

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Giles Piercy
District Cllr Sarah Whitelock

Apologies:

Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Michele Kendall

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk

- 2 **Co-option of new Councillors.** All Councillors formerly agreed to co-opt both Kathryn Rowe and Giles Piercy onto the Council. Each signed an Acceptance of Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

- 3 **Councillors' Declarations of Interest.** None.

4 Public Forum

- a) Members of the public. None.
b) County Councillor report. None.
c) District Councillor Sarah Whitelock was welcomed to the meeting. The PC were advised that a motion on Sizewell C was debated at the full council on 27 September 2023 (available to watch on Youtube). The motion formalised the East Suffolk Council's position in advocating for true green renewable energy in preference to Sizewell C, but recognised the reality of the Development Consent Order (DCO) decision and strengthened its commitment to ensuring the best possible outcomes and minimal impact for local communities from the construction of Sizewell C, should it go ahead.

There was also discussion of the onshore infrastructure associated with wind power and interconnectors and Cllr Whitelock highlighted the benefits of offshore solutions.

The argument for Sizewell C relies, in part, on employment opportunities. However, the suggested figure of 900 job opportunities offset against the total cost of Sizewell C equates to 33 million pounds per job.

Cllr Whitelock also mentioned the 20's Plenty campaign and will forward relevant emails to Cllr Cusack to share with the PC.

5 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th September 2023.
b) **Matters arising.**

Coffee/lunch Provision. Cllr Taylor has liaised with District Cllr Katie Graham regarding funding for a new project to provide a home cooked meal delivered to village residents in need. The necessary paperwork and application for funding under Warm Rooms and Community Funding has been completed and agreed in principle (it was noted that any project funding cannot be repeated). Cllr Taylor will offer a hot meal delivery service, mid-week, linked in with a welfare visit. This service will run from the beginning of November 2023 to the end of March 2024. Environmentally friendly packaging will be used and there have been numerous offers of help from village residents.

Cllr Piercy enquired as to how those residents in need are identified and was advised word of mouth and through the Church. Cllr Piercy suggested contacting the local GP surgeries.

The total fund available is £870 and this includes £300 remaining from the previous grant. Cllr Cusack advised that this figure could be 'topped up' by the PC if necessary.

Middleton Moor. Cllr Cusack has liaised with Crispin Walker, a specialist wildlife pond contractor. A quote is to be provided, to include clearing the overflow channel that diverts excess water onto the moor.

Cllr Taylor shared several emails received regarding the proposed noticeboard for the pond area. Residents are unhappy about additional signage on the moor, commenting that there are already too many. Cllr Cusack has corresponded with the owners of Norwood House previously regarding the signs and it was agreed, at this point, to monitor the situation and raise again at the November meeting (allowing time for our new Councillors to consider).

No parking signs – carried forward to November meeting.

Burial Ground – carried forward to November meeting.

Permissive Paths – carried forward to November meeting.

Village Survey. Cllr Cusack provided Councillors with a draft survey to comment on. Cllr Taylor advised that Cllr Kendall has undertaken considerable research regarding the recreation ground/trim trail. Cllr Macdowell suggested that a picture and more information regarding the trim trail be included with the survey. The plan is to knock on doors and engage with village members. Cllr Rowe offered to take this on from Cllr Cusack. Cllr Macdowell also suggest that 'sport activity' be added to Reason for Visit on the survey. Cllr Cusack suggested a 're-wilding' option also be added to the survey, for which there is plenty of room within the recreation area. Cllr Taylor suggested that we should provide an indication of costs involved. Although there are funds remaining post Covid, the possibility of grants/fundraising was also put forward.

CAB. Cllr Taylor has inhouse contact numbers that we may access. The possibility of a pop-up CAB was mentioned, and it was decided to add this to our AGM Agenda 2024.

6 Councillors' Reports

- a) **Village Hall.** Cllr Lacey reported back that additional funding is being sought for the coffee mornings. The importance of the Drop In project, now renamed and originally started by MPC under Covid, was reiterated, stating that for many villagers this is the only contact they have with the outside world. There is a new plan in place to provide soup and rolls with plenty of volunteers on board to help.
- b) **Middleton Primary School.** Nothing to report.
- c) **Energy Projects, including Sizewell C.** Cllr Macdowell reported on the following:

- * B1122 noise mitigation surveys and quotations are currently taking place.
- * B1122 vibration damage surveying (pre and post works) is planned but not yet started.
- * Richard Knight (Senior Community Relations Manager, Sizewell C) has confirmed that there is some flexibility regarding the 50-metre boundary line and as such all affected residents should apply.

The 8 parishes meeting took place in Leiston on 19 September 2023. Cllr Cusack recorded the meeting, and a transcript has been produced (subsequent to the meeting the transcript has been issued to all Middleton Councillors). It was reported from the meeting that SCC Highways Dept appeared ill-prepared for the meeting.

B1122/25 Working Group Meeting. Cllr Cusack explained the administrative problem of finding a mutually convenient date to hold the meeting. **Action: Cllr Macdowell to provide some suitable dates. Action: Clerk to forward suggested dates to Zoe Botten (Community Relations Manager, Sizewell C).**

- d) **Highways, footpaths and trees.** See above.
- e) **Middleton Moor.** See above.

7 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Authorisation was given for £500 donation towards the Parish Newsletter. **Action: Clerk to make payment.**

8 Correspondence. None

9 Items for Next Agenda. Causeway Farm, tenancy renewal and the role the PC may play.

10 Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14th November 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.