

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2020 at 730pm remotely via Zoom.

Present (remotely): Cllrs. Paul Baker (Chairman), Will Hawkins, Aviva Morris and Jason Mackay

In attendance: Jacqui Strong (clerk), Cllr David Huxtable, Cllr Anthony Betty and 5 members of the public

61/20/MPC Apologies

Ann Lipscomb unable to log-on joined meeting at 2010

62/20/MPC Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda & dispensations granted

None

Motions for note/resolution

63/20/MPC Receive and approve minutes as circulated

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 18th February 2020 and remote extraordinary meeting 24th March received and approved. Chairman to sign in person at next point of contact.

64/20/MPC Receive and approve Council Financial Statement for 2019/20

The Council received and **resolved** to approve the Financial Statement for 2019/20

65/20/MPC Approve the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement

The Council received and **resolved** to approve the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement

66/20/MPC Approve the 2019/20 Accounting Statement

The Council received and **resolved** to approve the 2019/20 Accounting Statement

67/20/MPC Declare Middlezoy Parish Council is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015

The Council **resolved** to declare that Middlezoy Parish Council is an exempt authority.

68/20/MPC Note the report of the Internal Auditor

The Council noted the internal report and declaration provided by Richard Young, Internal Auditor and Clerk to Cossington Parish Council.

69/20/MPC Report Received from County Councillor David Huxtable

The County Council have been busy whilst operating remotely responding to the pandemic. Checked that information was coming through with details of contact numbers and support mechanisms, this was confirmed. Somerset is prepared to respond with resources available but thankfully continues to maintain a low infection rate and death rate. Will follow up on outstanding queries about the speed limit on the main road and accident rate, although

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explained this is often a long process. Cllr Betty explained that there was currently a temporary pause with the lorries and Townen's due to a drainage board query as Mr Burbidge is seeking a notice from the drainage board.

Query about the state of Thorngrove – Shepherds Drove, now that the surface has dried it is visible that the surface has badly degraded. DH to raise this with highways as may still be within a timeframe to be rectified without cost. Council were unsure when the work had been carried out.

Query raised about the SEND County Council Ofsted report and asked what was being done to protect the most vulnerable children. Request made for further discussion, PB to email DH.

70/20/MPC Report from District Councillor Anthony Betty

Report received and praise for the level of work that is being undertaken in the community. Applications for SDC business grant funding has been over subscribed and applications being worked through.

SDC pay and display car parks are all now back in operation with the exception of NHS staff receiving free parking.

Views and Comments through survey about electric vehicles currently being sought

Building enforcement attended the village on Monday 15th June but no report prior to meeting will update in due course.

Drainage Board contacted regarding the Rhyne by the village hall and a new contractor has been instructed with a smaller machine who will clear before the bad weather in the winter.

71/20/MPC Receive quote and approve company to undertake Play Ground Inspection

The Council received details of 3 companies who were approached to quote during the pandemic.

- GB Sport quoted £288.00
- Playsafe Ltd use a ROSPA qualified inspector who carry out the inspections for GB Sport but due to the arrangement the quote would be more expensive if approached direct, so declined to quote on this basis as would be more cost effective to approach GB Sports
- The Playing Fields Association £160.00

The Council **resolved** to approach The Playing Fields Association due to being a member and being the most cost effective as felt any additional funds would be needed for any repairs.

72/20/MPC Receive request from the Cricket Club to reopen nets – following Covid-19 Guidelines

David Pomeroy spoke to the Council at the meeting outlining the detailed reports sent across based on the ECB guidelines. Seeking to gain consent from the Parish Council to open the nets in Middlezoy for members. No facilities would be in operation (toilets/handwashing) although hand gels would be available, and members contacted regarding the lack of facilities and to be prepared.

At each session, a responsible person would be in attendance to ensure the guidelines are in place and being observed. The sessions hope to commence following a committee meeting on Saturday 20th June.

The Council requested that the opening be publicised on Facebook and via the minutes to advise the community of the decision. The Council **resolved** to approve the request to open the nets following the detailed guidelines provided.

73/20/MPC Request by the Cricket Club to paint the containers (via the childrens play area)

Following a meeting in January 2020 to paint the containers during the warmer weather, the council **resolved** to support the request for the work to commence ensuring the site remains taped off in line with current Government guidelines and preventing access to outdoor play equipment.

74/20/MPC Signatories on bank account

It was **noted** that the signatories are Cllrs P Baker/A Lipscomb and J Strong – J Laine to be removed and a move towards electronic banking being researched.

75/20/MPC Grass Cutting Agreement – Playing Field

It was noted and **resolved** to extend the contract for the grass cutting of the field with the Cricket Club due to the pandemic after seeking guidance from SALC for a further 12 months and put a revised tender out in the Autumn.

76/20/MPC Hedge Cutting Agreement – Playing Field

It was noted and **resolved** that the hedge cutting would be undertaken by O Baker as agreed minute ref 42/20/MPC with revised tender being put out in the Autumn due to the pandemic.

77/20/MPC Tender process maintenance of outdoor space

It was **resolved** to review the contract for maintenance of outdoor space in October 2020.

78/20/MPC Receive Local Government Review Letter and report from SALC and agree response

It was **resolved** to support the points raised in the report on local government reorganisation – Clerk to email SALC

79/20/MPC CIL payment

Noted CIL payment received £1868.62

80/20/MPC Precept received

Noted Precept payment received £5665.00

81/20/MPC Payments made under delegated powers

MCP Hire of Village Hall Invoice number 439	£ 20.00
Payment to MCP VE Day Celebration (grant S137)	£425.00
Currys Printer – reimbursement CUR2071729221	£119.99
Clerks expenses (Fuel)	£ 24.30
Parish Council Insurance	£504.00
TBSA Invoice PAYE services	£ 42.00
Receipt for Tape (Paul Baker)	£ 13.19
Playing Field Association	£ 15.00

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Cricket Club ground maintenance 1 st quarter	£300.00
Emptying dog bins EV039131	£334.46
Strimming around Perimeter 1 st quarter	£240.00
G Wagen – Maintenance (6 months)	£360.00

Grant payment not made owing to the pandemic and VE day celebrations cancelled.

82/20/MPC Planning items for decision

34/20/00006/DT

Proposal: Erection of 3 detached dwellings with parking

Location: Land to the West of Windmill Retreat, Main Road, Middlezoy, Somerset TA7

Nick Ridgment attended the meeting representing the planning application and spoke about the plans to support the circulated documents. This is the 20th year of living in the village and the accommodation is being built to house the family 3 bungalows of which one will be a chalet bungalow with a room in the loft space. Currently Nick lives in the management accommodation, but due to his family increasing in size, additional space is needed and would like to remain in the village. The other 2 properties would be for Tom and Tim.

The properties are going to be self-build local homes one in the paddock and 2 within Windmill Retreat sitting in line with the hedge line. There will be access via the stable access for the paddock area self-build and the retreat access for the other 2 properties on a private road within the site as shown in the plan. The hedge will be retained at the existing height and the new bungalows will be sited as low as possible, so the lodges do not lose their view.

Timescale – as the pandemic has affected the building of the lodges and the business in general, this may mean the approved lodges having to wait.

The existing Managers accommodation will likely be used by the Spa Manager who currently lives away and could offer the opportunity to live on site.

Comment: It was agreed to **support** on the grounds that the development will provide additional affordable residential properties within the village for local families, subject to the hedge being retained. There would also be an improved presence and security on site reducing possible disturbances which have given rise to concern in the past.

83/20/MPC Planning Items for update:

34/20/00001/CM	- Noted Permission approved
34/20/00003/CM	- Noted Permission granted
34/20/00004/CM	- Noted withdrawn after registration
34/19/00018	- Noted Appeal

Cutley Farm Barn enquiries being made with SDC by district councillors about size.

Affordable Homes:

Full agenda item for the September meeting, short discussion took place about a nominated parcel of land on Holloway Road near the Church which had raised concerns on access. The Parish Council moved towards working with a Housing Association due to several areas in Somerset loosing affordable homes to the developer due to costs and resulting in reduced affordable homes. By working with a housing association, it is better to agree on a number and whilst it may take longer due to releasing funds the result would be more affordable properties. Developments are being reduced in the local area. Cllr Lipscomb confirmed that she had spoken with the Darby's and it is still going through probate.

84/20/MPC Correspondence

MPC - Village Hall have received £10,000 grant from the Covid-19 SDC grant scheme for work to continue, on the facilities.

Grant received from the Church for roofing – this will be carried forward to the next meeting due to not being received in time to appear on the agenda – the temporary repairs are in the region of £10,000. The Parish Council grants could not achieve this figure as have always been capped to £500 per applicant with a maximum grant budget of £2,000. There are points of law to be discussed under the Local Government Act of 1894 in relation to affairs of the Church. PB to enquire ahead of the meeting about other fundraising.

Request if representative from school could attend the meeting regularly to share information, which was welcomed by the Council. Question raised about the possibility of using the field for the year 6s leavers event due to their disco being cancelled. Pending government guidelines – decision will be made via email based on the guidelines.

Council would like it noted that the Village Shop would like to be part of any village celebrations post pandemic to celebrate the work carried out by volunteers in the community.

Received resignation from Cllr Jackie Laine. Notice to be displayed in prominent position Notice Board and Facebook for 14 days for 2 casual vacancies.

85/20/MPC Items for the next meeting to be forward to the Clerk before Friday 10th July 2020

**86/20/MPC Date of next scheduled meeting:
Tuesday 21st July 2020 730pm Zoom Remote Meeting
Request invite and password via Clerk**