

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs Coughlan (Chair), Appleby, Cole, Denton, Morrell and Thomas and Mrs Medwell (Clerk)

PC Brad Wilson and North Northants Cllr K Watt.

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1. To approve apologies for absence:

Police Liaison Representative Del Robertson

The Chair advised on the resignation of Cllr Hicks and expressed the Council's appreciation for all her hard work and support during her time as councillor.

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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. 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 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were duly approved and signed by the Chair

Proposed Cllr Thomas

Seconded Cllr Cole

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

There were no matters arising.

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5. Meeting Open to the public:

The Chair welcomed the visitors.

Cllr Appleby raised with North Northants Cllr Watt his disappointment with the response from the Leader of the Council who he felt had not addressed the issues he'd raised on the checks carried out on refugees. Cllr Watt will refer this back.

The Council referred to the new Town and Parish Strategic Forum which has been set up for the Corby and Kettering rural parishes. This forum which the Chair had attended provided an update from NNC Senior Officers and the opportunity for two speakers from the parish councils to share information.

The Clerk advised that there will be a separate Gypsy and Traveller Forum set up for the affected parishes. This will involve updates from officers but will ultimately be parish council led. The Chair stated that a good response had been received from senior planning officers regarding enforcement of sites and a meeting has been set up with George Candler and Rob Harbour and the relevant parish councils to discuss concerns around unauthorised developments.

Cllr Watt left the meeting at this point.

The meeting closed to the public.

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6. Monthly Crime Report

PC Wilson reported the following up to date incidents in the Village

**CRIMES - ONE**

INTERFERE WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE (21000623303): VEHICLE ENTERED BUT NOTHING STOLEN (FILED – NO ENQUIRIES POSSIBLE & SUSPECT UNKNOWN)

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – NONE**

### **BEAT BUS**

PC Wilson is still awaiting suggestions from the Parish Council in relation to locations and times for the BEAT BUS to complete a Police surgery in Middleton over the coming weeks.

### **FLY TIPPING – CANNABIS ON WOOD LANE**

This has been referred on to North Northamptonshire Council for information and a response awaited on whether it may be possible to erect CCTV equipment at the site. The Council raised whether the community litter pickers should be handling the product in terms of pulling it out of the ditches in order that NNC will collect from the roadside. NNC Cllr Watt will pursue this with NNC.

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### **7. Councillor Vacancy:**

The Council **agreed** to co-opt Ms Teresa Denton to fill the casual vacancy resulting from the resignation of Ms Barbara Bradshaw

Proposed Cllr Coughlan    Seconded Cllr Thomas

Cllr Denton duly completed the Declaration of Office and Acceptance of Code of Conduct witnessed by the Clerk.

Cllr Denton will complete the online Register of Members Interests.

The Council noted that the casual vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr Hicks had been reported to Democratic Services and the vacancy duly advertised on the notice board and website. It may be necessary to advertise locally if no one comes forward in the next month.

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### **8. Orchard and Open Space:**

The Chair advised that the cutting back of the brambles had been done and the fence round the area sprayed off for Japanese Knotweed had been re-instated. The repair to the loose slab will be done shortly.

Cllr Appleby informed the Council that he had contacted Joe's Lawn Care to make sure that the products used during treatments were safe for children, pets and the environment and had circulated correspondence relating to the chemicals prior to the meeting. Cllr Appleby stated that he wasn't satisfied with the control measures carried out and proposed that the Council consider whether there was in fact a need for weed and moss killing in the Orchard space. The Council discussed this and unanimously **agreed** to terminate the existing contract with Joe's Lawn Care and to monitor the area for weeds in the future. The Chair thanked Cllr Appleby for his work with this.

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### **9. Highways, Signage, Footpaths, Grit Bins, Lighting:**

**Lighting** – The Chair had reported to NNC several faulty lights in the parish. PC Wilson stated that the safety and security of all residents is paramount and to make reference to his statement when referring faulty lights on to NNC.

**Signage** – Cllr Thomas advised that she had contacted County Highways to request that a UK Road Sign 880 be installed on The Hill.

**Footpath Warden** – A vacancy for a parish footpath warden has arisen. Cllr Thomas will advertise this on the village WhatsApp Group (*action MT*). The Chair advised of a new 'Friends of Green Spaces' group set up by George West-Robinson and encouraged participation by Middleton Parish Councillors.

**Pathfinder Flood Resistance Project** – The Chair gave a brief resume on the project which was in the process of looking at areas subject to flooding. The next step is for the County Council to carry out a survey of these areas to confirm these as flood risk areas and to set up a Community Resilience and Response group, made up of a team of residents including flood wardens acting as a

Signed..... Chair

Date.....

point of contact in the village. The Chair advised that there was a grant of up to £3000 for flood defence equipment. The Council **agreed** to advertise for volunteers on the village WhatsApp Group (*action SC*).

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#### 10. Request for Donation in Support of Helipads for Hospitals:

Cllr Thomas asked the Council to consider a donation in conjunction with Cottingham and East Carlton of £240 towards a 'Big Red Bin' provided by Helipads for Hospitals where the aluminium cans, collected by the village litter picking groups can be stored prior to collection. Cottingham School had agreed to accommodate this bin alongside the other recycling bins in the car park. The Council discussed this at length and in view of the fact that it was not planned for in the budget and that there is already a provision for this in Corby, it **agreed** not to commit any monies at this time.

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#### 11. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had checked the parish assets and stated that other than the two benches which were awaiting revarnishing, all were in order.

The Defibrillator had been checked and was in order.

The Clerk informed the Council that East Carlton Parish Council was in the process of organising defibrillator training at the Cricket Club and had agreed to include residents of Middleton who wished to have training too. The Council will advertise the date once this has been agreed.

The Chair advised the Council that George West-Robinson had done an excellent on the refurbishment of the Village Sign and that it was due to be re-instated next week.

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#### 12. 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and Tree Planting:

The Chair informed the Council that she had contacted NNC to enquire what grants are available toward this event.

There was nothing further to report on the proposed celebrations at this stage.

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#### 13. Planning:

**Update on Ashley Road Appeals** – It was noted that a new date for the Peasdale Hill Field appeal was awaited. There is currently no date for the two Oakley Park appeals which will be heard as one.

#### **NC/21/00430/DPA 2 Darescroft Removal of low level wall and replace with fence**

The Council considered this application and whilst it appreciates the need for privacy at the property, it has concerns that the fence is out of keeping in a conservation village and on a significant road into the village where every other boundary is a wall.

#### **NC/21/00473/RVC 7 Ashley Road Removal of condition to allow a six month period of letting of a studio space**

The Council considered this application and **agreed** to make no comment.

5 In favour 1 against.

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#### 14. To approve 2022/23 Budget and Set Precept:

The budget for 2022/23 was presented to the Parish Council for consideration.

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the Middleton Parish Council budget for 2022/23

Proposed by Cllr Coughlan      Seconded by Cllr Morrell.      All in favour

This was signed by the Chair.

The Parish Council **Resolved to Agree** the level of precept set at £9,036.00 for the financial year 2022-23

Proposed by Cllr Coughlan      Seconded by Cllr Morrell      All in favour

The Clerk will submit the Precept Demand to NNC (*action JM*).

#### 15. Finance:

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

300012	J Bradshaw - Maintenance of culvert	60.00
300013	The Poppy Shop - Wreath	19.29
300014	St Mary Magdalene – Donation to Strimming Costs	250.00
BACS	Clerk – Salary and Expenses	340.24
BACS	Village Hall – October Hall Hire	12.00
D/D	NEST - Clerk Pension	24.08

Receipts: None

#### SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	5,282.86
Unity Trust Account	4,531.35
Total:	<b>£9,814.21</b>

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

c) The Council **agreed** Cllr Coughlan and Cllr Morrell as the new signatories for the Unity Trust Bank Account

Proposed Cllr Thomas    Seconded Cllr Appleby

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#### 16. Correspondence:

The Council considered and **agreed** a request from the Valley Voice Choir to change the evening of the Council meetings to a Monday evening to enable the choir to use the large meeting room on a Tuesday.

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#### 17. Dissemination of Information:

To ensure that residents are aware of the Welland Wanderer Bus Service. The Clerk will ask for this to be advertised in the Newsletter with a link to the timetable (*action JM*).

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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#### 18. Business for next meeting:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06 pm

There will be no Parish Council meeting in December.

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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