

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 17th November 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom

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

In attendance: Jacqui Strong (Clerk), Cllrs. David Huxtable, Anthony Betty, Liz Perry, 6 members of the public

Public Discussion: No items from the public

169/20/MPC Apologies

No Apologies received – Cllr Hawkins absent

170/20/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

None declared

171/20/MPC Councillor

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

172/20/MPC Receive and approve minutes as circulated

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 20th October 2020 **received and approved.**

173/20/MPC Report received from Chairman

Affordable Housing update later in the meeting

174/20/MPC Report received from County Councillor David Huxtable

Nothing to report directly related to Middlezoy Parish Council. At County level the Covid response is at the forefront and thankful that the west country remains low in relation to some other parts of the country. Encouraged to have the flu vaccination if eligible. Yeovil hospital has Covid positive wards, systems in place to deal with the current situation, deaths have mercifully remained low.

Village shop grant discussion with the chairman for works to the outdoor section of the shop to increase the size discussed.

Endorsed the green application for the solar panels which has been submitted. A second phase is being launched on 1st December and can apply for other projects.

Highway complaint of mud on the road at Thorngrove – district council are visiting the village with the road sweeper but may not cover this section, DH reminded everyone that it is the responsibility of the person who puts the mud on the road to clear it up, an email to SCC highways highlighting where and who would be recommended. It was highlighted that it is problematic at this time of year due to the wet weather. Complaints received about rutted verges across the area to Liz Perry, DH advised that many repairs had continued during Covid and safety was prioritised on the roads with repairs to holes but not to the verges as often encourages faster traffic speed as the verges wear away and the road widens over time.

175/20/MPC Report from District Councillor’s Liz Perry and Anthony Betty

Enforcement will not visit due to the current lockdown, concerns have been raised about this at SDC. Grants team at SDC have been spoken to about shop and grants available to support the improvements mentioned earlier. Somerset Community Foundation would also be worth approaching for any additional funding. PB will forward details to shop committee.

176/20/MPC Report from police or emergency services

PCSO Ben Simpkins sent a report that a large gathering had been dispersed from the airfield site with concern of Covid spreading at large gatherings – advise given for the site to remain closed during lockdown.

177/20/MPC Play equipment repairs and maintenance

The working party met and felt uncomfortable accepting the lower priced quote to repair the current equipment as not specialist in the field of play equipment. Quotes and advise being sought from companies for the repair and ongoing costs associated with the skatepark and other equipment with issues highlighted in the inspection. Options available as it stands 1) scrap 2) scrap and replace 3) repair and fix. Decision can not be presented until quotes available and an update from companies about possible damage under the top covering. PB highlighted in normal circumstances the repairs would have been ongoing over time but the Council were lead to believe that there were no maintenance issues, however this was not the case and now the repairs are larger. Going forward this will be budgeted for and members of the council trained to inspect on a monthly basis reported any repairs in addition to the annual inspection. AL asked how often the skateboard area was used and it was felt this changed with the needs of the village and age of children, although attracted people from outside the village also. Information noted.

178/20/MPC Asset Register

The council **resolved** to accept the updated asset register for 2020/21.

179/20/MPC Budget 2020/21

Pre-budget meeting took place and reviewed budget for the forthcoming year. Since 2016 the cost for a Band D property (average) has reduced owing to additional properties being built and precept remaining the same. In the past reserves have been used which cannot continue as eventually there will be no reserves. The precept is likely to increase this year but will aim to present the budget at the next meeting in December due to some adjustments.

180/20/MPC Job description/Contract of Employment – Parish Clerk

The council **resolved** to accept the documents and amendments highlighted in the paper work circulated prior to the meeting.

181/20/MPC Payments made under delegated responsibility within the budget

Dog Bins Invoice 39866	£ 334.46
Training SALC	£ 80.00
Rent Village Hall – affordable homes meeting	£ 10.00
Salary difference	£ 9.86

182/20/MPC Approval of payments not set in budget

The council **resolved** to approve payments:

Reimbursement Clerk for Brandon Hire	£ 64.80
Clerks expenses	£ 21.27

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.

183/20/MPC Planning

Items for update received:

Application 34/20/00009/DT – Prior Approval Approved

Householder prior approval to determine if approval required for single storey extension 4 Church Road, TA7 0PA

34/20/00011/LR – Planning Permission

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

After a number of residents contacted the parish council a query was raised about the lack of notification, as a result the date has been extended to 3/12/2020 for comment. Parish council **support** the application.

34/20/00012 – Withdrawn after registration - Orchard Farm, 2 Moor Road

Items for decision:

34/20/00010/EC

Proposal: Retrospective application for the erection of holiday let

Location: Land to the west of Cutley Farm, Holloway Road, TA7

The parish council felt there were inconsistencies detailed in relation to the distance from the local amenities, the need for a self-catering holiday let as over 20 of this nature in the village and primarily the pedestrian safety concerns of walking a narrow rural unlit road at night if utilising the local amenities. States it is within easy walking distance, the council felt this was not true. It was

noted that during the first lockdown concerns were raised with planning enforcement that building had started, but that advice was given that no building had commenced.

184/20/MPC Affordable Housing update from Steering Group

Rebekah at Sedgemoor District Council has been in contact and has advised that the letter and housing needs survey is ready to be circulated. The council didn't feel this was appropriate as there maybe residents not on the housing list. The steering group will meet after lockdown to review the letter and form, any changes can be made before Rebekah will print them out. A copy will go on the website and Facebook page, with paper versions held in the post office and by members of the steering group. If necessary a leaflet drop will be organized in the New Year. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the report from the recent site appraisal with the Chief Executive of SHAL, Duncan Harvey, Paul Baker and the surveyor to discuss suitability.

185/20/MPC Website and accessibility

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

186/20/MPC Highways and Rights of Way

Footpath damaged near rhyne has been reported via Roam Somerset which is a website that anyone can use to report damage they find. There is also a collapse on the other side where there is a lower and upper section, the upper area is slippery and difficult to use in the current conditions, ideally needs levelling but ownership is uncertain. Suggested to consider applying for phase 2 of the county green fund for repairs to the footpath and pine bridge in the middle of the moors, replacing with more durable oak.

187/20/MPC Conservation

Meeting with Cricket Club delayed, to discuss the options of leaving areas of longer grass and reducing hedge cutting due to the lockdown. Aware of the cricket boundaries.

188/20/MPC Village Maintenance

Reports of dog fouling – enforcement is difficult as require photographs of it happening and details to be sent to the dog warden to enforce. The maximum fine is £1000. Issues arose after a dog was allowed in the field whilst maintenance was carried out, since more people are using. A reminder to be considerate to others and follow the guidance and when in village to be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog. Damage to manhole received and Wessex Water contacted.

189/20/MPC Village Hall – Renewable Energy Grant Proposal

Grant application submitted and subsequent questions answered, awaiting response. Community fund awarded village hall £2000. Any additional raffle prizes gratefully received.

190/20/MPC Correspondence

Correspondence sheet circulated, no requests for further information

191/20/MPC Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15th December 2020 7:30pm via Zoom

192/20/MPC Meeting closed at 20:38pm hours