

MINUTES OF MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 15th. SEPTEMBER 2017 in Middlezoy Village Hall @ 7.30 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Sidaway (Clerk to Council), Cllr. L. Perry, PCSO Anusia Rourke and 12 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Huxtable.

1.Clerk's Report on Casual Vacancies and Chairman's resignation

The Clerk reported that he had registered Cllr. Gooda's resignation and advertised his post as a casual vacancy. However, the Electoral Officer at SDC would not accept Cllr. Turner's resignation as, due to a legal technicality, the Chairman may only resign, in writing, to an incoming Chairman not the Clerk to ensure continuity of the role.

2. Election of new Chairman

Councillor Turner as the sitting Chairman proffered his resignation but added as he could not respond in writing until the new Chair was elected would remain as a Councillor for the duration of the meeting. It was suggested that an interim Chairman be elected to serve, at least, until the new Council year.

Councillor Lipscomb proposed Councillor Baker and Councillor Laine proposed Cllr. Gillard to take the role which both were prepared to accept. Cllr. Turner cast his vote in favour of Cllr. Baker who was duly elected "interim" Chairman. The Clerk then witnessed his Declaration of acceptance of office.

3.Avon and Somerset Police

3.1 PCSO Anusia Rourke was introduced to the meeting and gave a brief introduction to policing challenges and explained that she was available to listen to the Council and residents concerns. The main concern of the Council was anti-social behaviour that, in the last year, had exceeded £1000 which out of a £12,000 Precept was considerable and unsustainable. The principle vandalism was in the playing fields and was related to under-age drinking and drug taking. It was reported that drug dealers had been observed passing packets to young people while driving along and there was some evidence of cannabis being grown in hedgerows adjacent to the playing field. A specific illegal activity was a youth on a motor scooter without a crash helmet giving lifts to girls, equally without crash helmets. PCSO Rourke accepted this information and promised more spot checks in the village, determined by availability and the Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 Cllr. Baker declared interest in planning application 34/17/00014 as he was a neighbour.

5. County Councillor Report

5.1 In the absence of Cllr. Huxtable there was none.

5. Chairman's Comments

5.1 The Chairman had no comments except to warmly thank Cllr. Nobby Turner for all his efforts and good works as Chairman.

6. Parishioner's Question time

6.1 The question of Kicks Hill was raised again as parishioners were of the opinion that this was never resolved to their satisfaction by Somerset County Council after years of lobbying.

6.2 Lydia Dunne, Agent for Clive Miller Associates representing Mr and Mrs Keirle gave a brief presentation on planning application 34/17/00015. There had been serious security breaches at Merrick s Farm and the application would ensure the health and safety of livestock by accommodating an agricultural worker near to vulnerable calves.

7. Minutes of the last Meeting

7.1 The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the last meeting . Proposed by Cllr. J. Laine and seconded by Cllr. N. Gillard. **All agreed.**

8. Matters Arising

8.1 The Clerk had drawn up the Contract with the cricket club for maintenance of the playing field.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 The Clerk tabled a budget update showing that the balance stood at £16,169.98 but a number of cheques had not been presented including G Wagen James and Moovers and Shakers (see below) and the Paul Bush Trust and Rt Signs which cumulatively would reduce this by £2360.40 to £13,809.58 available.

9.2 Payments to approve:

- Clerk's salary and expenses = £956.04
- TSBA for PAYE returns = £36.00
- MCP for accrued hall rental = £352.50
- MCP (Moovers and Shakers) = £500.00
- G Wagen James = £204.00

Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Gillard and **all agreed** to above expenditure.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 Applications to be decided:

34/17/00012 Mr and Mrs Braddock – 2, Main Road: erection of a single storey extension and conversion of outbuildings to living accommodation. The consensus was that of a sensible conversion and proposed by Cllr. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. Laine to support. **All agreed.** *(the Chairman declared an interest and left the meeting).*

34/17/00014 Mr Cave – 38 Main Road: erection of single and 2 storey extension.

Proposed by Cllr. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. Turner to support application. **All agreed.**

34/17/00015 Mr and Mrs Keirle – erection of agricultural building and siting of static caravan north of Oliver's Road, Middlezoy to safeguard stock. All agreed to support the local farming community and proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Gillard. **All agreed.**

34/17/00016 and 17. Mrs C Jenkins – Merrick's Farm, Main Road, Middlezoy: erection of 3 new dwellings and conversion of 2 historic agricultural buildings to residential. These applications were fully considered and issues that arose were lack of community benefit (the shop was mentioned in this context), access issues in particular onto Back Lane and lack of affordable housing in a perceived up-market development. Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Lipscomb to object and recommend no approval. Put to the vote 4 in favour of objection and Cllr. Gillard abstained from voting.

34/17/00018 Mr Graham Bell – The George Inn, Main Road, Middlezoy: conversion of skittle alley to residential use and creation of 2 storey extension to provide guest accommodation for Bed and Breakfast. It was noted with regret the loss of a skittle alley but accepted that it was now little used and the survival of a village pub was paramount and depended on diversification. Proposed by Cllr. Baker and seconded by Cllr. Gillard to support application. **All agreed.**

Action: The Clerk was instructed to respond accordingly to the planning authority .

Update: Cllr. Baker had requested that the Clerk investigate any conditions attached to the development at Smiths Farm as he had received various complaints about noise and disruption in very early morning including weekends and Bank Holidays. SDC had responded that there were no restrictive conditions on working practice and the only recourse to residents was polite lobbying or by complaint to Environmental Health. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council had fulfilled its obligation by investigating and there was sentiment that the work was progressing and would hopefully come to an end sooner rather than later.

11. Highways and Footpaths

11.1 Nethermoor Road adjacent to Smiths Farm would close for a short while and the Clerk had posted detail on the noticeboard and Cllr. Laine on the web-site.

11.2 The Clerk had requested a letter from the Arts and Crafts Group “gifting” the art benches to the Parish Council and he could then formally accept by exchange of letter. **Action:** Clerk

11.3 Cllr. Laine reported that intransigent Funeral Directors and mourners cars were creating problems and “no go” area outside of the Church whilst serving funerals. It was recommended that the Church may make alternative arrangements by using the field, in its ownership, as a temporary car park. **Action:** Clerk to write letter to PCC.

11.4 The Clerk reported that he had reminded Mr Purchase to complete the works to the wall for which he quoted with some urgency.

12. Playing Field and Car Park

12.1 Nothing further to Police report at item: 3.

13. Middlezoy Parish Website

13.1 The Clerk would be given instruction and access codes to update Parish records.

14. Village Hall

14.1 Cllr. Laine reported that Moovers and Shakers Musical Extravaganza on 16th September had made £3000 to £4000 profit.

14.2 Cllr. Lipscomb was no longer the Chairman of MCP and would be stepping back from the Committee so appointing a new representative of the Parish Council was a priority.

15 .Clerk's Information and correspondence

15.1 The Clerk advised Members that there were 2 Sedgemoor District Council meetings coming up on the 3 October the All Parish Meeting replacing the cluster meetings and Planning Seminars on the 12 and 18 October. Please advise if any Member wishes to attend any of these.

16. Any other

16.1 Cllr. Laine reported that there were widespread reports that items ordered online from customers in Middlezoy using the Post Code were ending up in Wembdon or Westonzoyland. It was felt this not to be specifically Parish Council business but to be minuted to advise customers to be vigilant and give full details for postal deliveries.

17. Date and Venue of next meeting

17.1 On **Tuesday 17th OCTOBER 2017 @ 7.30 pm** in Middlezoy Village Hall.

Signed Date

(Chairman of Council)

(There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm).