MIDDLETON -CUM - FORDLEY





NEWSLETTER

Editorial

A belated 'Happy New Year' everyone. This edition has some catching up of events held in December as we didn't have a January edition, alongside some upcoming ones to make a note of such as the Community Meeting detailed below regarding the possible field development. For any new resident not sure of its exact location it is the field in Back Road behind Roke Drive and not the field behind the Recreation Ground or the field between the Recreation Ground and Title Road or the one between Fletcher's Lane and Minsmere Rise.

The front cover photos are of Renny and Yvonne who won the 'Santa Boules ' tournament in December – well done to them, and the saxophone quartet who so beautifully entertained at the MCC Christmas Party. Many thanks again to them.

The annual accounts for the newsletter are printed towards the back of this issue, thanks very much to Trish Cooke for checking them over.

Any residents wishing to opt for a digital version of this newsletter can contact me on the email below.

Contributions for the next edition by email preferably as a WORD doc please, as usual to: barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to

6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by Tuesday 25th February.

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual.

Also to be found on the Parish website: www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

Donations may be made to: HSBC Middleton Newsletter sort code 40-28-33 account number 61054236

Hastoe Field



You are invited to a Community Meeting

As part of future options relating to Causeway Farm, the field next to our Recreation Ground is expected to become available for purchase from Suffolk County Council.

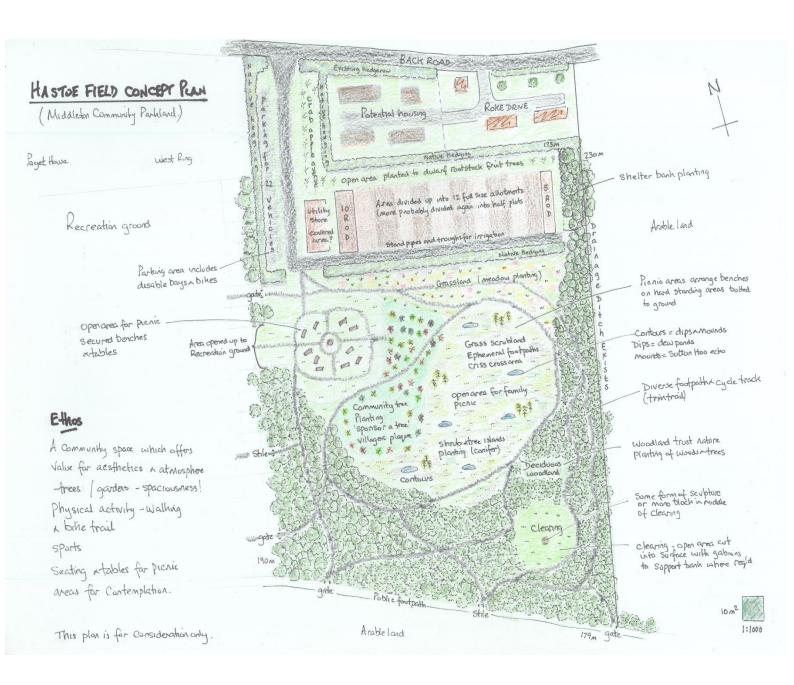
The Parish Council is looking at the possibility of acquiring the field, to be developed as community parkland, with the aid of the Sizewell C Community Fund (application yet to be submitted).

To this end Middleton Parish Council invite you to attend a meeting on

Wednesday 26 February 2025, 7pm, at the Village Hall

to share your thoughts and ideas on this exciting new venture.

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to email the clerk with your views parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com A reminder of the concept plan for consideration for the field published in the November newsletter.



I would like to thank all our friends in the village who contributed to making my 70th birthday a special day. I look forward to buying some more shrubs for the garden over the coming spring and thinking of you all as I watch them bloom.

Thanks Fiona

"Santa Boules" - despite the weather!!! SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER - action shots of one kind or another!!!!











On a very wet, windy and cold December morning 22 intrepid players braved the elements for the annual 'Santa boules' tournament. It was great to see some new faces joining in alongside the old faithfuls.

After three games each the semi-finalists were decided- Paul & Mike, Renny & Yvonne, Richard & Jenny, Graham & Barbara. As shown on the front cover Renny and Yvonne were the eventual winners and are the proud first recipients of the 'newly recycled' trophy (made of old coches!).

Very important thanks must go to Cherryl for keeping the kettles on the go, the soup hot and baking sausage rolls!



MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 14™

This year 52 people came along to the Village Hall for the annual Community Council organised party and were more than ably entertained by "THE NORTH POLE SAXOPHONE QUARTET" – alias Hebe Cooke and friends from the Guildhall School of Music. Many thanks to them. If you are reading this newsletter online please try clicking on the link below to see a short clip. (Hope it works!)

VIDEO-2024-12-19-22-32-29.mp4

The proceeds from the raffle were shared equally between Suffolk MIND and Leiston C.A.B. MCC would like to thank everyone who helped with the planning, food preparation, waiting tables and clearing up — too many to name for fear of forgetting someone. Thank you.

Dates for your diaries of our events for 2025 are on the back page and details will follow nearer the time.



It is with great sadness that Michael and I will be leaving Thatched House at the end of February, but it's not goodbye as we have our caravan on Cakes & Ale (pitch no, 26) so you will be seeing us quite often.

We are moving back to our flat in Romford while its cladding is being replaced. When the repairs are completed we will be relocating back to Suffolk, hopefully Middleton, as everyone here has been so welcoming, friendly and supportive.

We know you will make Louis, and Kate welcome when they move into Thatched House in March, along with their delightful 3 year old son Ronnie and his baby sister, born in December (2 more children for the village school). They seem keen to join in village life, so do remember them for open gardens etc. if not this year perhaps next.

Thank you all again for making the past 10+ years so happy.

Best Wishes

Mike and Jenny Hemming

Middleton-cum-Fordley WI

As Middleton-cum-Fordley WI starts its 103rd year, we are pleased to share our 2025 Programme with everyone and hope we might welcome some new members to our friendly group.



For the benefit of those new to our village we hold our meetings in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm and 2.15pm in November and January. We offer several friendship groups for ladies to be involved, book, film & lunch groups, as well as being part of the village life and giving our support to the Summer Fete, Autumn Fayre, quizzes and bakes for our Open Gardens.

Tea/coffee and cake are enjoyed at our meetings after listening to an entertaining speaker at which husbands/guests are welcome, should they be interested in a specific talk. We also support many local causes and charities in the area, particularly the women's refuge centre in Ipswich, The Lighthouse.

Friendship, fun & enlightenment are what we offer, so please come along to our -

Open Day Meeting on 19th March 7.15 pm At Middleton Village Hall Guests are more than welcome

Our programme for 2025 ~

January 15th. 2.15 start Cream Tea and Resolutions	February 26th New Year Lunch Wentworth	March 19th 7.15 pm Subs & Supper	April 16th 7.15 pm Mark Mitchells The Suffolk Coast
May 21st 7.15 pm Lesley Abery, Ash Farm Vineyard (With tasters)	June 18th 7.15 pm David Naylor RSPB ~ 'Birds & Habitat Minesmere Reserve'	July 16th Garden Party (Venue TBA)	August No meeting
September 17th 7.15 pm Julie ~ Chocolate Makers (History, testing and discount sales)	October 15th 7.15 pm Barbara McElroy Apples 'A Miscellany'	November 19th 2.15 pm AGM tea & cakes	December 17th 7.15 pm End of Year Celebration



The WI experienced an End of Year Celebration in December with much festive cheer and hilarity, all provided by Sizewell Gap.

Members were entertained with music, song, puppetry, festive tales and clog dancing. At one point, WI members Shirley and Rosemary, had 'star turns' with the dancing puppets, Rosemary courageously kept her puppet dancing even when one of the legs fell off. The laughter and smiles did not leave anyone's faces all evening.

WI members provided a sumptuous buffet which was enjoyed by members and their guests along with mulled wine. Food items not eaten were donated to the Thursday Morning Coffee Group for their end of year buffet held the following day.

At the end of the evening WI president Rita whole heartedly thanked Sizewell Gap for the entertainment they gave us. She also thanked members for their loyal support to this WI throughout the year. Rita also passed on thanks from The Lighthouse Women's Refuge in Ipswich for the carload of gifts, toys, food and requested suitable items by members of this WI. The ladies at the centre were astounded with everyone's generosity.

The evening concluded with a resounding singalong to, 'We wish you a Merry Christmas.'

LW ~ Secretary









We started our January meeting with a very nice cream tea. There were homemade scones (plain, fruit and cheese) served with whipped cream and strawberry jam followed by homemade meringues and cream--delicious and indulgent. We then had to turn to the business side of our meeting. In January we must learn about and vote on the National WI resolutions for the coming year that had made the shortlist, 32 were submitted and whittled down to 4. Rita spoke on "Let's Talk About Incontinence" making more people aware of how incontinence issues affect all areas of health and wellbeing. Lynne spoke on "Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers" teaching more people how to use CPR and defibrillators confidently will save lives. Lynda spoke on "Join the Repair Revolution" to stop the excess in clothing production, people should be taught to repair and re-use clothing. Workshops could be set up. Jenny's topic was "Eliminate Landfill of Medication Packaging". There should be more collection points for recycling of complex medication packaging. Manufacturers should explore simple packaging alternatives that can be recycled. After each presentation our members discussed the pros and cons of each resolution. There did not seem to be one that grabbed our attention to any degree. Nevertheless, we took a vote and the resolution that we will put forward to the National WI is "Join the Repair Revolution".

Our February get- together will be lunch at The Wentworth Hotel on Wednesday the 26th of February.

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY Church Services during February

Sunday 2 February 10am Benefice Service Holy Communion followed by coffee

Sunday 16 February 11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23 February 11am Holy Communion

Margaret Charles

Holy Trinity PCC was very sad to hear of the passing of Margaret Charles formerly of Bell Cottages. Middleton and latterly of Aldringham Court, Leiston.

Cremation took place at Seven Hills followed by a service of remembrance at St.Peters Church, Westleton on January 28th.

Our thoughts are with her daughter Katie.

Rita Pateman Church Warden





A Spring Saturday Pop-up Brunch 15 March, 10-11.45am Holy Trinity Church

And, for any of us who may have missed these and are wondering what they are about, they began with a desire to make more use of our lovely old church and, wondering how to complement and collaborate with the other good things going on in the village, realising that we were missing having somewhere - in walking distance - to read the papers, solve a crossword, maybe catch up with a friend while enjoying coffee and a sausage roll or something sweet on a Sunday morning... though, please note, so as not to clash with the Lent Benefice Services, Sunday has swapped to a Saturday on this occasion!

So please join us if you are free...

Any time between 10 and 11.45am - leaving you free to mosey over to the pub when it opens at midday if you choose, or home for lunch...

If you have any questions about this event, or would like a lift, please contact Amanda Taylor: 07990 602 563 or ajt.opom@gmail.com or Camilla Sim: 07740 427414 or camillasim9@gmail.com





New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

12 February - Amanda and Paul 12 March - Camilla and Val 9 April - Amanda and Paul 14 May - Mark and Liz

19 February - Trish and Graham26 March - Rob23 April - Nicola and Margaret

Thought for the Month

'Be still my heart ... these great trees are prayers.'*

'Slum grass, scabbed and aching trees, desecrated ground, a feeling of blasphemy'**

- *Rabindranath Tagore
- **Edwin Muir

Information from our Rector about Lent Services

Next month the timetable of church services is going to look very different to normal. For the Sundays of Lent (9th March to 13th April) I am experimenting with holding a single 'benefice' service each week (to which everyone is very welcome, naturally). The reasons for this are:

- I believe that a series of six weeks worshipping together will help us to get to know each other better
 increasing our ties and our unity.
- We can showcase to each other some of what is good in worship in each church
- Worshipping in larger numbers can be encouraging singing is louder, and the coffee and chat afterwards can have more of a buzz to it.

This is *not* an attempt to make my life easier by reducing the varied and creative life of eight churches down to one roaming congregation! I value too much the diversity that this benefice enjoys — from Book of Common Prayer evensongs to family@church to Taizé worship and 'normal' communion.

Furthermore, Easter Sunday services (when Easter comes) will be held in all the churches, as befits the fantastic celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

I warmly encourage you to join me in a sort of pilgrimage around the benefice through Lent, and use this opportunity to explore the differences that you will encounter across six weeks. One service will be a BCP communion. Another will be family worship — but whatever your normal preference, I encourage you to come to these varied services, and be encouraged by a different (and equally wonderful) part of the wider worshipping community.

Another reason for this dramatic change in the rota for six weeks is so that we can engage in a Lent course looking at Christian Ethics together. I am inviting guest speakers to co-lead so that we can discuss some of the difficult topics — war, medical ethics, and the more everyday — 'how should we spend our money well?' These will be discussions and explorations to which all are welcome. Put it in your diary now! — Darsham Village Hall at 4pm each Sunday of Lent for an hour and half, with refreshments.

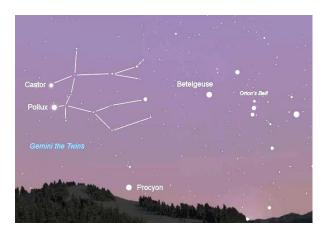
Blessings, Tim.



Middleton Dark Skies

February Highlights

Planets on view. Venus will be at its brightest on the 16th, being visible in the SW an hour or so before sunset and for several hours after. Look out for Venus on the 1st, as it will be just above the crescent moon, with a much fainter Saturn sitting below and slightly to the right of the moon. Jupiter is shining brightly, high in the southern sky. Use a pair of binoculars or a small telescope to try and spot up to four of the main moons of Jupiter and, hopefully the cloud bands on its surface. Mars will be high in the sky and visible all night, its orange colour being very evident Constellations. The winter constellations still dominate the southern night sky, although Leo (the Lion), technically a spring constellation, is starting to put in an appearance out towards the SE. **Gemini** (the Twins) is prominent this month, sitting high in the sky. Its two brightest stars are Castor and Pollux. Castor is the higher and fainter of the two. Strangely, Castor is not a single star, but a system of six stars that orbit each other. Finding Gemini is made easier this month as Mars is sitting right in the middle of it. Orion (the Hunter) is beginning to slip away towards the W, but is still visible for most of the night and well worth taking a look at. The line of three stars that make up Orion's belt are very distinctive. Immediately below the belt are three stars the represent the sword that hangs down from Orion's belt. With a pair of binoculars or a small telescope, you should be able to see that the central one of these stars looks slightly fuzzy. This is the Orion Nebula, only visible because it is backlit by adjacent stars. The bright star Betelgeuse, that sits at the upper left corner of Orion, has a noticeable red hue. Taurus (the Bull) is still high in the SW sky, but like Orion is beginning to slip away towards the western horizon as the nights progress. The planet Jupiter sits, as it has done for most of the winter, between the 'horns' of Taurus, just above the triangle of stars that form the head of the bull.



Gemini and Orion looking South.

The Moon. Known as the Snow Moon in February, after the heavy winter snowfalls in the Northern Hemisphere. It's worth looking out for the crescent moon out in the W during the evening of the 1st, as it will have Venus and Saturn for company. A very bright Venus will be directly above the moon, while a much dimmer Saturn will be below and slightly to the right of the moon. Full moon this month occurs on the 12th.

<u>Meteor Showers and Comets.</u> Unfortunately, none of any note this month, but always a chance of seeing a rogue meteor, if you are lucky enough.

<u>Artificial Satellites.</u> Plenty of these to see, just spend half an hour looking up at a clear night sky. Some move in small groups or in a line, so always fun to watch out for these. It's worth checking out when the Space Station will be overhead. The dates and times of the passes are generally only published a week or so ahead, so are very likely to have passed by if the schedule were to be included in the Newsletter.

Brian Near

Middleton Community Council Young Person Bursary

Are you a young person under 18 with a hobby or interest you'd like to pursue but need a little financial boost to get started or buy a piece of equipment for instance? Perhaps we can help. Contact Trish for more information tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com

February Nature Notes

Mosses are familiar to all of us, occurring on the lawns, soil, paths, roofs, and trees of all our houses and gardens. Unlike most flowering plants which die back out of season, mosses are present throughout the year. However, it is often easier to find mosses in the winter months, when they are less likely to be overshadowed metaphorically and literally by larger and more showy plants.

Mosses together with liverworts and hornworts are collectively known as bryophytes. They are some of the oldest groups of land plants and have had millions of years to evolve a variety of species that have colonised almost all habitats apart from the sea. Ecologically they are very important, stabilising soils and helping to control the cycling of water and nutrients. Most have a simple structure with a main stem and branches covered in leaves and they are flowerless, reproducing by spores. They do not have roots but absorb water and minerals directly into the single layer of cells in the leaves. Though some bryophytes are strongly coloured, often red or purple, in the main they are one of the myriad shades of green. They range in size from being a few millimetres to over a metre tall. Mosses have stems with leaves, which may be upright, or creeping and much branched. Liverworts and the similar hornworts may be leafy and very similar to mosses (although the fruit looks quite different) or they may form flat plates of apparently leafless tissue.



Because the leaves of most bryophytes are only one cell thick, and very few of them have any specialised conducting tissue to transport water along the stem, they are very vulnerable to drying out. Although some species can tolerate drying out for long periods of time, many cannot survive unless kept moist. Therefore the best places to find bryophytes are sheltered and humid habitats such as woodlands, beside streams, and in damp places such as bogs and fens. Indeed in wet woodland they can carpet the ground and clothe every tree trunk and branch. Some are tolerant of high levels of disturbance and/or nutrient enrichment and in this group can be found many ubiquitous species. Others require more permanent situations, such as long-lived woodland or mires, whilst a substantial number are habitat specialists, found only in certain situations, such as on coastal rocks, in fens, on trees in the flood zone of silty lowland rivers, or on mountains at high altitude. But even unlikely habitats such as stubble fields can typically have a bryophyte flora of over fifteen species, and a less well maintained lawn over five species - it is interesting to note that close mowing encourages moss growth.

There are about 1,100 species of bryophytes found in the British Isles, and about 25,000 worldwide. As mosses and liverworts thrive in moist conditions, Britain and Ireland have about two-thirds of all European species of bryophytes compared with only about a sixth of European species of flowering plants. Suffolk, as would be expected in the comparatively drier conditions of the east, has a relatively poor bryophyte flora with only 335 mosses and 80 liverworts recorded.

Peter Vincent

UPCOMING ROAD CLOSURES OF B1122 AND OTHER ROADS

Middleton Parish Council has been informed by Sizewell C of multiple road closures over the next few months and beyond. These include:

B1122 between Theberton and Leiston overnight (8pm - 5am) for:

- 2 weeks sometime between 3 Feb 14 Mar
- throughout 3 Mar 9 May
- other dates after this period.

These closures will run mainly Mon - Fri but may extend into weekends.

Lovers Lane (off B1122 to Sizewell): night time (8pm - 5am), 6 Jan - 28 Feb

Abbey Lane (off B1122 opposite Lovers Lane): Closed fully 20 Jan 2025 - Jan 2027

Eastbridge Road (off B1122 almost opposite the Old Abbey) night time (8pm - 5am), 3 Feb - 14 Mar

Sizewell C have told us that they will attempt to allow emergency vehicles to pass through the closures. Some Middleton residents will receive letters giving details. MPC will run updates on these and other closures in the newsletter as they become available. If you have questions or problems arising from these closures, please visit the Sizewell C Information Office in Leiston High St (Monday – Friday 9:30am-5pm), call their 24 hour helpline on 0800 197 6102 or email info@sizewellc.com. If you are not satisfied in your dealings with Sizewell C, please contact Cllr Macdowell at cllrcharlesmacdowell@gmail.com.

50% off eco-friendly insulation for Suffolk residents



Anyone in Suffolk can receive a 50% discount off their purchase of 200mm or 370mm wide insulation rolls (up to £200) with free delivery, from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

Go to www.bit.ly/suffolkloft and fill in the short form to receive your personalised link to order, or call High Loft's insulation experts on 01706 248203. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will close once the allocated funding has been spent.

According to The Energy Saving Trust, an uninsulated home loses a quarter of its heat through its roof. For the second year in a row, help to afford eco-friendly loft insulation is now available.

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (Suffolk County Council, Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk Council) has teamed up with High Loft to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills.

High Loft also offers Klarna as a payment option, allowing you to spread the cost of your insulation purchase.

To find out more visit www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/funding.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents to future agendas. If you would like to make such a request or contact the Parish Council on any other matter, please do so via the Parish Clerk on parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com".

1 Attendance and Apologies Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Steve Thorpe

Apologies:

Cİlr Lesley Taylor Cllr Michele Kendall Cllr Kathryn Rowe District Councillor Sarah Whitelock

2 In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk Members of the public x 3

Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum. A member of the public advised the meeting that a public meeting has taken place in Yoxford, organised by Yoxford Parish Council and attended by SZC. The meeting covered plans for the roundabout and the SLR; are Middleton Parish Council planning anything similar? Cllr Macdowell advised the meeting of plans to meet with Yoxford, Theberton and Kelsale Parish Councils and SZC to establish progress and convey our frustrations at the lack of information and scale of works taken place to date. However this would not be a public meeting. It was agreed that a public meeting may be considered in the new year.

The destructive archaeological works were mentioned again. Cllr Cusack reiterated that it was never intended that only archaeological works would take place at this time, but also clearing of the areas (under the guise of archaeological works) ready for construction work in Spring next year. Cllr Macdowell reminded the meeting that the DCO provides for all tree and shrub clearance and planning permission has been granted. The Parish Council does not have any power to stop the destruction and furthermore, it is felt that SZC have misled the public. The construction of semi-permanent compounds, as seen at these sites, are not part of the archaeological works.

4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 November 2024.
- b) Matters arising and Action Points
- Cllr Cusack to arrange for cutting of the hedge at the burial ground c/f.
- Cllr Taylor to write an article for the newsletter regarding interest in public transport for the village c/f
- · Go ahead given for pond clearing works.
- Safeguarding and Equality/Diversity policies can be found on the village website.
- Contact has been made with a possible grass cutter for the village green. Cllr Piercy to put the contact in touch with the Clerk to make arrangements for the new year. It was agreed to pay £40 for a maximum of 8 cuts.
- Emergency Workshop invitation has been put on the village noticeboards. Clerk to submit for January newsletter also. Subsequent to the meeting it was established that the invitation is in December's newsletter.
- Donation of £500 was made to the village newsletter and a thank you has been received.

5 Causeway Farm. Cllr Piercy has researched potential grant options for Hastoe Field and supplied the meeting with information on each. It was agreed to create a subgroup to consider the grants and make appropriate applications.

Cllrs Cusack, Piercy and Thorpe attended a meeting with UK Power Networks regarding the practicalities of introducing solar panels as part of the Hastoe Field development (and, possibly, another field on Causeway Farm). Written costs/estimates are to follow. The proposal is for 85kws, with costs, approximately, at £1,000 per kw, representing a £85,000 investment, with connection costs bringing the total to approximately £100,000. A yield of £12,500 is expected each year, with a payback period of between 8/9 years. The lifetime of solar panels is estimated at 40 years, providing a continuous source of revenue after the payback period. It was noted that there is a risk of the yield fluctuating. It was agreed to share this information/idea at the public meeting to be held in the new year.

A date for the public meeting was agreed for Tuesday 28 January 2025 @ 7pm. Action: Clerk to confirm date with absent councillors and book the village hall.

6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects

MPC have received a request from a resident regarding access to an emergency plan following an accident/incident at the nuclear power station. Cllr Macdowell confirmed that, as part of the DCO, there is an Emergency Response Plan. It is understood the existing plan (created by SCC in 2021) is out of date and currently being revised, with a release expected early next year. This plan specifically covers the release of radioactive material.

The problem was raised of SZC workers controlling the traffic at Littlemoor Road, parking large vehicles on the moor and causing considerable damage. It was agreed to seek reassurance from SZC that any damage caused will be made good. The floodlighting was also questioned, given that the site is a fully secure compound with zero construction activity taking place at night. Middleton Moor have refused street lighting and safety features to preserve the dark skies but are now suffering unnecessary light pollution.

Action: Cllr Macdowell to address, at the next forum, i) duration of works and confirmation that any damaged caused will be put right and ii) light pollution.

As a point of interest, a member of the public advised the meeting that during the construction of Sizewell B works traffic was prohibited through the Moor.

7 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. No report
- b) Middleton Primary School. No report
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report
- <u>d) Middleton Moor</u>. Works on the pond are still scheduled to go ahead. (September PC minutes recorded that Cllr Taylor contacted the contractor and reported back that all is on schedule.)

8 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Overtime 12 hours @ £18.26 per hour	Rachael Salcombe	£219.12	LGA 1972 s. 112
A4 copier paper, Marquee Media Ltd	Rachael Salcombe	£25.08	LGA 1972 s. 111

- **9 Report from Finance Working Group Budget for 2025/26.** The recommendation for approval of the 2025/26 budget and for the precept to be raised to £10,295 (representing a 5% increase) was agreed and accepted by all. Action: Clerk to submit to ESC. Cllrs Taylor and Piercy were thanked for their contribution to the Finance Working Group.
- **10 Donation Policy.** A Donation Policy was presented to and approved by the Councillors. Action: Clerk to upload the Donation Policy onto the village website.
- **11 Eco Camping Planning Application.** This application follows on from the original Planning Application made in April of this year, which the Parish Council did not support. The revised plans were discussed, following an onsite meeting with the applicant, and it was agreed not to support the modified plans on the following grounds: -

The accommodation proposed comprises permanent buildings and these are not permitted at this site under Policy SCLP6.5 New Tourist Accommodation because i) the site is not within the settlement boundaries, ii) the structures will not be created by the conversion of existing buildings of permanent structure, iii) the site is not a medium or large scale site where commercial, recreational or entertainment facilities are provided and iv) the development does not form part of a comprehensive masterplan which supports wider landscape and ecological gain.

Action: Clerk to inform the Planning Department at East Suffolk Council.

- **12 Village Path approach to Church.** A quote from Nice Touch Landscape has not been received. Cllr Reynolds advised the meeting that the original contactor considered for this work is now available again. Action: Cllr Reynolds to supply Cllr Lacey with contact details. Action: Cllr Lacey to make contact, with a view to meeting on site.
- **13 Funding/Grant Opportunities.** Cllr Taylor successfully applied for the East Suffolk Cost of Living Community Grant in the sum of £2,000. It was anticipated that this money would be used to create the Middleton Community Hub, with the PC collaborating and pooling resources with other groups in the village. The intention was to offer a warm friendly setting, serving hot drinks and light meals, providing magazines, newspapers and board games plus assistance with prescriptions, benefits and hospital transport. Unfortunately the PC have been unable to bring together enough resources to make the plan for a village hub possible. It is hoped that this can be revisited next year. The meeting thanked Cllr Taylor for her time and effort regarding this matter

Action: Clerk to advise East Suffolk Community Partnerships accordingly. Clerk to advise the village groups accordingly.

Public transport for the village c/f

- **14 2025 Meeting Dates.** The meeting dates were agreed. Action: Clerk to upload on village website. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting in May should include updates for the public on Causeway Farm and SZC.
- **15 Correspondence.** No correspondence.
- 16 Items for Next Agenda
- 17 Next Meeting. The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8 January 2024, at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.50pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Attendance and Apologies Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack Cllr Giles Piercy Cllr Steve Thorpe Cllr Graham Lacey Cllr Charles Macdowell Cllr Chris Reynolds Apologies:

Cllr Lesley Taylor Cllr Michele Kendall Cllr Kathryn Rowe

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe - Clerk Members of the public x 1

To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations. None.

Minutes

- a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 11 November 2024.
- b) Matters Arising.

Cllr Rowe supplied the clerk with playground inspector contacts.

The Zipwire has been removed.

Two bins (general and dog waste) have been ordered for the recreation ground.

To review Safety Inspection Report. No report received.

Correspondence. No correspondence.

Matters for discussion

<u>Playground Inspector</u>. Cllr Cusack had a successful meeting on site with Nordic Playground Institute, however, it was agreed that East Suffolk Services offer a more favourable service for our needs. The clerk confirmed costs as follows:

7x visual/routine inspections @ £22 ea + VAT

4 x operational inspections @ £47.60 ea + VAT

1x annual inspection @ £92 + VAT

Action: Clerk to advise East Suffolk Services and Nordic Playground Institute accordingly.

Survey c/f

Waste and Dog Bins - see above.

Items for the next Agenda. Approve Trust budget.

Next Meeting. Date of next meeting Wednesday 8 January at 7pm, to follow Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8pm.





MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2025 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents to future agend as. If you would like to make such a request or contact the Parish Council on any other matter, please do so via the Parish Clerk on parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com".

Attendance and Apologies Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Lesley Taylor
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
District Councillor Sarah Whitelock

Apologies:
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk

In attendance: None.

Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

Public Forum.

District Cllr Whitelock (8pm) referred to the Statement on Government Devolution Plans taken from the January ESC Leader's Monthly Bulletin. It is still very early days and there will be further discussions across Suffolk and within East Suffolk as things become clearer.

There will be an increase in car parking fees throughout East Suffolk.

More leaflets were distributed amongst councillors for circulation in the area.

Minutas

- c) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2024.
- d) Matters arising and Action Points
- Cllr Cusack to arrange for cutting of the hedge at the burial ground c/f
- Village hall booked for Tuesday 28 January, 7pm, public meeting re: Hastoe Field.
- 2025/26 Precept submitted to ESC.
- Donation Policy uploaded to the village website.
- Revised Eco Planning Application ESC has been informed of the PC's position.
- ESC and village groups have been informed of the cancelled Middleton Hub venture.
- 2025 Meeting dates uploaded to the village website.

Causeway Farm. Cllr Piercy confirmed no update on Causeway Farm, and this will be so until the current tenants have vacated in April.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to move the public meeting for Hastoe Field from 28 January to 26 February. The meeting will be announced in the village newsletter along with an email to residents. The format for the evening will be similar to that of last year's community meeting in March; an introduction (Cllr Cusack) and update (Cllr Thorpe), following which residents will form small groups to discuss proposals and ideas. It is hoped that District Councillors will also attend the meeting along with SZC Community Fund staff and councillors from Theberton, Yoxford and Kelsale.

The field will consist of approximately 10 acres with a capital requirement of £125,000 (excluding solar panels) and revenue support for a maximum of three years, following which any revenue implications will be picked up by the Precept.

Cllr Cusack reported back following a meeting with Sarah Mortimer, SZC Community Fund advisor, who confirmed that the emphasis is very much on benefits for the community, rather than biodiversity and natural habitats. Mention was given to an Environmental Impact Fund that SZC will be offering soon, and it was suggested that MPC apply through this fund also.

Applications must focus on outputs and outcomes, which were explained as follows: -

Output - an inventory of the physical elements that will be delivered, in this case, a community park, allotments and solar panels.

Expected Outcomes - will likely include 1) Health and Wellness, 2) Biodiversity (linked to education and health & wellbeing) and 3) Community Cohesion.

The application will also need to include the number of people who will benefit from the project. It is understood that the amount of money applied for is divided by the number of people that will benefit. Applications made so far have been in the region of £10-£20 per person. Our figures will need methodical consideration.

It was recommended that before the project starts, MPC interview several residents within the village (taken randomly from the Register) to assess wellbeing and SZC impact etc. The expectation, following this, would be to carry out the same survey the following year, two years and three years to measure the success of the project.

It was agreed that this venture should include the involvement of village residents and various village groups, not just MPC, therefore, a survey will also be undertaken on the night of the meeting to establish interest and seek volunteers to form a steering group.

It was agreed to give the project a working title of Middleton Community Park.

Hastoe Field public meeting plans were shared with Cllr Whitelock, who suggested that the invitation be extended to Leiston Town Council.

Action: Clerk to issue invites to local parish/town councils, district councillors and SZC Community Fund staff.

Action: Clerk to write an invitation to be published in the next village newsletter and to arrange for a blanket email to be issued to residents.

A new meeting date was agreed for Wednesday 26 February. Action: Clerk to cancel 28 January booking and book the village hall for Wednesday 26 February.

Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.

- · Archaeological works continue.
- The construction of the SLR (a two-year process) is out to tender and is being awarded this month.
- Local road improvement schemes on the B1125 and B1122 are ongoing over the next two quarters, including footpath widening and the cutting back of vegetation.
- Average speed cameras will be erected this quarter, one at the B1125/22 junction, another at the far side of Theberton and one at Westleton.
- Results of a traffic survey carried out in October last year have been released. HGVs (not all SZC) going through Middleton
 Moor were around 300 per day, which is half the peak figure of 600. The average speed was 29.9mph through the Moor, but
 85% of cars passing through were going 3mph faster; it is hoped that this will be improved with the installation of the average
 speed cameras.
- The continuation of works without an FID (final investment decision) was raised, along with questions regarding construction
 the SLR and whether Littlemoor Road will continue to be used for construction traffic. Cllr Macdowell offered to raise these
 issues at next week's Main Development Site Forum. It is believed that the routes currently being used are not those that were
 given originally. Action: Cllr Macdowell to raise at next MDS Forum.
- The new Yoxford roundabout will be operational before completion of the SLR.
- Sealink have requested that MPC register as an interested party for the DCO process. Action: Cllr Macdowell.

Dist. Cllr Whitelock advised of a two-year road closure at Georges Road/Abbey Lane with Theberton traffic being diverted through Leiston. This will be raised at the MDS Forum next week.

7 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. No report
- b)Middleton Primary School. No report
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report
- d) Middleton Moor. The pond works will now be taking place in January.

8 Finance

- a)The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b)The following payment was authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
P30 Q3 Income Tax	HMRC	£76.91	LGA 1972 s.112

9 Affiliation to East Suffolk Planning Alliance. A group of 54 town and parish councils are affiliated from across East Suffolk. The alliance meets quarterly with the Planning Department at ESC to discuss planning issues. Cllr Cusack is familiar with the group, having previously chaired a conference on behalf of the alliance. It was agreed to become affiliated with ESPA. Action: Clerk to advise.

10 Village Path approach to Church. Dale Johnson will be providing a price quotation by the end of this week.

- 11 Funding/Grant Opportunities. No new opportunities.
- **12 Correspondence.** No correspondence.

13 Items for Next Agenda

14 Next Meeting. The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2025 AT 7.50pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Attendance and Apologies Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack

Cllr Giles Piercy

Cllr Steve Thorpe

Cllr Charles Macdowell

Cllr Lesley Taylor

Cllr Michele Kendall

Cllr Kathryn Rowe

Apologies:

Cllr Graham Lacey Cllr Chris Reynolds Rachael Salcombe - Clerk

In attendance: None

To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations. None.

Minutes

- c) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 11 December 2024.
- d) Matters Arising. None.

To review Safety Inspection Report. No report.

Approve Trust Budget. The figures were noted and agreed. It was also agreed to i) offer the Pavilion Manager role for another season and ii) increase/extend publicity of the pavilion. Action: Clerk to prepare and offer contract.

Correspondence. No correspondence.

Matters for discussion.

It was agreed to i) offer feedback from the survey at the Hastoe Field public meeting in February and ii) include a question to establish the opinions of incorporating survey investment proposals within the wider Hastoe grant application.

Costs for emptying new waste and dog bins agreed. Action: Clerk to notify ESC. Items for the next Agenda. None.

Next Meeting. Date of next meeting Wednesday 12 February at 8pm, to follow Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Thursday Morning VH Group



Don't forget the Thursday Coffee morning is extended to include soup and roll lunch for the winter months.

No need to book - just drop in to the Village Hall from 11 am for a warm welcome with a cuppa, followed by a hearty bowl of soup made by one of our volunteers. All welcome.



MIDDLETON BELL SPECIALS

Thursday evenings: Pie and mash night

Friday evenings: Fish and chip night

Both have a drink included, contact The Bell for more information. Tel 648286

N.B. the kitchen is currently closed Mon/Tue/Wed.



Join our team as a volunteer and make a difference in your community. A range of of roles are available



Interested? You can email us volunteer@caes.org.uk

Or for more information visit our website - caes.org.uk



Our offices are in :
Beccles • Felixstowe • Leiston • Lowestoft • Woodbridge
plus outreach centres across the region

Volunteer with us!

To meet the growing demands for Citizens Advice services across East Suffolk, we need more volunteers to join our team. Whether you are newly retired and looking for a new challenge, a student looking for experience to add to your CV, keen to keep your CV alive while your children are at school. We have a range of roles that we would love to talk to you about:

- Adviser giving information, advice and client support
- Admin and customer service, reception
- Fundraising
- Media/PR/marketing
- IT support
- Research and campaigns
- Volunteer recruitment and support
- Trustee

Full training is given, and a great team to working with in our offices across East Suffolk – Lowestoft, Beccles, Leiston, Woodbridge and Felixstowe.

You can read more about these different roles on www.citizensadviceeastsuffolk.org.uk/volunteers. If you would like to apply or find out more please do email www.citizensadviceeastsuffolk.org.uk/volunteers. If you would like to apply or find out more please do email www.citizensadviceeastsuffolk.org.uk/volunteers. If you would like to apply or find out more please do email www.citizensadviceeastsuffolk.org.uk/volunteers.

NEWSLETTER FINANCES FOR 2024

Newsletter INCOME 2024			Newsletter EXPENDITURE 2024		
			Leiston Press 1 issue @ £ 158.00 £154 (Aug)		
Individual donations during the year	£	660.00	Leiston Press 7 issues @ £ 1162.00 £166 (March, April, May,		
Advertisers	£	240.00	July, Sept.,Oct, Dec)		
Parish Council	£	500.00	Leiston Press 3 issues @ £ 588.00 £196 (Feb.,June,Nov.)		
WI	£	150.00			
Christmas Greetings	£	405.00	Bank charges £ 60.80		
MCC	£	450.00	Annual petrol for collection & £ 31.50 delivery to team		
			New delivery bags £ 13.99		
			Part payment - Macafee anti- virus for laptop		
			Adobe £ 21.14		
Total income 2024	£	2405.00	Total expenditure £ 2090.43		
Total expenditure 2024	£	2090.43			
	£	314.57			
Carry forward from 2023	£	1858.36			
Total with carry forward	£	2172.93			

In the autumn I reported that the finances were such that we would probably have to cut costs by printing the newsletter in black and white. Fortunately - thanks to all the wonderfully generous donations from our readers and village organisations we have avoided this scenario for now. Once again THANK YOU ALL .

When the carry forward is added we have a balance of £2172.93 – a decent sum to take forward. Without any extra income (which hopefully won't be the case) this will easily pay for 10 issues at the most expensive rate of which this issue is one (20 pages) or 12 issues at the smaller 16 page copies, assuming we continue with colour copies. I did research other printing companies but as yet have not found one with better service and convenience than Leiston Press.

Printing costs for Leiston Press vary depending on the number of pages per edition and the number of copies printed stands at 115 (around half of the village) with more people requesting to go back to paper, or new residents coming in that I don't have emails for. New residents wishing to have more information can email me at barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or anyone with any questions about the accounting. Thank you Trish for being our independent examiner of the finances and spotting my typos!

Thank you too, to our regular team of deliverers and all regular contributors. It wouldn't work without you all.

Remember donations can be made by BACS or cash through my letter box at 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road. Cheques are still possible but they incur us bank charges.

HSBC Middleton Newsletter sort code 40-28-33 account number 61054236 February

Sunday 2nd Benefice Service – Holy Trinity **10 am** Holy Communion followed by coffee

Thursday 6th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**Wednesday 12th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**Sunday 16th Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity **11am**Sunday 23rd Holy Communion, Holy Trinity **11am**

Wednesday 26th WI – New Year Lunch – Wentworth, Aldeburgh Wednesday 26th Community Meeting, Village Hall, **7pm**

March

Thursday 6th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**Saturday 8th Arts and crafts exhibition, Village hall from **10am**Wednesday 12th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, **7pm**Saturday 15th Pop-up brunch, Holy Trinity Church **10-11.45** am
Saturday 15th St Patrick's Night at The Bell with 'Silmor' from **8pm**Wednesday 19th WI – Village Hall – Subs and Supper, **7.15pm**

Saturday 22nd Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**

April

Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**Saturday 5th Archive Open Day – Village Hall . **10.am – 3pm**Wednesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

Wednesday 16th WI – Village Hall . Mark Mitchels, The Suffolk Coastline **7.15pm**

May

Thursday 1st "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**

Monday 5th Literary Evening - details to follow

Monday 12th Community Council AGM – Village Hall, **7pm**Wednesday 14th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

Wednesday 21st WI – Village Hall Lesley Abery, Ash Farm Vineyard (With tasters) 7.15pm

June

Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**

Sat/Sun 8th /9th Open Gardens

Wednesday 11th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

Wednesday 18th WI – Village Hall David Naylor RSPB ~ 'Birds & Habitat Minsmere Reserve' **7.15pm**

Saturday 21st MCC Quiz

July

Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm** Wednesday 9th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, **7pm**

Saturday 12th 80th Anniversary Celebrations – possible Street Party tbc

Saturday 12th Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**

Wednesday 16th WI – Garden Party

Saturday 19th Summer Boules Competition

August

Thursday 7th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm** Saturday 23rd Annual Village Fete - Playing Field **2pm**

September

Thursday 4th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm** Wednesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

Wednesday 17th WI – Village Hall, Julie ~ Chocolate Makers, Beccles (History, testing ,discount sales) **7.15pm**

October

Thursday 2nd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**

Saturday 4th MCC Autumn Fayre

Wednesday 8th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, **7pm**

Wednesday 15th WI – Village Hall, Barbara McElroy - Apples 'A Miscellany' 7.15pm

November

Thursday 6th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**Wednesday 12th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**Wednesday 19th WI – Village Hall, AGM tea & cakes **2.15pm**

December

Thursday 4th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**

Saturday 6th 'Santa Boules'

Wednesday 10th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, **7pm**

Saturday 13th MCC Christmas Party

Wednesday 17th WI – Village Hall , end of year celebration **7.15pm**

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