

Middlezoy Parish Council - 2020

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jacqueline Strong, 178 Burnham Road, Highbridge, TA9 3EH
Mobile: 07864 051315

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Present: Cllrs. Paul Baker (Chairman), Ann Lipscombe, Will Hawkins, Aviva Morris and Florence Roulson

In attendance: Jacqui Strong (Clerk), Cllrs. David Huxtable, Anthony Betty, Liz Perry, PSCO Ben Simpkin and 8 members of the public

Public Discussion: No items from the public

144/20/MPC Apologies

No Apologies

145/20/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

None

146/20/MPC Councillor

2 Vacancies still available, any interested parties encouraged to contact the clerk.

147/20/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

None

148/20/MPC Receive and approve minutes as circulated

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 15th September 2020 received and approved.

149/20/MPC Report received from Chairman

Zoom meeting attended about One Somerset, advise was to visit the county council website <https://onesomerset.org.uk/have-your-say/> about the future of Somerset authorities, both County and District Councils are undergoing consultation.

150/20/MPC Report received from County Councillor David Huxtable

Both One Somerset and Stronger Somerset are being proposed locally, 3 councils have been selected to bid and Somerset certainly cannot carry on as it is. It is a case that the Government will decide what is best. Point to note that District council do not appear to be considering the adult health and social care budget. If savings can be made then services can be enhanced. Nothing specific to Middlezoy (left meeting at 7:45pm).

151/20/MPC Report from District Councillor’s Liz Perry and Anthony Betty

Difficult time during a pandemic to be considering the options for Somerset but will wait and see what the secretary of state says. Currently Sedgemoor District Council have a working group reviewing the planning reform white paper which has a deadline of 29th October.

Airfield earth mounds currently being investigated by Anthony Betty – believe belong to Durston Gardening Products and possibly extending. Will update in due course.

Nethermore Road, Highways Department have now come back to the enforcement team but awaiting report.

Duncan Harvey has agreed to the commission of the Housing Needs Survey and supports the parish council either regarding sites or development of a smaller area.

Nothing to report regarding Towens but note retrospective planning for Cutley Farm, this will be on the November agenda.

152/20/MPC Report from police or emergency services

PCSO Ben Simpkin attended the meeting, new to the beat. Thank's expressed by the council for his attendance. Updated the council about a Boundary dispute at Springfield Farm which is ongoing, reports of cars meeting at the Airfield so increased police presence which looks to be acting as a deterrent and information provided that travelling community are around near Greylake's, no crimes committed.

153/20/MPC Play equipment repairs and maintenance

The council **resolved** to create a working party with Councillors Morris and Roulson to look at the inspection report for the play equipment and skateboard ramp and bring findings to the next meeting. Advice in the report is to remove the skate ramp from the site.

154/20/MPC Remembrance Wreath and celebrations

It was noted that Paul Baker has the Parish Council wreath. Discussion took place regarding this year's service at the Church due to the pandemic and options of a shorter outside service or village involvement holding a 2 minute silence at 11am for everyone to be involved with and the last post being played from CD. The parish council **resolved** to support the community involvement to avoid encouraging the gathering of groups of people. Organisations will be invited to lay their wreath in the Church porch. Amplifier/speaker would be most beneficial.

155/20/MPC Note payments and quarterly account breakdown

Payments and bank reconciliation noted. Currently £11,703.79 in general account .

156/20/MPC Approval of Payments not set in budget

It was **resolved** to approve payments:

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| Reimbursement Clerk for Zoom Payment | £ 115.10 |
| Reimbursement Clerk for Brandon Hire | £ 79.20 |

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| Clerks expenses | £ 24.30 |
| GB Sports and Leisure play equipment repairs (Community Infrastructure Levy) | £1185.88 |
| Safety Play Inspection (Community Infrastructure Levy) | £ 140.00 |

157/20/MPC Note Business Reserve Account Balance Sheet

Balance sheet noted £13,049.44

158/20/MPC Receive Report on banking arrangements

Due to ongoing communication with Natwest clerk is looking at continuing to investigate online business account with Natwest in the short term.

159/20/MPC Planning

Items for update received:

Application 34/20/00008/DT – Permission Granted

Outline application for erection of 2 dwellings and associated parking 12 Main Road, TA7 0YD

Items for decision:

34/20/00011/LR – Not on Agenda – applicant at meeting provided short overview.

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey extension to the rear (West) elevation on site of existing single storey extension to be demolished.

Location: 5 Kicks Hill, Middlezoy, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0NU

Planning application to be reviewed for Kicks Hill, due to arriving for comment after agenda, in line with delegated responsibility discussion will take place with Chairman and noted at next meeting. Information provided by applicant outlining planning application and council advised to visit planning on line and provide any comments to clerk. Question raised if the neighbours had been spoken to and the response from application was that this was in hand.

160/20/MPC Affordable Housing update from Steering Group

Notes from meeting available on the parish council website. Meeting has taken place with SHAL and surveyor reviewing 5 sites: Darby's Farm, Main Road, Windmill Hill, Knowle Yards and Back Lane. Awaiting the surveyors report, some of the sites were considered initially but now looking at possibly smaller site purely for affordable housing. A meeting has taken place with Duncan Harvey at Sedgemoor District Council via Zoom and a number of options were suggested including working with another housing provider, the council or consider community land trust. Currently working with SHAL but other options to consider should they be required. Housing Needs Survey is being created and the Parish Council would like an active involvement and option to contribute, with the offer to help residents if required. Notification will be on website, Facebook and MOMMS.

Question asked if provision of a shop had been considered but owing to availability of land it is likely to be a separate entity. Ideas were discussed for possible sites and could be considered further if or when needed.

161/20/MPC Website and accessibility

Council made aware that the website is still not 100% compliant and the requirement for all documents since 2018 to be accessible. Councillor Roulson has offered to help with

retrospective changes as required. Council accepted responsibility that these changes will be made in time due to the cost of employing someone to undertake them. The Council were reminded that this requirement came into place in 2018 with the deadline being 23rd September 2020 which they acknowledged.

162/20/MPC Highways and Rights of Way

Issue raised with public footpath and details sent to Ian Henderson and Richard Horsham footpaths coordinator.

163/20/MPC Conservation

Report circulated from Simon Phelps prior to meeting it was felt that in principal the suggestions would be welcomed by the parish council but negotiations would need to involve the Cricket Club regarding the boundary. The area behind the skate ramp could definitely be included but other areas would need further discussion. The area in the far corner which is used for bonfires could potentially be a site for tree planting. The Church triangle of grass could probably be left to grow longer but the one upon exiting the village may cause visibility problems. The Church are very keen to look at the village as a possible project with local people getting involved to help protect the environment for the future. As adults it was felt that we should lead by example. Jean Campbell has attended a recent conference online looking at ways of addressing the problem and the 10-year window we have to make these changes. Having the Parish Council involved would be beneficial and Paul Baker offered to do this and will make contact direct.

Funding application from Wessex Water for trees/conservation to be forwarded to Paul Baker.

164/20/MPC Village Maintenance

Fly Tipping concerns at Thorngrove and Twin Rivers – Councillor Roulson to forward information to Councillor Betty for action by appropriate department.

Church Yard – overgrown bushes. Parish council are unable to finance work link to the church and maintenance would fall to the volunteers with the church who have decreased in recent years. Councillor Roulson offered to help.

165/20/MPC Village Hall – Renewable Energy Grant Proposal

The Council **resolved** to support the village halls application for the installation of solar powered panels 9.1kw using a quarter of the roof space which would save £855 per year and offer a 10 year payback through power generated and export of energy. Also the installation of a dual electric charging point. The total application will be approximately £21,000.00. Concerns were expressed about durability of the solar panels and cricket balls, due to the aspect the face overlooking the cricket pitch was the most appropriate and would have to accept the risk.

166/20/MPC Correspondence

Correspondence sheet circulated, no requests for further information. Information received in the post regarding Homes in Sedgemoor grants of up to £1500, circulated to the Church for information.

167/20/MPC Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17th November 2020 7:30pm via Zoom

168/20/MPC Meeting closed at 21:00pm hours