

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 19th July 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs. Becky Turner, Ian Campbell and Barry Paffey

In attendance: Jacqui Strong (Clerk), Cllr Anthony Betty, Cllr Harry Munt and 9 members of the public

Parishioners Questions:

Questions: No specific questions observations provided during the planning section

156/22/MPC Apologies

Apologies from Cllr Paul Baker (Holiday), Cllr Liz Perry (District) and Cllr Matthew Martin (County)

157/22/MPC Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

No declaration of interests received from parish council, Cllr Betty will leave during planning decision.

158/22/MPC Councillor Vacancies

Currently three vacancies on the parish council, expressions of interest to chairman.

159/22/MPC Receive and approve the minutes of the meeting Tuesday 21st June 2022.

Minutes amended to reflect seven affordable homes not ten and the anniversary of the coronation not jubilee in 2023 the minutes were received and **approved**.

160/22/MPC Receive Reports from County, District Councillors and Police

Apologies from the Police who are not able to attend report from Police read out by the Clerk. Information received about drug dealing outside of the village hall and in the layby off Holloway Road – Clerk to notify Police and Cllr Turner to obtain further information regarding times/days.

County Councillor: Cllr Harry Munt – full council meeting taking place tomorrow when the new CEO being voted in, ecological emergency is being declared in response to the climate emergency, particularly across the levels addressing some farming concerns. A children and young persons plan to avoid outsourcing to neighbouring counties, ideally to keep children in Somerset being proposed. The Local Community Networks (LCNS) have been introduced as part of the unitary

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council. The LCNs will take on some of the responsibilities of the Somerset Council, the plans of what these may look like is still ongoing, size/where/who has decision making powers etc. Aiming to have this completed by May 2023. The decision about where Middlezoy will sit is still ongoing, but the likelihood is that it will be larger rather than smaller, they will hopefully have some budget control and decision making capabilities. The parish council were keen to see a balance that the smaller parishes did not miss out during this organisation process. Best practice is being looked at from various parts of the country and trials taking place across the county. If the LCNs take on planning decisions, will there be additional training offered to the people involved, this would have to be something considered as at the moment there is significant training offered at district level. These discussions are still ongoing.

District Councillor: Cllr Anthony Betty – SDC have a full council meeting tomorrow, an ecological emergency is being declared the same as county for the district.

161/22/MPC Note RLT2 Fund and agree Lead Councillor for Play Equipment

The parish council **resolved** to nominate Cllr Paffey to lead the discussions on the play equipment and liaise with clerk on current research. Ideally looking at something that is reasonably priced to purchase and the long-term maintenance costs

162/22/MPC Nominate Lead Councillor for Rural Village Hall Grants

The Parish Council **resolved** to nominate Cllr Turner to work with the MCP on the Rural Village Hall Grant.

163/22/MPC Note update of Fingerpost signs and agree action

The Parish Council **noted** that highways were not going to maintain the signs as they are deemed desirable not essential. Middlezoy currently has three finger post signs and a highways sign. Possibly need to review if signs can be removed or resited. There will be training in the future that can be signed up by volunteers. Cllr Ian Campbell will follow this up as one of the signposts is damaged beyond repair and would need a contractor not a volunteer to undertake the work.

164/22/MPC Signpost – Little Elm Road

The parish council noted that a signpost has been created for Little Elm Road and Broadfield Park could have one on request. It has been established from the Records Office that Google Maps is inaccurate and have Little Elm Road going into Broadfield Park and not to the cider farm. There are concerns that lorries for the cider farm will end up going into Broadfield Park. Cllr Turner to follow this up with Broadfield Park as they need to contact Google who could change their map, to avoid any confusion.

165/22/MPC Dog Bin – Methodist Chapel

Update received from Cllr Campbell – Deborah Kirk is happy for the dog bin to be installed on the fence once the paint work is finished.

166/22/MPC Clerk Vacancy update

There have been two expressions of interest and one application received.

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167/22/MPC Bank Reconciliation as of 12th July and breakdown of payments to date

The parish council received and noted the bank reconciliation and current financial position.

168/22/MPC Note Payments made electronically

The parish council **noted** payments made within budget as previously approved

SALC – The Good Councillors Guide (Hard Copy)	£ 25.00
IHT – AED Training (Defibrillator)	£ 90.00
Methodist Church Hire	£ 30.00
Village Hall Hire – May meeting	£ 24.00
Mileage Claim x 3 (May)	£ 36.45
The Leveller – Job Advert	£114.00
Secure Cabinet x 2	£600.00
Uncontested Election Costs	£100.00
Councillor Essentials Training Part 1	£25.00

169/22/MPC Approve payments to be made electronically

The council **resolved** to approve the following electronic payments

The Leveller (2 nd advertisement General Reserves)	£114.00
Clerks Expenses	£ 19.65
Code of Conduct SALC training invoice 1172	£ 25.00
Village Hall Hire – June Meeting Invoice 517	£ 24.00

170/22/MPC Planning Decision

Planning Number	Location	Proposal	Decision
34/22/00005 Full Planning Permission 27 th July 2022	Elements Boutique and Spa Windmill Retreat	Erection of extension to North elevation of spa building and siting of 4 lodges	Support After lengthy discussion, viewing of plans and discussion with the applicant, the Parish Council and resolved to support the application because it supported business and employment in the local community, could not be seen from the road and didn't overlook anybody, and would be in the same materials as the other buildings. They asked for the ground to be leveled and a hedgerow to be put behind the lodges and for a visual

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			assessment to clarify the heights of lodges in the new position.
53/22/00011 Full Planning Permission 22 nd July 2022	Westonzoyland Airfield A372, Bridgwater	Erection of Agricultural Building	Support The Parish Council supported the application as it supported local agriculture, had a minimal impact on the countryside as it is a brownfield site and cannot be seen from the road.

171/22/MPC Licensing Decision

Location	Request	Decision
Wadys Cider Ltd Little Elm Road Middlezoy TA7 0FD	Change of Hours Increasing from 1 day 1200 – 2000pm to potentially 6 days per week 10am – 2200pm	Support was given

172/22/MPC Affordable Homes update

Currently no update available about the affordable homes for the village.

173/22/MPC Village Hall update

An update was received from the MCP – the playing field is taken out on lease with the hall owned by the parish council. Several estimates for repairs have been received but not detailed, there is a current grant scheme available that can be applied for to a total of £50,000. Within the criteria, grant repairs are not permitted, a new or replacement hall, or modernisation is permissible, but not repairs. Currently talks are being had about replacing with wooden cladding, although a rebuild in brick has been discussed - no quotes have been received to date. The grant has a criteria that 28 years should remain on the lease there is currently only 20 years remaining, there have been several discussions and prices for the parish council to take on the field but this has not been confirmed. The deadline for the grant is 15th September with decisions being made by October 2022, with a completion of 3 years from grant given. The district council can be spoken with if the lease is not sufficient however because the parish council are lease holders and are therefore in a vulnerable position. What is the situation lease v freehold, and the possibility of the parish council taking this on to offer greater security for the long term of the village as a resource. There is the opportunity to talk this through with the grant provider, the MCP will follow this up and district and county council will follow the lease arrangement up with the decision makers involved in the unification.

174/22/MPC Correspondence noted as listed in the agenda

175/22/MPC Meeting closed at 2105

176/22/MPC Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be on Tuesday 20th September at 7:30pm. Any agenda items to the clerk by 12th September 2022.

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