

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

751

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 7.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Coughlan (Vice Chair), Cole, Freestone and Thomas

Police Liaison Representative Del Robertson, PC Brad Wilson, North Northants Cllr Sims and two members of the public.

1. To approve apologies for absence:

Cllrs Hicks and 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. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 18th May 2021 as a correct record.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 18th May 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Coughlan

Seconded Cllr Freestone.

4. Matter arising from the minutes, not listed on the agenda:

Refurbishment of Middleton Sign – There had been no further action to date on the refurbishment of the village sign.

Cllr Coughlan raised the overhanging tree on The Hill which appears to be dead and could be a potential hazard if it blows down onto the road. Cllr Thomas will pursue this with the landowner (*action MT*).

She also reported the overgrown foliage around the TVAS on the Ashley Road. Cllr Cole volunteered to look at this (*action AC*).

5. Meeting Open to the public:

The Chair welcomed the visitors.

Mr and Mrs Woodruff gave a brief overview of their planning application ref NC/21/00201/DPA. The Council had no questions.

On a separate matter later on the agenda, they expressed serious concern at the condition of the land off Main Street at the junction of Main Street, The Hill and Ashley Road, which was not being maintained and was very overgrown. They were of the view, as were a number of councillors, that this poses a hazard for pedestrians wishing to cross the road at the junction and cars turning down the Ashley Road from Main Street. Mr and Mrs Woodruff said that rats had recently been coming into their garden from the land in question and that they could no longer leave their back door open in hot weather because of this problem. It was pointed out that the land is at the centre of a conservation area and as such the landowner has a responsibility to keep it in a reasonable condition in keeping with the nature of the conservation area. The Chair confirmed that the land was privately owned but shared the concern regarding its position in the conservation area and undertook to write to the landowner(s) about the concerns raised by residents and shared by councillors.

SignedChairDate.....

Cllr Sims updated the Council on the Peasdale Hill application. The application will be heard by the North Northants Corby Planning Committee on 21st June. However as this will be held later than the deadline for determination of the application, this has provided the owners of Peasdale Hill with an opportunity to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate that the development be allowed to continue on the grounds of non-determination within the statutory period. Cllr Sims said he'd applied to speak at the Committee meeting and that the application was recommended for refusal. The Council noted that neither the Chair nor Clerk had received notification of the committee meeting and asked that Cllr Sims refer that omission back to NNC. The Council noted that trees had recently been cut down at the entrance to Peasdale Field. It will continue to monitor and report any unauthorised activity to the NNC enforcement officer.

PC Wilson reported 2 related recorded incidents of crime (domestic and criminal damage) on the outskirts of the village in May. He said he had not yet been given the data on reports of anti-social behaviour in the area and the strategies in place to deal with this. He hoped to have this for the next meeting.

Del Robertson, newly appointed Police Liaison Representative (PLR) introduced himself and provided posters regarding the Northants Police force's priorities and a poster giving contact details of local police officers (PC Brad Wilson and PCSO Chris Asante-Ampuduh) for display on the Parish notice board. He will also be informing the editor of the Village Newsletter of this information. He will be meeting with PC Wilson in the coming week to agree channels for future communication given that the PLR role is new and being piloted.

PC Wilson briefed the Council on a new initiative - the 'Police Beat Bus' - planned to be sent out to the community to deliver surgeries and attend community events. He asked that the Council let him know in advance should it require its presence at any village activities.

On being advised that a static caravan had been seen leaving the Oakley Park site and heading for Ashley, PC Wilson alerted colleagues who undertook to check that there was no obstruction of the highway given the width of the roads in the vicinity.

The meeting closed to the public at 8.15 pm

6. Orchard and Open Space:

During routine maintenance, new shoots of Japanese Knotweed had been identified in the boundary of the orchard and Vine House on Main Street. The Council **agreed** to ask the local contractor responsible for managing the hedge boundary for a quote to spray this off.

Reports of loose paving slabs had been received. The Council agreed to ask the same contractor to have a look at what needed repair and to quote for this (*action JM*).

Cllr Cole raised a concern that the Culvert looked very overgrown and colleagues agreed. The Council **agreed** that it required urgent cutting back, the Clerk will contact the contractor responsible for its maintenance (*action JM*).

7. Highways, Signage, Footpaths, Grit Bins, Lighting

Land off Main Street – Nothing further was discussed on this item.

Update on Jurassic Way drains – The Council noted that Highways had been working on the Hill to resolve the long-standing issue with the road drainage running down into the village via various ditches and other watercourses. Regarding the Jurassic Way, the drainage team will clear the pipe that connects the two drains at the entrance to the footpath and will eventually implement a deeper pot at the drain next to the gate and extend the concrete channels.

Update on TVAS The Hill – There was nothing further to report on this item.

SignedChairDate.....

Traffic Warning Signs Cottingham School – Cllr Thomas informed the Council that Highways had responded to Cottingham PC to say there was no money in the Highways budget for this but to apply for a second grant through the Safer Roads initiative. A meeting was due to take place between Highways and the school with the idea of putting up a temporary sign. The Council had hoped that there would be a collaboration between the Police, Highways, Parish Councils and the school to achieve a change to 20 mph limit around the school and would contact Cottingham PC to ascertain its view.

Parish Path Warden – The Council noted the new NCC Parish Path Warden Scheme and the nomination of Cllr Hicks as Parish Path Warden.

8. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had checked the Parish assets and other than the one bench in orchard with flaking varnish, all were in order.

The Defibrillator had been checked and was in order.

9. Review of Code of Conduct:

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Monthly Crime Report

This was covered in item 6.

NC/21/00201/DPA 1 Main Street Single Storey Rear Extension, Carport to side

The Council supported this application

NC21/00228/DPA 13 Glover Court Single Storey Rear Extension

The Council supported this application

Peasdale Hill Planning application – Consideration of this application will take place at a Planning meeting on 21st June at the Council Chambers at the Cube. The Chair will apply to speak on behalf of the Council (*action SB*).

Oakley Park breach of planning conditions

It was noted that the deadline for the Breach of Condition (BOC) Notice on the above site for the unauthorized number of caravans had passed. One static van had been seen leaving the site recently. The Enforcement Officer is monitoring this. The Appeal against the refusal of permission for the intensification of Oakley Park is outstanding with no date set for its consideration.

At this point the Chair briefed the Council on a proposal supported by a large number of rural parishes that the members of the now defunct Corby and Kettering Rural Forums continue to meet together in order to ensure that the northern sector of the NNC's rural parishes had a clear voice. To that end all rural parishes in the Kettering and Corby areas have been invited to a zoom meeting taking place later in the month. The councillors' attention was also drawn to a letter from NNC Councillor David Howes, Portfolio Lead for Rural Communities and Localism, introducing himself and committing to establishing 'effective engagement channels and forums' with Parishes. He has expressed an ambition to establish something similar to what has been done in the past with the sovereign councils and to create a new Rural Forum.

SignedChairDate.....

12. Finance:

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

101653	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	352.95
101654	Clerk – NEST pension	24.08
101655	Besthost – Website and Domain	115.25
101656	S Morphy - Grass mowing	210.00
101657	Joe's Lawn Care – Orchard	98.00
101658	J Bradshaw - Maintenance of culvert	60.00
101660	I Arnott – Internal Audit	75.00

Receipts:	NNC - Precept	8,723.00
	HMRC – VAT	141.74

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,282.86
Business Reserve	167.22
Community Account	9,537.26
Total:	£14,987.34

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

13. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items:

NCALC – eUpdates

APWN – Environment Agency Information Leaflet

Wilbarston PC – Community Bus Service Accounts

CPRE - Newsletter

14. Dissemination of Information:

Cllr Freestone confirmed her resignation previously notified to the Chair. The Clerk will notify the Monitoring Officer at NNC Corby for the necessary paperwork to advertise the vacancy (*action JM*).

Cllr Thomas kindly volunteered to take over the co-ordination of the distribution of the newsletter from Cllr Brant who had recently moved out of the village.

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

15. Business for next meeting:

New Code of Conduct

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 July 2021.

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