

# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 AT 6:15 PM VIA ZOOM

## 1. Election of Chair

Upon nominations duly made and seconded, Cllr. Julian Cusack was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year and until his successor is elected.

**ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to sign the Declaration of Office form and Clerk to sign as witness.**

## 2. Election of Vice-Chair and signing of Declaration of Office

Upon nominations duly made and seconded, Cllr. Roy Dowding was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and until his successor is elected.

**ACTION: Cllr. Roy Dowding to sign the Declaration of Office form and Clerk to sign as witness.**

## 4. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack - Chair  
Cllr. Roy Dowding - Vice-Chair  
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread  
Cllr. Colin Whitbread  
Cllr. Steve Thorpe  
Cllr. Chris Reynolds

### Apologies for absence:

County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond  
District Cllr. TJ Haworth-Culf  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper  
Cllr. Lesley Taylor – written and accepted

### In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
5 members of the public

## 5. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

## 6. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved.

## 7. Matters Arising

Cllr. Julian Cusack informed the Council that a letter had been received from the Chairman of Kelsale Parish Council regarding the Council's proposal to request that Fordley Road is kept open should the Sizewell Link Road be built. Kelsale Parish Council raised concerns about the incentive for rat-running through its parish and objected to the Council recording its position about Sizewell C matters in its minutes.

**ACTION: Cllr. Cusack to contact the Chairs of all neighbouring Parish Councils to understand their positions and to seek to allay any concerns.**

## 8. Casual Vacancy

Cllr. Julian Cusack reported that he, Cllr. Lesley Taylor and Cllr. Lynda Whitbread interviewed an applicant for the Casual Vacancy. Cllr. Cusack recommended that the applicant is co-opted at the next meeting if he wishes to proceed and this was agreed.

## 9. Councillors' Appointments

a) Cllr. Julian Cusack, Cllr. Roy Dowding and Cllr. Colin Whitbread were appointed to the Finance Working Group.

b) Cllr. Julian Cusack, Cllr. Chris Reynolds, Cllr. Steve Thorpe and Cllr. Lesley Taylor were appointed to the Recreation Ground Working Group.

c) The Council agreed to discontinue the Planning Working Group as planning matters are considered at full Council meetings. Extraordinary meetings will be called to consider planning applications requiring a response before the next Ordinary meeting. Cllr. Chris Reynolds and Cllr. Steve Thorpe agreed to take the lead on planning matters.

**ACTION: Clerk to forward the Local Plan and link to District Council's planning portal to Cllr. Chris Reynolds and Cllr. Steve Thorpe.**

d) The Council appointed Cllr. Lesley Taylor and Cllr. Lynda Whitbread to liaise with the Village Hall Committee.

e) The Council appointed Cllr. Lynda Whitbread to liaise with the Primary School.

f) The Council appointed Cllr. Colin Whitbread to liaise with the Summer Wine Group.

g) The Council appointed Cllr. Julian Cusack to liaise with the Moor Management Group.

h) The Council appointed Cllr. Steve Thorpe to lead on Highways, Footpaths, Trees and Green Issues.

i) The Council agreed that Cllr. Chris Reynolds should be added as a signatory to the Council's bank accounts

**ACTION: Clerk to arrange.**

## **10. Annual Accounts/Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

a) The Council approved the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2020-2021.

b) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for the financial year 2020-2021

c) The Council postponed approval of the following items until the next meeting:

i) The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR.

ii) The Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR.

iii) The Certificate of Exemption.

iv) The analysis of the Significant Variances from the previous financial year.

v) Setting the period for the exercise of public rights.

## **11. Energy Projects and Public Forum**

Cllr. Julian Cusack invited the members of the public present to speak if they wish.

Cllr. Roy Dowding informed the Council of the matters discussed at the recent meeting with EDF:

- With regard to keeping Fordley Road open, Cllr. Dowding said they were still waiting for EDF to provide visuals but there is no potential for a flat junction. The visual amenity of the landscape will be compromised by an overpass and there are drainage issues with an underpass. A resident said the proposed crossing would be near his property therefore he had a keen interest in this matter. His preference was not for an overpass which would be a monstrously high structure and unsightly. Cllr. Steve Thorpe replied that he understood his concerns but it was also important to consider access to Kelsale and Saxmundham. Cllr. Colin Whitbread said he understood the issue was divisive but his preferred option was to terminate Fordley Road as the flyover would be an unsightly eyesore on the countryside. Cllr. Julian Cusack said that vehicles could access Kelsale and Saxmundham via the A12 or Pretty Road which EDF are considering keeping open by way of a bridge over the SLR. Cllr. Cusack said the Council is supporting Quiet Lanes throughout the parish and is interested in reducing traffic volumes however, cyclists and pedestrians prefer to use Fordley Road and Littlemoor Road so perhaps it would be a compromise to keep cycleways and footpaths

open along these routes. The resident replied that this would be a good compromise as a bridge of that nature would not require such an excessive cut and fill. Cllr. Cusack said that a decision does not need to be taken now and he would consult the neighbouring Parish Councils for their views.

- Cllr. Dowding said that EDF were discussing speed enforcement measures for the B1122 and the B1125 with SCC Highways.
- Cllr. Dowding raised with EDF the issues of property blight, noise and vibration for properties along the B1122. EDF's proposed Property Price Scheme currently only includes properties in a narrow, restrictive corridor directly affected by the works. Cllr. Dowding understands that EDF are not under any legal obligation to compensate property owners for loss but told them this was grossly unfair and an adequate compensation scheme should be built into all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
- Cllr. Dowding said that EDF will maintain the B1122 if vehicular damage occurs to the surface and if the level crossing is closed they will halt all HGV movements to ensure they do not use side roads.
- With regard to the B1125 junction with the Sizewell Link Road, Cllr. Dowding reported that EDF would like it to be built to take vehicles away from Theberton. EDF's traffic modelling predicts a total of 3,000 vehicles per day will use the B1125 by 2028 therefore Sizewell traffic should be encouraged to use the Link Road.
- Cllr. Dowding asked EDF to provide footpaths along the B1122 from the Moor to Mill Street and along the B1125 from Rectory Road to Westleton. EDF responded that they would discuss this with SCC Highways. It was agreed to provide EDF with a map with the Council's preliminary observations on the proposed footpaths. Cllr. Cusack said he would ask Westleton parish for its views on the proposed B1125 footpath.
- Cllr. Dowding raised concerns with EDF about airborne pollution. EDF said they will ensure levels are kept within regulatory limits.
- Cllr. Dowding confirmed that Middleton cum Fordley will be eligible to apply for funding from EDF's Community Fund.

A resident requested that the Council register to speak at the Open Hearings by Deadline 1 on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The Open Hearings will take place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May and the Council will be allotted 15 minutes to speak. The resident also asked the Council to register to attend some Specific Hearings on matters relevant to the parish, particularly transport and the B1122. With regard to the Planning Inspectorate's Site Inspection at Hinkley Point C, the resident recommended that the visit should not be accompanied by EDF and that the Planning Inspectorate should be asked to look at night glow.

A resident said that an underpass at Fordley Road was feasible with sumps, pumps and drains. He said maintaining access was important as landowners cannot access their fields or Saxmundham via the Link Road. The resident said he was writing, as a courtesy, to everyone who had responded to his survey about the legacy of the Link Road to say their voice had been heard.

Cllr. Cusack said the next step for the Council was to confirm its position on various matters after consultation with the adjoining parishes.

## **12. Progress Reports**

a) Quiet Lanes – Cllr. Chris Reynolds informed the Council that due to the successful take-up of the Quiet Lanes Scheme, all parishes had been asked to make a contribution of £50 per route. The signage costs for the first two routes is guaranteed by grant funding therefore Cllr. Reynolds proposed that the Council approves the remaining £250 cost. The Clerk advised that Community Infrastructure Levy receipts

could be used for this expenditure. All were in favour.

b) Recreation Ground – Cllr. Julian Cusack asked the Council, as Trustees of the Recreation Ground, to consider approval of a donation of £50 from Trust funds to a resident who renovated a bench at their own expense as a memorial. All were in favour of this show of appreciation.

c) Hastoe Housing – Cllr. Steve Thorpe reported that Hastoe had asked the Council for suggestions for a name for the new access road. Cllr. Thorpe had drafted a newsletter article asking residents for their suggestions which will be put to a vote.

d) Village Hall – Cllr. Chris Reynolds informed the Council that he liaised with the Management Committee and he has arranged for three professionals to carry out a separate initial assessment of the condition of the roof.

### 13. Finance

a) The Council approved the continuation of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

b) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipt of the precept of £8,131.25, a tax base grant of £15.00 and bank interest of £0.03.

c) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020-2021.

d) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£230.60	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£26.28	LGA 1972 s.111
British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£32.41	LGA (MP) 1976 s.19

### 14. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### 15. Items for the Next Agenda

a) New flooring for the pavilion.

b) Burial ground.

### 16. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:45 pm.