

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

Present: Cllrs Coughlan (Chair), Cole, Hicks and Thomas and Mrs Medwell (Clerk)

Police Liaison Representative Del Robertson, PC Brad Wilson, North Northants Cllr M Nichol and 4 members of the public.

Cllr Coughlan opened the meeting as Vice Chair.

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. Election of Chair:

The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Cole nominated Cllr Coughlan and was seconded by Cllr Thomas. Cllr Coughlan **agreed** to become Chair.

Cllr Coughlan will duly sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

4. Election of Vice Chair

The position of Vice-Chair was open to all Councillors.

There were no nominations.

The Chair asked Councillors to consider taking on the role.

5. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting as a correct record.

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 20th July 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Thomas Seconded Cllr Cole.

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

There were no matters arising.

7. Meeting Open to the public:

There was nothing raised.

The meeting closed to the public at 7.40 pm

8. Monthly Crime Report

PC Wilson reported the following incidents for July and August -

ONE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENT

173 – 22\07\2021 @ ASHLEY ROAD: MALE DRIVER BEING AGGRESSIVE & ABUSIVE TOWARDS RUNNERS & CYCLIST (NON-ATTENDANCE)

ONE CRIME

ASSAULT (21000437015): NO INJURY – DOMESTIC (NO COMPLAINT, BELIEVED TO BE FALSE ALLEGATION & NO FURTHER ACTION)

The Council referred to a concern raised by a local resident regarding the parking around the school at drop off / collection times. PC Wilson advised that he would be continuing parking patrols outside the school now that the schools have returned and undertook to contact the school to

request that a note is put out to parents asking that they park responsibly. He had recently completed speed enforcement on Main Street during the afternoon, which resulted in no offences and the highest recorded speed of 26MPH in the 30MPH limit. The Council pointed out that this last enforcement had been during the school holidays and asked again for patrols to be carried out between 8 - 9.30 am and again at 4-6 pm during term time. The Council was pleased to note that Cottingham Parish Council had been successful in its bid for a TVAS sign outside the school and the possibility of supplementary road markings. The question of a reduced limit of 20mph through the village was raised. Cllr Nichol advised of a new 20 mph pilot scheme in the County and agreed to pursue this on behalf of the Council.

PC Wilson also advised that the beat bus is expected by 28th September and asked the Council to consider its use for anything in the future as well as suggest locations and times for Police surgeries.

At this point the Council raised concerns from many residents regarding the dogs from the travellers sites on the Ashley Road and the many incidents of aggressive and antisocial behaviour including sheep worrying. This was under investigation by the Rural Policing Team and Environmental Services. The Council **agreed** to pursue a response from the Environmental Officer dealing with the case (*action SC*).

9. Co-option of New Councillors:

The Council welcomed the three prospective candidates who had put themselves forward for the two casual vacancies. Each gave a brief introduction of themselves to support their applications then all three left the meeting.

The Council then duly considered the three applicants for the positions.

Cllr Thomas proposed Stuart Appleby and was seconded by Cllr Hicks. The Council was unanimously in favour of co-opting Mr Appleby for the position of Councillor.

Cllr Cole proposed Leigh Morrell and was seconded by Cllr Coughlan. The Council was unanimously in favour of co-opting Ms Morrell for the position of Councillor.

The Chair thanked all those that had put themselves forward.

The Clerk will notify all candidates of the Council's decision (*action JM*).

10. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council considered a quote of £660 for maintenance work in the orchard including the cutting back and disposing of the overgrown shrubs and brambles. This was felt to be quite expensive in view of the Council's limited budget. The Council **agreed** to explain the budget constraints to the contractor and to renegotiate the price with a cap of £500 (*action SC*).

11. Highways, Signage, Footpaths, Grit Bins, Lighting:

Update on TVAS The Hill - Agreement to install a post on The Hill to site the TVAS had been received from County Highways at a cost of £903. It was noted that due to the dense canopy of trees at the site it would not be possible to install a solar powered sign. The Chair asked the Council to consider a battery operated system and will circulate details of this for discussion at the next meeting (*action SC*).

Land Off Main Street – The Council noted the response from Mr Etherton regarding the unkempt condition of this land. It was felt that although Mr Etherton had notified the Council of the decision to lodge an appeal, he did not address the management of the land in the meantime. The Chair will respond as such to Mr Etherton (*action SC*).

It was noted that the damaged curb stones on Ashley Road had been repaired. Cllr Hicks informed the Council that the broken bridge on the Occupation Lane footpath to Bringhurst had been

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

reported via Fix My Street. The Council discussed the overhanging vegetation on the triangle at the top of the The Hill which was inhibiting one of the road lanes. Cllr Hicks agreed to measure the road width to see if this complied with regulations (*action GH*).

12. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had checked the parish assets and stated that all were in order. The Defibrillator had been checked and was in order.

13. Report from NNC Q & A Session with NNC Cllr Howes:

Cllrs Coughlan and Thomas attended a session co-ordinated by NCALC in conjunction with NNC and Cllr David Howes, portfolio holder for Rural Communities and Localism for the rural parishes to ask questions and air their views. Notes from this session will be circulated shortly.

The Chair referenced a Public Enforcement Policy Document – NNC Cllr Nichol said he would endeavour to source a copy for the Council.

NNC Cllr Nichol also advised that the Corporate Plan was out for consultation, that the Scrutiny Committee had been launched and agreed to forward information on these. He informed the Council that County Highways had been out again to review the gullies and that the burning of waste at the land South of Oakley Park was under investigation by the Environment Services.

14. Planning:

Update on Ashley Road Appeals – It was noted that the two appeals, on Oakley Park and the Land South of Oakley Park, are to be linked and heard as one by the Planning Inspectorate, with date for submission of representations by 1st October. The Chair has drafted a thorough detailed response and will circulate to all Councillors for approval before submitting this to the Inspectorate (*action SC*).

It was also noted that a detailed response had been submitted to the Inspectorate regarding the Peasdale Hill Field appeals.

Land Off Main Street Appeal – The Council noted that an appeal had been lodged against the decision to refuse a new dwelling on the land off Main Street. The Chair had circulated the Council's draft submission to the Inspectorate. This was approved and the Chair will submit as necessary (*action SC*).

Appointment of Planning Experts – The Council discussed the possibility of securing a planning expert moving forwards to advise on controversial planning matters, particularly with regards to unauthorised developments. It was felt that Phillip Hughes, who was experienced in these matters and was currently working with the Residents Action Group, would be the best choice in this instance.

NC/21/00361/DPA Proposed conversion of outbuildings (The Brew House) at 21 Main Street Middleton Market Harborough, to a single 2 bedroom residential dwelling with associated parking for both the converted Brew House and 21 Main Street Middleton.

(For information only)

Middleton Parish Council had previously considered this application and made no comment.

15. Nomination of Councillors onto the Mill Board of Trustees:

It was noted that following the resignation of Tony Freeman and Sarah Brant from the Council, there were no longer two Middleton Parish Council representatives on the Board as required by its constitution. The Council unanimously **agreed** Cllr Coughlan as one of the trustees and will open up the second position at the next meeting once more members of the Council are present. The Council thanked Cllr Coughlan for volunteering to take on this role.

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

16. Finance:

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

300005	J Bradshaw - Maintenance of culvert	120.00
300006	S Morphy - Grass mowing	620.00
300007	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	362.23
300008	Besthost – Website Hosting	17.25
BACS	Village Hall – July Hall Hire	12.00
BACS	Joe’s Lawn Care – Orchard Maintenance	98.00
BACS	Curtis Website Design – Website Maintenance	100.00
D/D	NEST - Clerk Pension	24.08

Receipts: None

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,282.86
Unity Trust Account	6,745.28
Total:	£12,028.14

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

17. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items:

NCALC – eUpdates

NNC – Consultation Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan

NNC – Public Consultation on Draft Corporate Plan

Northants Fire and Rescue – Annual Report

NNC – Update from Leader

18. Dissemination of Information:

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

19. Business for next meeting:

Election of Vice Chair

Nomination of Councillors onto the Mill Board of Trustees

Cllr Thomas gave her apologies

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 19th October 2021.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....