

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 20th July 2021 at 7:30pm

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

In attendance: Jacqui Strong (Clerk), Cllrs. David Huxtable, Anthony Betty and 4 members of the public

Public Discussion: Jane Woods (village agent) was unable to attend. Question raised about the proposed play area documented in the recent MOMMS magazine which was confused with the council play area – location is at the school.

148/21/MPC Apologies

Cllrs. Ann Lipscombe, Will Hawkins and Liz Perry. It was noted that due to relocation Cllr. Hawkins was having to resign his position with the council, necessary advertising has been displayed on the notice board.

149/21/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

No declarations of interest received.

150/21/MPC Receive and approve minutes

Minutes **approved** of meeting held by the Parish Council on Tuesday 15th June 2021.

151/21/MPC Councillor Vacancies

There are currently three vacancies on the parish council, all interested parties to contact the clerk.

152/21/MPC Receive Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that there is currently a review of the buses through the National bus strategy, they are interested to know the barriers to bus use and would welcome comments. Jean Campbell attended days Zoom event meeting looking at climate change. Interesting but tiring day, Jean is leading the village bio-diversity projects. Several complaints have been received about the deterioration of the roads around the village, particular pot holes and the edges of the tarmac, concern has been received about the size and speed of lorries using the roads particularly Oliver Road/Moor Road and Moor Lane, Cllr Huxtable advised that there is a backlog of work due to the pandemic and is slow progress, some repairs are carried out as emergency temporary repairs which may explain the deterioration as not permanent. Reports can be made online by visiting www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-

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[road-defect/](#) defects can be noted using a map or postcode. It was observed that some of the roads were used as short cuts and are not suitable for the size of vehicle causing some motorists to take evasive action. Lastly the Emergency Plan is currently being drafted and following a meeting hopefully in September will be available electronically via the website and paper copies, this will be updated on an annual basis to ensure contact details remain current.

153/21/MPC Receive County Councillor reports

Cllr. Huxtable reported that the Local Government reorganisation announcement is imminent. Current covid cases remain low, hospital services though are having to deal with the delays caused to routine operations and services.

154/21/MPC Receive District Councillor reports

Cllr. Betty reported that enforcement notices are being drafted before issuing. Congratulated the village on recent events held by the MCP. Currently daily updates are being issued by Somerset Waste Partnership about collections and if there are any relevant to Middlezoy these will be documented on the village Facebook page.

155/21/MPC Receive reports for the police or other emergency services

Report received from the police that in the last month 3 calls had been received, with one being criminal damage to a vehicle. It is believed to be an isolated incident but if others have suffered any damage to report via 101. The speed detection device has been used in the village, but no offences committed due to limited traffic on the day, the police have more locations which will be investigated, and this will be continued to be monitored. If anyone is interested in setting up a community speed watch to contact Georgia Coles PCSO. Concerns over parking on the junction of Nethermoor Road/Main Road have been raised with the police follow a notification to the clerk.

156/21/MPC Decision of Dog Bins

The parish council receives a report regarding an additional dog bin at the Methodist Church for use by dog walkers visiting the shop and the school, however the location concerned would possibly cause a problem with access to the adjacent farm. Cllr Huxtable advised that as a village we have more bins than other parishes so in the short term it was **resolved** to monitor the usage of the existing 6 bins and create a basic map of the locations for people visiting the village.

157/21/MPC Future bank account

The parish council received a report and **resolved** to delegate responsibility to the clerk for the transfer to Lloyds bank when they resume taking on new business customers this is due to the lack of ability to have multiple verification of electronic payments remotely via the current account with Natwest.

158/21/MPC Update - Skatepark

The parish council noted that the Skatepark revised quote is less at £2,995.00 and work will commence w/c 2nd August and is expected to take 5 days.

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159/21/MPC Village Welcome Signs

The parish council discussed the signs made several years ago upon entrance to the village, these are showing signs of wear and tear as reported by member of the parish at the last meeting. Cllr. Huxtable suggested a village gateway and will contact the new member of staff with responsibility of signs and lines in the county for more information and advice. It was also suggested to involve the school children again.

160/21/MPC Additional Notice Board

The parish council felt that the door of the Notice Board needed closer investigation before undertaking any repairs – carry forward decision to next meeting.

161/21/MPC Queens Jubilee

It was decided to form a steering group working with MCP and other community groups from the village to organise and plan next year Platinum Jubilee. The parish council would encourage people to consider events and activities for the weekend. A marquee has been pre-booked for the entire weekend in June 2022. The Parish Council reminded the meeting of the grant scheme that could support this community event. Currently there are no grants available via county council for the jubilee event.

162/21/MPC Reduction in Clerks hours

The Parish Council agreed to the clerk reducing their hours from 7 to 6 per week from September due to the systems now being in place after hand over.

163/21/MPC Amendment of Standing Order

The Parish Council **resolved** to change the standing order for the clerk's salary to £351.26 starting in September.

164/21/MPC BACs Payment Village Hall Hire

The Parish Council **resolved** to delegate responsibility for electronic BACs payments for the hire of the village hall to the clerk.

165/21/MPC BACs Payment Somerset Association of Local Councils Membership

The Parish Council **resolved** to approve SALCs membership by BACs delegated to clerk.

166/21/MPC Payments noted within budget

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| Maintenance – Standing Order (June) | £305.00 |
| Village Shop – Standing Order (June) | £325.00 |
| Herras Fencing Clerk Reimbursement (until 10 th August) | £ 90.00 |
| Mileage Claim Clerk (2 x June Visits) | £ 24.30 |

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167/21/MPC Quarterly Accounts

The Parish Council received and noted quarterly accounts and budget comparison.

168/21/MPC Small Authority - Exemption Status

The Parish Council noted the external auditor's exemption status confirmation.

169/21/MPC Planning – Items for decision**Planning Number: 34/21/00005**

Request: Listed Building Consent – Alterations. Proposed minor alterations to facilitate change of use of agricultural buildings to 2 no. dwellings – Merricks Farm, 46 Main Road TA7 0NN.

Following discussion about visibility and access, the Parish Council resolved to approve the proposed alterations.

170/21/MPC Planning – Items for update**Planning Number: 34/21/00001**

Granted permission at Holloway Road – noted by the Parish Council.

171/21/MPC Affordable Housing update from Steering Group

The steering group are waiting to hear from the district council before a meeting can be arranged with the necessary representatives. At this meeting, the pros and cons from all sites will be discussed before the next stage. Plan to look at the most promising site for affordable homes, likely to be after the summer break, dates will be circulated when available. New housing has been identified by SHAL that are modular in construction.

172/21/MPC Highways

Covered earlier in the meeting with speed monitoring by the PCSO, report any concerns via 101. In addition to reporting potholes/damage via Somerset County Council the alternative is to go via www.fixmystreet.com. Inconsiderate parking has been reported to police for observation where this causes a hazard particularly at or near to junctions.

173/21/MPC Village Hall Report

The Ember Theatre's open-air performance of 'As You Like It' was well received by everyone on the surprisingly dry evening of 2nd July. The village is very keen to welcome them back next year. We hope you all had a great time at the summer fete, virtually the whole village turned out to support us and everyone clearly had the best time despite the occasional torrential rain. MCP just about balanced the books on the day so that is a good result too. The next event is the Queen Tribute on 24th July 2021. Note for diary is the AGM on Monday 2nd August at the village Hall, 7.30pm – all villager's welcome.

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174/21/MPC Correspondence available on request

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| Covid Reports – County and District Council | Rural Service Network Bulletins |
| TV Licensing Press Release Reminder (over 75s) | Climate – Somerset Levels |
| Somerset Waste Partnership Update | Pitminster Parish selling S.I.D for £995.00 |
| Platinum Jubilee Participation – more information: http://www.queensjubileebeacons.com/ | National Bus Service Strategy |
| One Somerset Letter | Tree Planting SDC email |
| Road Condition Oliver Road/Moor Road | Homefinder changes |

175/21/MPC Date of next meeting Tuesday 21st September 2021 7:30pm

176/21/MPC Meeting closed 8:38pm

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