

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2022
AT 7:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack - Chair
Cllr. Roy Dowding – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Chris Reynolds
Cllr. Graham Lacey
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread
Cllr. Lesley Taylor
Cllr. Steve Thorpe

Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

Sharon Smith – Clerk/RFO
County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
Two members of the public

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

District Cllr. Russ Rainger reported that the Ease the Squeeze initiative was ongoing. Financial Roadshows are being held in local towns offering advice and signposting residents to available help. The District Council has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Chris Bailey, to replace Stephen Baker who retires at the end of the year. Cllr. Rainger concluded his report by mentioning the National Grid Sea Link and Euro Link public consultations. The District Council is holding joint meetings later this month to hear the views of Town and Parish Councils.

4. Minutes

The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 4th October 2022 and the meeting held on 11th October 2022.

5. Matters Arising

With reference to item 8, Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that she spoke with IP17 Good Neighbours Scheme about the Warm Rooms initiative. There are a number of guidelines to be eligible for Warm Rooms funding, which Middleton could not meet, but residents may use facilities in Saxmundham and Leiston.

6. Public Forum Resumed

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith said he attended the official opening event at Roke Drive hosted by Hastoe Housing. Cllr. Smith commended the Parish Council for seeing the project through and said the houses were well designed. With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith said that TASC's initial Judicial Review request was turned down however they submitted further documentation refuting many of the Secretary of State and EDF submissions, that criticised the Judicial Review request, and they await the decision on the request for an oral hearing in front of a different judge. There was a rumour in the press that Sizewell C was under review by the government but this was swiftly denied. The cost has now risen to £25 billion but Cllr. Smith opined that it cannot now be built for less than £40 billion.

b) A member of the public asked the Council to consider providing adult exercise equipment at the playing field. She said there was lots of play equipment for children but no provision for older residents, who outnumber children in the parish, and that dog walkers could use the equipment while their dogs run around. She offered to research details of equipment and costs for installation and maintenance and suggested grants could be raised to fund the project. She has a number of letters of support from residents

which she passed to the Council. The Chairman replied that the Council has discussed this idea previously and agreed to consider it as part of a mix of future strategic objectives for the parish. The strategic objectives will be decided after the election in May 2023 when the Council could have a different membership. The Chairman said there are other provisions on offer for adult residents in the parish including yoga and pilates classes.

7. Casual Vacancies

The Chairman proposed that the Council co-opt Charles Macdowell to fill one of the Council's casual vacancies. Mr Macdowell said a few words about his particular interest in Sizewell C and his desire to assist as there will be a lot to do if the development goes ahead. The Council unanimously approved Mr Macdowell's co-option to the Council. Mr Macdowell signed the Declaration of Acceptance form and joined the Council with immediate effect.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.

8. Energy Projects

The Chairman reported on the first meeting of the Sizewell C B1122 Early Years Working Group. The focus is on the early years phase when most of the construction traffic will use the B1122 to reach the construction site and to build the associated infrastructure. The purpose of the group is to explore ways to mitigate the impact of the traffic, particularly safety, noise and vibration. The group comprises EDF, Middleton and Theberton Parish Councils, the District Council, EDF's consultants WSP, and SCC Highways. The group reviewed plans for footpaths along the B1122 but only within the constraints of the Highways' boundary and there was no provision for protected cycling. Four unprotected crossing areas are being offered denoted by tactile paving where there are good sight lines. Village gateway signs and granite setts in the road were suggested for the approaches to the Moor to inform drivers they are approaching a settlement. The previously proposed suggestion from EDF to prohibit right turns from Mill Street has been abandoned. The provision of an illuminated sign on the B1122 to inform drivers that a vehicle is waiting to emerge from Mill Street is also being considered. Cllr. Roy Dowding said the Mill Street junction will be dangerous as there will be few gaps in the traffic and drivers will take chances. He suggested that levelling the rise to the right of the junction should be reconsidered. Cllr. Lesley Taylor said the proposals offer very little as the footpaths do not join up, there is no protection for the properties fronting the B1122, and the gateways are cosmetic and not effective. Cllr. Taylor said the request for quiet surface dressing on the B1122 has been turned down as it is not considered necessary for a 30 mph speed zone. The Council requested a 20 mph speed limit through the Moor and for ANPR cameras to monitor speeding. The Chairman said that Highways' reply was that a 20 mph limit was not enforceable. EDF will be monitoring the speed of HGVS which may set the speed limit within 30 mph. Cllr. Steve Thorpe said the stretch of B1125 between Reckford Bridge and the junction with B1122 has been added to the group and he also requested a 20 mph speed limit from Reckford Bridge to Yew Tree Corner and ANPR cameras. The Council agreed that the next steps were:

- (i) to convene a meeting with representatives from Theberton, Walberswick, Westleton, Kelsale, Yoxford and Blythburgh Parish Councils to discuss how intervention in one parish may affect neighbouring parishes and to ensure joined up views are presented to EDF;
- (ii) to invite residents to a surgery in the Village Hall in the new year to hear their views about EDFs proposed plans;
- (iii) to conduct site visits to the B1122 to identify stretches where the proposed footpaths could be joined.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange joint meeting and check availability of Village Hall for joint meeting and surgery. Councillors to conduct site visits to B1122.

b) The Chairman briefed the Council about the National Grid Sea Link and Euro Link consultation. The nearest potential sites for convertor stations are east of Moat Road at Theberton and at Saxmundham near the boundary with Sternfield. The convertor stations will connect with the substation proposed for Friston. The preferred landfall site is between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness and the cable swathes will cross

the RSPB North Warren. The Council accepted the Chairman's offer to draft a response to the consultation.

9. Planning

The Council agreed there was no objection to planning application DC/22/4038/FUL - construction of a two-bay single-storey cart lodge and log store. In another position, the construction of a hay and small tractor store, moving along the existing, open metal store - Rose Farm Barn, Mill Street.

ACTION: Clerk to inform District Council.

10. Consultations

The Chairman completed the Transport East – Rural Mobility Survey but following a discussion with Council a number of amendments were identified.

ACTION: Clerk to ask if the submission can be amended.

11. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

a) Highways – Cllr. Lesley Taylor raised a concern about school parents' parking on Rectory Road as there was an incident where the mobile library bus came into contact with a badly parked vehicle on the corner.

ACTION: Clerk to write to school and investigate possibility of double yellow lines for the corner.

b) Drop-In Centre – Cllr. Lesley Taylor informed the Council that the Drop-In Centre may be eligible for funding from an ESC Cost of Living Grant. It was agreed to apply for £1,000. Cllr. Taylor said the Community Council was not providing a Christmas lunch this year. Cllr. Chris Reynolds said this was due to the ongoing risks of COVID. The Council decided to arrange for a smaller Christmas lunch event at the Drop-in Centre on 15th December.

ACTION: Cllr. Lesley Taylor to apply for a grant.

c) Village Greens – the Chairman said he spoke to the Parochial Church Council about improving the disabled access to the Church but unfortunately they do not have any funding to support this initiative.

12. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipts, and verified last month's approved payments.

b) The Council authorised the following payment:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£351.60	LGA 1972 s.112

13. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 6th October 2022 to 3rd November 2022.

113. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.