

Middlezoy Parish Council

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

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7:30pm at Middlezoy Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Paul Baker, Aviva Morris and Florence Roulson

In attendance: Jacqui Strong (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

Public Discussion: Nothing

106/21/MPC Apologies

Apologies from Cllrs. Ann Lipscombe, Will Hawkins, David Huxtable, Anthony Betty and Liz Perry (the District and County councillor's are aware of the restrictions this month with numbers and felt it appropriate to forward a paper report on this occasion).

107/21/MPC Election of Chairman

Cllr Paul Baker was elected to the office of Chairman

108/21/MPC Election of Deputy Chairman

Cllr Morris was elected as Deputy Chairman

109/21/MPC Declarations of interest in items on this agenda

None

110/21/MPC Receive and approve minutes of 27th April 2021

Minutes received and **approved** as a correct record of the meeting held by the Parish Council on Tuesday 27th April 2021 via Zoom.

111/21/MPC Receive Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that discussions with David Lovejoy, James Pring and Simon Phelps have taken place about the hedge cutting and concerns raised. This will be addressed in the autumn with a site meeting.

112/21/MPC Receive County and District Councillor reports

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Reports received and read out from both the County and District Councillor's due to the current situation regarding Covid-19 and increased risk with face to face meetings.

Housing Needs Assessment: You should now have seen the housing needs survey that was completed. From SDC side there was a higher amount of surveys completed than they normally would see for a village the size of Middlezoy. I believe that is mainly down to the push on social media to ask people to complete. Well done to all that shared it on various pages. 43 surveys were received with 26 coming up with a housing need for a mixture of house sizes.

Poll on Unitary: All four district councils have agreed to hold a poll on local government reorganisation. There will be literature from both the One Somerset (County) and Stronger Somerset (District) bids. It is a chance for the parish of Middlezoy to have a say with ballot papers dropping through letterboxes this week, it is urged that everyone use their democratic right and vote for which one they trust to run council services in the future. All votes must be received by **Friday 4th June** - County are not endorsing this poll. Any registered elector who has not received a ballot paper should contact the Civica customer services team on support@cesvote.com

Development Committee: Anthony Betty has now joined as well as myself. This should not alarm the parish as we are able to take part if any contentious planning issues occur. Having two councillors on the committee should benefit as we can question in depth the Planning Officers decisions.

County Council

Annual Report to Middlezoy PC - We have all had a challenging year with the County Council redeploying over 600 staff to help with the Corona virus epidemic. During my regular monthly new- letters you will be aware of all the successes that we have achieved and I am sure you will join with me in congratulating the staff involved. We have also been relying on zoom and Microsoft teams to keep our regular meetings going. Things that would have taken years to implement have been achieved in weeks. I would single out the cooperation that my area of responsibility, Adult Social Care, have had with the Health Authority. I always said that my biggest challenge was to integrate the two systems and, as we spoke a different language, this was difficult. Faced with this crisis both systems have integrated and we now have become nationally recognised leaders. We are fortunate that the boundaries of the current County Council are co terminus with our CCG and I hope that the current LGA reorganisation will not impact on our achievements.

Turning to local issues - Middlezoy PC has been very proactive in the local community, regularly reporting Highway defects and generally helping the County Council. In turn the CC have tried to action your requests and I apologise that their actions have not been as speedy as I would have liked. As always I thank you for your efforts and look forward after so long to meeting in person.

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113/21/MPC Receive reports for the police or other emergency services

Report received from the police and read by the clerk, summary: **District**

Police

From the statistics 2-3 incidents in the last month, two of which were transport/road related and one concern for safety heading towards Westonzoyland. The local beat team this last month conducted an operation in the early hours of the morning stop checking suspicious vehicles with regards to the increase in non-dwelling burglaries across the area.

Across the whole beat area the team managed to locate a stolen vehicle and the suspect, conducted a positive drug stop search and found 3 people underage drinking. The non-dwelling burglaries have since reduced. Also to note we welcome a second Police Officer Ross Rugman to the beat team.

114/21/MPC Bank Reconciliation and Financial Statement: March 2020 – April 21

The Parish Council bank reconciliation and financial statement were received and **approved**.

115/21/MPC Internal auditors report

The Parish Council received and noted the Internal Auditors report.

116/21/MPC Annual Governance Statement (s.1 of the Annual Return 2020/21)

The Parish Council resolved to **approve** the positive assertions to statements 1 to 8 and that assertion 9 is not applicable.

117/21/MPC Annual Accounting Statement (s.2 of the Annual Return 2020/21)

The Parish Council resolved to **approve** the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31st March 2021.

118/21/MPC Declaration Exempt Authority

The Parish Council **resolved** under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 to declare Middlezoy Parish Council as an exempt authority (Income and Expenditure during 2020/21 less than £25,000).

119/21/MPC Skatepark

Cllrs Morris and Roulson reported to the Parish Council the findings from the survey and opinion that the repairs of the Skatepark should be carried out using Radiiramp as the named contractor following research undertaken with other parish councils. The repairs will provide a short-term solution and allow for further consultation and project work looking at all options for the community covering where, what and how this can be achieved with members of the parish. Parishioners are encouraged to register their

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interest in being involved with the longer-term project with the clerk. The Parish Council **resolved** to undertake the repairs using Radiiramp and to extend the hire period of the Herras Fencing as appropriate - clerk to action this.

120/21/MPC Payments were noted under delegated power within budget

End of Year Accounts Training (SALC)	£ 30.00
Internal Auditor Fee	£ 50.00
Herras Fencing Reimbursement	£ 97.20
Clerks Expenses Administration	£ 17.15
Sedgemoor District Council – Dog Bin Emptying (6 Months)	£334.46

121/21/MPC Planning decision number: 34/21/00001

Request for the retention of entrance wall, gates and engineering works to regrade land, proposed change of use of land to garden, erection of post and rail boundary fences and new landscape planting.

Location: Land East of Holloway Road (resubmitted)

The parish council felt the introduction of hedging and planting with post and rail boundary fences was more in keeping to the surrounding. Requested reassurance about the method of flattening the surface and affect on the village with any possible increase in large vehicle use. If this is not going to be detrimental to the village the Parish Council **resolved** to approve the revised application.

122/21/MPC Planning update number: 34/21/00015

The application at Merricks Farm has been withdrawn.

123/21/MPC Affordable Housing

The Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) report has been received and the steering group will be meeting to discuss the responses before considering the next stage.

124/21/MPC Highways and Public Rights of Way

The Parish Council received a complaint of obstruction of the highway at Motte View. Discussion took place that the concern was the overhang of the vehicle onto the

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highway, which is minimal. The clerk has responded to the complainant with details how to make a complaint to the police and parish council instructed clerk to advise the PSCO of the issue also. This raised the call for all parishioners to be considerate with their parking.

125/21/MPC Village Hall Updates

The MCP thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the fete and that bookings were increasing for Christmas bookings and 2022 (weddings and receptions). A decision has been made not to hold any events inside the hall by the MCP during 2021, but utilise the outside space. Maintenance is currently being undertaken.

126/21/MPC Correspondence

Correspondence sheet noted.

127/21/MPC Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15th June 2021 at Village Hall 7:30pm

128/21/MPC Meeting closed at 21:08 pm

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