**MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE RECREATION ROOM**

**CHURCH LANE MIDDLETON**

**Date 6/4/2022**

**Present Councillors**

**Peter Rotherham (PR)**

**Cllr. James Beamish (JB) Vice-chair**

**Graham Smith (GS)**

**Peter Rawlins (PRw)**

**Quorum so meeting went ahead.**

1. **Apologies**

**Andy Jenns County Councillor (AJ) (prior meeting)**

**Mark Simpson Borough Councillor (MS) (Unwell)**

**Gill Keegan (GK) Covid**

**Clerk in Attendance Tony Harris (TH)**

*Public in attendance*

*None.*

1. **Police Surgery**

None

1. **Declarations of Pecuniary or other interests.**

*None*

**4. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17/11/2021**

*The previous minutes were duly signed Vice Chair Cllr Beamish*

1. **Matters Arising**
2. *It was noted that the Coppice Lane notice area was looking much better although there seems to be persistent low level fly tipping there****. It was noted that the Clerk put up a sign warning the offender and since then the problem has gone away.***
3. *Middleton need to consider the Queens jubilee celebrations and a statue by the sculptor who made the Woman’s vote and initial quote has been received and the clerk has sort, a second quote to ensure value for money. Based on this the Council unanimously agreed to proceed with the project and order. This will be the principal memorial to the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and also an acknowledgement to Middleton’s equine heritage.* ***The statue is virtually complete and our local MP******Craig Tracey has agreed to unveil the statue, a new art installation in the village hall will be unveiled as well by Cllr Jenns. And finally picnic in the park with music bands has also been planned.***
4. *Investigate concrete base for seating on V.G. It was agreed councillors would meet on VG at 10am on Saturday to determine best way.* ***This is on hold due to a larger decision regarding the path as well.***
5. *Green Lane flooding seems to be ok however a resident has again been harassed by a walker over a right of way, who having failed in a court action is once again causing concern, it was noted that the Clerk had threatened him with legal action if he continued to harass councillors of Middleton and Police have now visited his home to advise he ceases his one-man crusade or he could face arrest. The individual lives in Erdington and is talking about further legal action against the Middleton resident.* ***Agreement has been reached with local landowners so the formal path movement is now with WCC so this action is closed at least for now***
6. *Pollarding of the Damson Trees has been actioned however no quotes or authority to proceed were received or given, Clerk to investigate.* ***Agreement was reached on costs favourable to MPC which was below the limit for multiple quotes requirements under standing orders.***
7. *Cllr. Keegan previously raised at an earlier meeting the issue of where we are with the new Lease. Clerk explained it was with our Solicitors but no update has been received either from our Solicitor or indeed the tenant’s solicitor.* ***The sticking issue currently is the clause allowing MPC to give 12months notice Mr Tanner to hold talks with his bank and legal team. Both sides understand the others point and we are trying to find a compromise.***
8. *Resident reported lack of lighting in Samuel White Close. Take up with Samuel White?* ***This is not an MPC issue Closed***

**NEW ACTIONS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **What** | **Who** | **When** |
| **N1** | *Order second speed camera following trial installation scheduled for 22.1.2022* ***Completed*** | Clerk | January |
| **N2** | *Investigate concrete base for seating on V.G .Cllrs to meet on VG on Saturday.* ***On Hold*** | All | January |
| **N3** | *Obtain competitive quote to ensure value for money and based on Neil Marshalls Sculpture being less expensive proceed with the order* ***Completed*** | Clerk | January |
| **N4** | *Investigate why the pollarding of damson trees was done without a quote or authority to go ahead given* | Clerk | January/February |
| **N5** | *Chase current Status of the New Lease* | Clerk | January |
| **N6** | *With Cllr. Smith the clerk to obtain quotes and purchase a 20ft container.* ***Completed*** | Clerk/  Cllr. Smith | January/February |
| **N7** | *Rally residents for Jubilee celebrations. Decide on date, Suggest Band plus BYO food & drink Decide on date.* ***Ongoing*** | All | February |
| **N8** | *Take up street lighting issue with Samuel Whites* | Clerk | February |

**PENDING / ONGOING ACTIONS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **What** | **Who** | **When** |
| **P1** |
| **P2** | ***PLAY AREA***  ***Awaiting a quote for the repair of the central play centre this will provide for money to be spent on new equipment, we now have an experienced metal fabricator available for such tasks at very reasonable costs*** | Clerk/Cllr  Rawlins | January |
| **P3** | ***VILLAGE HALL***  *This looks to be very long-winded process just to get WIFI so Cllr Keegan to investigate sim card option* | Clerk | November |
| **P4** | ***LIBRARY***  *Remedial work on the door to be completed.* ***Glass payne has been broken*** | Clerk | May |
| **P5** | ***MCC 15year LEASE***  *To be based on an initial 5year rent increase based on RPI after this both parties would agree to continue with RPI or if it was deemed that commercial rent value was not being achieved a new process agreed. we need to set up a mechanism for rent increases the options appear to be* ***a)*** *linked to property valuation and rents in similar establishments* ***b)*** *link rent increases to**the Retail Price Index* ***c)*** *a negotiated rent profile. All three options would be over a 5year period to allow re alignment and agreement with the next 5year profile. Solicitor costs paid by the tenant. Issues have arisen regarding termination clause to the discussions are ongoing to find a solution.*  *Clerk to discuss with Dan* | Clerk |  |
| **P7** | ***Speed Cameras.*** *One received a second to be order on successful installation of the second, we now have two sites identified so decision to purchase two more scheduled for next meeting.* ***Second speed camera is installed but need to check if setting are correct*** |  |  |
| **P8** | ***PARTY IN THE PARK***  *Merge with Platinum Jubilee celebrations* | All | March-May |
| **P9** | *Garages will be demolished contractor identified and remaining tenant has gone, a lot of old car parts dumped in garage no 8 were left and door ripped off a number of locks were also crow barred off other garages* | Clerk | November |
| **P10** | *Travellers rest sign to be ordered by the clerk with an initial budget of £200 set.* | Clerk | May |
| **P11** | *It was unanimously agreed to purchase two remote cameras for wildlife monitoring and impact of HS2 works on our local biodiversity (see project costings). Cllr. Beamish has quote. Still under discussion.* | Cllr Beamish | January |
| **P12** | *Cllr. Keegan to look into new sim card solution for WIFI in village hall* | Cllr Keegan | February |
| **P13** | *Investigate concrete base for seating on V.G. with Russell* | Clerk | May |
| **P14** | *Bridge opening between Drayton Basset and Middleton to be officially opened on 29/4/2022 an allocation of £100 was agreed for hire of hall and refreshments for the event to be attended by both communities Drayton Basset to provide food.* | Clerk | 29/4/2022 |

**CLOSED ACTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING**

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| --- | --- |
| **Ref** |  |
| **C1** | *Cheque to over 60’s dinner given to Diana Crockett, Treasurer 20/1/22* |
| **C2** | *RE HS2 works. Investigate Drone video over the area Film maker? the aim is to chart the impact of HS2 on the area. Video obtained* |
| **C3** | *Cheque for grant of £100 awarded to the over 60 plus club passed to Diana Crockett* |
| **C4** | *Cheque for Village Hall extension paid* |
| **C5** | *Facia boards fitted to traveller’s rest* |

**KEY FINANCIAL PROJECTS 2021/22**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **What** | **Quotes** | **Budgeted**  **cost** | **Actual cost** |
| **K2** | ***GARAGES (Church Lane)***  *NWBC still keen to go ahead with the scheme but will now be later in the year due to Covid 19.* ***Last remaining tenanty has vacated the garages substantial waste was left in No\* and several garages had been broken into thois was reported to the Council*** | On Hold | £10,000 EMR |  |
| **K3** | ***CEF Grant (HS2)***  *Grant of £75k awarded therefore £500 grant from MPC now paid as agreed as it was conditional on the main grant being won* | N/A | (£75,000)  Value of Grant applied for | MPC contribution £500 |
| **K4** | ***PLAY AREA***  *A full set of costs is being sought from various suppliers based on steel constructed items to improve longevity of play equipment. SEE 2 as alternative approach, this would be in conjunction of buying other new equipment.* | £23,000  First quote |  |  |
| **K7** | ***ROAD SPEED CAMERAS***  ***The Council agreed to order one speed camera initially with 4 batteries, Clerk to order once second quote and technical comparisons made, unless budget figure is exceeded then council will need to again review. IT was agreed to order a second camera based on same terms. Camera deemed very successful and a second one was ordered on the same terms*** | **Camera £2050 batteries at £70 based on initial quotes plus vat** | **£3,000** | **£2692.80** |
| **K8** | ***MOBILE CAMERAS***  *For detection of fly tipping and other crimes.* ***Under review as so far despite evidence being presented to NWBC we are seeing little or no action in terms of fines or prosecutions*** | Camera £474 per camera sim card £10 month | £1250 |  |
| **K9** | ***HILL LANE NOTICEBOARD***    *Actioned* | £2500 | £2500 | **2448.80** |
| **K10** | ***APNR Cameras***  ***. A second quote to be obtained but MPC agreed purchase as long as budget not exceeded for Wishaw Lane It was agreed to proceed with Purchase unanimously***  *Actioned* | 1200/1700  £1246 | £1700  £1300 | **£1349.96**  **£1246** |
| K11 | ***Horse Sculpture***  *Sculpture completed will need a quote for the signage and agree what to put on it.* ***Transportation is being arranged and site needs preparing. Adding of inscription may add an additional cost*** | Initial quote £5,500  Second quote £35,000  £300 | £5,500  £350 | **£5500.00** |
| K12 | ***Bandstand repairs***  ***1)Proper Roof repair following high wind damage and previous emergency repairs***  ***2) painting of the Bandstand two quotes obtained*** | £475  £1200 and  £725 | £500  £800 | **£475**  **£725** |

1. **Samuel White Trust and other Community Organisations**
2. *It was agreed that the Middleton Nature reserve will be called the Francis Willughby Nature reserve, next actions include a visit by Birmingham and Warwick university students/representatives on or around 26/4/2022 and also a visit from HS2 senior ecologist*
3. **High Speed Rail Line**

*No response from HS2 or Department of Trade on MPCs request that empty HS”/DoT houses be used to house Ukrainian refugees*

1. **Community Ce****ntre**

*a. Issue is one year sale clause so under review currently*

**9. Village Green Development**

**a.** *Playground has had the swing seats replaced and the uprights have been encased in stainless steel and recemented to provide firm foundations. IT was unanimously agreed to carry out remedial work on the central activity centre to provide structural stability. New play equipment can then be added including a new table bench set up. Clerk to present options and ideas at the next meeting.*

*Due to high winds the bandstand suffered damage that was dangerous to the public so emergency repairs were carried out after communication with all councillors. The repairs were temporary and it was agreed that a full repair was need. See capital projects for agreed actions and costs*

**10. Middleton Recreation Room**

*Final grant administration is virtually complete with quotes received and a decision made.*

*This is a community-based project and offers and help and materials mean that we are able to undertake the construction with the funds available so a big thank you to all those in the community that have offered their help on contractor*

**11. Reports of Councillors and Clerk**

**Cllr. Keegan**

*a. Apologies unable to attend as COVID positive.*

*Matters arising from January 2022 minutes*

*b. Well done Tony on arranging attendance of MP and WCC Cllr for various openings concerning Jubilee Activities.*

*c. SIM card can be available for remote WIFI for the Village Hall, monthly cost, as in mobile phone. Piccadilly V.H use EE. Contact EE for details (or any other network provider)*

*d. Hill Lane noticeboard looks great!*

*e. Playground equipment is to go top of the priority list for spending. All to contribute to suggestions/sourcing of new playground equipment. TH to co-ordinate findings which should be communicated to all before next meeting when we should expect to be in a position to identify or even place an order. Suggest an interim meeting to discuss this topic only.*

*f. Suggest advance notice of PC meet dates to the end of the year is sought. Suggest 2nd or 3rd Wednesday in each month. It can be changed if necessary to accommodate councillor requirements, but at least it will be diary.*

*Arrangements need to be done for Annual Assembly. May/June*

*g. Is there a new Internal Auditor identified?* ***This is in hand with one identified.,***

*h. It’s been confirmed today that the A4091 overbridge for HS2 will not be higher than 3m above the existing level of the road and that there will be right hand access to and from Park Lane.*

*My holiday dates, so far, are 18th – 20th May, 12-13th June, 27th June – 4th July, 20th – 2th July.*

**Cllr. Smith**

*a. No reports*

**Cllr. Beamish**

*a. Noted that the garages were still being used,* ***Clerk to follow up on the email sent regarding this issue to NWBC when the officer is back at work****.*

**Cllr. Rotherham**

1. *Kingsbury protests added to HS2 road closures had caused chaos locally*
2. *Hill Lane there was an opportunity for MPC to consider if we could secure land adjacent to provide a community asset Cllr Rotherham to investigate and report back at the next meeting.*

***Cllr. Rawlins***

*a. No Reports*

**Cllr. Jenns**

*No Reports*

***Cllr. Simmons***

*No Reports*

1. **Correspondence**

**NWBC/WCC**

Angela Coates update

**General.**

Queens jubilee horse/tree planting/party?

Jubilee Grant £500 has been obtained towards cost of event

HMRC VAT ok PAYE technical issues problem is a pre scheduled call time cannot be arranged by HMRC they expect you to be at your desk when they call but they will not give a time or day so this is being escalated. MPC is however in credit with HMRC

VAT has been claimed without issue and payment is expected before our next meeting, for accounting purposes VAT is treated as income as we are not VAT registered so cannot charge it./

Lease issue re break clause- ongoing discussions

Village Hall extension final paperwork completed including payment schedule and Groundworks will make a press statement on the project on 6th May 2022

Precept - due to additional village occupancy our precept in real terms was a reduction to parishioners of -1.7%

**13. Planning matters**

**PAP/2022/0125**

**14. Financials**

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| --- |
| **Available funds in current account A/c 00411787 £16919.08 15/3/2022** |
| **Available funds in reserve account A/c 29525357 £7369.10 31/3/2022** |

**15. Public Questions and Comments**.

*No public present*

**16. The Chair proposes**

*None.*

**17. Any other business**

**Meeting closed at 8.00 pm**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of next meeting 4/5/2022**