

Middlezoy Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of Middlezoy Parish Council held at the village Hall on Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 7.00pm where the following business was transacted.

Present: Chairman Cllr Baker, Cllr Turner, Cllr Paffey, Cllr Campbell. In attendance one parishioner and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Boulton sent apologies, and these were accepted due to work commitments.

2. To approve the minutes from Tuesday 8th October 2024

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Turner Seconded by Cllr Campbell. All in favour.

3. Chairman's report

- 1.** Cllr Baker welcomed the new Clerk who has recently taken over from Jim Murray.
- 2.** Cllrs Baker & Turner had recently attended the Town and Parish Councils Conference at the Canalside in Bridgwater. This was a valuable opportunity to network with council officers, councillors, and clerks.
- 3.** No further progress has been made with SC on the ownership of the playing fields, although it is believed the field was bequeathed to the village and therefore SC cannot sell what they do not own.
- 4.** There are times when the car park requires additional spaces. It was resolved that installing embedded plastic tiles, which look attractive and allow grass to grow through, would provide spaces for an additional twelve vehicles.
- 5.** The chairman informed councillors of the damage to plastic drainage pipes which would require repair. Only one quote was submitted, despite another contractor being asked, and councillors unanimously approved the sum of £630.48 for the work to be carried out by Barry Paffey. (Cllr Paffey did not take part in the discussion or vote.)

4. To receive reports from Police/County Cllrs

None received.

5. To Discuss

a) Greater Sedgemoor Landscape recovery

Cllr Baker had contacted the Chairman of Othery PC, but no response had been received. Liz Parfitt of Westonzoyland PC will be contacted for their response. It was felt that this project was part of a wider community consultation and would be kept under review.

(b) Budget proposal 2025/26

The previous clerk had put together a draft budget for consideration.

Discussion took place regarding the replacement of the two defibrillators in the village, which would need to be replaced over the next year at a cost of approximately £4,000 including installation costs and new batteries. Options considered were reducing the number from three to two defibs and asking local organisations to contribute to the costs through fund-raising ventures.

It was resolved to have the budget and precept figure as an agenda item in December, in closed session.

6. PLANNING

34/24/00002/SKN

Location: Weighbridge Farm, Holloway Road, Middlezoy. Proposal: Proposed erection of a holiday let (part retrospective). Decision: Refused Planning Permission by Somerset Council planning officers.

Cllrs heard that the applicant had submitted an appeal against this decision, and that the Parish Council's comments on the original application would still be valid. Councillors unanimously agreed that no further comments would be added.

7. FINANCE

a) Clerk's Salary October 2024	£332.80
b) Clerk's PAYE October 2024	£83.20
c) Clerk's expenses October	£20.00
d) Middlezoy Community – hire of hall (inv 713)	£24.00
e) Reimbursement to Cllr Campbell re the Bleed kit dispenser (HeartSafe Inv 558)	£247.75
f) To authorise grant for contribution towards the repair of the Church Bells	£500.00
(g) Emptying of Dog Bins Oct 24-Mar 25	£535.39

All invoices include VAT where applicable.

Proposed: Cllr Baker; Seconded Cllr Turner. All in favour of giving the previous clerk permission to set up the payments above, as the current clerk was not yet on the bank mandate. The clerk will check whether Cllr Turner is set up with Unity Bank to authorise payments. It was unanimously approved to pay the previous clerk for November due to time spent on council business and the handover to the new clerk.

8. Middlezoy Community Project update

Cllr Baker gave an update on possible fund-raising activities planned at the Village Hall.

These included carols, mince pies and bar on Christmas Eve; monthly Saturday events such as quiz evenings, karaoke, bingo etc; monthly Friday cocktail evenings. No event is planned for New Year's Eve and there will not be a Village Fete in 2025., but hopefully in 2026.

9. Cllrs Matters of report

Cllr Campbell felt it would be a good idea to have a Village Diary so that planned events by the different organisations did not overlap, duplicate or clash. This was felt to be an excellent idea.

Cllr Baker reported that our local MP, Sir Ashley Fox would like to attend the February PC Meeting. He will offer either the 11th or 25th of February as the clerk is unavailable on the 18th.

Cllr Campbell reported that some of the Welcome Booklets, funded by the PC, had been sold. It was agreed to allow the cash to build up before being banked.

Cllr Paffey reported that he would be carrying out the minor repairs due on the play equipment.

10. Agenda items for December

- Budget/precept setting
- Draft dates for 2025 meetings
- Defibrillators decision
- Car park overspill works

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

Date of next meeting – TUESDAY DECEMBER 17th, 2024, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall