

MINUTES OF MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 17th. SEPTEMBER 2019 in Middlezoy Village Hall @ 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. P. Baker, Cllr. J. Laine, Cllr. A. Lipscomb, Cllr. F. Collett and Cllr. A. Morris.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Sidaway (Clerk), Cllr. A. Betty and 19 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. D. Huxtable, Cllr. L. Perry and Cllr. W. Hawkins.

1. Declarations of Interested

1.1 There were none.

2. Parishioner's Question-time

2.1 It was reported that the tree in Nethermoor Drove was still there. **Action:** Clerk remind to Land Drainage Board. The Clerk also advised that the Parish could register the Drove as a Public Right of Way by customary use by the 2026 deadline.

2.2 It was reported that vehicles were still exiting onto the A372 at the restricted junction. **Action:** Clerk to advise Somerset Highways.

2.3 It was reported that there were security issues around the village hall and playing fields and a suggestion to lock the gate when the hall was not in use. The Chairman ruled that this was not advisable as the Parish had accepted substantive public funding for the hall, playing field play equipment and car park so reasonable access to all should be continued between 9.00 am and twilight. It was **agreed** to this but the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee would investigate the possibility of CCTV of village hall.

2.4 The Clerk reported that he had observed two young boys acting suspiciously near to the skate park and gave them some "goodwill advice." He subsequently found that they had vandalised a panel on the half pipe and recommended that the Councillors and Parishioners circulated that this was criminal damage and would not be tolerated. **Action:** Clerk have site visit with contractor to commission repair and also to inspect other play equipment.

3. County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

3.1 There was no County Council report.

3.2 Cllr. A. Betty reported that Sedgemoor had resolved to make the District a fracking free zone.

3.3 A motion had been passed by SDC that required all new major development to have infrastructure in place before building could go ahead.

3.4 An emergency motion had been passed by SDC to not reduce the district fire protection and retain at least 3 fire engines.

4. Chairman's Comments

4.1 The Chairman reported that Cllr. Liz Perry had worked tirelessly to restrain the development by Towns site on Westonzoyland Airfield. It was agreed that lorries from this and the Kearney Bros., site created a nuisance and danger.

4.2 The Chairman reported that there were 19 candidates for the Clerk's post and 4 short-listed, although one had dropped out – interviews to take place on Saturday morning.

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 with an unreserved apology from the Clerk that he had misheard Cllr. Betty's remarks concerning item 3.3 that it was the County Council that had not acted not the County Councillor and the minutes would be amended accordingly.

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

6. Matters Arising

6.1 The Clerk was waiting on confirmation when dog bins would be available and if supply of bin bags were free and cost of their dispenser.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 The clerk reported that the joint bank balances stood at £17,770.69 which was very healthy and advised that although it was prudent to hold reasonable reserves there was scope to spend money not retain it.

7.2 Items of expenditure for approval:

- MZ Cricket Club for grounds maintenance = £300.00
- Leveller magazine for recruitment advert = £42.00
- Clerk expenses including recruitment adverts = £758.33
(explanation Clerk had to pay "up-front" for adverts on personal debit card).

Proposed by Cllr. A. Morris and seconded by Cllr. A. Lipscomb. **All agreed.**

7.3 The Clerk **recommended** that the Council reviews Financial Regulations in light of the national review in July 2019 of relaxing the rules on electronic engagement for banking. **All agreed.**

8. Planning Matters

8.1 Items for decision:

34/19/00013: Land to west of Cutley Farm – erection of single storey building for business use and issue of illegal wind turbine on this site. This was debated and the following recommendation **agreed:** The Parish Council did not object, in principle, but strongly recommends that there is a condition that this building never becomes residential as this has previously been denied.

34/19/00006 : Windmill Retreat for Messrs. Ridgment – application to place 9 holiday lodges and a gymnasium alongside the existing chalets. This application was vigorously debated with strong views about the noise nuisance that had resulted in many complaints to the Parish Council. The Clerk had a conversation with the Case Officer who indicated that as the Parish Council had supported, in principle, this application with the condition of noise reduction that the planning authority had asked for the re-siting of the lodges to mitigate this, therefore, the Parish Council would be acting against itself to object retrospectively. Cllr. Fi Collett wished to have her strong objection to this development noted. **Action:** Clerk to respond accordingly.

8.3CIL Grant: Nothing to report.

8.4 Affordable Housing: The Chairman reported that this was under consideration by the Housing Association but proposed a **resolution** to release the Archaeological Report for information to interest to community groups: " Middlezoy Parish Council requests that Sedgemoor District Council

releases the Archaeological Report associated with preliminary works at Back Lane for study by appropriate local heritage groups.”

Proposed by Cllr. A. Lipscomb and seconded by Cllr. F. Collett – **All agreed.**

9.Highways and Footpaths

9.1 Road signs were in place and maps were being produced.

10. Playing Field and Car Park

10.1 Reported at item 2.4.

11. Middlezoy Parish Website

11.1 Cllr. J. Laine reported that the Website was updated with links to the Village Hall and Arts Group sites. There was scope to include local businesses by way of public information.

12. Village Hall

12.1 Mr Birks reported that there was to be an ABBA Tribute event, Bingo and there were plans for the 5th. November Guy Fawkes Bonfire event. A new fund-raising initiative was under-way to upgrade the Village Hall toilets.

12.2 Cllr. Jackie Laine reported that there had been complaints from Parishioners that during a County Council event at the Hall that the car park was full and overspill parking had constricted all the adjacent roads. Mr Birks would liaise with SCC to ensure this would not repeat.

13. Clerk's Information and correspondence

13.1 The Clerk invited Members to attend an All Parish meeting at Sedgemoor District Council on Tuesday 8th. October in Bridgwater House.

14. Any other business

14.1 Cllr. Aviva Morris outlined ideas for the RLT2 and RLT3 funds from SDC including potential for a “zip-wire”, fitness equipment and table tennis provision. There was around £3200 available which the Parish could match and/or investigate additional external funding.

14.2 Cllr. Morris requested that rubbish bins were located at the small children's play area and the skate park. **Action:** Clerk to order from SDC Clean Surroundings.

15.Date and Venue of next meeting:

15.1 On **Tuesday 15th. OCTOBER 2019 at 7.30 pm** in Middlezoy Village Hall as Members had voted not to hold a meeting in August.

Signed Date

(Chairman of Council)

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

