



MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE RECREATION ROOM
CHURCH LANE MIDDLETON
Date 21/6/2023

Present Councillors

Cllr. James Beamish Chair (JB)
Cllr. Gill Keegan Vice Chair (GK)
Cllr. Peter Rotherham Vice Chair (PR)
Cllr. George Hawkins (GH)

1. Apologies

Cllr. Andy Jenns WCC
Cllr. Mark Simmons NWBC
Cllr. Frazer Smith (FS)

Clerk in Attendance Tony Harris (TH)

2. Police Surgery

None

3. Declarations of Pecuniary or other interests.

None

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 24/5/2023

The previous minutes were duly signed Vice Chair Cllr Rotherham

5. Matters Arising

- a. *The council will be represented by Cllr. Keegan at the meeting of the NWBC planning committee scheduled for the 10th July to discuss the proposed garden development in Church Lane. Democratic services need to be informed of this intension by 30/6/2023*
- b. *Car parking especially on pavements was briefly discussed again with recognition that the law is not precise and that the council sort the support of all residents nopt to park on pavements.*
- c. *Power supply to the garage area must be sought at a time of installation as quotes were only viable for a limited time*
- d. *Play area equipment has been installed and signed off by Creative Play however there were some remedial works and some of the plastic slide elements so the Clerk was instructed to withhold payment until this was completed.*
- e. *It was also noted that residents had taken a dog into the play area and a hole had been cut in the fence providing unwarranted access into the play area Clerk was instructed to take this up with NWBC housing as they owned the fence.*
- f. *Coppice lane and Crowberry Lane were badly affected by heavy traffic flows wearing*



away the verges. Church Lane also had higher levels of speeding traffic that could benefit from speedbumps but these needed street lighting due to changes in regulations. Clerk to talk with Highways.

- g. The school needs a valuation undertaken in this fiscal year to ensure insurance coverage is adequate.
- h. Cllr Hawkins raised the issue of the Garages and the interest shown in them by the new tenant as a garden extension. It was also noted that there was still a ransom strip that needed a solution from NWBC.
- i. Cllr. Smith was looking into camera software for all APNR cameras.
- j. Safeguarding was increasingly an issue with grant applications stated Cllr. Keegan. Clerk stated that WCC ran courses for councillors and that he would update standing orders to cover Safeguarding although as a small parish Council application was difficult to envisage.
- k. Fencing of the Village Hall corner could be undertaken by John Mason as a rail and post installation. It was also noted that the Village green hedge was scheduled for a 1/7/2023 cut in readiness for the fete
- l. A resident had requested the addition of another bench and table outside the church for rambles to have lunch (hopefully sourced from the shop) and not as previously stated the removal of the current bench
- m. Budgets for trees and flower tub planting was agreed and communicated to Mrs Jenkins.
- n. Park House was not on the latest Voters role but this was seen as an issue for the incumbent.
- o. A budget to be prepared for the next meeting to ensure no overspend do to play area costs
- p. The play area centre piece possibly needs artificial turf underneath as strimming could damage the wooden posts. Cllr. Beamish showed a picture of the proposed new play area sign which made reference to Susan Pallet.

NEW ACTIONS

Ref	What	Who	When
N1	Cllr. Keegan to look at new bank mandate changes	Cllr. Keegan	21/6/2023
N2	Tree and tub planting budget set at £150 for Trees and £300 for tubs plus labour	Clerk to inform Mrs Jenkins	20/6/2023
N3	Contact Highways regarding visibility at Coppice Lane A466	Clerk	completed
N4	Fencing to Village Hall quote and work completed urgently before fete day quote £350 agreed by Council		Completed

PENDING / ONGOING ACTIONS

Ref	What	Who	When
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P1	PLAYAREA <i>MPC voted a 2022/3 budget of £32k exclusive of VAT now increased to £41,257.21</i>	Cllr Keegan	March
P2	MCC 15year LEASE <i>all signed and awaiting WCC sign off</i>	Clerk	March
P3	<i>Garages cleared and awaiting decisions going forward</i>	Clerk	August

CLOSED ACTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

Ref	

KEY FINANCIAL PROJECTS 2021/22

Ref	What	Quotes	Budgeted cost	Actual cost
K2	GARAGES (Church Lane) <i>Garages have been emptied and demolished and plans are to be drawn up for a new community facility</i>	Partial electricity connection charges in but obtaining electric gate quotes proving challenging	£10,000 EMR This figure will need to revised due too large increases in all building estimates Quotes have been acquired	
K4	PLAYAREA <i>New equipment ordered</i>	Creative Play selected at a	£42,000 final cost of play area. A swing to be added to the order £2.2k	£41257 PAID
K8	<i>Quote to be obtained for another APNR site and software installation</i> <i>Quote to be obtained for another APNR site and software installation</i>			



6. Reports of Councillors and Clerk

Cllr. Keegan

- a. *Cllr. Keegan made reference to a request for a key to the notice board in the Village and Hill Lane. Clerk stated that the notice boards were for council notices and that boards had been placed in the Travellers Rest site and that when requested and if there are space additional signs were put up at Hill Lane. If the councillors wanted to provide a key, they could but this would be against the advice of the Clerk, a decision was deferred.*
- b. *The bench from the bandstand should be moved to the play area*
- c. *Cllr. Keegan again raised the need to complete the banking mandate to allow more signatures, Cllr. Rotherham needs to complete this action as current joint signature-COMPLETED.*
- d. *Village fete have an inflatable booked however the Clerk in response to an enquiry said that this would not be covered by MPC insurance and needed a specialist service*

Cllr. Beamish

- a. *The Village Hall were considering pedestrian access from their carpark into the Village Green Cllrs. Concluded this would not be a good idea as dogs could run loose in the carpark and this raised the issue of liability.*
- b. *Cllr. Beamish asked what the cost of the container was and the Clerk stated a little over £3000*
- c. *The Badminton club had requested the remaining £200 grant to complete works to the VH floor. This was agreed by Council*
- d. *The village Fete would be asking for support usually a grant of £500 paid to the Horticultural committee.*

Cllr. Rotherham

Nothing to report

Cllr. Hawkins

- a. *Benches could be repaired with regalvanised and reclaimed plastic battens at a cost of around £600 to £800-Councillors thought this was a good idea and helped extend the life of these assets.*
- b. *Cllr. Hawkins enquired about the hours of the gardener who undertook the play area rambler's rest and sign area on Coppice Lane. It was stated that this was charged at £20 an hour and generally a very good job was achieved.*
- c. *Benches need to be on pads around the bandstand so that the grass can be cut and were positioned ideally for fete day.*
- d. *HS2 had met with Greg Rawlins to discuss bus access to the children's farm and rumoured road closures which HS2 said were not planned*

Cllr. Jenns

- a. *Cllr. Jenns had stood down from the WCC cabinet office*
- b. *A grant was available but only until 25/6/2023*



Cllr. Simmons
No Reports

Cllr. Smith
Nothing to report

7. Samuel White Trust and other Community Organisations

Donated £2500 to the new play area

8. High Speed Rail Line

Rumour that HS2 stage I could be halted are unfounded and economically unviable, stage 2 from near Litchfield to the north is however, currently delayed. Some redundancies had taken place in BBV

9. Community Centre Matters

Contract signed by MPC awaiting WCC agreement copy of signed document hand delivered by Clerk to our solicitors.

10. Middleton United Foundation Trust

Have made a grant of £2000 towards the play area refurbishment

11. Village Green Development

New play area open but there is some minor remedial work to be undertaken by Creative Play

12. Middleton Recreation Room

Continue their program of local events including Bingo and quiz nights

13 Correspondence

WALC

Subscription fees/paid.

Training

None planned.

WCC

Contacted about locating Defibrillator on a lamppost for Hill Lane (see response).

Contacted Highways no call back.

NWBC

Meeting with Housing officer re Play area intrusions.

Chasing re Church Lane application. /Nothing in planning committee meeting minutes



General

Meeting with Parishioner with dyslexia.

Tamworth Rd sewerage works new action Plan following residents meeting.

Inflatable insurance response.

14. Planning Matters

[PAP/2022/0590](#) 24/05/2023 Cross Green Certificate of lawfulness for existing use
 House Green Lane of garden land / patio, stable, slab, garage
 Middleton and rest room
 B78 2BJ

15 Finance Report

2023/2024 Cash Book (JUNE)							
MPC Financials 21/6/2023							
Available funds in current account A/c 00411787					15/06/2023	£51,719.26	
Unpresented cheques							
name		what		C/N	date	value	
HMRC						-£198.01	
N Denslow		int audit				-£200.00	
NWBC		dog bins				-£739.34	
TEEC website						-£144.00	
grass cutting						-£140.00	
Prontaprint	MM	Budget				-£211.48	



WALC		subscription				-£249.00		
					Balance	-£1,881.83		
					Net	<u>£49,837.43</u>		
cheques to be signed/budgeted for								
name		what		C/N	date	value		
Tubs/trees		Budget				-£550.00		
VG grass cutting		Budget				-£400.00		
hedge cutting		Budget				-£300.00		
Commucorp		subscription				-£14.00		
Wages						-£833.88		
Creative Play						-£41,257.21		
HMRC						-£198.01		
						-£43,553.10		
					net balance	<u>£6,284.43</u>		
net available funds in current account A/c 00411787							£7,414.48	
Projected income for the month								
Rent						£2,197.00		
VAT						£7,712.00		
						£9,909.00		
Available funds in reserve account A/c 29525357					05/06/2023	£7,414.48		
Notes								
1. Small amount of interest accrues each month on savings a/c								



2. reserve a/c includes £4k held on deposit for MCC							
3. VAT can be claimed on play area together with Vat 2022/23						£836.00	
					Play area	£6,876.00	
					VAT	£7,712.00	
					Balance est.	<u>£14,653.70</u>	

16. Public Questions

Members of the Public were in attendance and asked questions relating to the garages concerning works proposed.

17 Chair proposes

18. Any other Business

None

19. Date of Next Meeting

19/7/2023

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed

Date
