

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 13th May 2026

Present: Cllr Lisa Bingham, Cllr Helen Brocklehurst and Cllr Dianne Jeremy (Chair)

In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 2 members of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1440 Election of Chair

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

1441 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Lisa Bingham was elected Vice-Chair signed the declaration of office

1442 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from – Cllr Jamie Wigley Cllr Pat Musgrave

1443 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1445 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1446 Public Speaking

Apologies received from DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom and PCSO Anthony Boswell who noted one crime in this quarter of a stolen quad bike and an arrest having taken place.

1447 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11th March 2026. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1448 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded_– none

1449 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: none

Applications returned: none

for discussion:– NP/DDD/0426/0382 Section 73 variation of condition 2 n

NP/DDD/0824/0898 Stones Barn East Of Weaddow Lane

Council supports this variation as a practical alteration that will have minimal impact on the site as seen from the public highway.

Other matters: Appeal 6007791 – 16 The Square – no comment returned

1450 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- Drain on the Triangle blocked again – an update will be sent. Agreed to find a bar to sort the seat back at Roughwood Hollow as still no response from DCC

1451 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – annual inspection due. The play tower was refurbished on Thursday and Friday last week. Council thanked Breedon, Derbyshire Aggregates and the Village Hall for their large donations and a private donation also received and will

sort an appropriate plaque. The tree pollarding is due to take place on 22nd June. Works on site are recommencing so the wall repair is expected to be sorted out.

Bateman's Tomb – rose hedging and shrubs to improve the path up awaiting delivery. An interim report is being sent to PDNPA Foundation whose grant has enabled this project but due to ground conditions is taking our volunteers longer than anticipated and the mower is proving invaluable.

- b) Insurance renewal – Combined policy has seen a £52.46 increase on last year with a new 3 year agreement agreed by Council for renewal.
- c) Village Hall Management Committee report
Village Market on 23rd May – plans finalised. Middleton Rocks 6th June – in hand. A very positive meeting with Paul Jeremy taking over as Secretary.
The Parish Council thanked the VHC representatives for their generous £1450.00 donation to the play equipment refurbishment.
- d) Climate and Nature Group
No mow month was observed in April & first week in May and recommenced thereafter to prepare public areas for the Village Market.
Church Garden is growing well and the removal of the storage unit lets more light in but also exposes the car parking area so more thought to screening is to be given.
Preparations for the expanded Plants Stall area advanced – two trailers plus additional space for “garden gifts” are required this year. Fleece coverings have had to be utilised to protect young plants from frost in the greenhouse.
- e) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
Council concurred with the Village Hall members that this should be pursued and a liaison meeting set up. A village Co-ordinator needs appointing.

1452 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received. Clerk has attended WACG 2.2 briefing on minutes accessibility.

1453 Approval of Governance Statement and policy review

Council noted all policies published on the website have been reviewed and are up to date once the Accessibility Statement is amended. Council approved the Governance Statement for signature

1454 Approval of Final accounts for audit and Exemption certificate

The accounts have been Internally audited with no matters arising. The surplus is ringfenced to pay for the tree pollarding and our contribution to the play tower. Council approved the final accounts and exemption certificate for signature.

1455 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a) Accounts for Payment		VAT	
UB	D Bacon strimming	£75.00	
UB	EM audit Services	£64.50	
UB	HM Lovell (May salary)	£226.14	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.74	
UB	Play Safety inspection	£83.00	£16.60
UB	Gallagher Insurance (1 st June)	£1031.70	
UB	HM Lovell (Jun salary)	£226.14	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.74	
UB	Unity charges x 2	£14.00	
UB	Premier Play Solutions	£3800.00	760.00

UB	D Bacon 2 nd Strim	£65.00	
UB	Derwent Treescapes – BT planting	£748.90	149.78

Total	£7294.24
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(b)Income

Precept £5452.00	Deposit interest(Mar) £22.14	Vat refund £198.48
Play donation MVH £1450.00	OStephenson £150.00	MVH Insure £515.85

Unity Account £5990.92	after above	£6463.01
Unity Instant access savings £4292.93		£4315.07

1456 Date of next meeting - 8th July at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates: 9th September, 18th November 2027: 20th January, 11th March, 13th May

All future meetings will commence at 7:30pm

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8: 30 pm