

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



HOW MANY TRIANGLES ON MIDDLETON MOOR ON A FROSTY MORNING?



NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Editorial

Thank you to Ashley and Lynda for supplying this month's cover photos. (Please don't send *me* your answer to Ashley's question!)

Once again we have an abundance of snowdrops in the village and the daffodils and primroses are on their way. There are no events to report on in this issue (January was very quiet) but there's certainly a lot to look forward to judging by the adverts for upcoming events, and some of us got our new recycling bins today! Presumably they'll be back tomorrow with the rest. My other bit of excitement this week was getting 2 lots of washing dry **outside** – but it looks like the rain will be back at the weekend. Will March 'come in like a lion and go out like a lamb' I wonder?

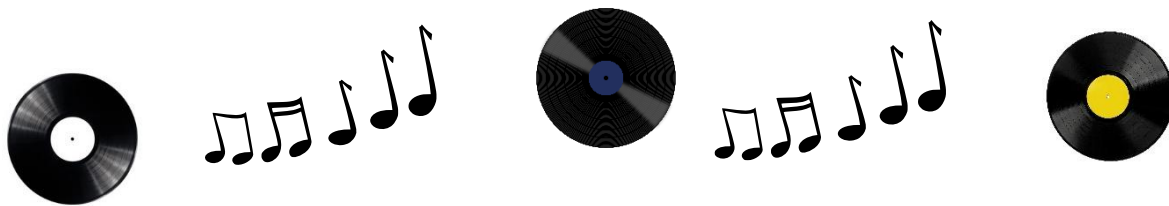
I was very sad to report that Jimmy Adams has passed away – aged 92. Although he ended his days in a care home he must've been one of a very small group indeed to live in the same house for over 90 years. His knowledge of the village events and people of the past was amazing.

Contributions for the next issue can be emailed to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road by **Tuesday 24th March** please.

This (and past issues) can 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



Saturday March 7th is

VINYL NIGHT

At Middleton Bell

Commencing at **6pm** a team of 'DJ's' will take you through an eclectic mix of music from past decades. Come along and revel in nostalgia and dance the night away!

“Procrasti-knitters and sewers”

Do you have a project to finish? Are you about to start one? Do you need space to spread out or help getting started? Come and join us.

We will initially meet on the last Tuesday of each month – commencing March 31st from 2pm. It will be very informal, with tea and cake, though we will have to charge £3 per head to cover hall hire, electricity etc.



Christine Bryant .
cb4art@gmail.com





Middleton, ... 23.

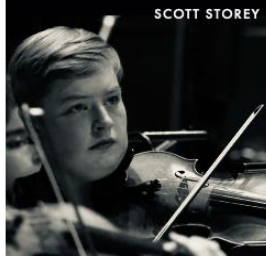
Cratfield Young Artists At Middleton

*Showcasing the next generation
of top rank professional musicians*

Sunday April 19 at 3pm

**Scott Storey, *viola*,
Archie Bonham, *piano***

*Programme:
Mendelssohn, Clarke,
Schumann, Bloch*



SCOTT STOREY



ARCHIE BONHAM

Sunday May 10 at 3pm



LUMAS WINDS

Lumas Winds
Beth Stone *flute*
Ewan Millar *oboe*
Rennie Sutherland *clarinet*
Florence Plane *bassoon*
Benjamin Hartnell-Booth *horn*
*Programme: Mozart,
JS Bach, Bernstein, Bozza,
Coleman, Beamish*

Tickets £17.00 from

www.concertsatcratfield.org

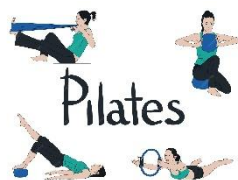
Holy Trinity Church, Middleton, East Suffolk, IP17 3NW

Concerts at Cratfield is coming back to Middleton church and after the success of the concert last April we are putting on two concerts this year. The first one-hour concert is at 3pm on Sunday April 19 and features the brilliant viola player Scott Storey, who - like Jordan Brooks who came last year - is a student at the Royal College of Music and has already worked with major orchestras, including the BBC Symphony and English National Opera; he was also Leader of the National Youth Orchestra at the Proms in 2022. His accompanist Archie Bonham has been Collaborative Piano Fellow at RCM since 2024. Their programme will include Mendelssohn, Schumann and Rebecca Clarke.

On Sunday May 10 at 3pm, we welcome Lumas Winds, a dazzling young wind quintet, for an hour of music including Mozart, JS Bach and Bernstein. Playing the flute, French horn, clarinet, oboe and bassoon, Lumas Winds won the Ensemble Prize at the prestigious Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition in 2023. They've played at King's Place in London, and as Britten Pears Young Artists spent a week at Snape Maltings. They released their debut album in 2024, which received a five-star review from BBC Music Magazine.

Tickets are £17 for each concert and can be booked online

at <https://concertsatcratfield.org/tickets>



Pilates teacher Victoria Hayden is starting a new beginners class in Mid-April and currently 7 spaces are still available at Middleton Village Hall on Fridays at 12noon.

For more information on these fantastic classes to improve posture, increase strength and flexibility whilst increasing bone density please contact Victoria on 07713277176 or

email: victoriahaydenpilates@gmail.com and her website can be found at

www.victoriahaydenpilates.co.uk

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services during March

Sunday 1 March
Sunday 22 March

10am Benefice Holy Communion
11am Holy Communion

POETRY IN THE PORCH – A Lenten Practice

the heart's time

A poem a day for Lent and Easter
An anthology by Janet Morley

'To keep Lent is to turn aside from the ordinary routines of our life in order to reflect; to notice what is going on, to detect what is really significant...' Janet Morley

Continuing to use poetry here to provide us with reason to pause, a poem from Janet Morley's book *the heart's time* will be posted on the notice board in the church porch each weekday during Lent. Sadly, they will not be accompanied by pastries(!) but we hope they might still give us food for thought...

If you would like the poem sent to your inbox each weekday morning, please drop a line to ajt.opom@gmail.com or you might consider purchasing the book yourself...

Jimmy Adams

All at Holy Trinity were sad to hear that Jimmy Adams had passed away recently and send our heartfelt condolences to his many friends in Middleton at this time.

Rita
CW



Jim - formerly of Middleton Moor, passed away in Pear Tree Lodge Residential Home, Knodishall just before midnight on Thursday, 12th February 2026, aged 92. Much loved uncle, great uncle and friend. Will be sadly missed by all that knew him. Funeral service on Monday 2nd March at Seven Hills Crematorium, Ipswich at 1.30 p.m. Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research UK may be sent to Tony Brown's Funeral Service, New Cut, Saxmundham, IP17 1EH.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Holy Trinity Church, Middleton APCM
will be held on
Thursday 14 May at 2.30pm in the church
Everyone is welcome



The Spring 2026 Pop-up Brunch

Sunday 12 April, 10-11.45am
Holy Trinity Church

Pretty sure we are most of us up to speed with these now but ... for any of us who have missed them or have recently arrived in Middleton 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 a bacon bap on a Sunday morning...

So please join us...

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



 **Holy Dusters** 

11 March – Val and Camilla
3 April – Christine and David

25 March – Rob

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

Thought for the Month.

I know I have life
Only in so far as I have love
I have no love except it come from thee
Help me please, to carry
This candle against the wind

Wendell Berry



Clocks Forward!

28th March 2026 is clocks forward once again and we will be celebrating the imminent spring as we have many times before with a session of traditional music and song in the Middleton Bell!

From 7:30pm in the bar.

Please contact Tim Hannon for more information

Tim.hannon@btinternet.com



Middleton-cum Fordley Community Council
presents an entertaining talk by local resident

Chrissie Beveridge:

Award Winning Film Make-Up Artist

LIFE ON THE FILM SET

Middleton Village Hall

Saturday 18th April - 7pm start

Cheese & Wine Refreshments

Entry is free, but donations are gratefully received



Date for your diary MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS



6th/7th June 2026
(11 am - 5pm)

The preparation for this popular event has now started - Showcasing both formal and informal gardens, within Middleton village, we aim to offer something for all who appreciate the beauty and joy of the country garden

There will be an arts/craft/vintage and plants/flower stalls at the pub barn and wildlife activities in one of the gardens.

Serving refreshments at the pavilion all day

Fund raising for Holy Trinity Church, Middleton, also this year supporting the East Anglian Ambulance and Project40seven

!!SAVE THE DATE!!
Saturday 2 May 2026
ART AFFAIR

Celebrating the creative talents of local people!

Whatever your level, whether you are just starting out on your artistic journey or you are more experienced, we would love to hear from you if you would like to showcase, sell or even demonstrate your work.

To include all disciplines including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, ceramics, to name but a few.

The event will be held in Yoxford Village Hall.

To book, please contact
Suffolkartaffair@gmail.com

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.



To Report a Highways issue

You can report a highways issue in Suffolk quickly and easily online.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue>

Our Highways Reporting Tool allows you to **report a new defect** and **monitor the status** of existing reports. Reporting a problem takes about **2 minutes**.

Do not report a highways problem online if:

- it poses an immediate danger to public safety - call 0345 606 6171. (This number may also be used for non-emergency reports.)
 - it's on a trunk road in Suffolk - call the National Highways Information Line on 0300 123 5000.
- it's on a private road - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/road-adoption>

Read the highways reporting tool terms of use and user guidance.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue/highways-reporting-tool-terms-of-use>

Middleton Dark Skies

Planets on View. **Venus** is shining brightly in the western sky just prior to and after sunset, setting at around 7.30 pm. Look out for the crescent Moon and Venus sitting close to each other on the 20th of the month. **Mars** is still too close to Sun to be visible. **Jupiter** is visible all night long, sitting in the constellation of Gemini and setting at around 4.00 am. **Saturn** is putting in its last appearance of the winter, dropping into the glare of the setting Sun by the middle of the month. On the 8th Saturn will be sitting to the left of Venus, although at around 100 times fainter it's best seen through binoculars.

Constellations. With the winter constellations now well out to the west, the constellations of **Leo** and **Gemini** are left to dominate the southern sky. **Leo** is sitting due south at around 10.00 pm with **Gemini**, accompanied by a very bright Jupiter, further towards the SW. Out towards the NW can be found **Cassiopeia**, easily recognized by its distinctive 'W' shape. Just to the right of Cassiopeia, you will find **Cepheus**, with its 5 main stars forming the shape that resembles the gable end of a house. The Milky Way passes through both of these constellations, and a look through a pair of binoculars will reveal 1000's of stars. One of the largest stars ever to be found, Cephei, or The Garnet Star, will stand out because of its deep red colour. **Ursa Major** (The Great Bear) is practically overhead this month. Look out for the saucepan (albeit upside down) shaped set of 7 stars. These are known as The Plough or Big Dipper. In between Ursa Major and Cepheus is **Ursa Minor** (The Little Bear), which contains the star Polaris, or The North Star, around which all other stars in the northern hemisphere appear to rotate.



Regulus rising from behind the Moon Star



Example of how stars rotate around The North Star

The Moon goes by the name of Worm Moon this month, due to the thawing of the ground, allowing the worms to rise to the surface and start to aerate the topsoil. Full Moon will be on the 3rd of the month. Something slightly unusual occurs on the 29th, when the star Regulus (the brightest star in Leo) appears from behind the Moon. This happens at around 8.20 pm with Regulus rising from the northern edge of the Moon. A pair of binoculars should also pick out its companion star, Regulus B rising approx. 6 minutes before Regulus.

Meteors and Comets. No meteors or comets this month, but two comets have been discovered that, if they survive their journey around the Sun, will/should be visible during April.

Artificial Satellites. 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 also worth checking out on line when the Space Station will be overhead.

Brian Near

March Nature Notes

If you have a pond in your garden then you may well hear a great deal of croaking going on as March is the breeding season for frogs; though, frogs can spawn as early as December or as late as April depending on the weather. The croaking is the sound of male frogs calling for a mate and warning other males off their territory.

The only frog species that is found in this area is the Common Frog *Rana temporaria*; two other species now living wild in Britain have been introduced and the formerly native Pool Frog has recently been reintroduced to two sites in Norfolk. There are also two native toad species. Frogs are different from toads in that they have a moist feel and the back of a frog has a slightly raised appearance. They have long, muscular legs and tend to jump compared to the shorter legs of toads which tend to walk or hop rather than jump. Frogs are usually yellowish or brown in colour, with a variety of stripes and spots. But they are very variable in colour and pattern and can appear brown, orange, red, cream or even black. Male common frogs can also develop a blue tinge to their throats in spring, and females can appear more pink or red.



On damp, mild nights frogs migrate, usually back to their birthplace, to reproduce. This can be a distance of up to a kilometre. Here the male will court and embrace the female, possibly for days or even weeks, all the while fending off male rivals. Once the female has been persuaded to spawn she will lay up to 2,000 eggs in the water. The eggs are surrounded by a layer of jelly (frogspawn), and are immediately fertilised by the male. The jelly then swells and all the eggs rise to the surface encased in the jelly from which the eggs obtain nutrition. As several frogs will spawn in the same place it can be a very large amount indeed, containing anything up to 25,000 or more eggs of which about only one in one thousand survive to become a mature adult.

After about four weeks the eggs hatch into tadpoles. They breathe oxygen from the water through a pair of gills; these gills remain external for about four weeks and are then absorbed. They feed on minute water plants. Within seven weeks they will have grown hind legs, and formed the front legs, which stay within the skin. These legs come through at about ten weeks and the tails begin to be absorbed and the lungs develop, and by twelve weeks they are miniature replicas of their parents. At this stage they are ready to leave the water and now feed on insects, slugs and small worms. In winter frogs hibernate, their metabolism slowing in order to conserve energy. Then the cycle starts again with frogs returning to the pond, although they are not ready to breed until about their fifth spring.

Populations of frogs, however, are in decline, the loss of habitat and spawning sites through the infilling of ponds and ditches are thought to be a major cause and the use of insecticides means their invertebrate prey is becoming scarce.

Peter Vincent

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026 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".

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Steve Thorpe (Chair)
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Ian Widgington

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Giles Piercy

In attendance:

District Cllr Katie Graham
Parish Clerk

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

3 Public Forum. District Cllr Katie Graham reported the following:

- Following the delivery of 'pre-information pack' to households, properties in the South of the district will begin receiving their new containers this month – an additional recycling bin and two food caddies (a small one for inside the home and a larger one for outside). This is a staggered process over 12 weeks. Some homes in Leiston should have already received their bins this week, with the next deliveries taking place the week of the 2nd March, then the 16th March, 30th March and the 4th April. A fuller, more comprehensive information pack will then be delivered to households no later than mid-May.
- From Monday 16th February, works along Sizewell beach will start to construct the temporary Sizewell C Main Bulk Import Facility (MBIF jetty) and installation of Temporary Marine Outfall pipeline, which will eject clean surface water from the main site. This will require footpath restrictions, which will be lifted over the weekends. The footpath will be open from 6am Saturdays to 10pm Sundays and closed during the week. The works are due to be completed on the beach at the end of March, with works continuing out to sea until April. The footpath will fully reopen once construction progresses into the North Sea.
- East Suffolk Council has announced the launch of its Children and Young People Culture Fund, offering grants of up to £3,000 to support projects that inspire creativity and cultural engagement among children and young people.
- Community groups are being invited to apply for funding as part of a new scheme which aims to strengthen local ties. Grants ranging from £500 to £2,500 are available, and funding will be awarded to projects that work towards fostering a sense of belonging in the community.
- East Suffolk Council is seeking to commit almost £107million across the next four years towards the delivery of key projects and schemes that improve and enhance local communities. The programme includes Government funding for the planned regeneration of Leiston Market Square.
- There has been and continues to be increased erosion of the coastline at Thorpeness, caused by climate change and the failing of historic defences. ESC is supporting affected residents.

- ESC is financing an Energy Coordinator role to support parish and town councils with negotiating the energy projects in the area.

4 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2026.

b) Matters arising and Action Points

- * Answers from SZC to resident's questions are available on the village website.
- * Issues along the B1122 raised by a member of the public have been shared again with SZC.
- * No record was found of a payment for soil (to be moved from the pavilion to the village hall).
- * ESC has been advised of MPC's no objection to planning application DC/25/4744/CLE
- * Reviewed and re-adopted Donation Policy has been uploaded onto village website.

5 Causeway Farm. At last month's meeting MPC were invited by County Councillor Richard Smith to arrange a meeting, within one month, with SCC to discuss our position regarding Hastoe Field and the proposed new build and gift thereof. Contact with SCC was finally made after several attempts; they are happy to meet with us, but not now. It was agreed, therefore, that the month-long offer to respond needs to be extended and that the meeting must include Causeway Farm. SCC also confirmed at this time that the offer to gift MPC half the field remains in place. The meeting was advised that the Suffolk Wildlife Trust are struggling to get engagement from SCC also.

It was noted that a sizeable amount of rubbish has been left on the farm, following the tenant's departure. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to contact SCC requesting that it is cleared.**

6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.

MPC met with SCC today and the following actions were agreed/confirmed:

Fordley Rd

SCC will see if SZC can bring forward the 30mph temporary limit.

SCC will see if 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs can be erected at either ends of the road.

SCC You will look into reinforcing/ adopting proper passing places.

B1125

SCC will see if SZC can bring forward 30mph limit from the B1122/ 1125 junction and the existing village 30mph zone.

SCC will see if white lining the edges of the road in the 30mph zone, and creating pinch points, can be incorporated into SZC's planned footpath/ crossings work due shortly. This would also be looked at for Middleton Moor.

SCC will see if SZC can fund SIDs near the garage.

SCC will see if additional chevrons can be placed at the 90-degree bend at Yew Tree Farm, plus roadway roundels.

SCC were also reminded of the misuse of laybys on the B1122 as toilets, especially the one immediately to the south of Middleton Moor. This has been raised with SZC but nothing seems to have happened yet. MPC would like 'Not for Sizewell vehicles' signs like those on the A12. Cllr Thorpe reported on the Northern Transport Forum held last week. Works on the B1387 at Blythburgh have been paused as the road is in worse shape than first thought. The works need to be redesigned, and it is thought that these will tie in with traffic island and pinch point works taking place in Westleton.

It was confirmed that residents parking will be provided at the Darsham Park and Ride to the tune of 25-30 spaces, located at the end of the car park. Rail Link have planned works on the level crossing at Darsham during the Spring of 2027. Their proposal to close the A12 for 11 days with a bus replacement service from Ipswich to Halesworth, has been rejected and they have been asked to go back and review their plans.

It was confirmed that there will not be average speed cameras on the B1125 in the Middleton area. Dirt on roads, caused by delivery vehicles was acknowledged by SZC. The meeting was advised that baths will be provided on site to wash the tyres of these vehicles.

New SZC signs are being displayed on vehicle windscreens, yellow in colour.

It was agreed at the meeting that the East Suffolk Major Energy Works Accommodation needs further thought and discussion and will be added to March's agenda.

Upon sight of the new banner proposed by the B1125 Action Group, MPC agreed to pay £72 + VAT for two banners (provided by Leiston Press).

In May SZB will be having an outage which will produce an increase in traffic.

The railway crossings on Fordley Road will be closing for a few days in March for works by Network Rail.

Repurposing of the B1122 will include a walk and cycle pathway. It was agreed that a walk/cycle pathway linking up with Darsham Station would be ideal.

Lionlink. There are two options, both of which pass through the parish, one would go alongside the SZC link road and the other would be to create a new separate corridor. (It is reported that SZC are not going to factor into their planning the Lionlink route because it is still under consultation.) ESC is claiming that it would be difficult to combine the SLR works and the Lionlink cabling.

There are two consultation exhibitions left to take place:

Saturday 21 February, 11am-4pm, Westleton Village Hall IP17 3AD

Saturday 28 February, 11am-4pm, Yoxford Village Hall IP17 3HN

MPC will complete a feedback form and to this end an article will be placed in the parish newsletter asking for residents' thoughts. Feedback Form deadline is 10 March.

A member of the public shared his experience with Lionlink, whom he met with four years ago. When questioned about the SLR, Lionlink's response was 'what is that?' Furthermore, Lionlink were, consciously, using out of date maps of the area. Archaeology is due to take place on the Moor in February/March. Cllr MacDowell requested that he is kept up to speed with happenings on the Moor from this resident.

Lionlink have both a community benefit fund and an environmental fund, which MPC may wish to consider.

7 Emergency Planning Group – c/f

8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Kendall will attend the next meeting on Monday 2 March.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Cllr Kendall has contacted the school and is awaiting a meeting date.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. Residents have complained of messy roads and footpaths around the village. This has been reported to SCC, who will arrange the clearing thereof. Reporting problem roads/paths can be done online by members of the public. [Report debris, weeds or mud on the road - Suffolk County Council](#) Action: Clerk to arrange for this link to appear in the village newsletter.
- d) Middleton Moor Management Group. A member of the public reported that the pond is in a poor state.

9 Finance

The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.

10 IT Policy and Assertion 10. The example IT Policy provided for the meeting was approved, with some minor adjustments to suit our parish council. Action: Clerk to create an MPC IT Policy and upload onto village website.

It was agreed at the meeting to instruct Hugo Fox (our website provider) to create gov.uk email accounts for all parish councillors and the clerk, in line with government recommendations. This will be at an annual cost of approximately £330.

- 11 Procedures for absence of Chairperson.** Following communication with SALC, it was agreed that Vice Chair Cllr Thorpe will continue to chair the parish council meetings and that any additional 'chairperson work' will be shared amongst the councillors and clerk.
The clerk reported that contact had been made with HSBC regarding management of the parish accounts at this time. It was agreed, upon HSBC advice, that the clerk become a signatory on the account to allow full access during this time. A mandate, provided by HSBC, was signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Reynolds, at the meeting, giving authorisation for this change. The process will take 10 days following submission of the documentation. **Action: Clerk to submit completed mandate to HSBC, along with a copy of February's minutes, detailing the authorisation.**
- 12 Planning Application.** DC/26/0353/FUK. Erection of a first-floor extension over existing single-storey element, including roof alterations with dormer windows. Fushia Cottage, The Street. MPC have no objection to this planning application. **Action: Clerk to advise ESC Planning.**
- 13 Correspondence.** It was agreed that MPC's name should appear on the bike maintenance station. **Action: Clerk to advise ESC.**
- 14 Items for Next Agenda.** East Suffolk Major Energy Works Accommodation.
- 15 Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.
The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026
AT 8.40pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Steve Thorpe (Chair)
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Ian Widgington

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Giles Piercy

In attendance:

Parish Clerk
Member of the public x 1

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

3 Minutes

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 14 January 2026.
Matters arising. None.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report

The latest report has been received and noted. (21//1/26, Visual Report.)

5 SZC Community Fund

Monies have been received in two lump sums; £90,000.00 and £20,680.11. Payment has been made for the solar panels and container. It was agreed to transfer the funds from the MPC current account to the MPC savings account. **Action: Clerk to make transfer of SZC grant monies to savings account.**

6 Fire Safety Certificate. MPC are in receipt of communication from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service advising of our fire safety related responsibilities for the pavilion; we must ensure that we meet the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 20025. Following discussions, Cllr Lewis offered to carry out a fire assessment of the pavilion and will report back at March's meeting. **Action: Cllr Lewis to carry out a fire assessment of the pavilion.**

7 Correspondence. None.

8 Matters for discussion.

9 Consider Items for the next Agenda.

10 Next Meeting

Agreed for Wednesday 11 March 2026 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.
Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

LIONLINK CONSULTATION – YOUR CHANCE TO INFLUENCE

DEADLINE for your input is 10 MARCH

LionLink is consulting on its proposed interconnector cable including routing through the Middleton parish. Your parish council is keen that as many residents as possible give their views, either in the official paper feedback form, online at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink/have-your-say>, or direct to info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com with the subject line: 'Response to LionLink Statutory Consultation'.

LIONLINK ROUTE (Q4 and Q14 of the Feedback form)

Lionlink is proposing two potential route options through Middleton (and Theberton). The eastern one largely follows the Sizewell Link Road, so reducing impacts to the landscape, environment and residents, and taking advantage of the SLR's access points and maintenance tracks. The western option would be entirely new and separate, and would run close to three residential farms. **We therefore recommend the eastern route.** If you have time please also send your views to info@sizewellc.com.

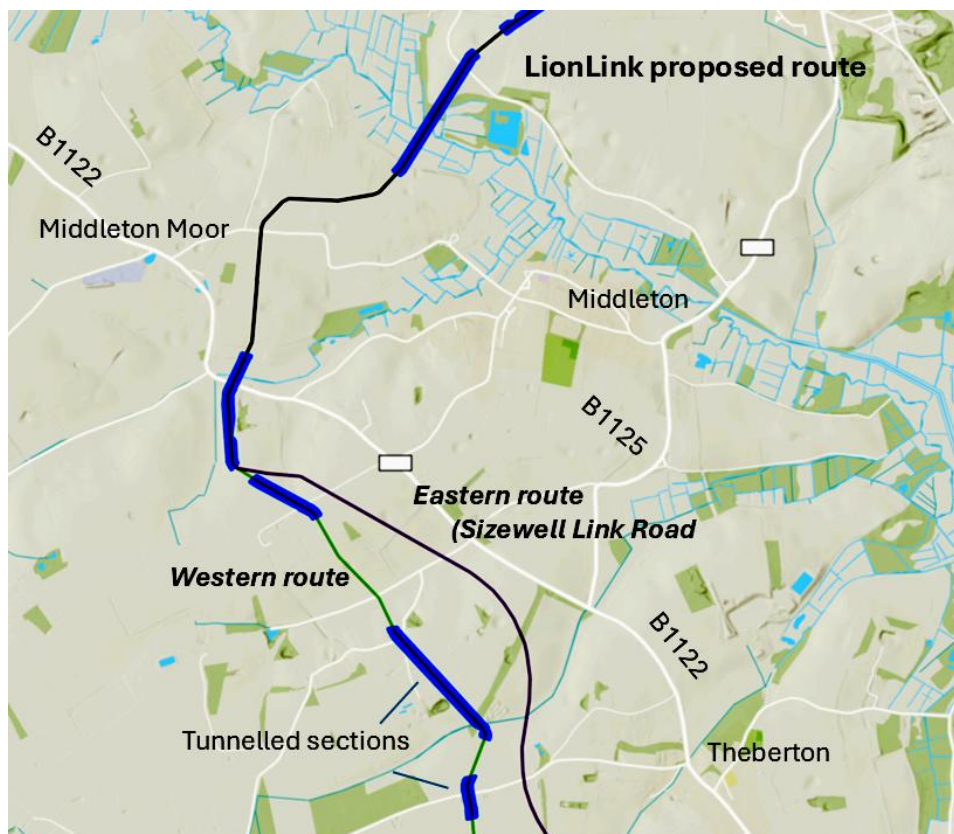
LIONLINK OVERALL (Q1 and Q2): We believe the “needs case” for LionLink is weak, outdated, commercially driven, and does not justify the harm it will do. Lionlink has not properly assessed alternative landfall locations or considered offshore-to-offshore connection options.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT (Q2 and Q14): The local road network cannot support LionLink, SZC and other energy projects which would affect all the roads between the coast to the A12. NGV has provided no traffic modelling, no cumulative assessment with Sizewell C, Sea Link and other energy projects, and no analysis of the risks and impacts to residents, emergency access, or the local economy.

There are other sections concerning the negative impacts of the Walberswick landfall, the Saxmundham converter station and other issues. For more information and suggestions, see www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk and www.wall-update.org, as well as www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink

I will attempt to obtain extra copies of the feedback form and place them in the church porch.

Charles Macdowell, for Middleton Parish Council





Have you ever thought about fostering in Suffolk?



Across Suffolk, hundreds of children and young people need safe, nurturing homes where they can grow, thrive and feel secure. At the end of March 2024, there were 930 children in care in Suffolk, a number that has steadily increased over recent years, reflecting real and pressing need in our communities.

These children come into care for many reasons — from family breakdown, neglect, or abuse, to situations where their birth families can no longer provide the support they need. For many, foster carers are the lifeline that offers stability, encouragement and a sense of belonging at a time when they need it most.

Yet there simply aren't enough foster carers. There is a need for foster carers to support children of all ages, especially sibling groups, teenagers and parent and child arrangements. Nexus Fostering provides full training and dedicated support to help carers succeed in helping create positive outcomes.

Becoming a foster carer isn't about having a perfect background — it's about offering patience, compassion, and a safe home. Carers can be single, rent their home, and you don't have to have had your own children before, what matters most is a commitment to making a positive impact on a child's life.

If you've ever thought about fostering, now is the time to act. Every child deserves a home where they can feel valued, supported and safe and you could be the person who helps them get there.



Get in touch

Call: 0800 389 0143

Email: foster@nexusfostering.co.uk

Visit: www.nexusfostering.co.uk to find out more or start your journey today.

Together, we can help give Suffolk's children the futures they deserve.

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DIARY DATES 2026

March

Sunday 1st Benefice Holy Communion **10am**
Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Saturday 7th Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**
Wednesday 11th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Sunday 22nd Holy Communion **11am**
Saturday 28th 'Clocks Forward' – traditional music and song at The Bell Inn from **7.30pm**

April

Thursday 2nd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Wednesday 8th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Sunday 12th Pop-up Brunch in Church **10-11.45am**
Saturday 18th MCC present 'Life on the Film Set' a talk by Chrissie Beveridge , Village Hall **7pm**
Sunday 19th Cratfield Young Artists concert in church **3pm**
Saturday 25th "The Middletones" performing live at The Bell **8pm**

May

Thursday 7th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Sunday 10th Cratfield Young Artists concert in church **3pm**
Wednesday 13th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Thursday 14th Annual Parochial Church Meeting **2.30pm**
Monday 18th MCC AGM **7pm**

June

Thursday 4th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Sat/Sun 6th /7th Open Gardens
Saturday 6th Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**
Wednesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 20th MCC midsummer quiz

July

Thursday 2nd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Wednesday 8th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 11th Summer boules open tournament, Playing Field **10am**

August

Thursday 6th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Saturday 29th Annual Village Fete - Playing Field **2pm**

September

Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Wednesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 19th Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**

October

Thursday 1st "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Saturday 10th Autumn Fayre
Wednesday 14th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

November

Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Wednesday 11th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

December

Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Saturday 5th Santa boules – Open tournament - Playing field **10am**
Saturday 5th Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**
Wednesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Saturday 12th MCC Christmas Party



Graham Cooke *DipMIT MPTA*
Piano Tuner/Technician

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