

MINUTES OF MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 18th JUNE 2019 in Middlezoy Village Hall @ 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. P. Baker, Cllr. J. Laine, Cllr. N. Gillard, Cllr. A. Lipscomb, Cllr. F. Collet and Cllr. A. Morris.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Sidaway (Clerk), Cllr. L. Perry, Cllr. A. Betty and 10 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. D. Huxtable and Cllr. W. Hawkins.

1. Declarations of Interested

1.1 Cllr. Liz Perry declared a general interest that would preclude her from commenting on Planning Applications in future as she was now on the Planning Committee and would have to keep any of her considered opinions for the SDC planning meetings.

2. Parishioner's Question-time

2.1 It was reported that vehicles were still exiting the village through the "No Entry" sign on the dangerous A372 junction including a 40ft articulated lorry. Clerk had e-mailed the Highways Authority and Police. It was hoped that some positive action would emerge.

2.2 The Clerk reported on behalf of a concerned resident about Townen's Waste Disposal Facility on Oliver's Road which included abuse from workers, dust, noise and anti-social working hours. **Action:** The District Councillors would look in to.

2.3 The Clerk read out a letter from long-term residents on Kicks Hill about the junction and he had responded with a short history of the site, a robust campaign by the Parish Council and its decision that the matter was now closed. His action was endorsed by the Council.

3. County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

3.1 There was no County Council report.

3.3 Cllr. L. Perry and Cllr. A. Betty reported that they had attended the first meeting of new Sedgemoor District council with Cllr. Clayton elected Chairman with Cllr. Bradford his deputy and Cllr. McGinty re-elected as Leader of the Councillor.

3.4 Cllr. Betty was investigating the ambition for new Sports/play equipment and confirmed that Middlezoy had £3152 available to spend.

3.5 Cllr. Perry was still involved in investigating the other Townen's site on the Westonzoyland Airfield and why appropriate consents and permits were not necessary. Input from the MP had been sought.

4. Chairman's Comments

4.1 The Chairman asked if Cllr. A. Morris would be prepared to further investigate the play ground equipment. Councillor Morris agreed.

4.2 The Chairman proposed a £50.00 honorarium for Mr. Maurice Smith for audit duties. Proposed by Cllr. J. Laine and seconded by Cllr. A. Lipscomb. **All agreed.**

4.3 The Chairman reluctantly read a letter from the Clerk, Mr Sidaway, giving his resignation for a mixture of health and personal reasons. He was giving the contractual one months notice but indicated that he would stay until a successor was recruited. Councillor A. Lipscomb proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Sidaway for all his work for the Council which was warmly endorsed.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting

5.1 The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the last meeting after an amendment “slippery path on a slope” was made.

Proposed by Cllr. A. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. N. Gillard. **All agreed.**

6. Matters Arising

6.1 The Clerk was instructed to write, yet again, to the Cricket Club to remind them of their contractual obligations. **Action:** Clerk.

6.2 The Clerk had investigated the supply of Merchant Navy Flags which were very reasonable.

Action: The Chairman would talk to the Church authorities about placement during Merchant Navy Day and if they did not have a flag would instruct the Clerk to order one.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 The Clerk did not present the monthly balance sheet was presenting the audited accounts.

7.2 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT: The Clerk talked Members through the Annual Governance Statement and recommended its approval and adoption. Proposed by Cllr. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. N. Gillard. **All agreed.**

7.3 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: The Clerk led Members through the Annual Audit of Accounts and recommended their approval and adoption. Proposed by Cllr. F. Collett and seconded by Cllr. A. Lipscomb. **All agreed.**

7.2 Payments to approve:

- SDC Election expenses for uncontested election = £100.00
- Somerset Playing Field Association subscription = £15.00
- Maurice Smith honorarium as internal auditor = £50.00

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

8. Planning Matters

8.1 *Applications to be decided:* There were none.

8.3 **CIL Grant:** No report at present.

8.4 **Affordable Housing:** The Chairman reported that this was on hold pending investigations into alternative site. The Steering Group were in line to hold a meeting with SDC Affordable Housing Team to clarify outstanding issues.

9. Highways and Footpaths

9.1 Highways dealt with under items 2.1 to 2.3 Public Questions.

9.3 It was reported that progress had been made to replacing old signs.

10. Playing Field and Car Park

10.1 No report.

11. Middlezoy Parish Website

11.1 Nothing to report.

12. Village Hall

12.1 Mr Birks the Summer Fête enjoyed good weather but there was chance that the young people's drama may not go ahead.

13. Clerk's Information and correspondence

13.1 The Clerk highlighted training opportunities for new Councillors and would circulate information.

14. Any other business

14.1 Cllr. N. Gillard indicated that he was very unhappy with the overtly intrusive information sought by Sedgemoor District Council over declarations of land holdings, even if rented, as he perceived this a commercially confidential. He gave his resignation for this reason and Council asked that the Clerk write to SDC informing of his decision and reason for resigning. **Action:** Clerk.

14.2 The Chairman accepted Cllr. Gillard's decision with much reluctance as all Members recognised the value of having a representative of the farming community on the Council. A vote of thanks was recorded for all Cllr. Gillard's efforts and contributions over the years. **Agreed unanimously.**

14.3 The Clerk asked for authority to review the Clerk's Job Description and instigate proceeding to advertise he post which was granted.

15. Date and Venue of next meeting:

15.1 On **Tuesday 16th. JULY at 7.30 pm** in Middlezoy Village Hall.

Signed Date

(Chairman of Council)

(There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm).

