

Middlezoy Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Middlezoy Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 18 June 2024 where the following business was decided and to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Present: Chairman Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Ian Campbell, Cllr Becky Turner, Cllr Barry Paffey, and Cllr Boulton. In attendance 3 Parishioners..

- 1. Apologies for absence and any declarations of interest in items on this agenda and dispensations granted** – County Cllr Martin, Cllr Grisman and Jim Murray the Clerk sent their apologies
- 2. Minutes of the meeting of 21st May 2024** – were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Paffey and seconded by Cllr Campbell.
- 3. Chairman's Report**
 - a)** There was a discussion about the state of Olivers Road. The chairman assured the meeting that the highways were aware of the problem but could not see a lot happening before the work by the Environment agency had been completed. He would ensure that the situation was monitored and the highways informed.
 - b)** Rob Blake and Chris East have been clearing some of the footpaths in Middlezoy. They have concentrated on the most central ones but there are actually 13 miles of footpaths. It was agreed that the chairman would get a map of all the paths and determine which ones were a priority to keep clear. He would then approach Chris East and Rob Blake and see what they would charge to maintain them. Cllr Boulton agreed to contact the Ramblers association as they sometime clear footpaths.
 - c)** The open bin in the playing field is being rummaged through by animals and there is subsequently waste on the playing field. It was agreed that the clerk would ask the County Council if we could have a closed bin. If we can't have an extra one, could the open one be replaced with a closed one?
 - d)** Our local LCN now has a new chairman who is the chairman of the Langport Town Council. At the meeting there was a consensus that Highways and Planning were key issues for Parish councils. It is hoped that these will be focused on at subsequent LCN meetings and representatives from these departments would be invited outline their proposals and answer questions and concerns. They may also discuss flooding and if so Ian Campbell would be invited to attend.
 - e)** There was a discussion about local community assets and the listing of important buildings. Cllr Turner and Cllr Campbell agreed to look at making the School a Local Community Asset. The chairman agreed to find some to look into the application for The George. The question was raised if the Heritage Society might be interested in looking at listing important local buildings.
 - f)** James Pring asked the chairman if the contract for grass cutting and hedge maintenance could be re-worded as if says that hedge trimmings and grass must be removed from the village. This is not possible for him as his yard is in Middlezoy and the use of a flaying machine means the hedge cuttings

are removed with the grass. The chairman agreed that the contract would be re-worded to say that the waste was removed appropriately.

4. **a) To receive any reports – Police – None. Somerset Council – None**

5. **Affordable Housing Needs Survey**

There is currently no update as there has been no communication with SHAL or Sommerfield.

6. **Planning – 53/24/00010/AGE Motor Cross Track and Driver Training**

There was a long discussion about this application as it was retrospective and despite there being many complaints from both Middlezoy and Westonzoyland the application says there weren't any. Cllr Paffey has done some research on national sights such as Silverstone and they have time limits eg 9am to 6pm and drive by decibel limits of 102 decibels. There also is a restriction of the number of days per year they could operate (believed to be 10). There has also been a fatal accident in the last couple of years and another serious one. It was agreed that Cllr Baker would contact Liz Parfit from Westonzoyland to get their views. It was decided to ask the Clerk to write to the planning department with our concerns and our proposals.

7. **FINANCE**

a) Clerk's Salary May 2024	£332.80
b) Clerk's PAYE May 2024	£83.20
c) Clerk's expenses May 2024	£58.45
d) Hire of hall – May x 2	£TBA
e) G Wagden James – April maintenance	£428.00
f) Reimbursement to Cllr baker re APM purchases	£22.45
g) SALC Cllr Training x 2	£40.00

All invoices include VAT where applicable.

Proposed by Cllr Turner and 2nd by Cllr Baker – all in favour

The above items will be paid by the clerk through the Parish Council's Unity Trust banking facility

Cllr Boulton to ask the clerk what training is available for newly appointed councillors.

8. **Middlezoy Community Project update** – The metal storage shed has been ordered and will come soon. The footings have been put down. The modular storage has been ordered but will take about 8 to 10 weeks before delivery. In the autumn the heating will be replaced by a new infrared system. The AGM has been postponed to 18 July because of the fete on 6 July.

9. **Cllrs matter of reports – Cllr Boulton** has been looking into the costings and various models for a new shelter at the skate park. She has reviewed 48 and will do a Powerpoint presentation at the next meeting. **Cllr Campbell** asked if a defibrillator could be obtained for Broadfield Park. The owners had been contacted. He will investigate grants and Mike Birk will look into what funds he has. He also tabled an application for a grant to be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 16 July starting at 7pm In the Village Hall