

MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy and Cllr Pat Musgrave

In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 1 member of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1040 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr David Mallaband

1041 Election of Chair

Cllr Pat Musgrave agreed to chair this meeting only to allow business to take place. An election will be held at the next meeting or councillors will chair future meetings by rotation.

1042 Election of Vice-Chair

Not held as no permanent chair.

1043 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1044 Declarations of Members Interests

No declarations required

1045 Public Speaking

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

1046 To confirm the Non-exempt minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 14th July 2021. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1047 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – none

1048 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: NP/DDD/0521/0558 – Mere Farm gateway – granted

APP/M9496/W/21/3270501: Dale Farm – erection of agricultural building - appeal upheld

Applications returned: none

for discussion: none

1049 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

Reclassification of Whitfield Lane to a Restricted Byway – no news. Rakes junction and road to Long Rake potholes not filled and filled ones rapidly wearing out again F854882

1050 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – the wall repair – needs the neighbouring property tree removing but due to overhead lines the landowner needs to be made aware. The inspection report notes the aging and decay of older equipment – Councillors agreed to meet in the playground to assess whether repair or grant seeking replacement was required. Recycled planter prices – information to be circulated. Website – no issues.

b) Bateman 200th Anniversary Year

PDNPA grant for second board secured but not received yet. An update on the programme has been circulated and it was agreed that publicity was needed and the website kept up to date. The October Bugle will outline the plans. The first board needs the better quality photos sending to the printer and producing. The PDNPA has been approached in case Planning consent is required and the plan is to place the lectern to the left of the path beyond the chapel – how close to the tomb will be determined by the planners though below the sight line of the tomb mound from the road suggested. It was agreed that the unveiling will take place at 2pm 7th November with tea provided in the Village Hall for all attending straight after – a mini Bateman exhibition on the new boards is being investigated.

c) Village Hall Management Committee report

The indoor display, window blinds and lighting improvements were complemented and the VPMC proposal to carry out the essential repairs to the structure using the restart grant were fully supported by council. A Right of Occupancy letter is being investigated as the planners can issue these for a fee ~£300(?) and if applicable to us Council readily supported the use of the grant to cover this as well.

An annual programme has been published with the second Bateman event being the Bateman Arms on 12th February. A Christmas outdoor mulled wine and carols is being considered for the square.

d) Village Hall next steps

Greencroft Farm/Church – interest to be maintained.

DDDC solicitors have issued an advice note on compulsory purchase. This shows that large sums may be incurred before a value is placed. It was noted that opinion recently received agrees that provided we keep up maintenance then the spirit of the lapsed lease continues and council agreed with the village hall that for now progress be frozen on claiming title. The restart grant has enabled repairs to be done without conditions that specific grants would have needed and gives a period of reflection. It is noted that a used and refreshed hall makes any challenge by the owners difficult especially as the community need is reinforced by this work and events held.

e) Climate Change Group

Big Green Week 18th – 25th September – the main event will be a litter pick around the parish and a small photo exhibition in the Village hall to celebrate Bee Friendly Middleton 2021. The DDDC Community Development Officer met the group and together agreed the degrading of soil and wildflower seeding of the island at the top of the dale. The works on the area in the square have seen planting of bulbs to maximise a spring display. These will be ongoing projects for 2022 with a community herb initiative for the planters being sought for the picnic area.

1051 Bateman's Tomb grant repairs

PDNPA have approved the painting specification from Marsh Bros who are being asked to supply the paint. The clearance of vegetation from Batemans tomb is being carried out next Tuesday. With only 7 weeks to go prices for professional painting will be sought over the next two weeks with a delegated email decision and if too costly the volunteer route will be further investigated and action taken to get the works done. Suggestions that steps are needed on the mound will be put to PDNPA for a decision.

1052 Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation

The start point is the creation of the Youlgrave District but in case there is any negative comment, individuals are encouraged to write their support for this new super district.

1053 Dalc information and other e-communications

PDNPA Parishes Day online is this weekend. PCSO Morris held a street meet but turnout was poor as the only advertising was on the noticeboard 2 days before the event. PCSO was encouraged to come to a PC meeting.

1054 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment		VAT
Dpayt	Haddon Landscapes	90.00
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Sept salary)	131.11
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	9.70
Ddr	Unity charges	18.00
Dpayt	HM Lovell (Oct salary)	131.11
Direct debit	NEST (monthly)	9.70
Dpayt	Mcafee renewal	10.99
Total		£400.61
(b)Income		

(a) Budget Appraisal/Risk Assessment	
Unity Account £4718.70	after above £4318.09
Unity Instant access savings £7850.78	£7850.78

1055 Date of next meeting – 10th November, at 8:15pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates: 2022: 12th January, 16th March (+APM), 11th May

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION - none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55 pm