

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 7.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

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

1. To approve apologies for absence:

Cllr Morrell

2. Chair's Annual Report 2021-22

The following report was presented by Cllr Coughlan

"Middleton Parish Council has gone through much change this year with Sarah Brant stepping down as Chair and Sian Coughlan stepping up. Furthermore, several councillors stepped down during the year and 3 new councillors have since joined. Leigh Morrell (now Vice Chair) Stuart Appleby and Teresa Denton. The Parish Council is still one person down (currently 6 councillors) and continues to advertise the position locally.

Planning

Several planning applications for properties in Middleton submitted in 2021 have been reviewed without comment from Middleton Parish Council.

There are however currently three retrospective applications that MPC has objected to which have now gone to appeal. Gypsy and Traveller sites at Oakley Park, Oakley Park South and Peasdale Hill. (Appeal dates currently set for June 2022).

MPC will work alongside the local resident's action group to employ the services of a specialist Gypsy and Traveller planning consultant, Phillip Hughes, for the Oakley Park and Peasdale Hill appeals.

One further application (Land on Main Street) was rejected at appeal by the Planning Inspectorate due to its position within a conservation area.

Planning Enforcement Meetings with North Northants Council

Middleton Parish Council has championed and now managed to set up a regular bimonthly enforcement meeting with Senior Officers and Councillors from North Northants Council. This meeting, which is a positive step in the right direction, is designed to discuss and improve enforcement issues surrounding unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites. It includes attendance by Chairs from several local parish councils including Middleton, Cottingham, Loddington, Gretton and Broughton, together with directors, senior planning and enforcement officers and elected councillors from North Northants Council.

Flood Resilience

In recent years the village has suffered from some severe flash flooding. Previously the villagers have had to build makeshift barriers to alleviate the flooding around specific areas of the village to divert the flood water. This year as part of a NNC flood resilience programme, the Parish Council applied for, and was successful in securing a grant for £3,000 to buy 24 metres of boxwall temporary flood barriers. These have now been purchased and are stored behind the Rockingham Wheelers cycle club house.

Footpath Warden

It is with great pleasure that the Parish Council can announce that a new Footpath Warden has been appointed. Mr Wayne Summerfield is now regularly walking all the marked footpaths throughout Middleton on a regular basis and reporting back any issues he finds to NNC.

Welland Wanderer Bus Service

Due to the end of a subsidised bus service from Corby to Market Harborough, in 2018 a group of Parish Councils set up the Welland Wanderer Bus Service that runs twice weekly to Market Harborough and Corby through the local villages. This vital service continues to stop in Main Street Middleton. This year the Parish Council has again contributed to this service to ensure that this bus service continues to run. The Parish Council consortium continues to lobby North Northants Council for a better, NNC financed service.

The Orchard

After reports from a local resident in the summer of 2021 that their dog had become ill after walking in the Orchard it was decided, due to several toxins contained in the lawn care spray used, that the regular grass care contract would be cancelled, and the orchard would become an eco-friendlier space for the village. This has now been implemented".

3. Accounting Statement 2021-22.

The Clerk presented a statement of financial accounts and reported that the balance as of 31st March 2022 totalled £7,003.75.

The full End of Year Accounts can be found on the Parish Council website at

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

4. Footpath Warden Report:

The following report was provided by Mr Summerfield

GS1/GS7

From the lane leads onto Occupation Lane to the dead end path and alongside the sewage plant (GS7).

19th March all clear.

GS4 - Crossing the old railway line. 19th March all clear.

GS6 - Footpath from the right side of the brook leading to Drayton. 19th March all clear.

GS8 - Footpath from the last gate of the farm to East Carlton Park to the ponds. 24th March all clear.

GS11 - From the kissing gate and along the tunnel hedgerow to the bungalow gate at school hill. 24th March all clear.

GS10 - Left to school hill to the end of the lane. 24th March all clear.

GS15 - Style from the bungalow to the road B670 to Corby Road. 24th March all clear.

GS12/GS13/GS14 - From the road (B670) to the A427 to Middleton Lodge Farm and along to Kingswood School area. 12th March all clear.

5. Open Forum:

There were no members of the public present.

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 10th May 2022.

Signed..... Chair

Date.....