

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Annexe, Cottingham.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Bradshaw, Cole, Cross, Freeman, Hicks and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and County Councillor Heggs.

1. Apologies for Absence: Borough Cllr Rutt and PCSO Anita Hambly.

2. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2015 were duly approved and signed.

Proposed Cllr Cole

Seconded Cllr Cross

4. Matters Arising:

There were none.

5. Meeting Open for Public Participation:

The Chair welcomed the visitor.

County Councillor Heggs raised the recent site meeting he had arranged with NCC Highways representative Steve Barber and Cllr Brant. This had been a useful meeting looking at traffic calming ideas and collecting speed data. Mr Barber agreed to send through details of Traffic Activated Speed signs to the Clerk and had suggested that he could place a monitoring mechanism on Main Street to collect speed data. Cllr Brant to ascertain the size of the mechanism and position proposed. Cllr Heggs also raised the matter of funding for the community defibrillator stating that he could offer another £400 from his 'Empowerment Fund' if the Parish Council could match it.

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

(Meeting closed to the public.)

6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

Cllr Brant informed the Council that the Design and Access Statement was nearly complete and would be circulated to the Working Group before the planning application is submitted.

7. Orchard and Open Space:

Cllr Cross reported that the second round of maintenance work on the base of the culvert had been completed and the water was flowing well. Thanks were given to all those who volunteered their time in clearing out the roots, weeds and mud. The next stage is to seed the banks with grass in the spring and add it to the grass cutting cycle. It was noted that the moles had been eliminated from the Orchard.

Cllr Brant said she would chase Miller Homes regarding the eradication of the knotweed as a matter of urgency.

8. Highways and Rights of Way:

Community Speed Watch Offer 2016 – The Council discussed this initiative where Northamptonshire Police Community Engagement aims to work with local communities to facilitate community-led solutions to local road safety problems, particularly concerns around speed. This Community Speed Watch is a partnership initiative with local communities, which enables local people to become actively involved in helping to slow down traffic within their community. The Clerk had registered the Council's interest in the scheme and **agreed** to collate a list of volunteers willing to take part.

Footpaths – The Council is still awaiting a response from Corby Borough Council with regards to the siting of signs prohibiting cyclists and horse riders using Swinglers Path. The Council noted the overgrown brambles along Jurassic way and Swinglers Path – Cllrs Cross and Freeman **agreed** to contact the landowners requesting that these are cut back (*action KC and AF*).

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

Road Cleaning – The Clerk reported that she had contacted both NCC Highways and Corby Borough Council Street Cleansing regarding clearance of the weeds along the kerbside on Main Street and The Hill, both of whom passed the responsibility for this on. It was suggested that the Community Payback Team be used for this. Clerk to pursue (*action JM*).

9. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had carried out an inspection of the parish assets. He stated that he had cleared the path of apples in the orchard and that he would remove the ivy growing in the phone box (*action AC*). He noted that varnish was peeling from the bench on Main Street – Clerk to contact Steve Morphy who had recently refurbished this bench, to request that this be patched up (*action JM*).

10. Review of Complaints Procedure:

A draft Complaints Procedure had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **agreed** to look at adding an appeals process to the policy and bring to the next meeting for approval.

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

Cllr Brant reported from the meeting on 6th October where Middleton Parish Council met to formulate its response and at which it had compiled a list of minor inaccuracies in the document for correction. The Council fully supports the extension of the Conservation Area boundary as proposed, to include the land north and south of the Jurassic Way and is of the view that the boundary should extend to the north of School Lane to include the Old School House, which should be designated a Local Interest Building. The Council had proposed that it should also extend slightly into Glover Court onto the green space opposite number 1 Glover Court, to incorporate the modern Obelisk.

The Council noted the importance of residents responding to Corby Borough Council with their views on the Conservation Area Appraisal and undertook to remind residents of the deadline.

12. North Northants Joint Core Strategy and the Consultation on the West Corby Extension

Cllr Brant reminded the Council of its previous response to the JCS consultation, which pointed out the importance of putting a proper road infrastructure in place before the West Corby extension development commences. The JCS expresses commitment to this but lacks detail and plans for implementation. The emerging Joint Core Strategy informs decisions on planning, population growth and development of infrastructure within the area from 2011-2031. As a result of the submission on behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Brant has been invited to speak at the Hearings later in November at which an independent Planning Inspector will review the JCS prior to it being finalised.

Minutes from the meeting with the developers of the West Corby extension on 14th September were circulated – clerk to copy and circulate to all Councillors (*action JM*).

13. Community Defibrillator Project:

The Council **agreed** to match the £400 offered by County Cllr Heggs towards this project and to request that the balance be made up by Rockingham Wheelers through the Community Heartbeat Trust.

14. Planning:

15/00253/DPA 15 Main Street Double Garage and Garden Wall CBC Planning Permission Granted.

15/00390/COU Middleton House Change of Use Nursery to Residential Dwelling
The Council considered this application and made no comment.

Appeal APP/U2805/W/15/3005683 Land off Bury Close The Chair reported from the appeal hearing on 13th October where the Planning Inspector, Mr Tim Wood, ruled that he was not willing to consider the appellants' amended scheme for 33 houses at this stage because there has been insufficient time for Corby Borough Council's Development Control Committee and local residents to consider the scheme. There will be a public meeting arranged for November after which Middleton and Cottingham Parish Councils will formulate their response.

15. Finance:

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

101307	Clerk – October Salary and Expenses	283.70
101308	Eliminate – Mole Removal	80.00
101309	Tippa Skip - Culvert Clearing	150.00
101310	Cottingham VHMC – Various Hall Hire	18.00

b) Receipts

c) SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	55,237.57
Business Reserve	166.31
Community Account	10,878.93
Less Allocation for Village Hall	50,180.50

Total: **16,102.31**

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

16. Correspondence:

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

Northants Police – Community Speed Watch Offer 21016

NCALC – September / October Update

NCC Highways – Community Liaison Team

ACRE – Village Viewpoint Magazine / Wellbeing Service

Meeting Place Communications - West Corby SUE Newsletter

17. Business for next meeting:

Review of Complaints Procedure

Grass Cutting and Kerb Clearance

Litter Pick

Enforcement Signs – Litter on School Hill

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on Tuesday 17th November 2015

Signed.....Chair Date.....

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