



# MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE RECREATION ROOM  
CHURCH LANE MIDDLETON

**Date 9/05/2019 – Meeting 1. 2019/20**

## **Present Councillors**

**Gill Keegan (GK) Chairman**  
**Graham Smith Vice Chairman (GS)**  
**Peter Rotherham (PR)**  
**Jack Everill (JE)**  
**Pete Rawlins (PRaw)**

**Clerk in Attendance Tony Harris (TH)**

**Public in Attendance: None**

### **1. Apologies**

**Andy Jenns (AJ)**

### **2. Police surgery**

*None*

### **3. Declarations of Pecuniary or other interests.**

*None,*

### **4. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 21/03/2019**

*The previous minutes were duly signed by Chairman Cllr. Keegan*

### **5. Matters arising**

- a) *The website design was discussed and it was agreed that time at some point needs to be allocated to the update work. Cllr. Keegan and Clerk to monitor*
- b) *Cllr. Keegan requested that the garage doors issue be chased again as nothing has been done about them. Clerk has reported the issue without a response, Clerk to raise again.*
- c) *Path around the Village green is in need of weeding. The Clerk had approached the new gardener but he did not have a licence to spray insecticide and in view of recent insecticide scares burning the weeds off was to be considered. Clerk to action.*
- d) *The Chairman asked whether the last remaining plaque had been presented. Clerk agreed to present at the next Luncheon Club as the Chairman would be away.*
- e) *The no entry sign on the A4091 was completely down. Clerk to report.*
- f) *Pavement kerbstones are loose near Simmonds close and corner of Church lane Clerk to raise with Highways.*
- g) *Clerk was asked to look into funding the new Bus shelter through HS2 funding.*
- h) *Consider the situation of the grit bin (slabs) in Allen End later in the year.*
- i) *T15 path erosion has been reported to WCC. And they have agreed work will be*



*undertaken however as they use volunteer services no date can be provided.*

- j) *Cllr. Keegan asked the Clerk to provide a brief write up on allotments to be put in the next Middleton Matters to gauge if there was widespread demand.*

## **PENDING ACTIONS**

1. Grit bin needs filling at Allen End, Clerk to arrange. Reported ref. 484234 but needs checking. **Checked no bin only slabs and overgrown with brambles**
2. Garage door issue has been reported to NWBC. To be monitored as no action taken by NWBC. **Report issue again**
3. A grant to be used for flooding was potentially available, Clerk to look into how we might apply and for what specific works. Parishioner Terry Cole had extensive knowledge of the main flood areas and would be a useful source of contact for consultation

## **NEW ACTIONS**

1. Clerk to investigate if weeds can be burnt on village green.
2. Clerk to report fallen no entry sign at bottom of Church lane.
3. Clerk to report Pavement kerb stones loose in Simmonds close.
4. Clerk to present last plaque at this coming luncheon club.
5. Clerk to look into possible HS2 Bus shelter funding.
6. Clerk to prepare Allotments notes for MM.
7. Clerk to investigate gate blocking access at Middleton Hall
8. Apply sealant to Bandstand
9. Revisit traffic calming options
10. Purchase plastic barrels for plants in Church Lane and Hill lane.
11. Plan to decorate inside and outside of MRR.
12. Raise the issue of planning application for change of use at Atlantic Nursery
13. Strimming of bend in Coppice Lane
14. GK to request improved notification of road closures from HS2
15. Prepare for Annual Assembly and local group reports

## **ONGOING ACTIONS**

1. Clerk and Cllr Keegan - to consider changes the website.
2. Clerk to prepare plans for a new bus shelter and seek planning permission, authorisation of up to £500 was given to achieve planning permission.
3. T15 ground uneven issues Clerk to raise with John Bardsley footpath officer. Clerk met with John it would appear the bank is eroding so may require a lot of work. Awaiting update. CC contacted and will use volunteers to effect a repair but no actual date available

## **CLOSED ACTIONS**

1. Pot holes at bottom of church lane. Holes have been marked up and repaired.



2. Contactor in place to cut play area grass.
3. Ask David Williets about his knowledge of Susan Pallet playground. Action PR all legal work now completed

#### **4. Reports of Councillors and Clerk**

##### **Cllr. Keegan**

- a. *A canvas sheet tied to four poles at MCC had come loose and had frightened a resident's horse. Clerk had checked this and it was now secure.*
- b. *Cllr Keegan again raised the issue of Sealant being applied to the bandstand. Cllr: Rawlins said that this would be done as soon as the weather improved to prevent any damage to the village green.*
- c. *A resident has applied for a disabled spot outside her house as she can no longer walk the distance to her garage. All cllrs. were in favour of supporting this application and would write to this effect if necessary.*
- d. *The benches in the Village Green were in a poor condition on the concrete slab. Cllr: Everill proposed to donate 3 metal constructed benches and remove all the old ones to be broken up. All Cllrs. agreed unanimously to this generous offer.*
- e. *Commented on how good the new sign looked. The area requires strimming of weeds (Cllr P. Rawlins offered to get this done) and planting of wild flowers, the latter to be done with plugs in September for next year.*

##### **Cllr. Smith**

- a. *No entry signs at the end of Church Lane have fallen down needs reporting.*
- b. *Cllr. Smith also made the observation that the VG was full of dandelions, it was noted that there was a particular increase to many green spaces this year.*

##### **Cllr. Rawlins**

- a. *Cllr Rawlins noted that it was very confusing to have signs saying closed except for access as no one knows how far up access was available. In the instance at the bottom of Church Lane, access was only to park farm.*

##### **Cllr. Rotherham**

- a. *Cllr. Rotherham had received a complaint that Church Lane had been closed without proper notification and that a parishioner had spoken to WCC who were unaware of the Closure. The Clerk explained that WCC were aware of the closure however Highways staff are not always aware in every instance. HS2 had requested the closure to repair to water pipes and to accurately record the exact location, depth etc. of the high pressure gas main. South Staffs Water had leafleted some residents and informed the Clerk a few days before of the closure, but HS2 had not made any public announcements in the press or otherwise. While the closure is inconvenient it was done according to the legal process and there is nothing MPC can do other than attempt to get a better response in terms of early warning from HS2. GK to take up with HS2 for improved notification*
- b. *Cllr. Rotherham asked what the cost for the election was and why if we did we did not*



*have an election did we have to pay any monies. Clerk explained that a cost of around £300 would be levied by NWBC to cover basic costs such as nomination papers etc. Had an election taken place then this figure would have risen accordingly.*

#### **Cllr. Everill**

- a. Middleton Hall route to Water park blocked with a new gate Clerk to investigate the legalities.*
- b. Cllr. Everill raise the issue of traffic calming signs that he had read about. Two types were in production - battery operated and solar - with a large difference in price. It was agreed that this should be looked into further as a way of reducing speeding through the village.*
- c. Cllr. Everill also had looked at flower tubs made out of reconstructed plastic. The Clerk said he had seen some plastic antiqued half barrels at a very reasonable cost so proposed purchasing one and to consult with our horticulturist on their suitability.*

#### **CLLr. Jenns**

No report as absent

#### **7 Samuel White Trust and other Community Organisations**

*No report*

#### **8. High Speed Rail Line**

*Issue of forward notice of road closures to be raised with them.*

#### **9. Community Centre**

*Flapping canvas discussed*

#### **10. Village Green Development**

*Band stand still awaiting sealing when weather improves. And the path needs weeding or perhaps replacing all though this needs further investigation*

#### **16. Middleton Recreation Room**

*Plans are being put in place to redecorate inside and outside and some work to be undertaken on improving the planted areas. It was suggested that this landscape work could be undertaken by MPC in lieu of booking fees as they employed a gardener.*

#### **12. Planning Matters**

**PAP/2018/0022** Woodacres off Coppice lane Middleton – demolition and rebuild

**PAP/2019/0239** 02/05/2019 Ash End Farm Middleton – alterations to existing buildings

It was raised that unauthorised buildings were being constructed on green belt land at Atlantic Nurseries, Hunts Green and that constituted a change of use and was therefore considered by



MPC to be illegal as no planning permission has been sought. The matter to be raised with NWBC Planning.

### 13. Correspondence since last meeting dated 18/10/2018

#### NWBC/WCC:

- No response on Garage request in Church Lane
- Church lane Road closure
- Cyber crime

#### General.

- Visit to Coleshill Fire station
- Wild flowers – £300 received
- Awaiting a response from D.O.T.
- New gardening contractor
- Mobile Police station-no further news
- Gating order on T9/FP through Fairways barn
- Beeline Bus service
- HS2 council letter

WALC subscription due

### 14. Finance Report.

Balance at bank 30.4.2019	A/c 00411787	<b><u>£13,627.42</u></b>
Plus deposits not shown		
<b>Unpresented cheques</b>		
	CN	
cutting edge gardening	2078	-£100.00
NWBC maintenance services	2075	-£721.22
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>-£821.22</b>
sub total		
<b>balance total</b>		<b><u>£11,984.98</u></b>
<b>Less cheques to be written following approval in March 2019</b>		
sign groundworks ie sign erection		-£300.00
Prontaprint		-£217.88
Subscription		-£12.00
Clerks expense		-£31.30
Clerks wages		-£665.79
		<b>-£1,226.97</b>
	Total funds available	<b>£10,758.01</b>



## Capital reserve fund A/c 29525357 (03.05.2019)

opening balance	<u>£7,350.53</u>
interest	<u>£1.29</u>
new balance	<u>£7,351.82</u>
	-£4,000.00

£4000 is rent deposit

Available funds in current account A/c 00411787	£10,758.01
Available funds in reserve account A/c 29525357	<u>£3,351.82</u>
Grand total	£14,109.83

Notes	£3,281.65
2. VAT can be collected	<u>£3,281.65</u>
Sub total	
total funds	
A/C 00411787	£10,758.01
A/C 29525357	£3,351.82
VAT	£3,281.65
	<u>£17,391.8</u>

### 15. Public Questions and Comments. (Parishioner issue from previous meeting)

### 16. The Chair proposes None.

### 17. Any other business

Cllr Everill raised the issue of the number of hours the Clerk worked being well in excess of those contracted. It was unanimously agreed to increased contracted hours from 10 per week to 15 hours per week pro rata from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 to better reflect the current work load.

### 18. Date of next meeting

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7pm**

**An annual assembly will take place at 6.30pm on the same evening.**

**Meeting closed at 8.55pm**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_