

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>. APRIL 2017 in Middlezoy Village Hall @ 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr. N. Turner (Chairman) ,Cllr. N. Gillard, Cllr. P. Baker, Cllr. A. Lipscomb and Cllr. D. Gooda.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chris Sidaway (Clerk to Council), Cllr. D. Alder, Cllr. L. Perry, Mr. Martin and Mr C. Harrison. and 6 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. D. Huxtable and Cllr. J. Laine

**1.Parishioner's Question**

1.1 The question of Affordable Housing was introduced by Cllr. Alder as the Affordable Housing Officer had been trying to contact the Clerk to discuss. Cllr. Alder emphasised that this was an annual "rolling programme". The Clerk reported e-mail difficulties had occurred but contact was now made and a visit to the Parish Council agreed. The important issue was authorising the District Council to facilitate a new Housing Needs Survey as the previous one was now out of date and the Clerk recommended this action to Council.

**Resolution:** Proposed by Cllr. P. Baker and seconded by Cllr. D. Gooda that the Parish Council instruct the District Council to carry out a Housing Needs Survey. **All agreed.**

1.2 Cllr. A. Lipscomb brought residents concerns that some had been double billed by the Rating Authority and were not happy. The Chairman determined that this was a matter between any aggrieved parties and the Rating Authority not the Parish Council.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**3. County Councillor Report**

3.1 There was none.

**4. Chairman's Comments**

4.1 There was none.

**5. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the last meeting . Proposed by Cllr. A. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. D. Gooda **All agreed.**

**6. Matters Arising**

6.1 There were none.

**7. Financial Matters**

7.1 The Clerk tabled a budget update showing a balance of £12,778.04 in both accounts.

7.2 Payments to approve:

- Mrs C. Pring for allotment rent = £400.00

**All agreed to this expenditure.**

## 8. Planning Matters

*Applications to be decided:*

- **37/17/00009** Mr Harrison – Barn in Moor Road – retention of change of use from agricultural building and land to residential use.
- **37/17/00010** Mr Harrison – Barn in Moor Road – retention of garage and remedial works. The Chairman invited Mr Martin, as Mr Harrison's agent to speak on his behalf. Mr Martin outlined the short history of this site and application and emphasised if there were irregularities it was down to his clients inexperience and naivety rather than design. There were unfortunate gaps where the previous agent had not forwarded a design statement and his client embarked on a self build project. As a result the planning consents were withdrawn and hence the current re-applications. There had been considerable efforts to soften the design aspects and introduce a more sympathetic “rustic” look to the conversion. Councillors proceeded to debate the merits of the alterations and decided that sufficient effort had been made to allow the conversion to blend in to the rural location and **agreed** to support the proposals. **Action:** Clerk to respond to Planning Authority accordingly.

*Updates:*

- **37/17/00008** Mr Peppard – resurfacing farmyard - granted.
- **37/17/00007** Mr Jones – single-storey extension at 2, Knowleyards Road – granted.

## 9. Highways and Footpaths

9.1 The Chairman reported that the raised kerb was still pending and he was disappointed that the mother of the disabled student had intervened with the Paul Bush Trust to advise them to reclaim their grant. The Chairman and Clerk outlined a catalogue of challenges from contractors reluctance to tender to perceived unnecessary bureaucracy holding up this project. The now chosen contractor was jumping through hoops to satisfy SCC regulations. It was proposed that the Council return the grants to Paul Bush and SCC but then **agreed** that the Clerk contact Paul Bush and SCC to try to resolve the issue urgently otherwise:

Proposed by Cllr. P. Baker and seconded by Cllr. A. Lipscomb that the grants be returned. **All agreed.** The Chairman was minded to write to local and national press on the unfairness of disabled provision in rural districts.

## 10. Playing Field and Car Park

10.1 The Chairman reported that there had been outbreaks of vandalism in the playing Fields involving damage to chairs and tables and decking and bonfires started with rubbish. The Clerk reported that although bad news for the village there was a timely possible intervention from the District Council in the form of “Public Place Orders” that could designate public amenities and register them as such gain “Public Space Protection Orders” placed upon them. **Action:** Clerk to investigate with a view to registering the Middlezoy Playing Fields.

## 11. Middlezoy Parish Website

11.1 There was none.

**12. Village Hall**

12.1 Cllr. Ann Lipscomb reported that Middlezoy Cricket Club were re-treating the wooden decking and replacing that damaged by vandalism.

12.2 Entertainment – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month Jazz Evenings were in full swing and proving a symbiotic relation ship to both performers and MCP.

**13 .Clerk's Information and correspondence**

13.1 Smith's Farm development seemed to be progressing slowly.

13.2 Bridgwater Mercury reported that Middlezoy Cricket Club had benefited by an SDC Sports grant of £1396.56.

13.3 The new Cluster meeting time-tables had been released by Sedgemoor and the Clerk had attended the Code of Conduct Training by way of revision.

13.4 The Clerk outlined a new diagnostic health initiative, whereby, the Parish would host in a public venue health professionals who would hold human MOT sessions. Clerk to investigate further.

**14. Any other business**

14.1 There was none.

**15. Date and Venue of next meeting**

15.1 On **Tuesday 16 MAY 2017 @ 7.30 pm** in Middlezoy Village Hall preceded by the **Annual Parish Assembly at 7.00 p.m.**

Signed ..... Date .....

*(Chairman of Council)* (There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm).