

MINUTES OF MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 20th SEPTEMBER in Middlezoy Village Hall @ 7.25 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. N. Turner (Chairman) , Cllr. N. Gillard, Cllr. P. Baker, Cllr. J. Laine, Cllr. A. Lipscomb

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Sidaway (Clerk to Council) and 9 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. D. Huxtable, Cllr. L. Perry and Cllr. D. Gooda

1.Parishioner's Question

1.1 Mr John Crosier introduced an item about the Frank Keirle Charity which the Clerk was investigating through the Somerset County Record Office and it was thought that this was “wound-up” and funds put into other Charities. It was proposed that monies from village charities should be spent to the common good on a defibrillator which would cost £2745. It was **agreed** that these funds pay for the equipment through the Parish Council who could reclaim the VAT on condition the Parish Council undertakes to insure and annually maintain the equipment for a limit of 5 years.

Proposed by Councillor Ann Lipscomb and seconded by Councillor Paul Baker. **All agreed. Action:** monies to be transferred and Clerk to issue receipt.

1.2 Mr Bell wished to speak about a planning application on his property at 1, Kicks Hill and the Clerk reminded the speaker and Members of Predetermination whereby the applicant may brief Councillors but not appear to be lobbying. Mr Bell reported that he was considering an application for an extension for a retirement home on a parcel of land that he owned. It would be accessed by the existing entrance and well shielded by hedges and would not be seen from the road or any higher than exist buildings. The Chairman responded that the Council would have no reservation about the proposed application but any response would be based on the design statement and views of residents.

1.3 Mrs. Woods reported that the Arts Festival did not clear up the “Fairy Walk” and that it was all falling apart. **Action:** Letter to Mari Bell-Phillips.

1.4 Mrs Wood thanked the Chairman for mending the stile but he replied that he had not. It was assumed that SCC Footpaths Officer must have done it in response to communication by the Clerk.

1.5 Mrs Wood as advised that a further dog bin had been obtained and would go at entrance of the village hall car park when it was finished along with signs imploring residents not to allow dogs to foul the field. The Chairman did observe that this was almost impossible to effectively police but when the extra fencing is put up to the rear of the village hall as part of the car park improvements it will be easier to keep dogs out.

1.6 Clerk to write to Chairman of the Allotment Committee to than them for assistance during the car park closure.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. County Councillor Report

3.1 The Clerk read an e-mail report from Cllr. Huxtable which informed that SCC would not change their policy over the Kicks Hill issue and the A372 junction proposed remedial works would have to be considered in light of the financial situation.

3.2 The Clerk was instructed to investigate source and costs of 4 mirrors to be positioned either side of George Inn junctions, Chapel Road and at A372 junction to make access safer.

3.3 The Clerk reported that he had correspondence from SCC about communities adopting and maintaining road direction finger posts.

4. Chairman's Comments

4.1 The Chairman reported that the car park was progressing well and should be finished this week.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting with one amendment being Mrs Wood's field not garden.

Proposed by Cllr. N. Gillard and seconded by Cllr. J. Laine. **All agreed.**

6. Matters Arising

6.1 The Clerk reported that there had been no applications for the post of Parish Handy person.

6.2 Cllr. Laine reported that she had organised flyers and a petition to gain support to complain to SDC Environmental Health over the vehicular noise nuisance from the airfield. The Clerk reported that he contacted John Swayne at Othery who said there was no problem there and Alan Hurford for Westonzoyland who had not replied. Cllr. Liz Perry had stated that there were many complainants in Westonzoyland. It was further reported that the events also produced extremely hazardous driving from participants and viewers when leaving these events. The situation would continue to be monitored and petition circulated.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 The Clerk tabled a budget update showing a balance of £25,666.13 with 50% (£22,019.25) of the car park costs paid. It was anticipated that a further £3000 donation, £7000 from SDC RLT 3 Grant and the balance of Precept £5624.04 would be received before the 2nd tranche of the car park balance would need to be paid.

7.2 There were the following payment authorisations approved:

Zoytec (Alan Quin) for design of website = £230.00

Cllr. J. Laine expenses for flyer and petition = £ 50.75 **All agreed**

The Clerk deferred his salary and expenses until the next meeting.

The Council was disinclined to pay Middlezoy Cricket Club without an invoice. **Action:** Clerk chase.

8. Planning Matters

To be decided:

- 8.1 **34/16/00015** Middlezoy Holy Cross Church – photovoltaic slates to south nave roof. No objections and Parish Council support. Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Laine. **Agreed.**
- 8.2 SDC Enforcement were investigating the perceived unlawful garage/workshop in Moor Road.

9.Highways and Footpaths

9.1 It was reported that there was a wasp nest next to a footpath and the issues was discussed and it ascertained that historically SDC would remove pests but now require payment.

10. Village Hall and Car Park

10.1 The Chairman reported that the car park would soon be complete and that marked bays were part of the agreement and most particularly a reserved area for emergency vehicles which may also be the site for a second defibrillator.

11.Middlezoy Parish Website

11.1 Nothing to report except the petition notice would go on about the noise nuisance.

12 .Clerk's Information and correspondence

12.1 Nothing to report.

13. Any other business

13.1 There was none.

14. Date and Venue of next meeting

14.1 Tuesday 18th OCTOBER @ 7.30 pm in Middlezoy Village Hall.

15.Resolution to hold a Part B: Exempt Item

It was **resolved** to hold a Part B: Exempt Item whereby the Public and Press were excluded as it would deal with Code of Conduct, Protocol and Procedures of Meetings which the Council felt sensitive and private to the Councillors to discuss in closed session.
Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Laine. **All agreed.**

Signed Date
(Chairman of Council)

(There being no further public business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm)

CONFIDENTIAL**16. PART B: EXEMPT ITEM Code of Conduct, Protocol and Procedures for Meetings**

The Chairman led on this item and introduced it as having been requested due to the unruly and aggressive behaviour of a Parishioner. He was sorry that this was the worst episode he had witnessed in 20 years as a Councillor. The Members were in sympathy with the two other Parishioners, Andrew Cole and Fiona Campbell who had to follow this outburst. The Council must resolve how it should intervene and have a mechanism to control this sort of behaviour. The Clerk responded that rules of engagement were all enshrined in the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders but had to be made clear and carried out. The Chairman agreed and said that the same rules applied whether it be Parliament or the upper tier Councils.

The Chairman of Parish Council's were normally more relaxed about timings than District or County but he proposed to keep Public Question-time to 15 minutes maximum. The Public may not speak at other times excepting on Planning matters if invited by the Chairman, or asked specific questions by Councillors on local knowledge on other matters.

It was proposed and agreed that a simple list of responsibilities that the Parish Council could undertake and could not alongside those of District and County and rules of engagement of meetings be drawn up. The Chairman offered to do this in draft to be commented on and added to by Councillor Jackie Laine and the Clerk. This would then be displayed in the Parish Noticeboard and published on the website. **All agreed.**