

# MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

## *Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held using Zoom at 8:15pm on Wednesday 15th July 2020*

Present: Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy, Cllr David Mallaband, Cllr Pat Musgrave and Cllr James Wigley (Chairing meeting due to poor rural broadband to outlying farms)

In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 0 members of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

944 To receive apologies for absence  
No apologies necessary

945 Variation of order of business and time constrained items  
No variations or time constrained items to add.

946 Declarations of Members Interests  
No declarations required

947 Public Speaking  
Apologies received from DCCllr Simon Spencer, District Councillor Graham Elliott, PDNPA Member Andrew McCloy and PCSO Ben Morris (who took over this patch yesterday)

948 As per Standing Order 26a and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, Council resolved to adopt the following changes to Standing Orders until May 2021 or such time as the government revises or revokes the legislation: 3i, 3s; 5b,d and e; 17e – as per wording in the document for adoption already circulated.

949 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting  
RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

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

951 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters  
Decisions received: None

PDNPA Related: Church Barn conversion to 3 holiday lets enquiry – the information was supplied by the builders to the concerned parishioner.

952 Footpaths and Highways and related issues  
No general issues currently.

Reclassification of Whitfield Lane to a Restricted Byeway - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981  
Council note that this lane is essential for the farms and their visitors and suppliers that need road access and downgrading this would harm their viability. Council sees no need to alter the status as the road will still require maintaining to serve these outlying residents of our parish. Our communications with the residents indicate that they are happy with the current status and their rights of access and do not wish to see any alteration that would reduce the standard of the highway surface.

953 Report of the Clerk:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – opened at own risk to wipe down before use per notice on the gate. DDDC Toilets – these are now opened 9:30am to 5:30pm and cleaned 4x a day. The hand dryers are being reactivated this week based on Government advice.

b) Batemans Tomb Grant Works

The Land Registry boundary to the Tomb path was discovered to be inaccurate and a 1919 OS map has confirmed this. The boundary has been returned to its historic route and thanks were expressed to Cllr Musgrave for organising this which will be carried out as soon as the weather allows. Clerk to write to confirm the closure of this matter on completion of works.

A query about the use of timber fencing was noted but it was pointed out that the field section of the path lies outside both the Conservation Area and English Heritage Listed area and the fence materials were chosen to match the already existing fencing outside the tomb outer boundary. The next steps on this will need PDNPA input and grants as it is the tomb that needs work for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

c) Village Hall Management Committee report

All events were cancelled due to Covid. The current plan is to carry the Risk Assessments for Covid reopening requirements during August with a meeting/agm in early September and plan for 2021 events. Hire to children's groups may be possible but not for parties.

d) Village Hall next steps

Greencroft Farm – a conversation on site gives cause for optimism.

DDDC solicitors have been contacted and copied in on the attempts since 1996 to gain title to the hall. They have offered to look into whether a case for compulsory purchase exists. It was agreed to wait to see what DDDC can offer as keeping the hall is still the best solution.

e) PDNPA Residential Annexes review

Lots of examples in the document but nothing appears black and white was the first impression. Is this document intended to make decisions simpler or harder?

f) Climate Change

Cllr Diane Jeremy – our Climate Champion reported on the zoom meeting and the growing number of opportunities to get involved. Council agreed that a small focus group should be set up to look into how best to pick up on local initiatives with interested parties invited to meet before our September Council meeting so any ideas could be brought forward then.

g) Website Accessibility Regulations

This legislation slipped through in September 2018 requiring all councils to make a statement of their compatibility by 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. Our designer has assessed that the costed time taken to convert our village website would amount to £520 (though he would only charge £260). Council agreed to await the Dalc advice as for a small parish the costs of compliance are disproportionate. A statement will be published before the deadline.

954 Approval for Chair to sign the Annual Governance Statement

Council resolved that they had followed Good practice and authorised the Chair to sign.

955 Approval of Accounts for audit for signature

Council resolved to approve the chair to sign the accounting statement and exemption certificate.

956 Finance

(a)	Accounts for Payment		VAT
Dpayt	HM Lovell (May salary)	£127.59	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£9.44	
Dpayt	Came&Company Insurance renewal	£868.59	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (June salary)	£127.59	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£9.44	
Dpayt	ROSPA Playsafety (June)	£68.50	£13.70
Dd	Unity bank charge (June)	£18.00	
Dpayt	J Aston 6mth website	£81.00	
Dpayt	B Wood internal audit	£25.00	
300119	J Simpson maintenance to June	£202.00	

Dpayt	HM Lovell (July salary)	£127.59
Direct debit	NEST (July)	£9.44
Dpayt	HM Lovell (expenses)	£11.77
Dpayt	HM Lovell (August salary)	£127.59
Dpayt	HM Lovell (arrears sal)	£15.94
Direct debit	NEST (August)	£10.62
	Total	£1853.80

(b)Income

Precept £4000.00 VHMC Insurance £549.38  
Deposit Interest (March) £10.66 (June) £7.82

(a) Budget Appraisal/Risk Assessment

Unity Account £511.49	after above	£3207.07
Unity Instant access savings £7832.30		£7850.78

943 Date of next meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> September at 8:15pm in the Village Hall (unless Covid 19 requirements still in force)

Forthcoming Dates: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021: 13<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> March (APM), 12<sup>th</sup> May

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

944 Clerk – it was agreed to award a 2 ½ % pay rise (backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April) and adjust when the National agreement is finally agreed (2 ¾% proposed)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:17 pm