

MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held in Middleton by Youlgrave Village Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th July 2026

Present: Cllr Lisa Bingham, Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy (Chair) and Cllr Pat Musgrave
In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 1 member of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1469 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Lisa Bingham for late arrival at item 1476

1470 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1471 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1472 Public Speaking

Apologies received from PCSO Anthony Boswell and DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom
Concerns were raised about visitors flying drones and the intrusive behaviour as well as fears of scoping the area for farm equipment will be passed to our PCSO for guidance.

1473 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 July 2026. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1474 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded_– none

1475 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: none

Applications returned: none

for discussion:– NP/DDD/0826/0780 Stones Barn – S.73 application for variation of condition 2 on NP/DDD/0824/0898

No comments returned as this variation will be officer decided.

Other matters: none

1476 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- The drain at the top of the dale is blocked again and has been reported and copied to our County Councillor as this gulley is still not marked on their system despite our frequent requests. Road to junction at Long Rake had 3 small potholes repaired and will again be requested for a resurface.

1477 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – plaque fixed adjacent to the play equipment - Sponsors to be contacted. Multiplay rope bandage purchased and fixed over bare wires. Dog fouling signs have been removed from posts and will be reordered from DDDC. CNG were thanked for clearing significant weeds on our land behind the village hall and the deterioration of the surface noted and their continued cleaning of the playground.

Bateman's Tomb – trees and shrubs will be planted in the dormant season and the CNG were thanked for weeding inside the railings.

b) Village Hall Management Committee report

Bateman Arms was very successful and preparations are underway for Harvest supper. The purchase of the Village Hall was last raised by Council in 2021 with DDDC Solicitors advising that Compulsory purchase was at least a five figure option. The VHC wish to look for more advice on this and the clerk will ask DDDC if there has been any Community Asset legislation brought in since and PDNPA about their "Right of Occupancy" clauses. VHC will look into costs for specialist advice.

c) Climate and Nature Group

Greenhouse being cleared and cleaned for next season. The Church Garden is well looked after with options for raised beds being considered. The herb garden planters have been emptied and refilled and surrounds prepared for spring bulbs with a new collection ordered. The Group thanks their anonymous sponsor and a new £25 monthly grant from the VHC to help with the costs of the community group's work.

d) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Police Co-ordinator is chasing up the grant and will be in contact shortly.

1478 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received. Chair is attending Dalc Day on 16th. The PDNPA Plan has come out for final consultation and no further comments were noted. Cllr Jeremy was thanked for spending 3 hours at PDNPA wading through the document as PDNPA refused to send out printed copies. She noted that it was an interesting read but very vague in commitments and that as a Regulation 19 request did not appear to be open to further changes.

1479 Finance

Resolved to approve the NALC payrise of 3.30% from 1st April and approve the following:

(a) Accounts for Payment			VAT
Cheque No	Payee	net	vat
UB	D Bacon strimming	£75.00	
UB	Online Playgrounds	£32.90	6.58
UB	AR Signs	£43.50	8.70
UB	HM Lovell (Sep salary)	£270.77	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£20.04	
UB	HM Lovell (Oct salary)	£233.58	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£17.29	
UB	Unity charges x 2	£14.00	

Total £722.36

(b) Income

StantoniPPC 16.45

Unity Account £4489.62	after above £3783.71
Unity Instant access savings £4336.05	£4336.05

1480 Date of next meeting - 18th November at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates:, 2027: 20th January, 11th March, 13th May

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

1481 The Clerk is stepping down at Christmas after 15 ½ years service.

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