

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole, Bradshaw, Freeman and Skipwith and Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Cross.

2. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

3. Election of Officers:

The position of Chair was open to all Councillors. Cllr Cole nominated Cllr Brant and was seconded by Cllr Freeman. Cllr Brant **agreed** to become Chair.

The position of Vice-Chair was opened to all Councillors. Cllr Brant nominated Cllr Cole and was seconded by Cllr Freeman. Cllr Cole **agreed** to become Vice-Chair.

4. Declaration of Acceptance:

The Councillors duly completed and signed the Register of Members Interests and the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Responsible Financial Officer.

5. Election of Sub Committees:

The Parish Council **agreed** to the following positions:-

- (i) Parish Plan – unfilled at present
 - (ii) Planning – Cllrs Cole, Bradshaw and Freeman
 - (iii) Highways / Rights of Way / Environment – Cllrs Cole and Bradshaw
 - (iv) New Village Hall and Recreational Ground– Cllr Cross and one to be filled
 - (v) VHMC Rep – unfilled at present.
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6. Minutes: The minutes of 21st April 2015 were duly approved and signed by the Chair.
Proposed Cllr Freeman Seconded Cllr Cole

7. Matters Arising:

The Summer Picnic in the Orchard is scheduled for Sunday 12th July.

The water leak on Main Street has been repaired.

The Litter Pick on 17th May was successful and well attended by residents of all ages.

20th May - there is a presentation by Gigaclear in the Village Hall Annexe. It was noted that BT Openreach had been laying cables in the village and superfast broadband via BT would appear to be imminent.

8. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

There were no members of the public present.

At this stage the Chair commended the outgoing Borough Councillor, Mr Bob Riley, on his excellent work and commitment to his parishes. On behalf of the Council the Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Rutt to his new role and looked forward to meeting him.

(Meeting closed to the public.)

9. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

Cllr Brant reported from the recent meeting of the working group with Northants Highways, Northants Education team, CBC Planning Department and the architect. The access road as proposed (running from Berryfield Road along the front of the school) remained problematic for Northants CC and it was agreed that it should be amended to enter and exit via Mill Road. To facilitate this it will be necessary to apply for a TRO to move the 30mph restriction further along Mill Road towards Bringhurst. An entrance within a 30 mph zone requires a 41m splay, which is achievable. The Chair reported that there appear to be section 106 monies from a

housing development in North Corby which are available to support additional places in a primary school in the area. The Cottingham Primary School would have room for expansion if the current Village Hall Annexe was available to it. The next stage is for a Northants CC engineer to value the annexe and for members of the Working Group to look at the multi-use games area in Gretton, in order to decide whether it wishes to include one in the new plans.

10. Highways and Rights of Way:

Speed and Volume of Traffic – The Chair reported on the recent meeting with Sarah Barnwell from Northamptonshire Highways. Various possibilities for traffic calming along Main Street were discussed and Ms Barnwell agreed to look at the possibilities of siting chicanes at each end of Main Street and report back within six weeks.

The Council felt that the residents needed to be encouraged to park on the street instead of the pavement, as this is damaging the pavements and is making the pavements impassable for those in mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Parking throughout the village also serves to slow traffic flow.

TRO – The Chair informed the Council that the TRO had been signed off by Northamptonshire Highways and that double yellow lines would be put in place. She also reported that since the last meeting she had received correspondence from a resident on School Hill about the proposals and she had responded setting out the Council's deliberations on the matter.

11. Orchard Project:

The Chair reported that quarterly garden maintenance had been carried out in the orchard and that works on the culvert would start on 26th May.

The Council discussed the overgrown shrubbery which was obscuring the Middleton and Glover Court road signs and **agreed** to remove this. The Clerk to contact Steve Morphy to obtain a quote for this work (*action JM*).

It was noted that Swingers Way was also overgrown, Cllr Freeman **agreed** to look at the site before contacting the landowners on either side of the path (*action TF*).

12. Training on Neighbourhood Planning:

The Council **agreed** to express interest in undertaking training in this area, offered by the Principal Local Plans Officer (Terry Begley). A session at the weekend suited councillors best. Clerk to respond to Terry Begley (*action JM*).

13. Funding of Village Community Shop:

Cllr Freeman reported on the current financial situation of the village community shop, which requires a sustained increase in sales and turnover to make a profit and be viable in the long term. The Council agreed that the shop is a vital part of the community and discussed ways in which its sustainability could be achieved. It was **agreed** to wait until the plans for the shop are made clear at the AGM before it made a decision on any funding.

14. Planning:

There were no planning application to discuss.

15. Finance:

a) The following cheques were presented for signature and **agreed**:

101283	Cottingham VHMC - Hall Hire	21.00
100284	Best Host – Website	75.00
101285	Clerk May Salary and Expenses	218.92
101286	Came and Company Insurance	286.60
101287	S Morphy Grass Cutting	380.00
101288	S Morphy Grass Cutting	285.00

100289	Richard Thomas – Culvert Maintenance	84.00
b) SUMMARY OF BALANCES		
	National Savings	55,237.57
	Business Reserve	166.27
	Community Account	6,199.59
	Less Allocation for Village Hall	50,180.50
	Total:	<u>11,422.93</u>

c) The Clerk reported that following a successful internal audit, the 2014/5 accounts will be presented to the external auditor. There were no matters raised by the Internal Auditor.

16. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items, all e-mailed:
 CBC – Rural Take Action / Neighbourhood Plans – Training Opportunities
 NCALC – Election Procedures

17. Business for next meeting:

Village Fete – 11th July
 Councillor Vacancy
 Rockingham Wheelers fund raising campaign for a defibrillator

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on the 16th June 2015

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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