

MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held in Middleton Village hall under Covid conditions at 8:15pm on Wednesday 16th September 2020

Present: Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy, Cllr David Mallaband (Chair), Cllr Pat Musgrave and Cllr James Wigley In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 4 members of the Public - Hall capacity for Covid 12 persons maximum adhering to the Village Hall Risk Assessment.

Part 1 Non-confidential items

959 To receive apologies for absence
No apologies necessary

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

961 Declarations of Members Interests
Declarations were made by Cllr J Wigley as applicant for the 0753 who left the meeting while council debated and decided their response. Cllr D Jeremy declared a perceived pecuniary interest as her property lies near 0713 and abstained from the debate and decision.

962 Public Speaking
Apologies received from DCCllr Simon Spencer, District Councillor Graham Elliott, PDNPA Member Andrew McCloy and PCSO Ben Morris

All present gave their views on the planning application with a representative from Fisher German outlining the areas considered against PDNPA Policy and the remaining supportive submissions sent up to this meeting to the Peak Park being read out in full. All present were given an opportunity to speak and debate the issues.

963 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 15th July 2020. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

964 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – NALC/SLCC Pay award

965 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters
Decisions received: None
Applications for discussion: NP/DDD/0820/0713 Erection of an agricultural barn for the housing of livestock and storage – land near to Dale Farm

Council supports this application to allow a fourth generation resident farming parishioner to secure and expand his livelihood on land owned by his family. Farming is the central core of the village existence and the siting of farm buildings within and adjacent to its Conservation Area part of its history as a working village.

Council is aware of the regulation difficulties that supporting this application may cause but would draw planners attention to its Community Aspirations in the Parish Statement, foremost of which is "To remain a rural focused community maintaining its local population, welcoming families not second homes and looking to conserve its historic legacy."

Council considers that this application meets our core values and would therefore ask that this application be brought to the Planning Committee for decision.

NP/DDD/0820/0753 Retrospective permission for change of use from agricultural land to a Caravan site (10 pitches)

Council supports this application which gives a working farm an extended income stream to help keep sustainable. It welcomes the provision for native species screening.

PDNPA Related: Church Barn conversion to 3 holiday lets enquiry – PDNPA is satisfied that works are as permitted.

966 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

No general issues currently. Another Dog bin notice was requested.

Reclassification of Whitfield Lane to a Restricted Byway - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Submission sent, the decision usually takes months and may go to Enquiry.

967 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – no issues reported; The playground official title (per the Open Spaces Act transfer deed) is "The Memorial Site" however no background to this title is given and the memorial garden adjoining is not part of this transfer.
The bench has had the second plaque installed but no contact or donation received yet and this will be chased up.
Website crashed this morning and is as yet not running. Noted that the Website front page needs updating and that alterations to the website are only to be carried out to pages authorised.
The Defibrillator will next require pads at the end of 2021 and its battery life is due to expire in January 2024 – which is the assumed end of life for the unit – clerk to check.
- b) Batemans Tomb Grant Works
The next steps on this will need PDNPA input and grants as it is the tomb that needs work for the 200th anniversary. Paul Jeremy agreed to front the celebrations and history projects and liaise with the Clerk regarding as to who contacts interested parties connected with the Tomb. Land registry needs to be approached to register the correct boundaries of the tomb.
- c) Village Hall Management Committee report
The AGM last week decided that there will be no Harvest or Christmas events due to Covid. A meeting will be held in January to see if conditions allow Batemans Arms but all focus for now will be on the 29th May Village Market as this is crucial to finances. A village event may be organised when the end of Covid is recognised to celebrate this. Only small group meetings will be allowed in the hall. The committee welcomed a new member. Ideas for Bateman celebrations include an exhibition in the hall, liaison with and a trip to Weston Park Museum, a Bateman trail leaflet, information boards and a project to record now to compare with 200 years ago.
- d) Village Hall next steps
Greencroft Farm – a conversation on site gives cause for optimism for this option.
DDDC solicitors – no response yet, clerk is chasing and a separate meeting may be called.
Structural deterioration to a door and windows will be brought to the next meeting for a joint agreement as to what essential measures need doing before this winter and who should deal with them.
- e) DDDC – weed killing proposals
It was agreed that for now the schedule should remain at three per year.
- f) Revised PDNPA Statement
Agreed that no further changes are required.
- g) Climate Change Meeting actions
Cllr Diane Jeremy hosted a small group meeting who have challenged Council to look into several initial ideas:

- a) The management of Bradford Dale and the worries of Ash Dieback. Council agreed that Jan Hobot the Haddon River Warden's offer for a River Walk be accepted.
- b) Water quality and sewage- smells leading to the dale are a concern in heavy weather – Council will query with Severn Trent.
- c) Air Quality – is it possible for this to be monitored – Cllr Musgrave may have contacts and will look into this.
- d) Wildflower and tree planting – can council land be used for this. Council agreed that a survey of suitable areas should be done and encourage saplings to be planted to replace the ash. It would encourage any of the parish land owners to plant trees to assist this.

The group wishes to involve children and local schools and wishes to look into how initiatives can be locally put into practice to educate everyone on their contributions to sustainability. An information board would be useful and another idea was to approach the church to put a seat and develop a nature area in its grounds.

h) Ward Boundary Changes

Resolved to respond: The parish lies in the Peak District National Park and is a farming community. It considers that any boundary changes need to combine like parishes in order to ensure representation reflects village issues and the area in which we live and work. Combinations including towns and outside the National Park boundary should be avoided wherever possible.

i) Website Accessibility Statement

The Statement will be on our website (if active) by 23rd September 2020. Council agreed to ask our designer to convert our village website for £260 as Dalc advice is that whilst the costs of compliance are disproportionate it will have to be done eventually. A statement will be published before the deadline.

968 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment			VAT
Dpayt	HM Lovell (September salary)	£132.75	
Direct debit	NEST (September)	£9.82	
Dpayt	Unity charges	£18.00	
Dpayt	HM Lovell (monthly salary)	£131.11	
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£9.70	
Dpayt	Haddon Landscapes May/Sept tomb	£60.00	
Dpayt	McAfee renewal	£9.99	
Total		£371.37	

(b) Income

Vat refund £572.46

(a) Budget Appraisal/Risk Assessment

Unity Account £3207.07	after above	£3408.16
Unity Instant access savings £7850.78		£7850.78

969 Date of next meeting – 11th November at 8:15pm in the Village Hall (unless Covid 19 requirements back in force)

Forthcoming Dates 2021: 13th January, 10th March (APM), 12th May

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

970 Clerk – it was agreed to increase the 2 ½ % pay rise (backdated to 1st April) to the Nationally agreed 2 ¾ %

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:30 pm