

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 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 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](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)".

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Michele Kendall  
Cllr Giles Piercy

**In attendance:**

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

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
County Cllr Richard Smith

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

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

On 7 August, the five district and borough councils of Suffolk, Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, and West Suffolk, launched their joint Three Councils for Suffolk proposal; it is a locally led plan to reshape local government and deliver stronger, more responsive services to communities across the county.

This proposal offers an alternative to Suffolk County Council's vision of a single "mega council," instead championing a structure that is big enough to deliver, local enough to care.

The Three Unitary Councils plan responds directly to what people across Suffolk have said they want: councils that are local, greater accountability with local councillor leadership, and provide services that understand and reflect the needs of Suffolk's diverse communities.

This model also strengthens the voice of Suffolk in the new Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk, ensuring that local issues, whether rural or urban, aren't lost in a county-wide approach.

The issue of air quality and SZC works was raised. Dist. Cllr Graham confirmed that nitrous oxide is being monitored, not dust, although, as part of the Deed of Obligation, SZC do have dust suppression measures in place and if they are not working effectively, they will need to be reviewed. Dist. Cllr Graham to supply MPC with a contact at ESC to discuss air quality issues.

Prepared by environmental charity Groundwork East on behalf of East Suffolk Council, a new toolkit is now available for town and parish councils to support conservation in their local area.

New signs have been installed on council-owned land across the district to help identify the wild areas where grass cutting will be limited to twice per year for the benefit of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. The signs feature a QR code directing people to further information about the scheme, including how residents and community groups can get involved. A map of all the sites is available, and photos from the locations will be added throughout the year.

#### 4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 July 2025.  
The Council approved the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 22 July 2025.  
The Council approved the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 11 August 2025.
- b) Matters Arising and Action Points
- Illuminated, slow down signs, B1122, light pollution. Cllr Macdowell to request specific operating hours - c/f.
  - Cllr Cusack to speak with residents regarding illuminated signs - c/f.
  - Cllr Cusack to make a request to ESC for a TPO on the ash tree opposite Moor House - c/f.
  - Cllr Macdowell to liaise with SZC re: making good of rutting along Littlemoor Road – see minute 6 below.
  - New councillor interview was re-arranged for 7 August but was a no show. It was agreed by the council that this avenue is no longer an option.
  - Cllr Thorpe to make good the noticeboard by the Bell Inn – in hand.
  - Cllr Thorpe to raise repairs of village hall noticeboard at next village hall committee meeting – 22 September 2025.
  - The latest, updated Website Accessibility Statement has been uploaded onto the village website.
  - Clerk advised Suffolk County Council and Young People Services that there are currently no Emergency Bleed Control Kits in the village.
  - Cllrs Macdowell and Piercy to provide the village newsletter and clerk with direct online links to access SZC maps – c/f.

5 **Causeway Farm.** Nothing to report. It was agreed that permissive paths could still be an option.

#### 6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects

A letter was issued to residents advising of a road closure on the B1125 between 6 – 10 October. A request was made to SZC and SCC Highways, by MPC (and village residents), that Yew Tree Corner to the bend in the road, currently at 60mph, be reduced to 30mph. This request is being considered by SCC Highways. There is also interest in several oak trees along this stretch of road, that may be removed to allow for the new junction that SZC want to put in on the B1122. The oak trees have become a focus of concern, along with a desire to reduce the speed in this area. Questions are also being raised as to whether the link of the B1125 to the SLR is necessary.

It was confirmed that village residents have taken part in voicing their discontent through the local media. MPC agreed, at this meeting, that they are happy to be part of the media coverage.

It was noted by a member of the public that when joining the B1122 from Theberton but for the 30mph speed limit one would be waiting an unacceptable amount of time to join the road due to the volume of traffic. Before the speed restrictions, heavy traffic was travelling too quickly to join the road safely.

Another letter was received by B1125 residents, seeking a response regarding the 50mph speed limit between Westleton and Middleton. This matter will be addressed, at the next Northern Transport Forum by MPC, with a recommendation that 50 becomes 30. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to write to SZC confirming MPC's support for this speed reduction.**

It was reported that MPC met with SZC and two village residents to discuss the damage on Littlemoor Road, and that this is ongoing.

i) **SZC invitation to October's meeting.** SZC will be invited to answer pre-submitted questions from residents. To allow time for the collection of questions and submission to SZC it was agreed to put the meeting back to November. **Action: Clerk to invite SZC to attend November's meeting.**  
**Action: Clerk to arrange for advertisement in the village newsletter inviting residents to provide questions they may have for SZC.**

ii) **SCC a) Discharge of Requirement 35 Highway Works no. 12 Sizewell Link Road and b) Discharge of Requirement 10 Project Wide Prow Implementation Plan SLR.** It was agreed that both letters appear to read as notices that proposed works have been discharged, and therefore no response is required/relevant? **Action: Clerk to request clarification in order that an appropriate response may be made by MPC.**

## 7 Emergency Planning Group – c/f

## 8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. Although there was nothing to report, the inside defibrillator was mentioned in terms of management (who) and location (why indoors and not outside – access). **Action: Cllr Thorpe to raise at the next VH Committee meeting.** The question of whether a defibrillator should also be located on the B1125 was raised. The clerk advised that there are CIL monies available. The subject of solar panels on the village hall roof was also raised; these would need to be obtained through grant money. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to raise at the next VH Committee meeting.**
- b) Middleton Primary School. Cllr Kendall has tried and will continue to try to contact the school.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. See SZC.
- d) Middleton Moor. No report

## 9 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Bank reconciliation for Q1 2025/26 was received and accepted by all.
- c) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Microsoft 365 Annual Renewal (ratify)	Rachael Salcombe	£104.99	LGA 1972 s. 111
Microsoft PDF X (ratify)	Rachael Salcombe	£41.74	LGA 1972 s. 111
MPC Insurance Renewal	CAS Ltd	£579.32*	LGA 1972 s. 111

d) New SALC payroll service price increase noted and accepted.

\*It was agreed to take up the Ansvar offer of a 3-year Long Term Undertaking for MPC insurance renewal. The figure rate will remain the same for the next three years, at a discounted premium of £552.86.

- 10 **Review of Asset Register (for insurance purposes).** The Asset Register was reviewed and updated accordingly. **Action: Clerk to make necessary changes and replace existing on village website.**

- 11 **New Councillor(s).** It was agreed to place another advertisement in the village newsletter. **Action: Clerk to re-advertise.**

- 12 **Village Path approach to Church.** The Clerk reported that the latest correspondence from the contractor, dated 31 July, advised that approximate timescales were to follow. Nothing else has been received to date. **Action: Clerk to make enquiries; a) completion this year? and b) honour original quote?**

- 13 Planning Application DC/25/2616/FUL.** Internal alterations and two-story extension to the rear of the existing two storey dwelling. Garden House, Yoxford Road. The parish council have no objection to this planning application. **Action: Clerk to inform ESC Planning Department.**
- 14 Document Updates.** Complaints Procedure, Equality & Diversity Procedure and Safeguarding Policy updates were agreed by the parish council. It was also agreed that the Clerk will become the Designation Safeguarding Lead. **Action: Clerk to make updates and replace existing documents on the village website. Action: Clerk to seek a DBS check and make enquiries about any necessary training.**
- 15 Correspondence.** i) Hastoe Field Enquiry. Following correspondence from a member of the public enquiring after the possible purchase/joint purchase of this land, it was agreed that any purchasing opportunity now looks unlikely to go ahead, due to several reasons, but primarily because the tenant at Causeway Farm remains in situ and Suffolk County Council are unable to provide the parish council with information regarding a possible purchase at this time. **Action: Clerk to respond to this enquiry accordingly.** Upon enquiry, it was confirmed that individuals may remain anonymous, in a public setting, when raising a question with the parish council; the matter may be discussed and resolved publicly without the need for personal details to be disclosed.
- ii) B1125 speed limit request – see SZC above.
- iii) Suffolk Highways Grit Bins – MPC have received a request to check that the village's grit bins are in the approved locations and free from litter, water etc. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to check the five grit bins in the parish to ensure they are ready for SCC Highways to fill.**

An update was requested regarding the proposed bike maintenance station, an ESC initiative rolled out earlier this year. It was confirmed that the station will be located at The Bell Inn (previously agreed). Recent correspondence from ESC advised that upon receipt of three outstanding land permission confirmations site visits will be carried out.

- 16 Consider Items for Next Agenda.**
- 17 Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 8 October 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.