

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs Coughlan (Chair), Appleby, Cole, Hicks, Morrell and Thomas and Mrs Medwell (Clerk)  
Police Liaison Representative Del Robertson, PC Brad Wilson and North Northants Cllr K Watt.

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1. To approve apologies for absence:

Northants Cllrs M Nichol and D Simms.

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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. Election of Vice Chair:

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

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

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4. 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 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Cole      Seconded Cllr Hicks

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

There were no matters arising.

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6. Meeting Open to the public:

The Chair welcomed the visitors.

North Northants Cllr Watt advised of a Community Funding Grant, recently approved by the Executive. He will forward details of this as they become available.

Cllr Watt reported that the Local Plan Part 2 for Corby had been adopted and that the Scrutiny Panel, set up in an advisory capacity had met to discuss how best to operate in the future.

Regarding the question of staffing levels in both planning control and enforcement, he advised that the Local Authority, currently in the process of merging the four separate planning authorities, was trying to resolve staff shortages.

He also advised that the Local Authority had agreed to support ten Afghan families and will forward information on this along with details on the homelessness.

The meeting closed to the public at 7.55 pm

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7. Monthly Crime Report

PC Wilson reported the following incidents for September

**TWO CRIMES**

ASSAULT WITH INJURY (21000507602): DOG BITE (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)

ASSAULT WITH INJURY (21000507615): DOG BITE (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)

**ZERO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS**

None

**SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

None in the last month.

PC Wilson also advised that the beat bus has now launched and is available for booking in relation to community events and engagement. He asked the Parish Council to consider its use for anything in the future and to provide a suggested location and time to complete a Police surgery in Middleton over the coming weeks. PC Wilson also informed the Council that Neighbourhood Alert leaflets had been hand delivered to every residential address in Middleton. The system will now be monitored over the next couple of months to establish numbers for any uptake of the system as a result.

Police Liaison Representative Del Robertson advised of incidents of car keying in Cottingham.

PC Wilson agreed that future crime reports will cover all crimes up to the date the report is issued rather than just up to the previous month end.

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#### 8. Councillor Vacancy:

The resignation of Cllr Bradshaw was noted. The vacancy has been advertised and unless there is a call for election the Council will be able to co-opt to fill the casual vacancy at its next meeting in November.

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#### 9. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council noted that the contractor had agreed an amended price of £500 for maintenance work in the orchard including the cutting back and disposing of the overgrown shrubs and brambles. This work was nearly complete. The Council referred to a contract to monitor the area between the Glover Court open space behind the Orchard and Vine House from March through to September inclusive and any to treat for knotweed accordingly at a cost of £30 a month and **agreed** not to renew.

Following a concern raised by a local resident regarding the lawn treatments carried out in the Orchard, Cllr Appleby undertook to contact Joe's Lawn Care to make sure that the products used were safe for children, pets and the environment (*action SA*).

A discussion took place on the planting of further trees in the open space at the entrance to Glover Court in conjunction with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. Cllrs Morrell and Thomas undertook to set up a working group and to liaise with Cottingham Parish Council to organise celebrations for the event and to gauge the opinion of residents of Glover Court regarding the tree planting (*action LM and MT*).

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#### 10. Highways, Signage, Footpaths, Grit Bins, Lighting:

**Parish Council Grit Bins** – Cllr Thomas advised that these were full and undertook to source further grit when necessary.

**Lighting** – Cllr Hicks had reported the faulty light at the end of Camsdale Walk.

**Highways** – Cllr Hicks had reported the pothole and overhanging vegetation obstructing the road and 30mph sign on the triangle at the top of The Hill. Works on these had been authorised and scheduled by Highways.

**Update on TVAS The Hill** – After discussion, the majority of the Councillors **agreed** not to pursue the battery operated TVAS system but would consider further options for traffic calming including to increase the visibility of signage. Cllr Thomas undertook to pursue this with County Highways with a request that a UK Road Sign 880 be installed (*action MT*).

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#### 11. 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.

The possibility of arranging training on the defibrillator was raised. The Clerk will contact the Community Heartbeat Trust to enquire whether this could be provided under the Council's contract (*action JM*).

The Council will follow up with George West-Robinson on the refurbishment of the Village Sign (*action JM*).

12. Planning:

**Update on Ashley Road Appeals** – It was noted that the Peasdale Hill Field appeal will be heard on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. There is currently no date for the two Oakley Park appeals which will be heard as one.

**NC/21/00361/DPA Amended plans - 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 amended application and again made no comment.

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

Cllr Morrell was put forward as the second Middleton Parish Council representatives on the Board as required by its constitution.

Proposed Cllr Coughlan      Seconded Cllr Hicks      Unanimously **agreed**. The Council thanked Cllr Morrell for volunteering to take on this role.

14. Finance:

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

300009	J Bradshaw - Maintenance of culvert	60.00
300010	S Morphy - Grass mowing	600.00
BACS	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	340.24
BACS	Village Hall – September Hall Hire	12.00
BACS	Joe's Lawn Care – Orchard Maintenance	98.00
BACS	Community Heartbeat – Defib Phone	72.00
BACS	NCALC – Training	38.00
BACS	Welland Valley Landscaping – Knotweed Treatment	210.00
BACS	CPRE – Subscription	36.00
D/D	NEST - Clerk Pension	24.08

Receipts: None

**SUMMARY OF BALANCES**

National Savings	5,282.86
Unity Trust Account	5,236.98
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£10,519.82</b>

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

15. Correspondence:

The Council considered a request from the Valley Voice Choir to use the large hall on the same evening as the council meeting in the smaller room and agreed that whilst the singing would be lovely, it would be too much of a distraction.

The Chair undertook to order and lay the remembrance wreath on behalf of the Council (*action SC*)

The Council noted a virtual meeting organised by Tom Pursglove with the relevant North Northamptonshire Council officers and Executive Member, representatives from Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils, and concerned residents including RAG representatives on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 11:30am regarding the issues with the numerous dogs being kept in crates at the traveller encampments on Ashley Road. Clls Coughlan and Morrell will attend.

Cllr Hicks advised that she had reported the overflowing bottle bank in the Naz Lounge car park. This will be removed.

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16. Dissemination of Information:

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

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17. Business for next meeting:

To set 2021/22 Budget and Precept

To authorise new bank signatories

Donation to Heli-Pad Aluminium Bank

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

