

MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held in Middleton by Youlgrave Village Hall at 8:10 pm on Wednesday 11th March 2026

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

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1428 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from – Cllr Helen Brocklehurst

1429 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1430 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1431 Public Speaking

None for the meeting. District and Police reports given to the preceding Annual Parish Meeting.

1432 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 14th January 2026. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1433 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded

1434 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: NP/DDD/0825/0869 Castle Farm - Proposed conversion of barn to ancillary living accommodation or holiday let – granted conditionally

Applications returned: none
for discussion: none

Other matters: none

1435 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 (21/3/25) or Gulley clearance FS-Case-766184578 not being on their map – all to be chased again with DCCllr Adams.

1436 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – a tree survey is being carried out tomorrow.
The defibrillator kiosk project is still being investigated to level up the kiosk. Pads expire in April so replacements will be ordered.
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 and bramble cut back ongoing.

- b) Play equipment fundraising – thanks were expressed to Breedon for their £1000 donation. The Village Hall committee agreed to donate at the last meeting and Council awaits the outcome of the tree survey to allocate any surplus to this project and will place an order.
- c) Village Hall Management Committee report
In the absence of the Chair and Secretary who sent apologies the report was given by Paul Jeremy who was thanked for providing teas and coffees to both meetings. Bateman's Arms was well supported and preparations are well underway for the Village Market on 23rd May and Middleton Rocks on 6th June. New members are needed for the committee. The Memorial for Diane Kettle is on 4th April in Youlgrave Church and Reading Room. She has bequeathed a 120 book reference collection and this library is being catalogued and storage sourced for a loan scheme to villagers to be launched in September.
- d) Climate and Nature Group
The group has used the grant to purchase a lawn mower for community project use. The greenhouse and Plant Nursery tables are fully stocked for the Village Market and daily attention is required for these. 3 peace roses have been planted in the enlarged Memorial Garden. Ground clearance has commenced on the Bateman Tomb pathway. Additional spring flowering plants have been added to the church garden where the hedgehogs are waking up so regular feeding has resumed.

1437 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received. DALC, PDNPA. Government consultation on Unitary authority boundaries – all are urged to comment. [Proposals for local government reorganisation in Derbyshire and Derby - GOV.UK](#)

1438 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a) Accounts for Payment			VAT
UB	HM Lovell (Mar salary)	£226.14	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.74	
Ub	Screwfix – mower	£305.00	61.00
Ub	HM Lovell (Apr salary)	£226.14	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.74	
Ub	4mth expenses	£21.00	
UB	Unity charges x 2	£12.00	
UB	Dalc subscription	£114.37	

Total £999.13

(b) Income

Interest £nil Play donations £1000.00

Unity Account £6052.34	after above	£6051.47
Unity Instant access savings £4269.40		£4292.93

1439 Date of next meeting - 13th May 2026 at 7:15pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates 2026: 8th July, 9th September, 18th November

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:26 pm