

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom

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

**In attendance:** Jacqui Strong (Clerk), Cllrs. Anthony Betty, Liz Perry, PC Claire Allen, PCSO Ben Simpkins and 8 members of the public

**Public Discussion:** Jill Loader from Census 2021 provided overview of the forthcoming Census for March 2021. This will be the first, primarily on-line Census. People can expect to receive a letter early March with a code to take part. Information will remain confidential for 101 years. The information gathered can help identify essential funding to address community needs. Jills role is to maximise engagement with the 25% hard to reach members of the community. Any questions can be directed via the clerk.

Micheal Loader – from Storyfest provided an update for the Council on the grant received. Due to Covid he has not been able to visit schools as planned, now has an on-line version that can be offered but would prefer to visit schools directly. The Council felt it would be beneficial to speak with the schools concerned for their preference and return in the New Year. Cllr Betty suggested contacting Othery Parish Council also and Cllr Perry suggested speaking with Liam Sweeny at Sedgemoor District Council.

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### 193/20/MPC Apologies

No Apologies received – Cllr Hawkins absent

### 194/20/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

None declared

### 195/20/MPC Councillor

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

### 196/20/MPC Receive and approve minutes as circulated

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, one amendment to be made to the final minutes 184/20 the letters and assessments had not be sent out but were ready, however the parish council felt the information needed to be reviewed first. Minutes **received and approved.**

### 197/20/MPC Report received from Chairman

Affordable Housing update later in the meeting

**198/20/MPC No report received from County Councillor David Huxtable**

No report received from Cllr Huxtable

**199/20/MPC Report from District Councillor's Liz Perry and Anthony Betty**

Liz Perry advised that there is money available in the grant pot due to some activities that had been allocated money not taking place due to Covid. Would investigate quickly if there is something that could be applied for. Enforcement now have a new officer joining the team. Reminder that there is free Saturday parking in Bridgwater until Christmas.

**200/20/MPC Report from police or emergency services**

PC Claire Allen attended the meeting and advised that since November there had been two domestic incidents, road traffic collision at Rowlands Hill, meeting at the Airfield – which was attended and a Covid warning delivered and two road traffic collisions at Olivers Road. The report of threatening behavior at the weekend is currently under investigation. Request made for the police to look in at the playing field as currently the skatepark is fenced off due to damage to the equipment and should not be being used, district councillor's and police asked if they could use their networks to share the message that the skatepark is currently not to be used to neighbouring villages.

**201/20/MPC Parish Council involvement with local Climate Emergency Groups**

There are currently, a number of local organisations across Sedgemoor, that have formed to address the concerns being raised by the climate emergency. The Parish Council should look at having a representative. It was decided to ask members of the community with an interest in this area to consider being involved or joining the parish council. The Chairman will make enquiries.

**202/20/MPC Approve CIL expenditure for 2020/21**

The council **resolved** to use the Community Infrastructure Levy funds for the village maintenance for 2020/21 sum to March 2021 will be £2160.00 – figure increased due to Cricket Club invoice being incorporated from 2019/20 in current accounting year.

**203/20/MPC Financial Reserves Policy**

The council **resolved** to approve the Financial Reserves Policy.

**204/20/MPC Budget 2021/22**

The council **resolved** to approve the budget proposed by the clerk/responsible financial officer for 2021/22

**205/20/MPC Approve the Ear Marked Reserves transfer**

The council **resolved** to approve the transfer of ear marked reserves under headings described in the budget proposal, to cover potential expenditure.

**206/20/MPC Approve the precept request**

The council **resolved** to approve the precept request of £13,467.00 for 2021/22.

**207/20/MPC Payments made under delegated responsibility within the budget**

Code of Conduct Training invoice 20561 SALC	£ 25.00
Playing Field Lease PR230317	£ 125.00
Signage for Covid 19 – x 3 outdoor notices	£ 84.00
Somerset Playing Field Association Subscription	£ 15.00

**208/20/MPC Approval of payments not set in budget**

The council **resolved** to approve payments:

Reimbursement Clerk for Brandon Hire	£ 144.00
Clerks expenses	£ 41.38
McAfee 2 year protection	£ 39.99
Clerks Overtime period Jan – Dec 2020	£ 198.60

The council noted and **resolved** to continue with the hire of the herras fencing until the repairs had been carried out to the skateboard park due to the risk of harm.

**209/20/MPC Planning**

**Items for update received:**

**Application 34/20/00010/EC – Under Consideration**

Retrospective application for the erection of holiday let at Cutley Farm, Holloway Road.

**Items for decision:**

**34/20/00002/ACN**

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 and 10 of Planning Permission 34/17/00016

Location: Merricks Farm, 46 Main Road, Middlezoy, TA7 0NN

The Parish Council approved this on 08/07/2020 and cannot see what has changed, stand by the decision made earlier this year.

**210/20/MPC Affordable Housing update from Steering Group**

A meeting has taken place involving the steering group, SHAL and Sedgemoor District Council and letter and survey amended to include individual needs, ie: wet room. SDC are going to arrange for printing and circulation, including anyone on the home finder website, on the 4<sup>th</sup> January, the deadline for return will be 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Parish Council would urge anyone who doesn't receive one or needs assistance to make contact, or for anyone in the community to raise with a member of the steering group to ensure an accurate assessment is carried out. SHAL/SDC will not progress any further until number of homes are identified. Meeting to determine appropriate site will then take place. Facebook can be used to inform parish when the letter has been sent and information in the notice board by the shop. The Parish Council want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to respond.

**211/20/MPC Website and accessibility**

Nothing to update working with new format for documents to be accessible.

**212/20/MPC Highways and Rights of Way**

Thorngrove Farm – Highways have offered support and Parish Council have spoken with the farmer. A grant is being applied for to hopefully improve the layout and reduce the mud entering onto the highway.

**213/20/MPC Village Maintenance**

Wessex Water have been working on the rising sewer undertaking repairs and have levelled the mud adjacent to the basketball court, removed some of the overgrown hedge, improved fencing and are still on site undertaking the repairs.

**214/20/MPC Village Hall**

The MPC are applying for a Covid business grant from Sedgemoor District Council. If the grant for the electric charging points is successful, the hall will need WIFI installing which may benefit other user groups. Protection being looking at for the solar panels from cricket balls and potential damage and grants that could be used and finally the raffle and cake sale raised £700 and hoping an initiative offered by Barclays bank will provide match funding.

**215/20/MPC Arts Festival 2021**

The Arts Festival will have a bio-diversity/climate change theme and is penciled in to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Any ideas or offers of help to contact Florence Roulson.

**216/20/MPC Correspondence**

Correspondence sheet circulated, no requests for further information

**217/20/MPC Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 7:30pm via Zoom**

**218/20/MPC Meeting closed at 20:40pm hours**