

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 7.00pm. at Middleton village hall, School Road, Middleton

	<p>Present Cllr Wiles Van-Dyke, Applegate, Barclay, Newton, Porter, Rose, Ward, Gibson</p> <p>Locum Clerk Cllr J Moriarty BCKLWN</p>	
1	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr Barclay BCKLWN Cllr Nash BKLWN</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of interest or dispensation requests Cllr will declare any interest in any item on the agenda and request dispensation on any item the Council may consider.</p> <p>Cllr Wiles Van-Dyke declared an interested in the monthly accounts, item 14.1, as his partner is mentioned in them.</p>	
3	<p>Update on Traveller sites Cllr Wiles-Van Dyke read the following statement, in order to clarify the Parish Council's position:- As chair of the Middleton Parish Council, I feel it is important and imperative to clarify the situation around the proposed traveller sites in Middleton parish. In fact, there has been a lot of unnecessary worry, concern and discussion in the village, after our last Parish Council meeting, where it was reported there were several sites under consideration for use as travellers' sites. This was incorrect information. What had happened was one site had been submitted by a landowner, after the Borough Council requested any sites, which may be suitable for assessment as traveller sites, be put forward. The Borough Council, after appraising this site, found it was not suitable and did not put it forward for consultation, this was referred to as site E. The consultation document that was referred to at the Parish Council meeting did not consist of any sites in Middleton, for consideration. The sites that were referred to, in the widely distributed leaflet, were sites that had been put forward by the landowner too late to be to be appraised by the Borough Council, so therefore could not go forward to consultation. Sites that have not been consulted on properly cannot get through the process and so for the time being there are no sites allocated or proposed for Middleton and or Blackborough End. Looking forward. if any sites are appraised by the Borough Council and deemed to be suitable, even with mitigation, then they will have to go to a full consultation, which will give the Parish Council and indeed all residents the chance to put forward their comments and responses. To reiterate, as it stands at the moment, there is no consultation on any traveller sites in Middleton parish. If by any chance, the sites do come up for consultation then at that point you will be invited to have your say and indeed the Parish Council would put forward their opinions. Be assured the Parish Council will be monitoring this and will keep a very close eye on any future developments. They will also be asking our Borough Councillors to report when and if any consultations on this issue are coming up or due. So just to reiterate there is no need to put any further comments in because we cannot comment on something that does not exist, but we will keep an eye on it, and we will advise accordingly if there is any consultation in the future. He explained that the PC was not complacent or blind and had investigated the issue fully,</p>	
4	<p>Meeting to be suspended for 15 minute open forum Before this section the Chair reiterated that this is the only option for members of the public to speak, and interruptions after this time would not be accepted</p>	

	<p>Cllr Moriarity confirmed that any new site would need to have a needs assessment and that the consultation on other sites may occur after the initial consultation finishes on 8 March. There will be a full consultation on preferred sites. He confirmed that later sites had been put forward and came in as smaller sites. Cllr Moriarity stated that his understanding was that Luke Brown who is a consultant posted on FB before the last meeting which did alarm people.</p> <p>Members of the public stated they should stick to their guns and can not be complacent as decisions can be overridden by different appeals. It was confirmed that officers have been made aware of the feeling of the P C although after the last meeting there was some confusion.</p> <p>Cllr Moriarty did agree that the PC is correct and that other sites may be considered in the future.</p> <p>Cllr Moriarity confirmed that responses are not obligatory at this point and if a site comes forward that is the time to put in comments.</p> <p>Various Cllrs tried to reassure the public and repeat the advice already given.</p>	
5	<p>Borough/County Councillor question time.</p> <p>The Chair asked that reports given should be relevant to Middleton Parish Council rather than individual points and standard committee reports.</p> <p>Cllr Moriarity gave a report, main points as follows He reported on BC activities as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCKLWN have had two sets of meetings with Parish Councils. • They want to work with PC's and now have a dedicated line for PC enquiries. • A template and advice had been circulated to PC's in March • BCKLWN is working with NALC on governance issues • A hub for PC's has been set up with links and information • Documents are available regarding freedom of information. • There is an online forum with the monitoring officer available for help • There will be a training event on the code of conduct • Need to fund an officer to take this further <p>County Council events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled residents will now have free bus pass in the county, previously this was only in off peak. • There is going to be changes to waste regulations. DIY waste recycling will be allowed in the future although an eye will be kept on how many visits are made. • Additional bags will be at a charge <p>Cllr Porter reported he sent an email about the Tuesday bus service and it was confirmed that this had not been received by Cllr Moriarity</p>	
6	<p>Minutes as follows for approval.</p> <p>6.1 Parish Council meeting 7 February 2024 On a proposal from Cllr Rose, seconded by Cllr Porter these mins were approved as a true record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.</p>	
7	<p>Matters arising from the mins</p> <p>7.1 Update on defib We have been in touch with Aero medical to reorder supplies for the defib and very kindly they have donated the battery pack and sensors. They will install it this week. The village hall committee have kindly agreed to add it to their check list and we have had confirmation from our insurance company that it is covered, Aero medical will register it.</p> <p>7.2 Update on the dyke maintenance at the allotment site, following a site visit Cllr Ward reported that she had visited the site and saw a lump of tree was blocking the dyke, she got two workmen to help drag it out and it is clear now. She reported that when it dries out it will need digging out manually and it was agreed to relook at this in better weather.</p>	

	Cllr Ward agreed that she will keep an eye on this, liaise with the neighbours and inform the Parish Council in due course.	
8	Allotments 8.1 Enforcement Action (receive an update) No further information at this time but Cllr Newton reported there is still a mound on the left. It was agreed that this had been promised to be moved after Christmas but is still there. A site visit will be arranged and a report made at the next meeting. 8.2 Any general issues No further issues	
9	Playing field 9.1 To discuss the play area report It was reported that the report had not shown any serious problems. It was agreed that when the warmer weather is here the PC will assess the area in conjunction with the report 9.1 Any general issues Cllr Rose reported that there is a lot of dog mess in the middle of the field, it was agreed to see if we could obtain some no dog fouling signs	Research no dog fouling signs
10	Other Parish land 10 .1 Any general issues No further issues	
11	Highways – the Council will consider any highways issued. It was reported that lorries at both ends of the village are ignoring the weight restriction. It was felt that the road being blocked at Wormegay, was resulting in more traffic in the village, Water Lane issues It was reported that NCC can only offer the flashing signs at the top of Water Lane, due to lack of light an electricity supply will be needed along with a no entry sign Cllr Moriarity stated that NCC have a budget of £10,000 and an extra £7,000 is needed. The PC had said they would take whatever was offered.	Next months agenda
12	To discuss any correspondence received since last meeting. NALC Newsletter Norfolk Parish Movement against offshore Transmission Network National Highways A47 roadworks Stay connected to West Norfolk BCKLWN Planning applications and decisions NCC Water Lane issues	
13	Planning 13.1 Any applications to consider. None to report 13.2 Any decisions received from BCKLWN. None to report	
14	Finance 14.1 To agree bills for payment. On a proposal from Cllr Applegate, seconded by Cllr Rose the payments were approved, as attached. Unanimously agreed. 14.4 To further discuss signatories for the bank. To be discussed at a later date	
15	To discuss vacancies on the Parish Council, Councillors and Parish Clerk Admin Assistant to Clerk The statutory notices are on display for the Parish Councillor vacancies and it was agreed to advertise the Admin job.	
16	Items to report for future agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Site meeting at allotments • Dog poo signs 	
17	Dates of next meeting and dates for the year 3 April 2024 Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish Meeting.	

Signed.....Cllr Wiles Van-Dyke

Date.....

