

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Paul Baker, Ann Lipscombe, Ian Campbell and Barry Paffey

**In attendance:** Cllr. Anthony Betty, Cllr. David Huxtable (left 820pm), Jacqui Strong (Clerk) and 5 members of the public

### 054/22/MPC Apologies

Cllr. Ruth Tinsley

### 055/22/MPC Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensations granted

No declarations of interest received.

### 056/22/MPC Co-opt Barry Paffey

The parish council **resolved** to co-opt Barry Paffey. Declaration of interest completed, and acceptance of office signed in the presence of the clerk.

### 057/22/MPC Received and approve minutes

The council **resolved** to approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 15 February 2022.

### 058/22/MPC Receive County Councillors Report

Noted that this was the last meeting before the May election, nothing specific to report. Good news that the budget approved will see no cuts in services, increases to adult social care and children's services, with a reduction to council tax bills in band D and below, seeing 80% of people benefitting from this reduction. Cllr Huxtable had visited the owners of Orchard Lea as the bank adjacent to the highway is being eroded by large vehicles passing through the village. The parish council agreed to support the option for white lines either side of the carriageway to try and create a narrowing of the road through this section. Question raised by member of the public about the state of Oliver's Road – the gravel infill is manageable for larger goods vehicles, but cars struggle when faced with them travelling in the opposite direction. It was noted that there was no easy cost-effective solution to harden the verges. Thorngrove road surface was raised again, and the top layers condition is poor particularly if a cyclist or motorcyclist that if the surface was concealed by mud the existence of it would not be known. DH to follow this up with county roads, who have been to inspect the road.

### 059/22/MPC Receive District Councillors Report

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Not much to report from the district council, preparing for the election in May and unification process. Othery would like to thank Middlezoy for their help and support recently for the extended black out period. Discussion was had about the possibility of access to community generators for neighbouring villages – Westonzoyland, Middlezoy and Othery. Anthony Betty is making enquiries; parish council were supportive of further investigation and Ian Campbell to liaise over this on behalf of Middlezoy.

**060/22/MPC Receive Police Report**

Small report received, no reported crime within the last 28 days.

**061/22/MPC Receive chairman's report**

The village shop committee are moving forward, and a decision needs to be made about the shop as an asset in the next agenda item. It is listed as a community asset by the parish council, no-one knew the full background and there is no paper trail with the shop committee either. Enquiries are being made about the land ownership of the playing field and the possibility of asset transfer, although currently no timescale associated with this. John Grismore is prepared to investigate and look into ownership and legal position of the parish council and village hall as this may help the village hall make decisions going forward regarding the works required to the building, the parish council **resolved** to support John's investigations and to report back to the council at a future meeting. Trees have been collected for the far corner of the playing field and wildflower seed to be sown in the area around the pumping station. Other information is covered later in the agenda about affordable homes.

**062/22/MPC Risk Management**

The council **resolved** to agree the risk register and assessment for 2022-23.

**063/22/MPC Asset Register**

The council **resolved** to add the bus shelter and additional notice board to the asset register. In the short term as no paper trail for the shop it should remain on the asset register as a community asset. Explained that for local councils no depreciation is required, and the purchase price remains, if not possible to trace the price a nominal value of one pound may be applied (Governance and accountability for local councils: A Practitioners Guide (England) 2021).

**064/22/MPC Free Safer Driving Course**

It was **resolved** by the council for the clerk to request a safe driving course for the village later in the year.

**065/22/MPC Section 137 payment per elector**

The council **noted** that the payment had increased to £8.82 per elector.

**066/22/MPC Emergency planning representative**

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It was **agreed** that Cllr Ian Campbell take over the ownership of the emergency plan and ask if Jean Campbell would like to continue to be involved. This would involve amending and updating the contact details regularly.

**067/22/MPC Note pay increase**

The council noted the National pay increment for 2021/22 of 1.75% affecting clerks' salary.

**068/22/MPC Approve salary increase for employment contract**

The parish council **resolved** to approve the salary increase on SCP20 for clerk (24p per hour).

**069/22/MPC Approve overtime payment**

The parish council **approved** overtime of 7 hours for period April 2021 – March 2022 for £96.25.

**070/22/MPC Approve salary back payment**

The parish council approved the salary back payment as per increment increase from April 2021 – March 2022 for £80.16.

**071/22/MPC Approve payments to be made electronically within budget**

The council **resolved** to approve electronic payments

Clerks' expenses – mileage (x 2 visits)	£ 24.30
Village Hall Hire – February 2022 invoice 492	£ 24.00
Microsoft Reimbursement	£ 59.99
SALC Training	£ 25.00
GDPR	£ 40.00
Fixed home/office claim (2 of 2)	£100.00
Overtime Payment	£ 96.25
Back payment (increment)	£ 80.16

**072/22/MPC Decision – Planning (Cllr Betty left during this discussion)**

34/22/00002	Nonmaterial changes to 34/18/00009 Merricks Farm, 46 Main Road	No response requested
34/22/00003	Listed Building Consent – Alterations Retrospective application for internal alterations and alterations to external walls. Merricks Farm, 46 Main Road	<b>Approved</b>

**073/22/MPC Somerset Bus Partnership and Defibrillator Training**

Somerset Bus Partnership are looking for representatives across the county. Enquiries have been made but no response as would like to know the level of involvement before anyone committing. Will update in due course. Defibrillator training for 12 people approximately 3 hours would cost £75.00. The parish council **resolved** to approve this payment to act as a refresher training for existing members of the community already trained and to train more people who may not have been available initially.

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**074/22/MPC Village Hall update**

The village hall continues to do well with events planned during the next few months. The Friday night event is well supported, the return of the Jamming session this weekend and The Fender Twins later in the month. A Race night is planned for May and investigating a weekend workshop event in the summer, ongoing discussions taking place with a Bristol based company. The cladding to the exterior of the building is being looked at and quotes being received. There are two opinions in the community, make good and repair as a lot of money has been spent of the building, or investigate a total rebuild. Further consultation will be needed and clarification over ownership of land and feasibility study, particularly with regards the long-term annual costs.

**075/22/MPC Jubilee Update**

The Jubilee Committee are continuing to raise funds and now have a list of activities organised, including bistro evenings and garage sale. The stonework for the memorial bench is being collected later this week. Tickets for the big raffle are being printed and thanks were offered to the donors of some significant prizes made by members of the community. Grant application £250 has been submitted by committee for the stonework. Currently fundraising is on target to raise in the region of £3000.00. The Parish Council agreed in July 2021 (161/21/MPC) to form a steering group for the jubilee event working with local community groups fundraising for the event, any funds to be Earmarked for this event. Finance will be discussed at the next Jubilee Committee meeting and reported to parish council meeting in April or May 2022.

**076/22/MPC Affordable Home**

Initial work is being progressed by SHAL, Duncan Harvey at Sedgemoor District Council has offered any support necessary to the steering group, the parish council resolved for the payment of £8122.80 to be paid directly to SHAL to allow works to continue. Cllr Ann Lipscombe asked if there was the chance that both developments could be progressed at the same time, it was noted that applications for planning were considered on their own merit, but potentially yes. Enquiries made with the Somerset Association of Local Councils about the parish council holding a closed meeting with Consensus, who have been instructed by Summerfield. The purpose of this meeting would be to find out what Consensus would like to offer in the way of community consultation and the outcome of the meeting brought to the next appropriate parish council meeting for discussion and resolution.

**077/22/MPC Correspondence noted****078/22/MPC Refugees of Ukraine – extraordinary business**

The Church are making enquiries about the help that could be offered to Refugees of Ukraine, this information has come about in the last 24 hours. Taunton has a refugee group the parish council would like any information shared via the notice board in the village and via Facebook.

**079/22/MPC Meeting closed at 2110pm****080/22/MPC Date of next meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm. Any agenda items to the clerk by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

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