

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 10th July 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 5 members of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1301 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from – Cllr Bigham apologised for late arrival during item 1304

1302 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1303 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1304 Public Speaking

Apologies received from DCllr Simon Spencer and PCSO Anthony Boswell. DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom attended and is still trying to get DDDC to keep our toilet block open all year round as per the conditions of the lease. Council impressed upon her the urgency to stop them being closed seasonally as walking occurs year round and many DofE and walking groups come through the village every week.

Parishioners attended to express concerns over the planning application which were reflected by councillors' own concerns as below. They are collecting signatures for a petition to be presented at the 9th August Planning Committee.

1305 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 8th May and 12th June 2024. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1306 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – none

1307 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 – additional information

Council received a letter on 2nd July asking for comment on the latest plans published since our second meeting on this application. It continues to object to this application on the same grounds as previously as the footprint has only been minimally reduced and there is still the loss of a first floor window changing the appearance. This unique pair of semi-detached houses designed by the estate for proportionately larger space than workers' cottages, given their status for the head gardener and gamekeeper, is highly regarded by the community. Their high visibility makes these proposals a significant loss to the character and historic status in the development of architecture within the conservation area of the village and the need to be preserved externally in their current layout. The desire of all parishioners attending the parish council meeting

and submitting comments on this amended application is to preserve the external appearance and current layout of this pair of cottages in their unique setting.

Currently we are informed that this application will go before the 9th August Planning Committee with applications to speak needing to be submitted once the agenda is published.

Other matters: none

1308 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- potholes continue to be reported on the DCC portal <https://my.derbyshire.gov.uk/>
PROW has authorised repair of the footpath stile at Lowfields with the landowner.
Potholes are a problem on The Rakes. The bridleway at Dark Lane is in need of clearance but has been notified direct to PROW. Yesterday's storm blocked the drain at the triangle.

1309 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – algae clearance from the protection surface is proving a success. Picnic benches need moving to the side near the memorial. Minor maintenance to walls is needed and the play tower showing aging. Bateman's Tomb – has been weeded and the commemorative trees need protection and clearing around. Council authorised an additional strim as only 4 were originally scheduled and the weather has affected growth. The kiosk door is extremely stiff and needs loosening – a new resident has offered Defibrillator use training.
- b) Village Hall Management Committee report
Village Market on 25th May was a great success and thanks given to the Parish Council for providing all the facilities at the rear of the hall that enabled the plant stall to be a major success. The AGM saw 4 new committee members join and the 16th July will set the programme of events for the rest of the year and beyond.
- c) Climate and Nature Group
Council's grant application to DDDC for watering cans and hedgehog houses was successful with two predator-proof shelters now in the church garden. Hedgehogs are thriving with numerous sightings and new warning signs have been put up. The planted public areas are attracting pollinators but less butterflies noted and work has commenced around the church. The Community Greenhouse is well-used with a rainwater harvester added to the water butts. More clearance of the stores and creation of composting bays are ongoing.

1310 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received. Cllr Jeremy has been signed up for Parishes Day 12th October

1311 2024 Financial Regulations

The revised regulations were approved and adopted by Council

1312 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a) Accounts for Payment			VAT
Dpayt	D Bacon strimming	£65.00	
Dpayt	J Aston domain	£102.00	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (July salary)	£207.41	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£15.35	

Dpayt	4mnth expenses	£36.42	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Aug salary)	£207.41	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£15.35	
Dpayt	Shillings Ltd – hedgehog	£79.98	£16.00

Total £744.92

(b)Income

Grant £195.00 Deposit interest(Jun) £28.18 VHMC £475.26

Unity Account £5894.83	after above	£5820.17
Unity Instant access savings £4109.46		£4137.64

1313 Date of next meeting - 11th September at 7:15pm in the Village Hall
 Forthcoming Dates 2024: 20th November

2025: 15th January, 12th March, 14th May

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:25 pm