

# Middlezoy Parish Council

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

## Minutes of the parish council meeting held at Middlezoy Village Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs. Paul Baker, Ann Lipscombe, Florence Roulson, Aviva Morris, Becky Turner and Ruth Tinsley

**In attendance:** Jacqui Strong (Clerk), Cllr. Liz Perry and six members of the public

**Public Discussion:** **Q:** Could the emergency contact for village hall be made available  
**Q:** Householder for the corner property on Nethermoor Road and Main Road in attendance to ask for a resolution on the boundary fencing under investigation by Sedgemoor Enforcement Officers. An overview regarding the Parish Council and planning applications was given by the Chairman. The planning department has stated that if the parish council can consider changes to the fencing that would help then the district council would review these considerations. The primary cause for concern is the reduced visibility at the junction with Nethermoor Road. The plans were for a picket fencing of 1m in height. The look of the fence is not the issue it is the visibility. Highways have said because it is not a classified road it is not of a concern covering visibility. The Parish Council are concerned about the line of site due to the layout of the initial build. The householder is willing to work with the Parish Council if there is a solution to be found. The householder has been told by planning that it is the look of the fence rather than the visibility, this has never been the case. Liz Perry to investigate further with Sedgemoor Planning and arrange a site meeting to look at the alternatives.

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### 201/21/MPC Apologies

Cllr. Anthony Betty

### 202/21/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

No declarations of interest received.

### 203/21/MPC Declaration by co-opted Councillor Ruth Tinsley

Declaration signed by Ruth Tinsley in the presence of the Clerk and welcomed to the council.

### 204/21/MPC Cllr. Roulson's resignation

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A motion of thanks was given for all Cllr. Roulson's help since joining the Parish Council.

**205/21/MPC Receive and approve minutes**

Minutes **approved** of the meeting held by the Parish Council on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

**206/21/MPC Receive Chairman's report**

The Chairman's reported about the Local Government Review Conference recently attended by councillors and clerks from across the county. There will be Local Community Networks (LCNs) which could be a combination of town and parish councils which Middlezoy would be part of. Within the LCN there will be between 4 and 9 unitary councillors, the number of councillors now 214 District and 55 County, this will be reduced to about one hundred across Somerset. There will be representatives from police, health, schools, parish and town councils who will hold a budget to be used on local needs for local people with very specific aims based on your area. Wiltshire have been a unitary authority for the last 10 years but are continuing to evolve and change as the need arises. The focus is to address local issues and problems. Another proposal being considered involving neighbouring parishes, is to assist by forming a smaller local community network for specific projects. Assets will be transferable – Middlezoy would have the opportunity to transfer the playing field which is the only possibly asset available in the Parish. Unitary Council due to be in place 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 with the elections being held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 for the new Unitary Councillors. PowerPoint slides will be available on the Parish Council Website and Facebook page for parishioners to have a look at and raise any questions. Group work with eight parish councils and clerks, they were all talking about how they were struggling to support the village hall – Paul sat there listening and then shared the Middlezoy story, a tribute to those who live in the village and use the village hall, well done everyone.

**207/21/MPC Receive County Councillor reports**

The County Councillor report had not been received by the clerk before the meeting.

**208/21/MPC Receive District Councillor reports**

Cllr. Liz Perry reminded the Parish Council of the grants available via the District Council for local projects and events.

**209/21/MPC Receive reports for the police or other emergency services**

No report received from the police.

**210/21/MPC Motion to note village assessment**

The council noted the repairs to be carried out to the heritage notice board including replacing backboard and Perspex which will be available for community use. A grit box is to be purchased and positioned at the wider section of the footpath along Kicks Hill. Volunteers sought for the conservation group for wildlife projects in the village. James is going to trim the drove hedge to about 8ft tall and clear the shrub at the bottom and trimmed back to encourage new growth low down, where there are holes native bushes will be purchased to plug the gaps and to plant some honeysuckle and climbers to ramble through hedge. Fences on the bank of the Rhyne there are nettles that can attract butterflies – there are ample nettles in the area already, the area will be cleared of blackberries and nettles to act as a wildlife corridor, silver birch and oak is being choked

Signed .....

by the Ivy will be cut at the bottom to cause the ivy to die back. The structure of one of the silver birches has gone woody this will be tidied up. The ground is nutrient rich where the crease has been treated, James Pring has offered to put the topsoil from his development into the corner to reduce flooding, create a mound for planting with wildflowers and the soil would be better for growing wildflowers on. Pete Grainger Ecologist for Sedgemoor District Council has provided some information about the wildflower developments around the village i.e., at the Church Triangle and offered further support if needed.

#### **211/21/MPC Jubilee Grant Application**

Cllr. Lipscomb declared an interest as chairman of the MCP and applicant of the grant and did not vote. The council **resolved** to approve the payment for the Jubilee Grant of £450.00 towards to cost of the marquee hire. The council **resolved** that in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the council, is in the interests of the area of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with expenditure.

#### **212/21/MPC Motion to note Clerks training**

The council noted the social media and Budget training attended. The clerk would like to encourage members of the community to like the Parish Council Facebook page and visit the website for regular updates. Budget training was useful and pleased to say that Middlezoy Parish Council are in line with the recommendations given.

#### **213/21/MPC Motion to note the playing fields inspection**

The inspection report is available for anyone to see, a few repairs needed which will be actioned.

#### **214/21/MPC Note budget meeting date**

The budget meeting will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November by Zoom and presented to the full council at the next meeting for initial consultation.

#### **215/21/MPC Hire procedure for council playing field**

The hire of the playing field has been kindly overseen by the MCP however with the possibility of movement of the assets to the Parish Council a proposed review will be presented at a future meeting regarding the hire procedures covering risk assessments/insurance etc. from the hirers.

#### **216/21/MPC Payments noted paid within budget**

<b>Payroll (cheque 996)</b>	<b>£ 50.40</b>
<b>Shop Rent</b>	<b>£325.00</b>
<b>Mileage Claim (2 x September) cheque 997</b>	<b>£ 24.30</b>
<b>Grounds Maintenance – September (standing order)</b>	<b>£305.00</b>
<b>Salary</b>	<b>£351.26</b>

#### **217/21/MPC Payments approved to be made by BACs electronic payment**

<b>Purchase of Grit Box</b>	<b>£200.00 (max)</b>
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### **218/21/MPC Parish Council received quarterly spreadsheets and bank reconciliation**

Question raised about the CIL monies – the money can be held for a period of up to 5 years and used on a bigger project within the parish. The money remaining in the CIL budget can be carried forward.

### **219/21/MPC Note second Precept payment**

The second precept payment of £6733.50 has been received.

### **220/21/MPC Affordable Housing update from Steering Group**

Next Steering Group meeting is on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October following which an update will be given at the next Parish Council meeting. There has been notification from Sedgemoor District Council that there is a planning notification from Summerfields who want to build twenty-six homes – consisting of ten affordable homes on Back Lane. This is not the Parish Councils preference as this outline does not match the survey of twenty-six homes – 18 affordable and eight part-ownership. As opposed to the commercial element being suggested by Summerfields. Summerfield have seen the land and can put in a planning application without owning the field. It is the same site that was considered last time along Back Lane. If the application comes in and the timeline does not fall in line with the next full parish council meeting an additional planning meeting will be called.

### **221/21/MPC Jubilee Committee update**

Committee has been formed to coordinate the fundraising events for the village celebrations to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, by members of the village. The Parish Council will be responsible for the event supporting the groups involved in the organizing and assisting with treasurer responsibilities. The MCP, Church and Women's' Social Club have all been very positive. Funding is the main concern, looking at applying to the district council and seeking community support via fundraising activities and donations. Fundraising events arranged are the Donate a Dress on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, The Big Quiz on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January and Village Garage Sale on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The cake sale last week raised an amazing £274. Progress will be reported monthly at the Parish Council Meeting. Looking ahead to the weekend itself, the program looks like this:

Date	Event	Organisation
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Evening: Taunton Big Band in the Church 7:00 – 8:30pm Beacon Lighting at Windmill Hill 9:15pm	Church
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Evening: Rod Stewart/Elton John Tribute at Hall	MCP
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Evening: Party at the Palace – big screen at the hall (tbc) Children's entertainment (afternoon)	All

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Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	The Big Lunch – 12:30 for 1:00pm Children’s Games 2:00 – 4:00pm – Jentle Jazz Possible Cricketing Event	All Karen Winter  Ali Campbell
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**222/21/MPC Highways and Public Rights of Way**

Call 101 with any concerns relating to obstructions of the highway if unable to speak directly. Be considerate whether driving through or parking within the village.

**223/21/MPC Village Hall**

Race Night being organized with 50/50 split in support of the Jubilee Event on 19<sup>th</sup> March to link with the Cheltenham Festival. Every Friday 5pm and 7pm Bar is open. Christmas Bingo being organised – request for prizes with the next event being the Bonfire – 5<sup>th</sup> November – request for wood for burning – no fireworks or sparklers. Bar will be open from 5pm and Halloween parade from 530pm – bonfire from 6pm. MCP would like thoughts from village about celebrating the efforts of all involved with supporting the community during the pandemic.

**224/21/MPC Correspondence list noted and circulated to councillors**

**225/21/MPC Date of next Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 730pm**

**226/21/MPC Meeting closed at 9:04pm**

Signed .....