

MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council held in Middleton by Youlgrave Village Hall at 7:15pm on Wednesday 16th July 2025

Present: Cllr Lisa Bingham, Cllr Helen Brocklehurst, Cllr Dianne Jeremy (Chair), Cllr Pat Musgrave and
In attendance: Matthew Lovell (Clerk) and 3 members of the Public

Part 1 Non-confidential items

1377 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from – Cllr Jamie Wigley

1378 Variation of order of business and time constrained items

No items for variation.

1379 Declarations of Members Interests

No interests were required.

1380 Public Speaking

Apologies received from DDDCllr Laura Mellstrom and PCSO Anthony Boswell.
Disappointment was expressed by a parishioner that the County Councillor has not yet attended a meeting especially with the month's road closure imminent that will have a major effect on rural life.

1381 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 May 2025. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

1382 To determine which if any from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded – none

1383 Planning decisions/applications received since last meeting & planning related matters

Decisions received: none

Applications returned: none

for discussion:– none

Other matters: none

1384 Footpaths and Highways and related issues

DCC- potholes continue to be reported on the DCC portal <https://my.derbyshire.gov.uk/>
No news on the reinstallation of the steel bar at the Roughwood Hollow Seat.

Alport Lane is to be closed from 6:30am Monday 28th July to 6pm Friday 6th September for tree felling from Shining Bank wood to Alport. Only the bank holiday weekend will be open from 6pm Friday 22nd August to 6:30am Tuesday 26th August. If the weather holds work should be completed sooner and the road will open as soon as it is safe to do so.

1385 Report of the Clerk/updates and Decisions:

- a) Village Assets: Playground – the wall repair awaits the owner's waller to complete.
Bateman's Tomb – grant for rose hedging and shrubs received and awaits planting season.
Rear of Village Hall – drain clearance awaits rains to assess if further work is needed.
- b) Play quotes – received but not as versatile as what we have so Clerk is meeting a company to quote to repair the existing as an alternative.

- c) Village Hall Management Committee report
Village Market and Middleton Rocks were a qualified success – the lack of rain made the Sheepwash a challenge for board soaking but local ingenuity prevailed. The nature theme was praised at the AGM. AGM for the Committee saw changes to officers with the 8 year Chair Paul Jeremy stepping down to the Bookings secretary role and Mark Sealey becoming Chairman and Donna Sealey – Secretary and a full committee to assist with Peter Worrall remaining Treasurer.
A full year of events will be published shortly.
- d) VJ Commemoration Sunday 31st August
A Parish Council Event run jointly with the Village Hall to use the fund from DDDC to commemorate the fallen and the end of the war was agreed for Sunday 31st August. The residents tea will be at 3:30pm with a small commemorative display based on the photos provided at the 50th anniversary including the Australian aircrew as well as the parish fallen. The Memorial Garden will be refreshed with Peace Rose bushes planted and the sign will be cleaned. The memorial church service will be on 7th September.
- e) Climate and Nature Group
The community greenhouse is open to residents again after the market and is full of flourishing tomato and other plants. An outside tap has been installed behind the hall. An information board is being ordered for the DWT church garden grant to complete the project after more trees and pruning of the existing. The hedgehogs are active again and the warning signs are being refreshed.
- f) DDDC PSPO consultation
A poster is on the board for a closing date for comments by 17th August. Please email pspo@derbyshiredales.gov.uk if you wish to comment individually.
The PSPO for dog exclusion from the War Memorial Playground will be renewed and Council supports the DDDC proposals to ban fires and BBQs from all Moorland areas.

1386 Dalc information and other e-communications

Latest bulletins received.

1387 Finance

Resolved to approve the following:

(a) Accounts for Payment			VAT
UB	J Aston 6 months	£114.00	
UB	D Bacon strimming	£75.00	
UB	HM Lovell (July salary)	£218.09	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.14	
Ub	HM Lovell 4mnth expenses	£25.05	
UB	HM Lovell (August salary)	£218.09	
Dirdebit	NEST (monthly)	£16.14	
UB	Unity charges x 2	£12.00	
Total		£694.51	

(b) Income

Interest £24.69 MVH Ins £489.72 PDF Grant £1025.00

Unity Account £6038.35	after above	£6858.56
Unity Instant access savings £4220.63		£4245.32

1388 Date of next meeting - 10th September at 7:15pm in the Village Hall

Forthcoming Dates:, 19th November 2026: 14th January, 11th March, 13th May

PART II – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:00 pm