

MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held under Covid conditions in Middleton by Youlgrave Village Hall at 8:15pm on Wednesday 19th May 2021

Present: Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy, Cllr David Mallaband (Chair), Cllr James Wigley

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

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1007 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Pat Musgrave

1008 Election of Chair

There were no takers for this post and Cllr Mallaband agreed to chair this meeting only to allow business to take place. An election will be held at the July meeting.

1009 Election of Vice-Chair

To be decided at the next meeting

1010 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items

1011 Declarations of Members Interests

No declarations required

1012 Public Speaking

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

1013 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 10th March 2021. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1014 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – none

1015 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: NP/DDD/0221/0193 (0194 Listed) Castle Farm – proposed installation of outdoor swimming pool and conversion of ground floor barns to changing rooms – granted conditionally

NP/DDD/1020/1005 Upper Oldhams – barn conversions – granted conditionally

Applications for discussion: none

Appeal APP/M9496/W/ 21/3270501 Land near to Dale Farm – Erection of Agricultural Building

Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council wishes to endorse its support for the application. The applicant is from a multi generation farming family in this agricultural community and the community, as noted by all the letters of support submitted by our parishioners, supports his wish to farm on family-owned land. We understand that the land with buildings currently leased by him has less than five years to run and there is no indication of renewal. This farming village has several working farm buildings sited within the conservation area - which this application lies outside of, though access and visibility is through the conservation area - as other farms have. Working farm buildings lie in view of many properties in the village and one more will make little impact on this. Council regrets missing its opportunity to speak in planning committee as it feels its views might have swayed the abstainers in a positive way. The Parish Council wishes to see the legacy of farming continue to thrive in our rural community.

1016 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

Reclassification of Whitfield Lane to a Restricted Byway – no news

Green Lane – no response received but some potholes have recently been filled.

The junction onto Long Rake is again in a pothole avoidance state and will be reported F815271 Stiles – deferred to next meeting for clarification. A roadsweeper has recently passed through the village.

1017 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – the wall repair is to be carried out shortly as the inspection is due. The goalposts will be rubbed down and painted.
Prices are to be sought for the trees before any decisions are made. The owner of the ash tree is being contacted and a price for the wall repair sought.
Thanks were expressed to the team who have cleared all the ivy and tidied up the picnic area and removed all the garden waste.
Website – some minor modifications to presentation for accessibility have been tweaked.
A discussion on memorial plaques proposed that the large gritstone block on the edge of the picnic area might be a suitable place for those wishing to provide plaques as the benches are all dedicated in their own commemorations.
- b) Bateman 200th Anniversary Year
Clerk has applied for a PDNPA grant for the village square noticeboard and is awaiting confirmation. The Finger post is being delivered shortly and copy for the boards needs chasing.
- c) Village Hall Management Committee report
The hall remains closed until the assessment of events is carried out. The AGM is to be held on 22nd June – hopefully the day after release from phase 4 Covid plan. An outdoor event for the families of children keen to do individual well boards is being held the day before our Well Dressing would go up and their contributions will be displayed this year on the theme of Water.
- d) Village Hall next steps
Greencroft Farm/Church – interest to be maintained.
DDDC solicitors – have responded to note a minimum fee and contested maximum but further clarification is being sought as we need to understand the whole process and costs.
The structural repairs to door and window await further quotes as the only one received needs comparison.
- e) Climate Change Group
Currently 11 members and the big clearance of Ivy has been the focus. The sunflower seedlings and seed bombs are being distributed to the children of the community hopefully this weekend. The borders outside the playground are the next task with the dead fir tree being removed which will give better space for the Christmas light tree. An offer of a commemorative planter was discussed and PDNPA will be asked for details on current tree planting schemes.

1018 Response to Email of 23rd March

Council noted a previous reply had been given to the emails prior to this and instructed the clerk to respond. The clerk will ensure the correct wording is used by consulting DALC in order to conclude this matter.

1019 Bateman's Tomb grant repairs

We have been promised a quote including for a spec for volunteers to paint the railings. This is for the PDNPA agreed initial repairs on the tomb gate and fix the urn in position and sprucing up ready for the 200th, however it had not arrived in time for the meeting. A working party to sort the area out will be organised at the next meeting.

1020 Dalc information and other e-communications

No specific items were raised

1021 Approval of Governance Statement

Council approved the Governance Statement for signature

1022 Approval of Final accounts for audit and Exemption certificate

Council approved the final accounts and exemption certificate for signature.

1023 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment		VAT
Dpayt	HM Lovell (May salary)	£131.11
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£9.70
Dpayt	BHIB Insurance	£672.00
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Jun salary)	£131.11
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	£9.70
Dpayt	Unity charges	£18.00
Total		£971.62
(b) Income		
Precept £4000.00		

(a) Budget Appraisal/Risk Assessment	
Unity Account £2088.85	after above £5117.23
Unity Instant access savings £7850.78	£7850.78

1024 Date of next meeting – 14th July at 8:15pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates: 15th September, 10th November

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION - none

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