthly Crime Report:

The Council was very disappointed to note that there was no police representation available for the meeting. The Chair informed the Council that she had written to PSCO Joe Devlin and Sergeant Rachel Grey to formally ask that someone from the team attends the next PC meeting in April to discuss the petty crime and nuisance incidents recently reported to the police.

Two incidents of anti-social behaviour were noted as having been reported on the police.uk website for January.

10. Copyholder’s Field:

There was nothing further to report on this item.

11. Planning:

NC/21/00036/DPA Peasdale Hill Field Residential Site for 5 Travellers Pitches

A full letter of objection, informed by comments of the planning consultant and including supporting photographic evidence had been submitted to Corby Borough Council. It was noted that the County Ecology Specialist and the archaeological officer had provided a helpful report and that the CPRE had supported an objection.

Proposed Modifications to Corby's Part 2 Local Plan re Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation – The Chair had circulated a comprehensive email from CBC Principal Planner Terry Begley regarding the Borough’s progress in addressing the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and the

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

proposed modifications to Corby's Part II Local Plan in this regard. The Council was very concerned to note that the existing traveller sites at Oakley Park outside Middleton (currently with approval only for a named family) and Little Meadow outside Cottingham were being considered for expansion despite the refusal of two planning applications for the expansion/intensification of Oakley Park by the Development Control Committee in the last year. The Council considers that the policy on the 5 year land supply for traveller sites, having been overlooked for some years was now being developed with undue haste and insufficient consideration of the planning policies protecting rural environments from inappropriate and unsustainable development. It therefore **agreed** to respond to the consultation on the Part II Local Plan, proposing a change to the modifications to the Part II Local Plan in favour of prioritising brown field sites and discouraging inappropriate extension of traveller sites in rural environments. This response will be forwarded to the Planning Inspector and shared with local parish councils who may wish to make similar representation (*action SB*).

12. Finance:

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

101634	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	438.45
101635	Besthost – Website	17.25
101636	Welland Valley Landscaping – Slab Repair	125.00
101637	Jamie Bradshaw – Culvert Maintenance	60.00
101638	Northamptonshire First Responders – Donation	100.00

Receipts:

CBC – 106 Monies	1,790.01
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SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,282.86
Business Reserve	167.22
Community Account	4,797.69
Total:	£10,247.77

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

c) The Council **agreed** to change the Council's bank account to the Unity Trust Bank and to close its two current Barclays accounts. This will enable electronic banking. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements (*action JM*).

13. Correspondence:

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

NCALC – eUpdates and training
 CBC – Election information
 NCC Highways – Newsletter and Weekly Services
 CPRE – Designations of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 Wilbarston PC – Update on Community Bus Service
 Manor Court Resident – Neighbour Dispute

14. Dissemination of Information:

May 6th Parish Council Elections had been advertised in the Village Newsletter and will also be advertised on the notice board and website. In addition to residents wishing to stand as councillors

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

the Council is seeking volunteers to become involved in the work of the Council through acting as tree and footpath wardens and attending Council meetings.

The Chair took the opportunity at this point to commend the volunteer village 'litter pickers' who were doing a sterling job in clearing the local area.

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

18. Business for next meeting:

May 6th Parish Council Elections

The Council noted that due to the Government regulations on social distancing there will not be an Annual Meeting of the Parish this year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 20th April 2021

Signed.....Chair

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