

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Editorial

Poppies have been great again this year – Caroline captured the top ones on the Causeway – thanks Caroline, and I snapped the pub ones though they looked better in real life than my photo!!!

As always lots going on this month – many but not all - are fundraising events for the Bell purchase. Many of you will know already from the public meeting on Friday 26th that much work has gone on behind the scenes to try and secure the purchase of The Bell for our community. Hopefully lots of you will feel able to support the fundraising group at an event or two over the next couple of months – starting with the ‘Dogs of Middleton’ calendar. (see below).

Contributions for the next issue can be emailed to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road by **Tuesday 28th July** 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



Dogs of Middleton Photo Shoot – CALLING ALL VILLAGE DOG OWNERS

We’re producing a calendar featuring our very own village canine superstars for sale to help the Buy The Bell campaign. It’s bound to be a barking success and we’re incredibly lucky to have talented professional photographer Charlie Magee offer his services for free. We’re charging a small fee of £5 to take part to help cover our costs but in exchange you’ll get a lovely digital picture of your dog (as long as they sit still long enough to take one!).

The first photo shoot will have taken place when you read this but there’s still time to get involved. If you can, send us a quick email at Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com to let us know when you are available.

MCBS

PS if everyone wants their dog to be featured there will be montages done for each month .



To all those who attended the cream teas at The Bell

A big thank you to everyone that supported us for making our cream tea afternoon a success and to Leroy for letting us use the facilities at the Bell Inn. You will be pleased to know that we raised £530 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Once again thank you – Gill and Alice



Coming soon – 15th September to be precise – free taster sessions in Boccia and New Age Kurling in the Village Hall. Intrigued – look out for more details next month. Save the date.



UPCOMING EVENTS

COME AND JOIN US FOR A TALK

Living well with Alzheimer's
With Peter Berry



Time: 2.30pm

Date: 5th July 2026

Location: Holy Trinity Church, Middleton



Refreshments will be available



There will be an opportunity to buy our books

All donations to Alzheimer's Research UK



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Paget House

Back Road, Middleton, Saxmundham,
IP17 3NY

Sunday 19 July
10.30am - 5pm

Adults £6 Children free



More information at ngs.org.uk



Middleton-cum-Fordley Community Council
instigated

First Aid & CPR

One day Level 3 VTQ course

with DAC Education

**Because Emergencies
Don't Wait.**

- ✓ First Aid Training
- ✓ CPR & AED emergencies
- ✓ Choking, bleeding control, basic injuries, recovery.
- ✓ Essential life saving skills



Tuesday 14th July
8:30-4:30

Middleton Village Hall

Subsidised places for Middleton residents

Middletoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com



Many thanks to Christine Lester for designing our new logo for the Middleton Community Benefit Society (Buy the Bell group) based on the village sign on the green.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES OF OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Thursday 23rd July

Public launch of shares and donations 11 am

More information soon on our website or from enquiries@cbs.org

Sunday 26th July

Live music at The Bell from 2-7pm – the return of ...

Zig Zag Boxcar

and

The Dunwich Drifters



with BBQ/PAELLA in between !



Friday 31st July

Mark Mitchels talk in the Village Hall 7pm

Allan Jobson's Middleton: A love letter to a Suffolk village

An illustrated talk by Mark Mitchels

Allan Jobson was a popular local author who wrote about Middleton on the threshold of the twentieth century, remembering the visits he used to make to his grandparents in the summer holidays. He lovingly re-creates the village, describing the importance of church and chapel, the festivals and holidays which drew the community together, the farming which dominated everyday existence, and the wonderful characters who could be found in the shops, pubs and open fields. The words and pictures will take you back to a distant time when life was harsh but community spirit was never found wanting.

After a brief introduction, all the words you will hear belong to Allan Jobson.

Tickets £10 pp

Saturday 15th August

Auction of Promises and special evening event

Sunday 30th August

Ralph Taylor and the Secret Peppers and BBQ
3-8pm As seen at Latitude 2025

Sunday 6th September

The Middletones – and special guests and BBQ
3-8pm

Art Exhibition and sale at the Bell - all of August

Middleton Community Benefit Society

Buy The Bell Campaign

Thank you to everyone that turned up in the sweltering heat on Friday for our second public meeting. It was a fantastic turn out – and gave the Steering Group an opportunity to update everyone on the hard work and progress that's been going on behind the scenes to make the community purchase of The Bell Inn a reality.

Our big piece of news is that we've raised **a staggering £320,000** of pledges since our meeting at the end of April, and we haven't launched our public campaign yet. This is an amazing achievement in such a short amount of time and is testament to the community spirit and generosity of our friends and neighbours in the village. We've still got a way to go though to meet our target of £450,000 to cover the purchase price, fees and working capital to transfer the Bell Inn into community ownership.

As well as raising funds, we've also been busy sorting out the legal structure and our registration as a charitable Community Benefit Society is currently with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) for approval. Once this has gone through, we need to set up a bank account, register with HMRC for exempt charitable status and finalise the Share Prospectus. We're aiming for our public launch date on the 23rd of July, so it's going to be a little tight to get all the legal work sorted, but we're pushing ahead.

You will have received notes from Friday's meeting by email, if anyone has any questions, please contact Gillian at enquiries@middletoncbs.org and we'll do our best to answer them for you.

As well as the launch on 23rd July, and our email marketing campaign and new website coming shortly, the Fundraising Committee has been working hard to set up a programme of events where you can come along, bring your friends, family and colleagues to join in the fun and encourage people to make donations and buy shares. More will follow but put the dates in your diary and bring lots of people with you!

How can I help?

- If you haven't told us how much you are going to pledge (either through a donation or through buying shares) please let Gillian know on enquiries@middletoncbs.org as soon as possible. Having pledges confirmed before our launch date will help us to negotiate a purchase with Adnams and ensure they sell it to us.
- You can ask your friends, family, colleagues (anyone really) to buy shares or donate when we go live.
- Buy and sell raffle tickets (and our Dogs of Middleton calendar).
- Join in our Online live auction (more details to come).
- Volunteer to help us at our events.

Above all – join in and have fun!!



ALSO:

Do you have a particular hobby or interest that you could share as an auction of promises item? Perhaps you make things and would be happy to donate one for auction? Maybe you could offer an introductory session or demonstration into that craft? Are you good at cake decorating, love car washing or grass cutting and could offer that service? Please let us know asap to be included for August.

enquiries@middletoncbs.org

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services and Events during July

Sunday 5 July 2pm Peter Berry Living with Alzheimer's

Sunday 12 July 11am Poetry and Pastries

Please join us for the second Poetry and Pastries of the Summer. Whether a regular or giving it a go for the first time, you will be warmly welcome. Simply come along with a poem, a prayer, some prose or perhaps a piece of music you have found inspiring and that you would be happy to read/play aloud (or have read on your behalf) and, along with coffee and a croissant, we will sit together around a table and share these.

Sunday 26 July 11am Holy Communion

The Benefice Service this month will take place at 10am on Sunday 5th July at St Michael's, Peasenhall

OPEN GARDENS 2026

A Reflection

“Real people, in a real village, doing something wonderful together; it should be on the Archers.”
That's how a couple from Aldeburgh described their visit to the Middleton Open Gardens 2026.

For the second year in a row, we had poor weather on one of the days. This time there was little prospect of dodging the rain and avoiding the cold; however, the 'hardy annuals' still returned. 104 people came into the village on the wet and dreary Saturday; almost an advertising slogan in itself.

The Sunday was nigh on perfect. The right combination of sun, cloud and a light breeze, saw almost double the number of people. The praise for the gardens and the village was high indeed. Folk everywhere were kind, welcoming and there was a palpable feeling of joy on the streets of Middleton. Even the gentleman who stopped me in the street to tell me my map was 'terrible', then decided to go and donate to the 'Buy the Bell', because he was loving what he saw going on in the village. Time and time again, I heard the phrase, "I had such a lovely day".

There were 19 gardens over the two days. No new ones this time, but people got to see how the gardens they saw for the first (or the 18th) time last year were developing. Every garden is unique and special, much like the gardeners themselves. Once again, Mark Mitchels managed to photograph all 19 gardens. You can see a snapshot of them here: <https://flic.kr/ps/46pdz3>

For the record, he took an hour on the Saturday and 3 hours on the Sunday; demonstrating that it is possible to see all 19 gardens in 4 hours. However, it also has to be said that he told me that he didn't speak to anyone, unlike most visitors.

Meanwhile, in the Barn at the Bell, there was a different oasis of creativity. The barn had been emptied and the tables now displayed arts and craft and Vintage finds. There was also a plant stall, provided by Woottens of Wenhaston.

In the church the school children put together a captivating display of paintings and clay modelling, retelling the story of the Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. Your attention was then caught by the range of beautiful flowers on show in the windows.

The most important reason I get involved in Open Gardens, is the 'social capital' it brings about, it is truly a most convivial event. Then secondly, we raised some 'financial capital' to keep good things happening. Overall, we raised £3,112; that's up on last year (and despite the weather on Saturday).

We will give £500 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance; £150 to Project40Seven and £50 to Middleton Primary School to treat the children. The rest will be divided between the upkeep and the running of Holy Trinity Church.

Middleton, thank you for your generosity, for planting the most captivating gardens, for baking the most delicious cakes, for serving and washing up, for welcoming, for attending and being attentive, for sharing your time and knowledge, for organising, and most of all, for opening your gardens. We have shared just a few photos from the event below.

Christine and David Burgess

And from Rita, our Church Warden

As Holy Trinity Church Warden I would just like to add my thanks to everyone involved in our Open Gardens weekend. We are so lucky to have such a great community supporting our church, various charities and each other.

Thank you.

Rita



Exhibition by Middleton Primary School



Refreshment team on Sunday



Thanks Christine and Brian for the photos. Sorry I couldn't fit them all in.



Arts and crafts and vintage in the Barn Girls.



Curious concert - Jorge Jimenez

On Saturday 20th June Holy Trinity had the privilege of hosting an amazing concert given by Jorge Jimenez on baroque violin & vielle accompanied by the highly talented Joy Smith playing beautifully on a range of harps. Joy was then off to Glyndebourne.

Jorge is one of Europe's most versatile violinists, directors and composers touring Europe, Australia, South America and Canada and we were very lucky that he ended venue was Granada.

A very special evening much appreciated by all attending.

Rita
CW

Try this link to hear a quick sample sent in by Sarah Moss

Thanks Sarah.

[a06601cc-64e3-45f9-8bba-29ff0456fa33.MP4](#)



Holy Dusters 🙇

1 July - Camilla and Val
12 August – Christine & David

15 July - Trish and Graham

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

Roger Dean

It was with sadness we heard of the death of Roger in hospital very recently. Roger & Sandra had lived in Rose Farm Barn for several years and Roger had been a member of The Summer Wine group until health issues stopped him. Sandra was/is an accomplished artist. They eventually moved south to be near their son and family. We are thinking of Sandra and family at this sad time.

Rita



Thought for the Month

From guest contributor, David Burgess

(Please let Amanda know if you would like to contribute a thought for the month!)

'Thisness cannot be taken from anyone; it is gift, enfolded, total. But it can be neglected — left unpeeled, unwitnessed, unloved — and a person can spend an entire life producing the convincing sound of an interior they never once entered.'

Ilia Delio

MIDDLETON SUMMER BOULES COMPETITION

Saturday 11th July 10am prompt

Come along and compete with a partner for the Middleton Cock Trophy.

Don't worry if you have never played, tuition given.
Timed games, small league system leading to knock-out for the Trophy.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments included.

£2 entry for adults.

£1 entry for under 18's.

Please register your interest with Richard and Jenny Turner at: jenricht@btinternet.com

We can probably find you a partner if you come alone. All playing equipment provided.

BONNE CHANCE

MCC QUIZ

Congratulations to 'The Friday Coffee Club' aka Sally, Doug, Sharon, Rob, Julie and Jane for winning the MCC Midsummer Quiz on the Recreation Ground recently. Unfortunately I don't have a photo of you – apologies!

Commiserations to the other 5 teams – thank you all for taking part – not daunted by the intermittent light showers, various items were used to keep dry!! (Thank you Krysia for this one). Thank you to quizmaster Peter – as always an eclectic mix of questions!

With entry and raffle monies we raised around £125.





What a Fabulous day we had celebrating using our Recreation Ground and the NEW equipment. Lots of fun, fitness and socialising at what may be the first of many sporting escapades! Thank you to everyone who joined in and contributed to a very inclusive Village event.
Middleton Recreation Ground Trust and MCC



Hello Supporters of the B1125 Action Group

Last w/e proved to be an unpleasant taster for the future of the B1125 as traffic was re-routed due to the A12/B1122 w/e closure - two days/three nights were a useful example to see how things will be if it is permanently made into the road of choice for traffic to/from the north to use get to/from Sizewell/Leiston/Aldeburgh. Added into the mix, there were several mains water bursts along the B1125 from Middleton to Westleton suggesting even our old water pipes are struggling with the increase in traffic vibrations. ...all proving, yet again, that the B1125 is NOT a suitable alternative to the A12.

Please check you have the B1125 Action Group meeting date in your diary - **Westleton Village Hall; Tuesday 21st July, 7pm.**

It is a pleasure to announce that after months of work behind the scenes, we now have a meeting lined up with our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter specifically to discuss the B1125's tree & road issues - and possible solutions. This email is to ask you to send us your story/experiences, in your own words:

- *How do you feel about the two ancient oaks (the 'Middleton Oaks' with the yellow ribbons on them) that SZC are still saying they have no choice but to remove - and why do you feel as you do?*
- *Are you in support of re-routing the end of the B1125 in order to join it to the new Sizewell Link Road?*
- *What experiences have you had on the B1125 over the last year that make you feel this road is safe/unsafe - and do you think there are alternative ways to dealing with this extra traffic?*

Please send your personal experiences/examples/thoughts (using this email address) b1125actiongroup@btinternet.com

Try to make your message as concise as possible because we want to collate them all into a single document to present to Jenny at our meeting so she has a neatly-presented folder of evidence from locals/users of the B1125. Please add your name & address (incl postcode) so she knows you are a genuine resident of her constituency.

Please use this opportunity for your (written!) voice to be heard by your MP so that she can bear it in mind when making decisions about how best to help us to help SZC & SCC's Highways to make better decisions about the future of this area!

Thank you for your continued support,

Wanted : house keeper / cleaner / self-employed for 4hrs per week . 9am – 1pm

All cleaning things are here.

From the Westleton / Middleton area only.

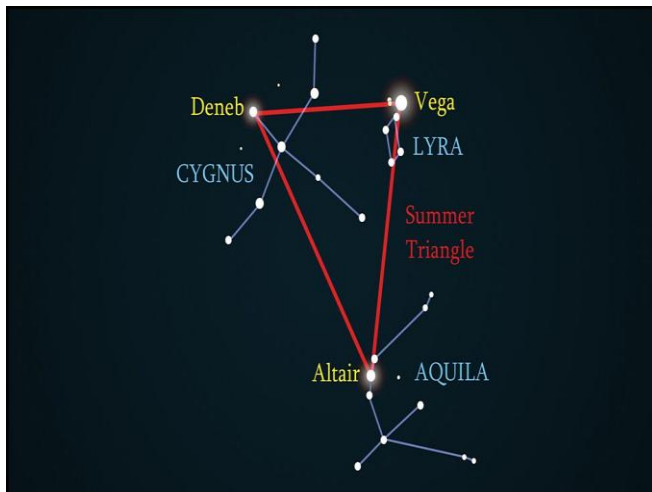
Phone – am - 07758687080

Middleton Dark Skies

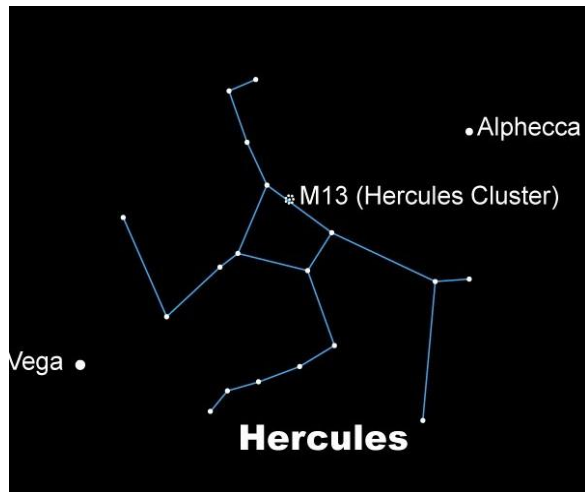
July Highlights

Planets on view. **Venus**, currently known as the Evening Star, is still shining brightly out in the western sky, setting at around 11 pm. It is joined by a crescent Moon on the 17th. **Mars** is a morning object, rising at around 2 am in the constellation of Taurus. The pre-dawn sky out towards the NE is very light at this time of the year, so observing any objects will be very tricky. One unique feature of Mars is that one of its two moons, Phobos, although orbiting in the same direction as all other major moon in the solar system, rises in the west. This is due to Phobos orbiting Mars faster than Mars rotates. **Jupiter** starts July well down in the evening twilight out towards the west. By the end of the month, it will be lost in the glare of the Sun. A fairly dim **Saturn** can be found on toward the east, rising just after midnight, but like Mars, soon gets lost in the morning twilight.

Constellations The skies will still be fairly light for any early evening observing early in the month, but a couple to have a look out for in the southern sky are **Hercules** and **Aquila**. **Hercules** is the 5th largest of all the constellations in the night sky, and consists of a total of 22 fairly faint stars that make Hercules a bit of challenge to observe. It does however have a group of four stars that form the torso of Hercules from which the legs and arms extend, so once these four are located the remainder of the constellation should be a little easier to locate. In myth Hercules is the Roman equivalent of the Greek hero Heracles, who is associated with the twelve labours. In the context of the constellation, it is Heracles penultimate labour, the slaying of the dragon Ladon (known as the adjacent constellation of Draco the Dragon). **Aquila** (the Eagle) is much easier to locate than the larger Hercules, and is similar in shape to the adjacent constellation of Cygnus (the Swan), albeit smaller. The constellation comprises 10 main stars some of which form the shape of a cross. One of the stars, Altair, is one of three stars that make up the Summer Triangle. The other two being Deneb in Cygnus and Vega in Lyra. Like Cygnus, Aquila sits astride the Milky Way, so viewing it through binoculars or a small telescope will reveal an almost cloud like structure of thousands of stars. In Greek myth Aquila was said to have carried the thunderbolts of Zeus and in Roman myth, the thunderbolts of Jupiter.



Aquila and the Summer Triangle



Hercules

The Moon. This month the Moon goes by the name of Thunder Moon, after the summer thunderstorms, or Buck Moon, due to the growth of the buck deer's antlers. Full Moon this month occurs on the 29th. It also stays low to the southern horizon due to the backward tilt of the Earth at this time of the year.

Meteor Showers There are a couple of showers occurring towards the end of the month, the Alpha Capricornids and the Delta Aquariids. Unfortunately, the peak coincides with the full Moon, so any display will be washed out by the bright moonlight.

Brian Near

July Nature Notes

As sea temperatures rise, more jellyfish and a greater variety of jellyfish species are being seen off our local beaches. Sightings typically begin to increase from April, peak during the summer months, and then decline through autumn.

But what actually is a jellyfish? The term *jellyfish* has no distinct scientific definition and is commonly applied to any gelatinous planktonic animal. There are thousands of jelly-like animals in the world's oceans, but only a small proportion are true jellyfish. True jellyfish belong to the phylum Cnidaria, which also includes sea anemones, corals and hydroids. Cnidarian - appropriately named from the Greek word for "sea nettle" - are among the most important predators in the ocean. When abundant, they are major consumers of plankton, including fish larvae and crustaceans, while also preying on small fish and other jellyfish. Most jellyfish are planktonic, meaning they are unable to swim against the current and are therefore carried by ocean currents. Because of this, they cannot actively pursue prey, so many species have evolved incredibly long tentacles to increase their chances of capturing food. Although some smaller species live for only a few hours, larger species, such as the lion's mane jellyfish, can survive for several years.

In the world's oceans there are many thousands of jellyfish species, but only a few are commonly found in British waters. The moon jellyfish is the most common species in British seas and is easily recognised by the four purple horseshoe-shaped markings visible through its translucent white bell. The largest jellyfish in the world is the lion's mane, named for its hair-like tentacles, which can grow up to three metres long and resemble a lion's mane. These reddish-brown tentacles are packed with stinging cells and are used to catch fish and smaller jellyfish. Although rarely dangerous, a lion's mane sting can cause considerable discomfort. Another large species is the barrel jellyfish, which can reach a bell diameter of 90 cm and weigh as much as 35 kg. It has eight frilly arms and, because of its enormous size, is often found washed up on beaches after feeding in shallow waters. The sting of a barrel jellyfish is usually mild and causes little harm to people. The mauve stinger is a small but striking jellyfish, typically coloured pink, purple or bluish-purple, with long tentacles covered in stinging cells. It has one of the most painful stings of any British jellyfish and can glow brightly at night when disturbed, giving rise to its scientific name *Pelagia noctiluca*, meaning 'night-light of the sea'. A common summer visitor to British waters is the compass jellyfish, named after the brown markings radiating from the centre of its yellowish-white bell that resemble a compass. When it stings prey or is disturbed, it may detach a tentacle, which can continue to sting even after becoming separated from the animal. The blue jellyfish is similar in shape to the lion's mane but is colourless when young, developing its distinctive blue-purple bell as it matures. It can possess up to 800 fine tentacles resembling a head of hair. The venom from its sting can cause severe pain that may last for several hours or even days.



Hydroids are a complex and diverse group, most of which never grow large enough to be seen with the naked eye. However, a few, such as the infamous Portuguese man o' war, are unmistakable. Despite its appearance, the Portuguese man o' war is not a single animal but a colonial organism composed of four different types of polyp, each specialised for a particular role and unable to survive independently. It has a distinctive transparent, gas-filled float with a crest and is typically blue-purple in colour. Hanging beneath the

float are numerous fishing polyps, which may extend for tens of metres and are armed with powerful stinging cells. These make the Portuguese man o' war extremely dangerous to humans. A similar free-floating colonial organism is the by-the-wind sailor. They grow 10cm long and are blue-purple in colour. They have an upright sail with a mass of small tentacles surrounding the mouth on the underside. Using the wind to disperse they are often found in many hundreds washed up on usually south-western beaches.

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2026 7pm AT 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 Giles Piercy signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the period 10 June 2026 to 8 July 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). (It was agreed, at this meeting, that councillors are elected in alphabetical order of surnames.)

- 2 Election of Vice Chair.** A Vice Chairperson was not elected.

3 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Giles Piercy (acting Chair)
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Michele Kendall

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Ian Widginton

In attendance:

Parish Clerk
Members of the public x 5

- 4 Councillors' Declarations of Interest.** None.

- 5 Public Forum.** A MoP advised that plans have been received regarding Lionlink and the proposed works affecting the village. It is hoped that any monies received for the disruption will be put towards ring-fenced funds for the Moor/pond. It was confirmed at the meeting that MPC are the statutory body with legal responsibility for the management of the Moor (common land). It is thought that Lionlink will seek to get agreement for works with landowners ahead of the Enquiry. It was agreed that the MoP would advise MPC of the next meeting date with Lionlink, where a member of MPC may also attend. The MoP will provide Cllr Macdowell with a copy of the Lionlink plans.

The meeting was advised, regarding the pond, that finance is available to rectify the pond. The difficulty is finding a methodology for doing the works that is acceptable to all parties; residents of the Moor, Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The Moor is managed under a stewardship agreement for which MPC receive approximately £900 per annum and conditions under which that money is received require MPC to maintain a certain portion of open water in the pond and to maintain it in a fit state for breeding great crested newts. So far, MPC have looked at two solutions, one involves draining the pond and scraping it out. This was rejected by Natural England on the advice of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The second option was to try and clear it by annual vegetation management from the surface. A contractor was sourced last year to carry out the second option. Currently, MPC are without a contractor for dealing with the pond. However, MPC do hold a methodology statement, received from the contractor who carried out works to the pond previously and it was agreed to use this as a starting point. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to liaise with pond renovation contractors, Barnes for further advice.**

A MoP advised the meeting that the community police officer has been invited to attend the Thursday morning coffee group in the village hall, rather than offering support on the village green.

6 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of both the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings held on 13 May 2026.
b) Matters Arising and Action Points

- * Slurry tanks. It was confirmed that the farmer who currently holds grazing rights intended to spray the contents of the slurry tanks onto the land, but this has proven to be too expensive. Investigations are taking place by SCC for alternative solutions. The slurry tanks are being monitored to ensure there is no flooding.
- * Final offers were received on 5 June for the farmhouse at Causeway Farm.
- * Cllr Thorpe has written to Hastoe Housing Association regarding Hastoe Field. No reply to date.
- * Repair to the village noticeboard outside The Bell Inn is in hand.
- * The bench has been ordered from Nelson Potter and is to be located on the recreation ground. A MoP is organising a plaque.
- * Cllr Thorpe supplied the clerk with footpath plans for uploading onto the village website. Unfortunately, the folder was too large and would not upload. **Action: Clerk to make further enquiries with Hugo Fox for ways around this problem.**
- * Parish Councillors were furnished with data, via the clerk, from the village website detailing public usage. It was agreed at the meeting that improvements could be made to the website and that this should be added as an agenda item for July.
- * CIL has been sent to ESC and uploaded onto village website.
- * Cllr Thorpe responded directly to resident email questioning the closure of the local telephone exchange.
- * Cllr Macdowell has enquired about an exhibition at Middleton Village Hall of the SZC/archaeological finds to date and is awaiting a response.

7 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects. Cllr Macdowell is pressing for a meeting with SZC, SCC Highways and Galliford Try Contractors to discuss the SLR, discussions will include passing places, dead ends, construction and operation upon completion. A spreadsheet of roadworks was published in the village newsletter; this will be amended to include the correct level crossing closure and issued electronically.

Cllr Thorpe advised the meeting that SZC are in the process of setting up meetings between themselves and various parishes to discuss footpaths and traffic. To date, MPC have not received an invitation.

8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. The meeting was advised that there are tiles missing off the village hall roof. The next VH meeting is in September. The meeting was reminded that the village hall committee would like to extend the car park following the availability of the field next door.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Cllr Kendall shared an email received from the school, advising of their activities this term and an invitation to MPC to visit the school. Pupil numbers are fixed to remain stable next year.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. Nothing to report.
- d) Middleton Moor. See above. The meeting was advised that Cllr Cusack will no longer represent MPC at Middleton Moor Management meetings. Cllr Thorpe will now take on this role.

The annual cutting of the Moor takes place in July. Traditionally the tenants of Causeway Farm cut the Moor, bailed and removed, at no charge to MPC. Following this Water Mill Farm took over, with no charge to MPC. Last year Thorington Theatre undertook the work at no charge to MPC, and this was considered to become a long-standing relationship. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to engage with Thorington Theatre and organise the cutting of the Moor for this year.**

9 Finance

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Norton Virus Protection Subscription Renewal	Cllr Cusack (reimburse)*	£89.99	LGA 1972 s. 111
Overtime 13.5 hours	Parish Clerk	£260.82	LGA 1972 s. 112
Domain provider 1.6.26 – 31.5.27	Ionos	£12.00	LGA 1972 s. 142

- c) Annual accounts for financial year 25/26 approved.
- d) Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR approved.
- e) Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR approved.

- f) The period of the exercise of public rights agreed. *Subsequent to the meeting, upon advice from the External Auditor, the dates for the exercise of public rights have been extended to 30 working days.*
- g) The Internal Audit Report for financial year 25/26 was reviewed.
- h) The Debit Card Policy was agreed. **Action: Clerk to upload onto village website**

*The clerk advised the meeting that this service will be paid for using the MPC debit card, from next year onwards.

10 Correspondence.

- a) ESC/The vanESSA project. MPC are in receipt of an email from ESC regarding a new project to offer support, advice and affordable food to residents living in rural areas of East Suffolk. Ten questions have been raised by ESC and require a response. It was agreed that more time is needed to collate answers. **Action: Clerk to request an extension for submission of answers.** A MoP offered to consider the questions and provide answers, via Cllr Thorpe. It was also agreed that ex-Cllr Taylor may be able to offer insight following the meal service previously provided. **Action: Clerk to liaise.**
- b) ESC/East Suffolk Blooms campaign. A resident has made the MPC aware of an offer from ESC for spring flowering bulbs. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to share offer with the village hall committee and/or the school.**
- c) Causeway Farm/historic listing. The MPC are in receipt of communications from a MoP (not local) regarding the house on Causeway Farm, and the listing thereof. The MoP has applied to Heritage England for the house to be listed. A request was made for the support of MPC in this matter. It was agreed at this meeting that it would not be appropriate for MPC to assist in this matter. **Action: Clerk to respond accordingly.**
- d) Discharge of Requirement: Archaeology and Peat, Post-excavation Assessments. It was agreed that a response to this communication was not required.
- e) First Aid Training, Tuesday 14 July. It was agreed that this is an excellent opportunity. MPC will pay for 5 people to undertake the training at a cost £96 +VAT each. **Action: Cllr Rowe to advise the Pavilion Manager accordingly.**
- f) B1125 Road Safety Concerns meeting. This will be attended by Cllrs Thorpe and Piercy.
- g) Bike Maintenance Station. MPC are in receipt of the proposed signage for the bike station. It was decided that a cockerel logo should be added to the signage. A MoP offered to send a cockerel image to the clerk. **Action: Cllr Reynolds to speak with Barbara Barker regarding a cockerel image. Action: Clerk to seek an extension with ESC.**
- h) Causeway Farm/Hastoe Field proposal responses. MPC are in receipt of several responses from village residents regarding the proposed care farm on Hastoe Field. Although mostly positive, concerns have been raised about the impact on fauna and flora.

Cllr Piercy advised the meeting that, on the back of the new Reform administration, all matters regarding corporate property will be discussed mid-July. Regarding the care farm proposal, a plan is being developed to include the siting of the care farm, village hall car park extension, private purchases of land, footpaths and a community woodland. Residents that border the field will be included for their thoughts and ideas. Once all of the above is in place and has been shared with Nest Farms, it will be taken to the village for feedback. Following this a proposal will be put in place to SCC. It is hoped that SCC will gift the land for the extension to the village hall car park. It was confirmed that half the field on Back Road will be put forward for approval to be gifted to MPC.

- 11 **Items for Next Agenda.** Elect Cllr Macdowell to Chair the meeting. *Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Macdowell is now unavailable as he will be attending the SZC Community Forum.* The Bell Inn update. Causeway Farm. Noticeboard. SID. Village website update.

- 12 **Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8 July 2026 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2026
AT 8.15pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Giles Piercy (acting Chair)
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Michele Kendall
Cllr Giles Piercy
Cllr Julian Cusack
Cllr Steve Thorpe

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Ian Widgington

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 13 May 2026. Matters arising. See item 5 below.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report. Report received. It was noted that one of the new items of play equipment is loose. The supplier has been informed.

5 Pavilion

- a) Fire Safety Update. Fire regulations have now been met.
- b) Pavilion cupboard – ongoing.
- c) Solar Panels/British Gas. Connecting solar panels to the smart meter and query on invoice amounts both remain ongoing. (Octopus figures were sought but are higher than British Gas.)

6 Finance

The following payments were approved.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Recreation Ground Insurance Increase following grant purchases	Business Services at CAS Ltd (ratify)	£64.74	LGA 1972 s.111
Pavilion Sundries	Pavilion Manager	£8.47	LGA 1972 s.137

Action: Clerk to confirm insurance cover is under the correct policy.

7 Correspondence. None.

8 Matters for discussion. It was agreed to advertise the pavilion in Leiston's Tide Magazine for the months of July and August at a cost of £31.50 per month.

The meeting was advised that the wood surrounding the boules pitch is rotting and therefore needs replacement. It is understood that Middleton Community Council initially paid for this facility, and it was agreed that MCC replace old for new. Action: Cllr Piercy to liaise with MCC.

A MoP requested that more sockets are installed in the pavilion. At present conditions in the kitchen area are cramped, particularly during public events. It was also mentioned that the hot water is not hot enough and kettles are boiled instead. Action: Cllr Piercy to raise at the Open Gardens meeting.

Concerns were also raised about the oven not reaching temperature/taking too long to get to temperature. Action: Cllr Reynolds to discuss further with the Pavilion Manager.

The Clerk advised the meeting that Non-Domestic Rate charges for 24/25, 25/26 and 26/27 have been granted 100% discretionary rate relief.

9 Consider Items for the next Agenda. None.

10 Next Meeting

Agreed for Wednesday 8 July 2026 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

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Found a spare page so these are from Open Gardens



And The Dunwich Drifters playing in the Barn recently.

DIARY DATES 2026

July

Thursday 2 nd	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Sunday 5 th	Peter Berry talks on 'Living with Alzheimer's' 2pm in church
Tuesday 7 th	Fundraising Crib drive at The Bell 7pm
Wednesday 8 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Saturday 11 th	Summer boules open tournament, Playing Field 10am
Sunday 12 th	Poetry & Pastries in church 11am
Tuesday 14 th	First Aid Training – Village Hall 8.30 – 4.30
Sunday 19 th	Paget House Open Gardens 10.30 – 5pm
Tuesday 21 st	B1125 Action Group meeting, Westleton Village Hall 7pm
Thursday 23 rd	Public launch of 'Buy the Bell'
Sunday 26 th	Holy Communion 11am
Sunday 26 th	Live music and BBQ at The Bell
Tuesday 28 th	Procrastiknitters – Village Hall from 2pm
Friday 31 st	Mark Mitchels talk on Alan Jobson's Middleton VH 7pm

August

Thursday 6 th	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Saturday 15 th	Auction of Promises and special event
Saturday 29 th	Annual Village Fete - Playing Field 2pm
Sunday 30 th	Live music and BBQ at The Bell

September

Thursday 3 rd	"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm
Sunday 6 th	Live music and BBQ at The Bell
Wednesday 9 th	Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm
Tuesday 15 th	Taster Boccia and New Age Kurling - Village Hall tbc
Saturday 19 th	Vinyl Night at the Bell from 6pm

October

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

November

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

December

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

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