

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

555

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

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Bradshaw, Cole, Cross, Freeman (left the meeting at 7.55pm), Hicks and Thomas, Mrs Medwell (Parish Clerk) and County Councillor Heggs.

1. Apologies for Absence: Borough Cllr Rutt.

2. Declaration of Interest: Cllr Thomas declared an interest in item 13.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meetings on 17th November 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 was pleased to inform the Council that the donation of a further £400 towards the Defibrillator Project from his 'Empowerment Fund' would be made after all.

The Chair thanked the visitor who duly left the meeting at 7.35 pm

(Meeting closed to the public.)

6. New Village Hall and Recreational Ground:

Cllr Brant informed the Council that apart from a delay with the planning application for the New Village Hall there was nothing further to report at present.

Item 10 – Funding of Skate Park was brought forward. The Cllr Brant reminded the Council that the Skate Park was something that had been requested in the past by younger residents of the village and it had been the subject of extensive consultation with a provisional design produced based on input from young villagers. Provision for a Skate Park is being made on the recreational ground and the Working Group was of the view that it is time to start fund raising for the project. On behalf of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Working Group and at its request, Cllr Brant asked the Council if it would consider making a donation of up to £1,000 to act as seed funding so that grant funding bids could be made. Cllr Brant confirmed that the same request would also be made to Cottingham Parish Council and that youngsters in the villages would be asked to contribute to the fund raising.

The Council discussed this at some length and **agreed** to offer financial support if Cottingham Parish Council was also prepared to contribute on a two third:one third ratio (in line with the population of the villages) and as long as young people in the villages demonstrated their ongoing support for the project by becoming involved in some fund raising initiatives. Cllr Brant undertook to feed back to the Working Group.

7. Orchard and Open Space:

Ongoing Maintenance – Winter maintenance on the open space and culvert is ongoing. The Clerk reported that an invoice had been raised for all the works carried out this season and passed on to Corby Borough Council for repayment. The Council observed that the grass area in the Orchard was overgrown in places by weeds and was in need of some maintenance and **agreed** to contact Green Thumb to obtain a quote for weed killing and re-seeding. Cllrs Cross and Brant to meet the contractors on site (*action JM to speak to Green Thumb*)

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Eradication of Japanese Knotweed – The Council noted that the Miller Homes contractors, Ebsford had excavated the area containing the knotweed and would make good the damaged grass as soon as practicable. Ebsford would be monitoring the area for re-growth and would tackle any re-growth should it occur.

8. Highways, Lighting and Rights of Way:

Lighting – Cllr Freeman had circulated an update on lighting prior to the meeting. The faulty light on The Hill opposite the Red Lion has since been repaired.

Signage – The Council noted that Environmental Services had agreed to provide No Horse Riding Signs for Swingers Path, Cllr Cross **agreed** to meet with them on site to advise on the locations for the signs (*action KC*). The Council observed that the damaged fence along this path had been repaired.

Cllr Freeman left the meeting at this stage.

9. Safety Review of Parish Assets:

Cllr Cole had carried out an inspection of the parish assets and stated that all were in order. He reported that the Obelisk light had water in it, Cllr Cross **agreed** to contact local registered electrician to repair this (*action KC*).

10. Funding of Skate Park:

Covered in item 6.

11. Litter Pick:

The Council discussed organising a village litter pick at a convenient date in the New Year.

12. Community Defibrillator Project:

The Council expressed its thanks to Cottingham cum Middleton Copyholders for their donation of £150 towards this project. The Council **agreed** to match the contribution from Cllr Heggs to the value of £400 and noted that it was awaiting a response from Rockingham Wheelers regarding the remainder of the funding towards this project.

13. Planning:

Appeal APP/U2805/W/15/3005683 Land off Bury Close

The Council noted that the deadline had passed and all objections had been submitted.

Review of North Northants Joint Core Strategy

The Chair reported from the Planning Hearing review of the North Northants Joint Core Strategy. The Council was offered a chance to speak at the session on the West Corby Urban Extension as it had submitted written comments on the strategy and she had raised, on behalf of the Council, the issues of road infrastructure, sewerage and the need to protect the rural communities from over development.

Cottingham / Middleton Conservation Area Appraisal

The Chair informed the Council that this appraisal will need to be re-consulted on due to the number of comments generated and changes suggested. This consultation is planned for the New Year and the Council noted the importance of this working document for the parish in terms of planning development.

15/00390/DPA Middleton House Change of Use, Nursery to Residential Dwelling
CBC Planning Approved

15/00297/DPA 50 Main Street (Retrospective) Timber Windows CBC Planning
Approved

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

Cllr Thomas retired to the public gallery

15/00418/DPA 12 School Hill Raise Roof and Extend over Single Story and Garage

The Council considered this application and made no objection.

Cllr Thomas returned to the meeting

14. Finance:

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

101317	Clerk – November Salary and Expenses	283.70
100318	Besthost – Website	17.25
100320	CBC Planning Application Village Hall	1,247.50

b) Receipts

None

c) SUMMARY OF BALANCES

National Savings	55,237.57
Business Reserve	166.31

Community Account	8,888.53
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Less Allocation for Village Hall	49,560.50
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Total:	<u>14,731.91</u>
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d) The Council unanimously **approved** the bank reconciliation which was then duly signed by the Chair.

e) 2016/17 BUDGET - The Council discussed the budget proposals for 2016/17 and **agreed** a figure of £6,606 less a Concurrent Expenditure Grant of £2,444 giving a precept figure of £4,162. This equates to an increase of 17.27 % from last year which was unusually high but this is because the precept had decreased by 11.5 % in the previous year due to a larger than normal carry forward.

Proposed Cllr Cole Seconded Cllr Hicks

f) An application to the Transparency Fund had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and a claim of £800 towards website set-up and running costs **agreed**.

15. Correspondence:

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

Northants Police Commissioner – Commissioner’s Awards / Making Northants the Safest Place to Live

NCALC – November / December Update

16. Business for next meeting:

Cllr Cross offered her apologies for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting on Tuesday 19th January 2016

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

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