

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Cole, Cross, Freeman, Hicks and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Bradshaw, apologies approved.

2. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meetings on 14th July 2015 and 20th August were duly approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Freeman Seconded Cllr Cole

4. Matters Arising:

There were none.

5. New Councillors:

The Council **agreed** to co-opt Mrs Marie Thomas, thereby filling the one remaining casual vacancy. Both she and Cllr Hicks then duly completed and signed the Register of Members Interests and the Declaration of Office, witnessed by the Responsible Financial Officer. The Chair welcomed the new members to the Council.

6. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The Chair welcomed the visitors.

The consultation evening on the Joint Conservation Area for Cottingham & Middleton was raised with all commenting that it was an excellent presentation and excellent idea to have a joint conservation area. It was noted that there are a few minor errors with the details of some properties in the Draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document– these will be identified and forwarded to Peter Thornborrow along with the Parish Council's response. There will be an article in the imminent parish newsletter with information regarding the initiative and what impact it may have for the residents.

The issue of speeding and heavy vehicles through the village was raised again. An NFU article, 'Staying on top of transport rules', advising farmers on appropriate speeds for agricultural vehicles and trailers, was circulated. Parking on pavements was discussed – residents need to be encouraged not to park on the pavements which are becoming badly eroded.

The Chair thanked the visitors who duly left the meeting at 8.10 pm

(Meeting closed to the public.)

7. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

Cllr Brant reported from the recent meeting with Sport England who have since written to confirm that their previous concern over the loss of playing field area had been addressed. The next stage is to produce a Design and Access Statement which will support the planning application.

8. Orchard and Open Space:

The Chair reported that maintenance work on the sides of the culvert had been completed and planted. The next stage is to complete the weed clearance from the culvert bed, to dig a

channel and bank up the sides to enable the water to flow quicker and cleaner. The Council discussed obtaining a skip and **agreed** to carry out the clearing of the culvert on Saturday 3rd October at 2pm. It was noted that the moles had returned to the orchard, Clerk to contact Eliminate (*action JM*). The Council thanked Mr Richard Thomas for donating and planting a new tree at the entrance to the orchard to replace the one that had died. Cllr Coles reported that the crack to the walls of the orchard had been repaired. The Chair reported that Corby Borough Council and Miller Homes had met regarding the eradication of the knotweed and that it was imperative that the Parish Council makes sure that this is done as a matter of urgency.

9. Highways and Rights of Way:

Speeding – The Council again expressed its disappointment with the response from County Highways and **agreed** to contact County Cllr Heggs who had previously offered to assist in discussions with Northants County Council regarding speed limits (*action SB*).

Volume and Speed of Agricultural Vehicles – The Council **agreed** to write to the local landowners over the autumn months, referring to the NFU Guidance, expressing its concerns and requesting their consideration with speeds along the already congested Main Street and that they may seek an alternative route where possible.

Footpaths – The Council noted concerns from residents regarding cyclists and horse riders using Swinglers Path and **agreed** to source signs from Corby Borough Council to prohibit this (*action JM*).

Lighting – The Council expressed its disappointment that despite many reports to the Borough Council, several lights around the village had not been repaired. Cllr Freeman **agreed** to contact CBC Chief Executive regarding this (*action AF*).

Road Cleaning – It was observed that the weeds along the kerbside on Main Street and The Hill were particularly bad – Clerk to contact the relevant authority to request that these be cleared (*action JM*).

Yellow Lines, The Hill – The Council was very pleased to note that these had now been done.

10. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had carried out an inspection of the phone box and orchard. He stated that apart from the need to remove fallen apples from the paths in the orchard, both were fit for purpose.

11. Review of Clerk's Contract and Working Hours:

The NALC / SLCC Report of the Working Group on the Clerk's Working Hours had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. On the recommendation of the report the Council **agreed** to increase the clerk's hours to 26 per month at the existing NJC salary point SCP 22. The Clerk's Contract of Employment was then duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. Clerk to provide Chair with a signed copy (*action JM*).

12. Consultation on the Draft Cottingham and Middleton Conservation Area Appraisal:

Further to the comments made in the public meeting, the Council **agreed** to individually read through the Draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document carefully and collate any errors. A meeting was **agreed** for Tuesday 6th October in Village Hall Annexe at 7.30 pm for the Council to formulate its response and to answer any queries from residents. Clerk to contact Jane Smith to put a footnote in the newsletter regarding the meeting (*action JM*).

13. Report from Neighbourhood Planning Meeting 24th August :

Cllr Brant reported from this meeting and reiterated that the Parish Council would have to make a decision soon whether or not to formulate its own Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Brant also reported from the West Corby Extension meeting earlier in the evening and stated that there will be further public consultations regarding this proposed development.

14. Review of Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and Data Protection Policy:

These had been circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk prior to the meeting for comment and review. After a few minor alterations they were unanimously **approved**. The Council agreed to place them on the website (*action JM*).

15. Community Defibrillator Project:

Cllr Brant reported that £750 had been received and on behalf of the Council, wished to thank County Councillor Heggs for this contribution to the project from his 'Community Empowerment Fund'. Cllr Brant said that the next stage would be to contact Rockingham Wheelers with regards to the possibility of them applying to the Community Heartbeat Trust for the balance (*action SB*). The Council noted that the phone box would need refurbishing before any equipment was installed.

16. Planning:

15/00253/DPA 15 Main Street Double Garage and Garden Wall Due to time constraints, the Council had previously considered this application and made no objection.

15/00297/LBC 50 Main Street Retrospective Timber Windows Due to time constraints, the Council had previously considered this application and made no objection.

Appeal APP/U2805/W/15/3005683 Land off Bury Close The appeal date for this application is 13th October. Cllr Brant informed the Council that she would be attending along with the Chair of Cottingham Parish Council. She reported that Peter Thornborrow had supported the Council's comments in his Conservation Appraisal Report.

17. Finance:

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

101300	R Thomas – Culvert Maintenance	534.00
101301	Eliminate – Wasp Nest Removal	55.00
101302	Cottingham VHMC – Various Hall Hire	42.00
101303	Clerk – Aug / Sept Salary and Expenses	451.32
101304	S Morphy – Grass Cutting	460.00
101305	Besthost – Website	17.25
101306	R Thomas – Culvert Planting	399.00

b) Receipts

Northants County Council	County Cllr Empowerment Fund	750.00
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c) SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	55,237.57
Business Reserve	166.31
Community Account	11,826.88
Less Allocation for Village Hall	50,180.50
Total:	<u>17,050.26</u>

d) The Council unanimously **approved** the bank reconciliation which was then duly signed by the Chair.

18. Correspondence:

Amongst other correspondence were the following items, all e-mailed:

NCALC – July/Aug Update / Transparency Funding / Invitation to AGM

CBC – Parish Representation on Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Letter from Meeting Place Communications regarding development of the West Corby SUE

The Council noted that there were no members available to attend the NCALC AGM on 17th July – Clerk to send apologies (*action JM*).

19. Business for next meeting:

Review of Complaints Procedure

West Corby Extension

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on Tuesday 13th October 2015

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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