

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 14th January 2026

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

1416 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from –Cllr. Jamie Wigley

1417 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1418 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1419 Public Speaking

Apologies received from PCSO Anthony Boswell, DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom and County Councillor Nick Adams

1420 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 19th November 2025. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1421 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – mowing contract

1422 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: none

Applications returned: none

for discussion: NP/DDD/1125/1160 - Green Farm Church Barns

S.73 application for the removal or variation of condition 2 on NP/DDD/1123/1337

Noted that the variations are all internal and necessitated by structural needs so having no affect on external look and no comment is needed.

Other matters: none

1423 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- potholes continue to be reported on the DCC portal

<https://my.derbyshire.gov.uk/>

No news on the reinstallation of the steel bar at the Roughwood Hollow Seat FS-Case-641015726 or on FS-Case-698460247 Toilet direction sign request or Gulley clearance FS-Case-766184578 not being on their map – all to be chased with DCCllr Adams.

1424 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – thanks were expressed to Middleton Hall for the sweep of the playground. An illuminated sign has been donated and installed in the Open fronted building for use at events – thanks were given to Charles Monkhouse for it. The defibrillator kiosk project is still being investigated. All grit bins have been refilled and a pallet will be ordered this week. Thanks were expressed to Andy Wood for his thorough spreading of grit at Roughwood Hollow in the first freeze. It has been noted that a more regular gritting service appears to be operating but that the disjoint of

gritters coming from Asbourne to Middleton and the Youlgrave gritter turning around at the allotments makes the bus route to Middleton uncertain for the section between. Please remember to regularly use the public toilets in the winter to ensure they remain open year around for the many walkers.

Bateman's Tomb – rose hedging and shrub planting awaiting a weather break.

- b) Play equipment fundraising - still only one donation from Derbyshire Aggregates received to date. Several others are awaiting a decision but Trusts approached don't consider Parish Councils to be community groups. Agreed to approach Dowlow and Longcliffe and an offer was received from the Village Hall to make up the shortfall to get installed before Easter holidays.
- c) Village Hall Management Committee report
Last week's meeting noted the electrics in the hall and kitchen have been updated with the heaters becoming more effective. The uneven entrance ground is the next project if the tree roots can be accommodated safely. The next event is 31st January Bateman Arms with planning started for 23rd May Well dressing and market incorporating a vintage tractor display. Books have been donated by Diane Kettle for community use.
- d) Climate and Nature Group
Stone slabs have been donated to form a path to the information board and a bug/insect tower is almost complete. Memorial Garden has now been extended to accommodate the Peace roses and other new planting. The group is meeting weekly to maintain public areas and start preparing seeds for the Village Market. Further sweeps have been offered by Middleton Hall. Tree branch fall from the recent storms has been removed.

1425 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received. DALC – Clerk WHA covered. DCC Parishes Liaison 8th December – explained their one Unitary Authority proposal brings the City into one Derbyshire identity (Districts want 2 but can't decide the split) but it is up to Government to decide the outcome. Chair has attended Derbyshire Wildlife Trust presentation on reintroducing beavers and will be putting a display on information up in the Hall. She is attending the DALC online presentation on 21st January

1426 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a) Accounts for Payment		VAT
UB	HM Lovell (Jan salary)	£226.14
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.74
Ub	J Aston (6m website)	£114.00
Ub	HM Lovell (Feb salary)	£226.14
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.74
UB	Unity charges x 2	£12.00
	Total	£611.76
(b) Income		
Interest	£23.53	Play donations £0.00
Unity Account	£6664.10	after above £6052.34
Unity Instant access savings	£4269.40	£4292.93

1427 Date of next meeting - 11th March 2026 following the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7:15pm in the Village Hall
Forthcoming Dates 2026: 13th May, 8th July, 9th September, 11th November

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8: 10 pm