

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

893

The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 6.30 pm in Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Annex.

Present: Cllrs S Coughlan (Chair), K Bowyer, C Boucher and S Roper-Caldbeck and Mrs Medwell (Clerk).

1. To approve apologies for absence:

PLR Del Robertson, NNC Cllr D Howes and PCSO Ali Wallace.

2. Declaration of Interests in Items on the Agenda or Changes to the Members' Register of Interests:

There were none.

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

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 14th July 2026 were duly approved and signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Boucher Seconded Cllr Bowyer All in favour.

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

There were no matters arising.

5. Meeting Open to the public:

There were no members of the public present.

6. NNC Councillor Report:

There were no Ward Councillors present at the meeting.

7. Monthly Crime Report:

There were no incidents of crime recorded over the last two months.

8. Orchard and Open Space:

The Council was pleased to note the completion of the orchard tree and shrub cutting and routine culvert maintenance, noting that both areas looked good. Thanks were extended to Mr Morphy for his work with this.

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

Road Safety Community Grant: The Council considered the road safety grant offered by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Funding of up to £5,000 is available for practical, community-led projects that improve road safety for all users. Councillors agreed to explore suitable options for the village (*action all Cllrs*).

Main Street Parking: The Council noted that parking along Main Street remained a problem, particularly in the pinch point areas. At times, irresponsibly parked vehicles completely restricted access for the school bus and other large vehicles, including emergency vehicles. The Council agreed that the next step was another more firmly worded letter to residents asking that they park responsibly and advising that, if the situation did not improve, the matter would be escalated to the relevant local authorities. Cllrs Bowyer and Boucher will draft the letter for circulation (*action KM and CB*). The Clerk will explore suitable "Park Responsibly" signs and contact PCSO Wallace for advice, including whether police notices could be placed on vehicles (*action JM*).

The Council noted that some of the advisory 20 mph signs needed replacing. The Clerk will request some

more (*action JM*)

The Council will monitor grit bins ahead of the winter.

10. To consider appointment of Internal Auditor:

The Council noted that its previous internal auditor had retired. Having considered NCALC's competence and independence in accordance with AGAR Assertion 6, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint NCALC as the Council's IAS internal auditor.

Proposed Cllr Coughlan Seconded Cllr Boucher

11. Parish Assets and Events:

Parish Assets: All in order.

12. Community Governance Review:

Middleton's Response to 2nd Stage Consultation: The Chair advised that she had submitted the Council's response and that North Northamptonshire Council had confirmed receipt. She had also spoken to Corby Town Council, which had reviewed and concurred with the Council's submission. The Council will also have an opportunity to review Corby Town Council's response before it is submitted.

The Chair informed the Council that she would attend the meeting of the Democracy and Standards Committee alongside councillors from Corby Town Council. The date is yet to be confirmed. She will present Middleton Parish Council's position at the meeting.

13. Planning:

26/02622/FUL Change of use of the land for the stationing of 6 static homes and 6 touring caravans with 6 day rooms for Gypsy / Traveller occupation, Landscape and ecological enhancements, Associated hard and soft landscaping Land At Ashley Road

The Chair advised that three valid enforcement notices remained in place across the sites. Two relate to land south of Oakley Park, which also includes the eight static homes. She has written to the Chief Executive to ask why North Northamptonshire Council validated the new application while enforcement notices remain outstanding. The Chair will circulate and submit a full and detailed rebuttal on behalf of Middleton Parish Council before the 9th October deadline (*action SC*).

12. Finance:

a) The following BACS payments were presented and unanimously **agreed**:

Payee	Details	Total Amount	VAT Element	Legal Authority
S Morphy	Orchard and Culvert Maintenance	£1,420.00		OSA 1906 s.15
Curtis Website Design	Website	£180.00		s.111 LGA 1972
S Morphy	Mowing Aug/Sept	£705.00		OSA 1906 s.15
Krystal Hosting	Website Jul/Aug/Sept	£25.20	£4.20	s.111 LGA 1972
Village Hall	Hall Hire June/July	£12.00		s.111 LGA 1972

SUMMARY OF BALANCES

Unity Trust Current Account	£1,340.22
Unity Trust Savings Account	£14,057.03
Total:	£15,397.25

Signed..... Chair

Date.....

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

13. Correspondence:

The Council noted NNC's recent email informing that applications for 2026–27 Community Funding are open, with grants of up to £5,000 available. It agreed not to pursue funding at this time.

14. Exchange of Information:

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:

Commence budget setting process 2027/28

16. Date of Next Meeting:

10th November 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.51 pm.

Signed..... Chair

Date.....