

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026
AT 8.15pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

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

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr Julian Cusack

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 11 February 2026.
Matters arising. The clerk was unable to transfer SZC Funds from current account to savings account. However, it was agreed that at the rate of expenditure for the recreation ground items this action is obsolete.

4 To review Safety Inspection Report

The latest report has been received and noted. (09.02.26, Visual Report.)

5 SZC Community Fund. The adult and child equipment will be delivered and installed in approximately 8 weeks. Playdale have requested confirmation that there are not any services running under the proposed locations of equipment. This is being investigated by the pavilion manager, and it was confirmed that electricity and gas are clear but still waiting to hear back about water. The pavilion facilities will be made available to the installers of the equipment.

Cllr Piercy reminded the meeting that a baseline survey, in line with the grant offer, needs to be carried out. This will be discussed further with the pavilion manager, with an update provided at April's MPC meeting. Thought will also need to be given to the use of funds to promote the recreation ground. It was agreed to put a piece in the village newsletter advertising the pavilion. **Action: Cllr Piercy to liaise with the pavilion manager regarding a baseline survey.**

The meeting was advised that a (locked) cupboard is needed in the pavilion to enclose meters/converters and store cleaning equipment. Cllr Reynolds offered to carry out the works for a fee.

Regarding the solar panels that are now installed at the recreation ground. The clerk has experienced some difficulty in supplying the information that British Gas are requesting to link the solar panels with our British Gas account. Several attempts have been made to provide photos of meter readings and serial numbers etc, but these attempts have been returned as incorrect. Consequently, we are not yet being paid for the power we are collecting. The question was raised as to whether MPC should seek a different supplier. **Action: Clerk to chase a response from British Gas regarding how much is paid per KW and to make comparisons with other suppliers.**

- 6 Fire Safety Certificate.** Cllr Widington carried out a fire assessment at the pavilion. There are two outstanding issues that were noted; PAT testing needs to be carried out on all portal appliances and an electrical safety certificate for electrical installation, both of which are a requirement of the insurance policy. (PAT testing needs to be carried out yearly and the electrical safety certificate every 5 years.) The current fire extinguisher is 10 years old and has reached its recommended lifetime and as such needs to be replaced. It was questioned whether the current size of fire extinguisher is correct. The assessment also advises that the pavilion should have a heat detector over the cooking area and a smoke detector in the hallway leading to the WC area (both battery operated). **Action: Cllr Reynolds to speak with an electrician to carry out PAT testing and produce an electrical safety certificate, and to also source suitable heat and smoke detectors. Action: Clerk to seek advice regarding the fire extinguisher from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.**
- 7 Correspondence.** It was agreed to pay Alde Electrical Services Ltd the sum of £120.00 for checking the re-installation of electrical appliances following the flood and the installation of a new motion light sensor at the pavilion. **Action: Clerk to make payment.** It was agreed to pay the pavilion manager for 7.45 hrs work undertaken outside of the April to September contracted hours. **Action: Clerk to make payment.**
- 8 Matters for discussion.**
- 9 Consider Items for the next Agenda.** Marketing plan for the pavilion.
- 10 Next Meeting**
Agreed for Wednesday 8 April 2026 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.