

# MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

## *Minutes of the Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held in Middleton by Youlgrave Village Hall at 7:15pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

Present: Cllr Lisa Bingham, Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy (Chair), Cllr Pat Musgrave and Cllr Jamie Wigley

In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 4 members of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1279 Election of Chair

Cllr Dianne Jeremy was elected chair and signed the declaration of office

1280 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Jamie Wigley was elected Vice-Chair and signed the declaration of office

1281 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from – none required

1282 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1283 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1284 Public Speaking

Apologies received from DCCllr Simon Spencer and DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom PCSO Anthony Boswell attended and noted no crime and one incident of a non-stop road traffic accident. Current priorities are speeding and parking where there are solid centre lines – this village having neither and also on burglary concerns with advice on car shed and garage security. Derbyshire Alert sets the priorities but local issues are also targeted when concerns are raised.

Parishioners attended to express concerns over the planning which were reflected by councillors own concerns as below.

1285 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1286 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – none

1287 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: none

Applications returned: none

for discussion:– NP/DDD/0424/0352 2 Castle Cottage – proposed alterations and extensions

Council objects to this application as the works are out of keeping with the village Conservation Area with its proposed flat roof that will be highly visible and out of keeping with other buildings. The massing appears to double the footprint so is not subservient to the original build and the style of the building with its exposed timber features will be greatly affected by this proposal which is not sympathetic to the

structure of the 2 semi-detached cottages and detracts from their symmetry. Council considers that these proposals will detract from the aesthetic quality of the conservation area when viewed from all public access points in the village.

Other matters: none

#### 1288 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- potholes continue to be reported on the DCC portal <https://my.derbyshire.gov.uk/>  
The drain at the top of the dale continues to be of concern but the debris and slope of the Rake dictated that this will continually need unblocking after a major downpour.  
The footpath stile at Lowfields needs urgent action to stop cows getting out and the clerk will contact PROW.

#### 1289 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – dandelion seeds have got under the tarmac and are being individually removed. Bateman's Tomb – weeding is being carried out tomorrow. The commemorative trees appear in good condition. Rear of Village Hall – projects completed. Website – will be updated with audit information shortly
- b) Insurance renewal – the rear outbuildings and greenhouse have been added to the policy from mid March with no additional premium until renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June. However the policy has increased by £109 at renewal to cover for these assets. We are in year 2 of our 3 year agreement and Council is satisfied that Gallagher provide the best service for both Council and Trustees of the hall.
- c) Village Hall Management Committee report  
Village Market on 25<sup>th</sup> May – a great team of volunteers are in full swing preparing for this but Middleton Rocks on 1<sup>st</sup> June has had to be cancelled this year.
- d) Climate and Nature Group  
Risk assessments are being prepared for the communal greenhouse which is growing an impressive array of plants for the village market in support of the hall. The group is looking into ways to generate income to make themselves self supporting. Garden areas are all being maintained by the group – council expressed thanks for including the former mowing contract which volunteers will do after the snowdrops finish seeding. DCllr Mellstrom visited the group on 1<sup>st</sup> May to see the development of the space behind the village hall.  
Middleton Hedgehogs are out of hibernation but sadly an injured one was lost after a veterinary visit. Warning signs will be renewed.  
This year sees an Eco-church Initiative with a holly hedge started on the boundary and wood chippings donated for a path around the church.  
Council is submitting a grant application on behalf of the group to DDDC for watering cans and hedgehog houses to assist develop the group's aims.

#### 1290 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received.

#### 1291 Approval of Governance Statement

Council approved the Governance Statement for signature

#### 1292 Approval of Final accounts for audit and Exemption certificate

The accounts were audited earlier today with no matters arising.

Council approved the final accounts and exemption certificate for signature.

1293 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a)	Accounts for Payment		VAT
Dpayt	D Bacon strimming	£75.00	
Dpayt	J Aston domain	£14.00	
Dpayt	EMAS audit Services	£54.30	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (May salary)	£207.41	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£15.35	
Dpayt	Gallager Insurance (1 <sup>st</sup> June)	£951.51	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Jun salary)	£207.41	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£15.35	
Dpayt	Unity charges	£18.00	

Total £1558.33

(b)Income

Precept £4980.00      Deposit interest(Mar) £34.83      HMRC vat refund £1946.76

Unity Account                      £526.40                      after above      £5894.83  
Unity Instant access savings £4074.63                      £4109.46

1294 Date of next meeting - 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7:15pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates 2024: 11<sup>th</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup> November

2025: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> May

7:15pm remains the time for future meetings

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20 pm