

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2025 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

"Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents please do so via the Parish Clerk on [parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)".

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe

**In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
Dist Cllr Katie Graham  
Members of the public x 3

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Michele Kendall  
County Cllr Richard Smith

**2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest.** None

**3 Public Forum.** Dist. Cllr Graham reported the following:

Parking charges will again be lifted for Remembrance Sunday events in communities across East Suffolk.

From 2026, East Suffolk Council will supply all households with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars. This will be in addition to a brand-new weekly food waste collection service. With this in mind, changes are required to colours in East Suffolk, which are currently out of step with the rest of the county. Additionally, a colour clash will be resolved, helping to avoid confusion for residents.

Rather than purchasing new bins, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet has instead opted to introduce new bin lids, in the appropriate colour, at a fraction of the cost. To replace bins in their entirety would cost £875,000 plus distribution which would take the overall cost to over £1 Million. However, replacement lids, will cost around £350,000 to purchase and install, providing a far cheaper and more environmentally friendly option.

Small electrical items may be left for collection on top of the rubbish wheelie bin. Further information is available online. Search [Regulations: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(WEEE\) - GOV.UK](#).

The Art Station based in Saxmundham will be delivering a local exhibition as part of the Creative Environment series, in Aldeburgh this weekend.

Yoxford village hall will be hosting the first series of lectures by photographer Richard Allenby-Pratt tomorrow evening. The lecture will focus on the impacts of the energy projects for people living in the area. The following lecture will be in November at The Long Shop Museum, Leiston.

**4 Minutes**

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2025.

b) Matters Arising and Action Points

- \* Cllr Thorpe has written to SZC confirming MPC's support for the speed reduction on the B1125.
- \* SZC have been invited and have accepted the invitation to attend November's parish meeting. An advertisement has been placed in the village newsletter encouraging residents to submit questions.
- \* It was confirmed that the defibrillator has been placed inside the village hall for people using the hall, also, the defibrillator has no outer casing so it cannot be locked and placed outside.  
**Action: Cllr Thorpe to advise the village hall committee that a locked case may be an option, like that at The Bell Inn, whereby a code is accessed by calling the number provided on the cabinet.**
- \* Cllr Thorpe has supplied the Village Hall Committee with information regarding a grant for solar panels.
- \* The clerk sought further clarification regarding the Discharge of Requirement 35 and 10. The further information provided did not aid the PC, but it was agreed that the documentation was essentially only a formality, as the Discharge has already been carried out.
- \* The Asset Register has been updated and uploaded onto the village website.
- \* Another advertisement for councillor vacancies has been placed in the village newsletter.
- \* No objection to Planning Application DC/25/2616/FUL has been submitted to ESC.
- \* Complaints Procedure, Equality & Diversity Procedure and Safeguarding Policy have been updated and uploaded onto the village website.
- \* The grit bins have been checked and are now full ready for the winter months.
- \* The noticeboard at The Bell Inn needs refurbishing. Cllr Thorpe has planned for this to be done.
- \* The village hall noticeboard has been replaced.

- 5 **Causeway Farm.** SZC's Environmental Improvement Fund is now open for organisations to 'express an interest'. It was agreed that MPC should submit an expression of interest, based replacing loss of landscape, increasing biodiversity, a place for residents to exercise and relax.  
**Action: Cllr Cusack to submit**

- 6 **Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.** Cllr Macdowell and village residents are, this evening, attending the SZC Forum, in Leiston, where questions will be raised regarding the oak trees and the road layout of the SLR. A meeting has been arranged for 16 October for all interested parties. Dist. Cllr Graham was thanked for her letter of support regarding the oak trees.

A vote was requested and passed demonstrating opposition regarding the B1125/SLR extension and resulting repositioning of the B1122 at Yew Tree Corner.

Sizewell C have accepted our invitation to attend November's PC meeting. An advertisement in the village newsletter invites residents to submit questions to the clerk ([parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)), which will be shared with SZC with answers provided at the meeting in November. The cut-off date for questions is Friday 24 October.

- 7 **Emergency Planning Group.** Cllr Piercy to attend a webinar session.

8 **Councillors Reports**

- a) Village Hall. The village hall committee have requested that all three councillors who represent the PC attend their meetings. The Cllrs agreed that they will do their best to all attend the meetings.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report.

- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. A meeting with SZC is to take place regarding extra footpaths around the village.
- d) Middleton Moor. No report.

## 9 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
NI Contributions P30 Q2	HMRC	£61.62	LGA 1972 s. 112
Clerk Expenses (April – October)	Rachael Salcombe	£221.82	LGA 1972 s. 111
6 months payroll services to 30.9.25	SALC	£82.80	LGA 1972 s. 112

- c) Confirmation regarding the need for a standard or an enhanced DBS check is still awaited. It was agreed for the clerk to attend two online sessions: Introduction to Safeguarding £35 and Designated Safeguarding lead training £40. **Action: Clerk to book both courses.**

- 11 **New Councillor(s).** Interest has been shown by a village resident. **Action: Clerk to provide a co-option application form.**
- 12 **Village Path approach to Church.** Works are to commence on Wednesday 15 October. **Action: Cllr Cusack to advise residents living by the church. Action: Clerk to request an electronic message to be sent out to village residents.**
- 13 **Document Updates.** Grievance Procedure, Subject Access Request Policy and Document Retention Policy were re-adopted. **Action: Clerk to upload onto village website (replacing existing).**
- 14 **Correspondence.** Neighbourhood Plan Guidance Documents. It was agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan is not on the list of the PC's priorities at the moment. It is envisaged that any plan that we may undertake in the future would include parishes local to us. **Action: Clerk to advise ESC accordingly.**

Nine cuts have been made to the village green this year. Upon enquiry, it was agreed that further cuts can be made if deemed necessary. **Action: Clerk to advise accordingly.**

## 16 Consider Items for Next Agenda.

- 17 **Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.