

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 15th January 2025

Present: Cllr Lisa Bingham, Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy (Chair) and Cllr Pat Musgrave
In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 2 members of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1338 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from – Cllr Jamie Wigley

1339 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1340 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1341 Public Speaking

Apologies received from DC Cllr Simon Spencer

DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom noted the uncertainty already growing with the announcement that District Councils will be abolished which with the County Council also mulling over County/City changes may change the County Councillor elections. As we already have a mayor there may not be a fast track change from Government so increasing the uncertainties for recruitment retention and placing District in limbo for long term strategies. The carpark and toilets review is at 6pm on 27th January and registration to speak will close on 24th January. Our toilet block is mentioned for reopening year round due to needs of walkers and being in breach of the lease terms with its seasonal closures – footfall monitors will be used to justify the winter need. Council will send the chair to formally remind them of its need and anyone else can also book online to give evidence of this essential block.

PCSO Anthony Boswell noted one crime since the last meeting and the change in priorities for this period to Burglary due to a high incidence of shed crimes (mainly bikes) in Grindleford, Hathersage and Tideswell with Road safety and Parking remaining the highest priority in all other areas. He recommended bike register and labelling and reminded that all incidents need reporting to ensure a police presence.

1342 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 27th November 2024. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1342 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – none

1343 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: none

Applications returned: none

for discussion:- NP/DDD/1224/1400 Church Barns, Weaddow Lane - S.19 application for the variation of condition 2 on NP/DDD/1123/1336

Council supports the amendments proposed and retained features.

Other matters: none

1344 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- potholes continue to be reported on the DCC portal <https://my.derbyshire.gov.uk/>
No news on Roughwood Hollow seat. Grit bins will be checked for refills – it was noted that persons had been spotted at one bin stealing grit for personal use. The junction post still awaits direction fingers. Mud from October and recent weather events has still not been cleared from the footpaths by DDDC.

1345 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

a) Village Assets: website – our web designer can update the site to the latest Government compliance for £75 – Council resolved to carry this out.

Playground – tables now moved and assessment of moss will be carried out in the spring. Village noticeboard needs some tlc and weatherproofing as its swelled shut. Tomb strim pricing – agreed for 3 full and 2 interim path cuts for this season. Outbuildings – skip to be ordered.

b) Village Hall Management Committee report

Christmas events all took place and were a great success. Batemans Arms is on 8th February 6pm-midnight – all welcome. Planning is underway for the Market/Well dressing on 24th May and Middleton Rocks 7th June. A new email network reaching 85% of the village will go live next week. Councillors showed approval for the new picture of the square donated by Diane Kettle which will contrast the changes with the old view already on display.

c) Climate and Nature Group

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have approved £1000 grant for the wildlife garden around the church (£500 originally applied for and raised to £800 on request) as their trustees thought highly of the scheme. A proof will be created for the information boards. Snowdrops are imminently awaited in the borders. The PDNP Foundation Community Nature Fund is to be asked for a donation for wild rose hedging to the fence border of the path to Batemans Tomb.

d) Sites of Meaning 25th Anniversary update

Research underway and a report will be given to the next meeting.

1346 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received. PDNPA Planning training – the chair attended and found it a useful session. The powerpoint will be shared with other councillors

1347 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a)	Accounts for Payment		VAT
Dpayt	Bugle subs	£30.00	
Dpayt	ICO renewal	£35.00	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Jan salary)	£218.09	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£16.14	
Dpayt	Long Rake Spar grit	£118.86	23.77
Dpayt	PPPF 2024 subscription	£6.00	
Dpayt	J Aston 6m website	£108.00	
Ddr	Unity monthly charge x2	£13.20	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Feb salary)	£218.09	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£16.14	
	Total	£803.29	

(b) Income

Interest Dec £27.90

Unity Account £4452.36

Unity Instant access savings £4166.32

after above £3649.07

£4194.22

c) Precept for 2025/26 – DDDC revaluation decision

Resolved to set the precept at £5230 – A 3% increase or 4p per week per household from 1st April.

1348 Date of next meeting - 12th March at 7:15pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates 2025: 14th May, 16th July, 10th September, 19th November

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:15 pm