

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 Widginton

In attendance:

District Cllr Katie Graham
Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 3

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Giles Piercy

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 Madowell 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.