

Middlezoy Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Middlezoy Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th December 2023 where the following business was discussed.

Present: Chairman Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Ian Campbell, Cllr Becky Turner, Cllr John Grisman, and Cllr Paffey and 4 Parishioners.

- 1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest in items on this agenda and dispensations granted – Apologies** from County Cllr Martin, Duncan Harvey and Jim Murray the clerk. As the clerk was not present all agreements will be ratified at the next meeting of the Parish Council in January. It was agreed by the Council that notes would be taken by Cllr Turner and sent to the Clerk
- 2. Minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2023** – were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Grisman and seconded by Cllr Paffey.
- 3. Chairman’s Report** – The Chairman had received an apology from Duncan Harvey (Homes in Sedgemoor), unable to attend the meeting as he has COVID and has now rescheduled to update the Council at the January meeting re Affordable Housing. Cllr Baker to contact Duncan for an update prior to the January meeting.
- 4. To receive any reports – Police – None. County Council – None**
- 5. a) Affordable Housing** – see notes in Chairman’s report. Cllr Grisman read out the four reasons that are permissible for a judicial review of a planning appeal decision. None of which apply to Back Lane. He suggested that the letter from the Friends of Middlezoy asking for money was misleading as it gave false hopes. The meeting agreed that the Parish Council would not get involved as it is not a viable option. It was agreed that Cllr Baker would contact Sommerfield to see if we can get any idea about when they plan to start the development.
b) Community Asset re George Pub – Graeme Bell attended the meeting and was very concerned about how the Council had gone about the process. He said that he felt that he should have been approached in person and had a chance to discuss the proposal as it is not only his business but also his home. The meeting agreed that this should have been the case and apologised for acting inappropriately.
c) Welcome Pack update – As the Clerk wasn’t present there was no update on progress.
d) Village Maintenance Contract -there was a discussion about the updated contract. The Clerk to send out to James Pring, Clean Surrounds, The Cricket Club and any other appropriate contractors.
e) Precept 2024/25 – this was proposed by Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Paffey.
f) Playing Field purchase – Cllr baker has offered £15,000 although the asking price was £28,500. He is waiting for a reply. He will also contact Spark regarding a grant towards the purchase.

g) **Grant Application** – The application from the Village Shop was discussed. Cllrs Baker and Turner declared an interest so did not enter into the discussion. Cllr Grisman proposed that the £500 requested was granted. This was seconded by CllrPaffey.

6. Planning – NONE

7. FINANCE

a) Clerk's Salary October	£285.90
b) Clerk's PAYE October	£71.60
c) Clerk's expenses October	£25.75
d) Hire of Hall – November	£24.00
e) G Wagden James – Oct/Nov	£648.02
f) Somerset Playing Field Association Membership	£15.00
g) Somerset Council Dog Bin emptying Oct 23 to march 24	£501.70
h) Reimbursement to Cllr baker for Xmas tree	£90.00
i) Quicksign for new signs	£321.36

All invoices include VAT where applicable.

The above items will be paid by the clerk through the Parish Council's Unity Trust banking facility

Cllr Grisman reported that he now has the final invoices from Steve Purchase regarding the recladding of the hall and other work he was contracted to do. The final total was **£50,891** including VAT. The grant was **£36,200**. The outstanding balance is **£14,691**. This amount will be transferred from the MCP budget to the Parish Council budget.

8. Middlezoy Community Project update – Cllr Grisman noted that he now has a quote for the LED lighting which is £1640 including VAT. Cllr Campbell asked about the quote for the generator but Cllr Grisman had heard nothing. The village hall will be open on Xmas Eve and New Years Eve. Cllr Grisman said that he had resigned from the MCP as of the new year. The Parish Council will require a new representative. Cllr Baker suggested we discuss this in January.

9. Cllrs matter of reports – Cllr Campbell discussed an incident of flooding near Rock Farm that had caused a car to get stuck. He asked if we could get a sign to stop it happening again. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to contact Highways to see if this is possible.

Cllr Campbell also proposed that we thank the owner of Merrick's Farm for the visit he organised, also for tastefully preserving a very old building and bringing it back to being inhabitable.

Cllr Grisman gave his apologies for the next 3 meetings

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 16th January2024 starting at 7.30pm In the Village Hall