MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

November 2026



Donations may be made to:

HSBC Middleton Newsletter

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Guest Editorial

There's only one way to find out just how much work goes into a newsletter, and that is to have a go. The last time I did anything like this, it was in the eighties, it was mostly hand-written, with some old school 'cut and paste' and then photocopied. So, before I say anything else, Barbara thank you for producing this newsletter with such efficiency every month (and I hope I've done a satisfactory job, enough to encourage you to keep on producing more).
David Burgess

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 November** please

This (and past issues) can be found on the Parish website: www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

VILLAGE HALL REQUEST

At the recent meeting of the VH Committee one agenda item was the exterior ground / garden at the back. We have plans to develop this area, Steve and Mandy already have some plants they've been nurturing and have secured a bag of crocuses from Suffolk Coastal DC (as we did the daffodils in a previous year). We would like, if possible, to source some seeds from anyone in the village who might be able to give us some from their gardens. (We know from Open Gardens what great gardeners we have in the village!)
If you can help please contact Steve with what kind of seeds you have spare.
stevethorpehome@btinternet.com

Middleton Community Council Christmas Vouchers

For several years now MCC have given under 18's a £10 One4all voucher just before Christmas in lieu of the party they used to have when there were enough children to have a party! It has come to our attention that many of you find it hard to spend these vouchers so we were wondering what a suitable alternative would be this year. (Of course if you like them you can still have one.) Would you prefer a swim voucher for Leiston Leisure Centre or a Leiston cinema voucher for instance? If you are under 18 please let us know your thoughts by the end of November on middleton.community.council@gmail.com

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 us on middleton.community.council@gmail.com for more information or to apply.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026.



Wearing a poppy is a personal choice, and there's no 'right' way to wear a poppy - we just ask that you wear it with pride.

From risking their lives in war zones to supporting during humanitarian disasters, we owe those who serve in the Armed Forces our gratitude.

The Royal British Legion believes that the poppy and Remembrance are, and always have been, unifiers of all people and communities across Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War, supporting and recognising the contributions of the Armed Forces from these nations in times of conflict and rebuilding society.

We are a non-partisan and non-sectarian organisation focused on the experiences of those who serve or have served in the military, and those affected by their service, without considering the politics of conflict.

The poppy is a universally recognised symbol of Remembrance and hope: it unites us in remembering.

The poppy also acknowledges the wider impact of conflict. It represents the contribution of civilian services and uniformed emergency services that contribute to national security in times of war, conflict or terrorism and acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives at such times.

The red poppy has no political or religious meaning and the decision to wear it is a matter of personal choice, being inclusive of all people from all backgrounds.

From The RBL website.

Poppies and other items are available at:

The Church: Please place any donations in the wall safe inside the Church by the font.

Also The Bell, The Village Hall, or The School

If anybody cannot visit one of these places, we would be happy to deliver your request.

Wearing our poppies with pride – Jackie 648621, Rebecca and Chris

If you wish to donate cashless, QR codes can be found with the display boxes



Having the picture of us meeting the queen on the front page of the newsletter may have raised interest in the nonprofit I founded, and I thought it would be a good opportunity for people to see what we actually do and why.

It's a free performance showcasing our project members work, all original poems, songs, and personal reflections, performed by people who have experienced homelessness, domestic abuse, addiction, and poor mental health

The event is a sober space, due to our service users, but tea coffee soft drinks will be available

George

www.statucreativecic.com

OPEN GARDENS: Presentation to Irene and Carol





Two very special Open Gardeners retired this year, having opened their gardens every year since 2007. To show our grateful thanks, Rita Pateman (church warden) presented them both garden vouchers.

Both Carol and Irene have been opening their gardens every year, since the beginning of the annual event. Irene had the idea to create an open gardens event after seeing Monty Don talk about it on TV. She asked Carol to help her, because she had opened her garden in the village she had lived in previously. Together they said they 'twisted people's arms' to open their gardens and enlisted the support of the WI.



Middleton Open Gardens event will have its 20th anniversary next year. It has gone on to be a very popular annual event and fund raiser for the Holy Trinity church and local charities. Irene acted as the Co-Ordinator for 15 years, she committed her time and energy, ensuring every year was a great success. Her love of the event shone through, encouraging more and more people to open their gardens and visitors from far and wide to return year on year.

We have been very grateful for Irene and Carol's long commitment to this event and wish them both many more happy times in their gardens (without the added pressure of preparing for the Open Gardens event).

Christine Burgess Middleton
Open Gardens Co-ordinator






A wonderful time was had at **The Middleton Autumn Fair** with plenty of fun, food and music. The day was on the cooler side, but it was great to see so many people supporting the event and ready to enjoy themselves. Thank you to Charlie for the photos






We had a close competition in the Apple pies, but Jenny Turner was the winner, Steve Thorpe was a marvel at apple peeling and this year we had a King Conqueror: Paul Taylor. The pumpkins, wellie wanging, bowling and raffle were enjoyed, along with tasty soup, stew, sausage rolls and cakes. We had fabulous feedback from greeting the alpacas and creating Autumn crowns.






















Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the day - we made approximately £650, which will be spent on other village events, equipment and supporting our community.







What goes on behind the clock…

People on holiday or new to village notice the clock striking. When you live here, you notice when it stops. That's how Simon found himself helping me to give the clock a thorough clean.




Simon was keen that everyone should be aware of the beauty of this clock, that it is not electric and that the bell is not a recording. So, we asked Charlie Magee to photograph us at work on the clock; here is the evidence.






Simon did contact the makers, John Smith in Derby, to find out more about the clock; however, they still haven't responded to his calls. We have started collecting information on the clock and hope to put together a short history of it in the near future. If you have stories or knowledge of the clock, do let either Simon or myself know. I'd like to give a special thank you to Simon, for his interest and enthusiasm for this project. The clock has benefited greatly.
David Burgess

To see more pictures of the clean, along with the bells and the tower, head over to
https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/2mLh9FOX5J/Y2hhcmxpZUBjaGFybGllbWFnZWUuY29t

Buy The Bell Inn Campaign: Huge Progress Update!

MIDDLETON
Community
Benefit Society



We have some fantastic news we'd like to share. Adnams has officially accepted our in-principle offer of £380,000 to bring The Bell Inn, Middleton into community ownership!

This rapid milestone is a testament to our village's incredible community spirit. Thank you to everyone that has helped through buying shares, donating, buying raffle tickets or calendars or attending one of our events, for making this possible.

- The Timeline: We are currently finalizing legalities and conducting a closer inspection of the drains and timber sole plate following our building survey. If all goes well, we aim to take over in the New Year.
- Public Meeting: We are planning a General Meeting before Christmas for all Members and donors to share our development plans, listen to feedback, and vote on our new Directors.
- The Final Stretch: We still need to raise a final £30,000 to reach our £550,000 goal for working capital and development reserves, so if you haven't supported us by buying shares or donating, please consider joining us on our incredibly successful journey.

How to support us this Christmas:
Our share offer is still live. Community shares make perfect Christmas gifts, and we will soon offer printable Christmas Gift Share Vouchers. Donations are also gratefully accepted; UK taxpayers can add 25% to their donation value through completing our website form and donating to our Crowdfunder page.

Don't forget that we still have a few Dogs of Middleton calendars left – the perfect Christmas present. Cost is £10 per calendar, free delivery in Middleton, £2.50 postage per calendar elsewhere.

Visit www.middletoncbs.org to buy shares, donate, or find out more. For further information contact Gillian on enquiries@middletoncbs.org. If ordering calendars, please include your full address and make payment to our bank account (details on the website).

Middleton Bell Prints



Christine Lester, our very talented Middleton artist who also designed our logo, has painted a wonderful oil painting of the Bell with several villagers this summer. The original painting has been donated to Middleton Community Benefit Society and is hanging in the bar area of the pub; you can now buy high quality Giclee prints of the picture in aid of the Buy The Bell campaign. The prints are available as unframed mounted, wrapped prints or framed (price on request). We are looking to bulk order the prints so the price below will have a small additional cost for postage from the printer. We can also post prints to non-Middleton addresses at extra cost

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Sizes are as follows:
Larger, with mount: approx. 53.5cm x 39cm. Price £65 (unframed) plus postage costs.

Smaller, with mount: approx. 43cm x 32cm. Price £55 (unframed) excluding postage.

Please send an email to enquiries@middletoncbs.org to place your order, stating the size and whether you require a framed or unframed print. If you wish to have the print or picture posted, please include the delivery address and we will let you know the postage price when the order is confirmed.

Call for Directors

We're now reaching the stage where we need to formally vote in Directors for the Community Benefit Society. We are looking for nominations from people who would like to get actively involved in running the Society and, from these people, the Society will appoint a small number of Directors who will oversee the management of the pub. We are particularly interested in people that have accountancy, legal, HR, marketing or pub management experience but we also want local people who are enthusiastic, prepared to spend some time in the first 12 months making this a success and are willing to learn. Nominations will be submitted to the General Meeting before Christmas for election – remember only Shareholders are entitled to be a Director or have a vote so if you want to be involved going forward and haven't purchased shares yet, there's still plenty of time. Directors of the Society will be expected to attend at least 4 meetings a year and get actively involved in a sub-group, which will involve some activity between meetings. If you wish to be a Director of the trading subsidiary, this will involve attendance at monthly meetings (some can be virtual) plus some direct oversight responsibility of key operational areas.

If you would like to get involved but don't want to be a Director, please put your name forward as well. We have sub-groups currently looking at wet sales, food, marketing, premises maintenance and development plus health and safety. We will also be looking to train up volunteers to support staff in the pub over the first 12 months, particularly when we anticipate being busy or are running events.

If you would like a confidential discussion, to submit a nomination or volunteer, please contact the Secretary on enquiries@middletoncbs.org. If you wish to nominate yourself, please provide your full contact details, a paragraph on your background and what skills/experience you'll bring plus, if possible, a small (portrait) digital photograph of yourself. Nominations must be received by 5pm on 15th November 2026.

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B1125 Rat Run

For anyone wanting to get involved in the B1125 rat run problem, here's a link to Jenny Riddle's campaign with Suffolk Council. The more people get involved, the better.

https://www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org/b1125ratrun

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If anyone would like a table

they can contact Lynda Whitbread at thewhitbreads@gmx.co.uk
or Angela James on angie.james@hotmail.co.uk.

Re-scheduled free taster sessions in Boccia and New Age Kurling in the Village Hall.

Tuesday 3rd November at 2pm

Come along and have a go!

Contact Lynda for booking in thewhitbreads@gmx.co.uk





LITERARY EVENING AT THE BELL

Come along and read or recite a piece of poetry or prose.
Anything goes (within reason).

It may be serious or humorous, very short or not too long!
It may be ancient or modern.

It can be from anywhere, just recognisable English so that everyone can appreciate and enjoy.
If you enjoy a bit of local, self-entertainment come to

The Bell Inn, Middleton

Thursday **19th** November *(almost St. Edmund's Day)*

7pm to **8**pm.

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HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY
Church Services during November

Sunday 8 November **10.50am** **Laying of Wreaths and Remembrance Service**

*Following this Service, please join us for coffee, croissants or a bacon butty**

at The Bell 11.15am-12 noon (our shout)

**To help Leroy, please let him know if you are hoping to come and have any dietary requirements*

Sunday 22 November **11am** **Poetry and Pastries**

The Benefice Service this month will take place at 10am on Sunday 1 November at All Saints, Darsham

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HARVEST SUNDAY

On 11 October Holy Trinity celebrated Harvest with a lovely service taken by the Rev Ruth. We were surrounded by glorious autumnal flower arrangements – with warmest thanks to our flower ladies and gentleman - and generous gifts for the food bank. During the service a collection was taken for the Suffolk FCN, the local branch of the Farming Community Network, a charity which gives practical and pastoral support to members of our farming community during difficult times and, thanks to the generosity of everyone present, this raised £135.

The service was then followed by, possibly our first harvest lunch in the church. A beautifully laid table in the chancel hosted 17 for a delicious hot meal prepared and served by members of the PCC, to whom we are very grateful. Along with a blackberry and apple crumble, pudding featured slices from the Autumn Fayre apple pie competition (thank you all!) It was a very special occasion, and our thanks extend to everyone who took a chance and came along.

Then, on Wednesday 14th, the church was delighted to continue in the celebrations as, once again, the children from Middleton school used it for their Harvest Festival service.

Rita
Church warden



This picture was taken by Charlie while gathering pictures on the cleaning of the clock. It was just too good to leave out.

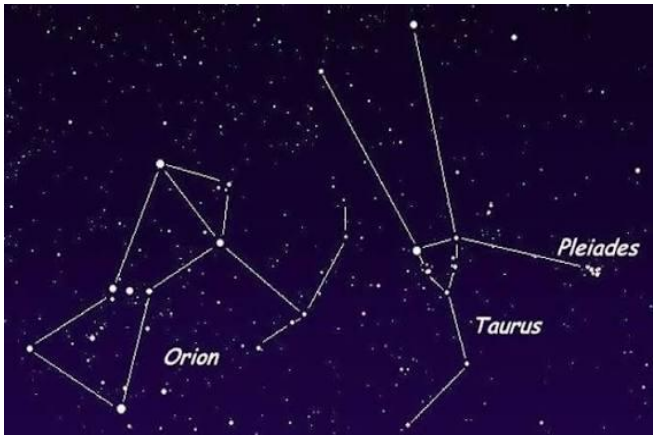
Middleton Dark Skies

November Highlights

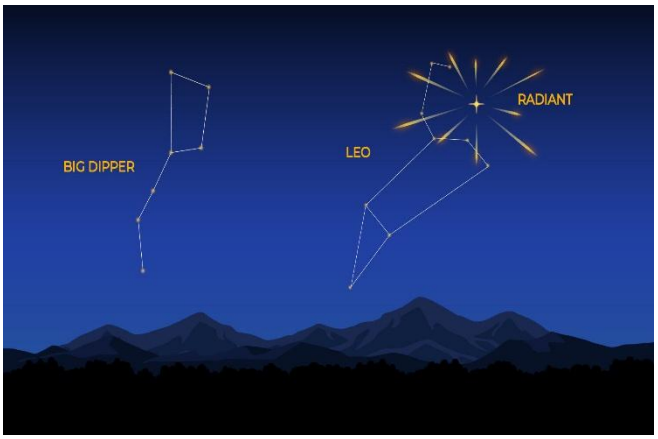
Planets on View: Venus returns this month as a brilliant early morning object, rising at around 4 am. It will be at its brightest on the morning of the 27th. Mars rises at around 11 pm, sitting just to the right of the constellation of Leo. (Look out for the reverse question mark that forms the head and chest of the Lion)

Jupiter joins Mars in the same part of the sky, with Mars above Jupiter at the beginning of the month, but dropping below after the 16th, when it passes close to the left of the giant planet, which this month is some 10 times brighter than the red planet. Saturn is the only planet this month that is visible in the evening sky, setting at around 3 am.

Constellations: Slowing but surely, the winter constellations are making their way up from the eastern horizon as the month progresses, with **Taurus** (the Bull) and **Orion** (the Hunter) being the first of these. The 'V' shape of stars that form the head of Taurus, is the star cluster **Hyades**. Although the brightest stars in the cluster form the distinctive 'V' shape, binoculars or a small telescope will reveal dozens more. Taurus is also home to another star cluster, the **Pleiades** (or the Seven Sisters) which is easily visible to the naked eye. Binoculars will reveal most of the 1000 stars that form this cluster. Also, look out for both The Plough or Big Dipper within **Ursa Major** (the Great Bear), and **Ursa Mino**r (the Little Bear), out towards the north as they are always easy to locate at this time of the year.



Orion and Taurus



Leonid Meteor Shower Radiant

The Moon Full moon this month occurs on the 24th and is the second of this year's three supermoons. It will be 11% brighter and 7% larger than the usual full moon. This month's full moon goes by the name of beaver or Frost Moon.

The Milky Way. As the core of our galaxy slips down below the southern horizon, we are left with a much fainter view of the Milky Way. As, during the winter months, we are looking outward and away from our galaxy's dense core. On a clear night you can see the Milky Way arching overhead from the East to West.

Meteors. On the night of 17/18th look out for the Leonid meteor shower. These particularmeteors are formed by dust particles and debris left over from the Comet Tempel-Tuttle. The radiant, or the point in the sky at which the meteors appear to come from, is the constellation of Leo (the Lion), and rates of 10-15 per hour can be expected. These are generally vest fast meteors and leave fine trails behind them. Best seen after 11.30pm once the moon has set.

Brian near

November Nature Notes

Autumn is a good time to observe fungi; many species are associated with trees, not only growing around the base but also higher up where magnificent fungal brackets form shelf-like structures known as shelf or polypore fungi, either singly or in groups. They protrude from the trunk or branches, although some develop from infected roots and appear at ground level from the trunk of the tree.

Bracket fungi feed on wood, either as living trees or dead logs, with the brackets serving as their fruiting bodies. They are polypores because instead of having spore producing gills, as in many other fungi such as mushrooms, they have many pores lined with spore producing cells called basidia. These basidia form woody tubes through which the spores are released into the air. Brackets occur when the fungus has reached maturity and is ready to produce spores. A new layer of spore tissue is added each season on top of the old; these layers grow into the large bracket that we observe. Counting the growth rings enables the age of the fungi to be determined as each ring represents one growing season. There have been reports of shelves with forty rings and weights of over 150kg. Bracket fungi can vary in size from a few centimetres to the Giant Polypore (Meripilus giganteus), which can reach one metre across.

Trees may be infected by the fungus for many years before brackets appear. The life cycle will vary depending on the species but most produce spores that are spread by air or water and as the fungi cannot penetrate healthy bark they usually attack old and damaged trees. Fungi are crucial to the breakdown of dead wood, and the recycling of its component parts, so are essential elements of a woodland ecosystem. Some feed only on dead wood and are entirely harmless. Others attack living trees, killing the tissues and initiating decay. Once decayed, wood had no structural strength, so trees that are badly infected in the roots or the base of the trunk can be blown over, while those with rot higher up can drop branches.



In Britian there are well over one hundred species of bracket fungi, some are specific to a particular tree species, while others occur or more than one type of tree. Ash, beech and sycamore are particularly susceptible but all trees can become infected. A very common hardwood bracket fungus is the Turkeytail, which produces thin but tough semi-circular caps in tight, overlapping tiers that have a slightly hairy, velvety texture. It has a range of concentrated coloured rings that are a mix of black, brown, grey, yellow, purple and green. Most of these fungi are inedible or even poisonous, some are edible such as the Beefsteak Fungus that looks like raw meat and produces red juice when cut, and the more attractive Chicken of the Woods, which is bright yellow and is good to eat.

Peter Vincent

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026 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 clerk@middletonparishcouncil.gov.uk".

1 Election of Chair. A permanent Chairperson was not elected. Cllr Ian Widgington signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the period 14 October 2026 to 11 November 2026. Councillors will be elected monthly until the role of Chairperson is filled. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be completed each month, as advised by SALC (see MPC Minute 13, Correspondence, Wednesday 11 March 2026).

A Vice Chairperson was not elected.

2Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:	**Apologies accepted for absence:**
Cllr Ian Widgington (acting Chair)	Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Julian Cusack	Cllr Michele Kendall
	Cllr Steve Thorpe Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Giles Piercy	Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Ashley Brown	

In attendance:
County Councillor John Matthews
Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 1

3 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

4 Public Forum. County Council John Matthews advised the meeting of the following: -

- Local Government Reorganisation is now 'off the table'.
- East Suffolk District Council elections will take place in May 2027.
- 11 new fire engineers have been purchased for Suffolk.
- SCC release website bulletins on a regular basis, these are a good source of information.
- This week is Flood Awareness Week.
- CC Matthews recently visited Gt Blakenham Waste Facility, which takes black bag refuse contents to create road aggregate and compost.
- Causeway Farm house sale is progressing, albeit slow.

5 Minutes

a) The Council approved the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 9 September 2026.

b) Matters Arising and Action Points

* The meeting was advised that the September minutes failed to include the agreement to purchase a spare set of defibrillator pads.
* New footpaths for the village. Footpaths have been tentatively agreed and will include wheelchair access.
* The clerk has been furnished with a cockerel image.
* Lionlink consultation. Cllr Thorpe to raise a complaint that Middleton is not listed as an affected area. c/f
* It is understood that Hawthorn Road residents refuse collections are taking place.
* Refuse is now being collected in Fordley Road, and signage reads correct regarding access and no turning opportunities. With regards to passing places and speed limits, it was agreed to put these matters on hold until the SLR is finished (end of 2027).
* No reply was received from the resident requesting the renaming of Hastoe Field. A MoP provided the meeting with a document dated 1840 that includes the names of the fields that make up what has been referred to as Hastoe Field. The owner of these fields at this time was Packard, and it was agreed, at this meeting, to call Hastoe Field Packard Field from here onwards.
  Action: Clerk to advise the resident.
* Planning Applications DC/26/2607/VOC and DC/26/2828/LBC approval by MPC have been given to ESC.
* Updated Asset Register has been uploaded to the village website.

* Complaints Procedure has been readopted and uploaded to the village website.
* ESC has been provided with Cllr Piercy's details as the contact for the Bike Maintenance Station.
* A meeting took place between MPC and Essex and Suffolk Water. It was confirmed that the road will remain closed, but access to properties will be made available, to include deliveries and emergency vehicles. The road closure is at the bottom of Rectory Road (turning right to Leiston will be clear), but turning left will be closed to the layby just before Westleton. It was noted that compensation is available for businesses affected by the closure. Cyclists/ pedestrians will be able to get access through the closures.
* Grit bins. c/f
* Westleton Shopper, offering a service in Middleton, has been put on hold until after Essex and Suffolk Waterworks.
* vanEssa Bus Project questionnaire c/f
* The Summer Winers have kindly cleared and cleaned the village bus stop shelter, thank you.
* An informal meeting/interview took place with the prospective new councillor.

6 **Co-opt New Councillor.** Following the successful meeting/interview that took place prior to this meeting, Ashley Brown was proposed as a new councillor for MPC by Cllrs Thorpe and Piercy, followed by a full show of hands for all those in favour. Cllr Brown was welcomed to the parish council and will primarily deal with matters relating to the Moor, including the pond. It was noted that the council now have a full contingent.
The meeting was reminded that elections for a new council will take place in April of next year.

7 **Sizewell C, Essex & Suffolk Waterworks and other Energy Projects.** Cllrs Thorpe and Piercy attended the latest Main Site Forum. SCC, Highways confirmed that they will be producing a report for the Transport Review Group regarding plans to mitigate the problems on the B1125. MPC will be furnished with a copy of the report.

Footpaths (between Middleton and Saxmundham) were discussed, with comment made on the closure of all four roads at the same time, without any consultation with MPC/residents. Cycling between Middleton and Saxmundham now requires using Moat Road (a long diversion) or the A12 (too dangerous). SZC have agreed to hold a meeting with MPC to explain their justification for decisions made regarding these matters.

The meeting was advised of a multi council cycling and walking group looking for projects and it was suggested that MPC make contact. Action: Cllr Piercy to investigate grant options that may be available.

The meeting was advised that Transport and Highways at SCC will now no longer deal with the B1125 Action Group and the parish council were asked, therefore, if they would act on behalf of the B1125 Action Group and residents. This was agreed by MPC, although no action will be taken until the report has been received for the Transport Review Group.

Cllr Thorpe is in receipt of correspondence from Fisher German Property Consultants acting on behalf of National Grid Adventures Lionlink asking who owns the Moor. Action: Cllr Thorpe to advise Fisher German that the Moor is common land managed by the parish council (and that any further correspondence should be addressed to the clerk).

Yoxford Footpaths. SZC have stated that MPC signed off on the Yoxford footpaths. This is incorrect. MPC (and Theberton PC) representatives formed part of the B1122 Working Group and SZC were repeatedly asked to engage with Yoxford Parish Council directly regarding the location of new footpaths in their village. Action: Cllr Thorpe to advise SZC (cc Yoxford Parish Council) that their records/correspondence are inaccurate.

A MoP wrote to MPC about the lack of cycle routes from the village due to the Link Road construction. This was discussed and it was thought that access is available. Action: Clerk to respond accordingly.

Lionlink. The DCO will be submitted in the new year, not at the end of this year, as planned.

8 **Causeway Farm/Hastoe Field/Back Road.** The meeting was advised that SCC are no longer gifting the land to MPC. Discussions are taking place with SCC about the potential to lease the land on a peppercorn rent basis. It was agreed that the terms of the lease will need to be discussed, to include our obligations and any say over potential housing. It was suggested that advice be sought from a Land Agent.

A plan for dividing the village hall field has been prepared. This will include extending the village hall car park, a wildlife area, a farming area and The Nest.

The Back Road planning application, DC/26/0116/OUT, has been re-issued to include 15 dwellings. The original application was for 14 dwellings, and MPC's objection was uploaded to ESC Planning Portal on 20 April 2026. The

meeting agreed to raise a separate/new objection to the latest application. Action: Clerk to furnish Cllr Thorpe with the original objection for editing (or not). Action: Clerk to submit new objection.

9 **SID**. Action: Cllr Thorpe to source a suitable solar powered speed indicator device, and to investigate grant opportunities for the purchase thereof.

10 **Councillors Reports**

a) Village Hall. There will be fund raising events in the build-up to Christmas, including a party. There are plans to work on the garden by the back of the village hall.
b) Middleton Primary School. No report.
c) Highways, footpaths and trees. Cllr Brown will now be responsible for these reports.
d) Middleton Moor. Cllr Brown will now be responsible for Moor reports. The pond was spoken about, again, at length and it was agreed to produce a plan of works, to include funding options.
Action: Cllrs Thorpe and Brown to produce a plan for pond works, taking into consideration road disruption, spoil disposal, calendar timing and relevant legislation.

11 **Finance**

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerks Expenses x 6 months	Parish Clerk	£212.43	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk NI Contributions	HMRC	£76.80	LGA 1972 s.112
Spare set of Defibrillator Pads (ratify)	Defibshop (Imperative Training Ltd)	£87.54	LGA 1972 s.111
12 months payroll 1.4.26-31.3.27	SALC	£162.00	LGA 1972 s.112
External Auditor Fee	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£504.00	LGA 1972 s.111

c) The final external auditor report was noted by MPC. However, the meeting was advised that a quality service had not been received from PKF Littlejohn as it was felt that not enough time had been given for the council to provide answers to queries raised. The report was issued before our final submission of evidence and although the report advises that MPC have met all standards, it also states that we did not provide a response to a query. (The external auditor required clarity relating to the SZC grant money, which was received in the 25/26 financial year. Orders for play equipment were made in the 25/26 financial year but were paid for in this, 26/27, financial year, thus causing some confusion.) It was agreed at this meeting to withhold payment until a response is received from the external auditor following our complaint. MPC would like the report to be reissued with the sentence stating that we have not provided an adequate explanation removed.

12 **Emergency Planning.** Cllrs Widgington and Piercy to meet.

13 **Appoint Finance Working Group. Set Budget Meeting date.** Cllr Cusack, Cllr Piercy, Cllr Widgington and the clerk to meet on Thursday 3 December at 10am at Paget House.

14 **Update/readopt Financial Regulations.** It was agreed at the meeting that the new Financial Regulations need to be adapted further to suit the needs of MPC. Action: Clerk to amend further to reflect/comply with how MPC manages their finances. (To be presented at December's meeting, following the budget meeting.).

It has recently come to light that the clerk is named as both the primary and secondary user on the HSBC account (an error on the part of HSBC). It was agreed that another member of the council should be named the secondary user on the account and Cllr Widgington agreed to take on this role.
Action: Clerk to action.

15 **CATS/Westleton Shopper**. See Matters Arising above.
16 **Correspondence.** None.
17 **Items for Next Agenda.**
18 **Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

DIARY DATES 2026

November

Sunday 1st	Pop-up brunch – Holy Trinity **10-11.30 am**
Tuesday 3rd	Taster Boccia and New Age Kurling - Village Hall **2pm**
Thursday 5th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Saturday 7th	Christmas Craft Fair – Village Hall **11am – 3pm**
Sunday 8th	Laying of Wreaths and Remembrance service :: Holy Trinity 10.50 followed by 'Bacon Butties' in the Bell **11.15-12.00**
Wednesday 11th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, **7pm**
Thursday 19th	Literary evening - The Bell **7-8pm**
Friday 20th	Village Hall Quiz - Village Hall **7pm**
Sunday 22nd	Poetry and Pastries - Holy Trinity **11.00**

December

Wednesday 2nd	Mark Mitchels Talk – The Bayeux Tapestry – Village Hal
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
Monday 21st	Carol Service :: Holy Trinity **6pm**
Thursday 24th	Midnight Service :: Holy Trinity **11.15pm**



ADVANCE NOTICE Village Hall Table Top Sale

Saturday 23rd January 10 am – 1pm £10 per table. Book with Lynda or Barbara please
lynda@thewhitbreadfamily.co.uk
barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com

Start sorting out your unwanteds now – one person's trash is another one's treasure!!
Please note this is not a jumble sale; anything unsold should be taken home again.

N. J. Day Builders
07946386665 (01728)648659

Graham Cooke DipMIT MPTA
Piano Tuner/Technician
Tel: 01728 648900
Mob: 07812 249654
E-mail: grcooke@btinternet.com

Jo Hannon Design
Building and Interior design
Domestic extensions, kitchens, bathrooms and furniture
Jo@johannondesign.com 07815 295927

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