

MINUTES OF MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 18 OCTOBER in Middlezoy Village Hall @ 7.30 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Sidaway (Clerk to Council), Cllr. D. Huxtable and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. L. Perry, Cllr.P. Baker and Cllr. D. Gooda

1.Parishioner's Question

1.1 Mrs Sue Woods reported that the drains at the bottom of Church Road needed attention and that the stile behind her and the Chairman's property had been broken again. **Action:** Chairman to investigate.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Laine and Lipscomb both declared an interest in item. 15 which concerned Middlezoy Village Hall of which they are respectively Treasurer and Chairperson.

3. County Councillor Report

3.1 Councillor Huxtable commended the Parish on the completion of the car park and observed that the raised kerbs were going ahead.

3.2 The proposed initiative to improve the A372 junction would have to be put on hold as SCC were still in dire straits financially as most of the budget was going on social services and child care with very complicated needs.

3.3 He noted works required on drains at Church Road and reported that residents should see improvements by way of pot-holes being filled in. He had made further enquiries about the right of way at Kick's Hill junction and advised the Parish to accept the situation as SCC would not reverse their decision.
(Cllr. Huxtable left the meeting at 7.45 pm)

4. Chairman's Comments

4.1The Chairman reported that the car park was now complete and in service but was disappointed that some users of the car park still parked on the grass. The costs of £44.038 had been raised by Middlezoy Community Project, private donation and an RLT3 grant from Sedgemoor District Council.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting with the following amendments made: Mrs Fiona Kennedy not Campbell and with reference to TSBA "Payroll and expenses".

Proposed by Cllr. A. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. J. Laine. **All agreed.**

6. Matters Arising

6.1 There were none.

7.Noise from Westonzoyland Airfield

7.1 The Chairman considered this to be a potentially controversial item and took time to explain the Parish Council role and responsibilities to all residents and was not a decision maker but, for the most part, a consultee. The Parish Council, over a number of years, had received complaints about noise pollution emanating from motor events on the old Westonzoyland Airfield. He felt frustrated as although the Parish had a duty to report all complaints to the enforcement authority, Sedgemoor District Council said they required evidence by way of dates and specific incidents which was not always forthcoming. The Parish Council can only advise.

7.2 The purpose of this Agenda item was for the Council to listen to both sides of the argument, gather further forthcoming evidence and comments and then come to a view at a later meeting on how to proceed at which stage all parties will be informed.

7.3 The Chairman then opened the meeting to debate giving clear guidelines on how he would conduct the debate.

7.4 The organisers of the events put their case that the events from driving lessons to drifting and other motorised activities were across the airfield and monitored by Sedgemoor Environmental Health who had conducted tests on decibels, pitch and tone of noise. They felt that they had a right to this business enterprise and kept within the parameters laid down.

7.5 Conversely the residents felt that events had increased significantly, particularly over weekends, Bank and other public holidays. That there was bad driving on the roads associated with these events and that the majority of Middlezoy residents could not have "the quiet enjoyment" of their own properties and were forced to stay inside.

7.6The Chairman concluded that there were two petitions circulating and proformas for the public to register complaints and the Chairman promised to read them all. **Action:** Chairman.

7.7 The matter would be discussed at the November meeting when the Full Council would come to a view as to what actions are appropriate for it to take. The Parish Council has very limited powers, the District Council has considerable enforcement powers but if the public are unhappy with either they may appeal to the Local Government Ombudsman or try to resolve the issue through civil action at their own expense.

8. Financial Matters

8.1 The Clerk tabled a budget update showing a balance of £42,893.98 in both bank accounts due to the receipt of monies to fund both the car park and defibrillator. The Clerk cautioned that it was allowed to exceed the £20,000 threshold for smaller Councils in short term for capital projects but continued perceived large cash holdings could be questioned at audit.

8.2 There were the following payment authorisations approved:

Clerk's salary and expenses	= £842.26
• Middlezoy Cricket Club field maintenance	= £300.00
• R K Bell balance of car park costs	= £22,019.25
• G Wagen James disposal of fencing posts	= £72.00
Heartsafe AED Locator (EU) Limited	= £2,776.36

Proposed by Cllr. J. Laine and seconded by Cllr. A. Lipscomb **All agreed**

8.3It was **agreed** to set up and authorise a Finance Working Party to consider the 2017/2018 Budget comprising the Chairman, Cllrs. Laine and Baker and the Clerk to bring back recommendations to Full Council . **Action:** Working Party to agree amongst themselves a suitable date.

9. Planning Matters

To be decided:

9.1 **34/16/00016** Mr Harrison for an extension to the barn conversion in Moor Road. The Parish had not supported this application when made as a holiday let but had put forward observations on flooding and traffic issues but were not consulted on change of use to residential, albeit outside of the development area. At the Parishes instigation SDC Enforcement were investigating the unlawful garage/workshop. Motion to oppose carried 3 votes to 1.

Updates:

9.2 The fencing at 7, Hollies Close was deemed by planners to be “permitted development” hence Mrs Kennedy's only recourse would be civil action.

9.3 Smith's Farm development was exercising a number of residents as an initial start was made to satisfy planning regulations but has been derelict for some months. **Action:** Clerk to make enquiries of SDC.

10.Parish Defibrillators

10.1 The Parish Council would coordinate the ordering process for both devices to be hosted at the Chapel and Village Hall. Funds were nearly in hand for both but orders could go out and it had been resolved under item: Finance that only one machine be paid “up front” the other on safe receipt of the two.

11.Highways and Footpaths

11.1 The Chairman had agreed to investigate the broken bridge. **Action:** Chairman.

12. Village Hall and Car Park

12.1 Chairman reported that the car park was complete and that the rear of the hall had been consolidated and grass seeded. However, there was a health and safety dilemma in that the rear emergency exit opened on to a deep, as yet, unguarded drop into the ditch that could result in serious injury or death if someone fell in. The Chairman proposed that a fence be constructed to satisfy responsibility and potential liability to the Parish. He had obtained quotes for £1650 for wooden posts and £1900 for concrete which the fencing slotted into. Due to the underlying rubble

base and considerations of longevity the concrete option was favoured by all present. The MCP project had some funds to hand and there may be some more funds from one of the charities. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr. N, Gillard to go ahead and let the contract. **All agreed.**

13. Middlezoy Parish Website

13.1 Nothing to report.

14 .Clerk's Information and correspondence

Nothing to report.

15. Any other business

There was none.

16. Date and Venue of next meeting

16.1 On Tuesday 15 NOVEMBER 2016 @ 7.30 pm in Middlezoy Village Hall.

Signed Date
(Chairman of Council)

(There being no further public business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm)