

Minutes of a meeting of Middlezoy Parish Meeting held at the village Hall on

Tuesday 21st January 2025, starting at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Paul Baker (Chairman); Ian Campbell; Barry Paffey; Becky Turner; Sophie Boulton; Mr D.Gliddon (Clerk) and two members of the public.

001/25 Public speaking on any agenda items

1. A resident asked whether there was any reason for the housing development being called Saxon Fields.
2. The community shop representative enquired whether PC funding was available to assist with the expansion plans. The Clerk will investigate when grant funding was last given to the shop.
3. A resident commented on the dogs being exercised on the playing fields.

002/25 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Matthew Martin sent his apologies which were accepted.

003/25 To approve the minutes from Tuesday December 17th, 2024

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Turner Seconded by Cllr Campbell

004/25 Chairman's report

Cllr Baker updated councillors on the following matters:

- Permission was granted for the installation of raised beds on the allotments
- The car park extension would cost in the region of £1,700 using plastic matting embedded into the grass & providing 8-10 additional spaces.
- The PC now has a contact at Summerfields Homes. The Clerk was asked to inform parishioners via social media that any questions regarding the site can be sent to the PC for passing on.
- Concern that SHAL who are, our preferred housing association, may not have the capacity to take on the development. If no housing association (Summerfield to look in to this) then Homes in Somerset, may have to take this on. This is part of Somerset council.

005/25 To receive reports from Police/County Cllrs

None received although Cllr Martin offered to follow up any issues that arise.

006/25 PLANNING

(a) 34/24/00007 – Location: 38 Main Road, Middlezoy, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0NJ

Proposal: Retrospective application for the conversion and extension of existing barns to a 3-bedroom bungalow, following part demolition and removal of open sided storage building.

It was noted that the above application has been granted permission.

(b) Application No: 34/24/00012

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Location: Land To the North Of, Olivers Road, Middlezoy, Bridgwater Coordinates:

Proposal: The erection of a 12.19m x 18.29m agricultural building for livestock and machinery storage purposes.

Cllrs unanimously agreed to SUPPORT this application with the following conditions as recommended by Environmental Health:

1. Lighting

All external lighting shall only directly illuminate the application site and shall be fully adjustable and shall be maintained as such thereafter.

Reason: To prevent excessive lighting and protect the residential amenity of occupiers in accordance with Policies D24 and D25 of the Sedgemoor Local Plan

2. Storage of Manure

The use hereby permitted shall not commence unless a written scheme for the containment and storage of manure has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such a scheme shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with the approval in perpetuity.

Reason: In the interests controlling odours and protecting residential amenity in accordance with Policies D24 and D25 of the Sedgemoor Local Plan

Councillors would also require this building only to be used for agricultural purposes.

007/25 To approve the purchase of new defibrillators for the Village

It was unanimously agreed to purchase a new defibrillator at a cost of £1,200 including VAT which would be reclaimed. The installation cost was likely to be in the region of £200.

008/25 Filling vacant councillor positions

There are currently vacancies for two councillors, but no candidates have yet been identified to be co-opted onto the Council.

009/25 Zurich Insurance schedule

We are currently in a Long-Term Agreement until 01/04/2025. The Clerk will then shop around for the best deal, which may continue to be Zurich.

010/25 Removal of signatory/administrator from Unity Bank

Councillors unanimously agreed to remove Jim Murray as administrator and John Grisman as a signatory. The forms were signed, and the Clerk will send to Unity Bank.

Cllr Turner is still having issues with logging on, and the Clerk will be sending a signed letter to authorise amendments to her contact details.

011/25 FINANCE

1. To approve the precept for 2025/26

It was unanimously agreed that the precept for 2025/26 would be £21,000 an increase of approximately 15% on the previous year. This will allow councillors to undertake any works that Somerset Council is unable to provide as well as inflationary pressures on our costs.

2. (a) Clerk's Salary (December 2024) £340.42
(b) Clerk's PAYE (December 2024) £85.20
(c) Clerk's expenses (December 2024) £48.80
(d) Middlezoy Community – Hall Hire £24.00
(e) Somerset Council – Annual lease of Playing Field £125.00
(f) Somerset Playing Fields Association – Annual Sub £15.00
(g) Paul Baker – Xmas Tree Removal £20.00
(h) G Wagen James – Parish Grounds Maintenance November £428.00 ; December £428.00
(i) Barry Paffey – Car Park Repairs £615.21

All invoices include VAT where applicable.

The Clerk was given permission to set up these payments on Unity Bank.

012/25 Middlezoy Community Project update

Cllr Baker gave an update on the Village Hall as follows:

- The Village Hall heaters and spots will be replaced this week – the current ones going to the Church.
- The second Saturday of the month will be set aside for VH fundraising activities to avoid clashes with other group functions
- It is hoped to have casino & horse racing fund raisers soon.
- The hall redecoration project will make use of a volunteer interior designer for suggestions.

013/25 Cllrs Matters of report

Cllr Turner ran through the locations of the six dog bins in the parish. It is believed that they are all the responsibility of Somerset Council & therefore we should not be charged. The Clerk will keep a watch on any future invoices that may arrive.

It was agreed that the next PC Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 18th with a limited agenda and will be focused on a meet & greet with the new local MP, Sir Ashley Fox. The Clerk will advertise the event on social media and hopefully a good turn out of parishioners will attend. (Note that the Clerk is unavailable for this date & Cllr Turner has kindly agreed to take notes.)

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Date of next meeting – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18th, 2025, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.