



MIDDLETON CHENEY Parish Council

Parish Meeting Room
Main Road
Middleton Cheney
OX17 2LR

PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Parish Meeting Room

19th August 2024, 7:15pm

Minutes

Present

Cllr Alan Youel, Chairman
Cllr Mark Allen
Cllr Kristian Burgess
Cllr Peter Cook
Cllr Aneta Evins
Cllr Ruth Hoose

Cllr Stuart Howard
Cllr Rachel Markham
Cllr Richard Solesbury-Timms (20:00PM)
Cllr Nina Truman
Pip Davis, Clerk and RFO
9 Members of the public, plus 6 attending online.

Meeting commenced 19:16PM

24/201 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Washer.

On the proposition of Cllr Allen it was **RESOLVED**: to approve apologies for absence.

24/202 OPEN MEETING

A resident – 8 Washle Drive, request from resident for the Parish Council to submit its support.

The Chairman recommended comments be invited at item 24/208 due to attendance and interest. PFA Secretary confirmed willing to answer questions and support.

Closed 19:24PM

24/203 Members' declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Burgess – 24/208, 24/209.

Cllr Markham – 24/212, Lighting adjacent to property.

Cllr Howard – 24/206, Neighbouring planning application.

24/204 Approval of minutes of full council meeting 15th July 2024 - attached

On the proposition of Cllr Hoose it was **RESOLVED**: to receive and approve the minutes of meeting of the Council on 15th July 2024.

24/205 Receipt of committee minutes - attached

On the proposition of Cllr Howard it was **RESOLVED**: to receive the approved minutes of Finance and Policy Committee meeting 3rd July.

On the proposition of Cllr Truman it was **RESOLVED**: to receive the approved minutes of Human Resources Committee meeting 19th June 2024.

Members noted the draft minutes of Finance and Policy Committee meeting 7th August 2024 and Human Resources Committee meeting 13th August 2024.

24/206 Planning – letters, decisions and applications - attached

[2024/3721/FULL](#) 8 Washle Drive Middleton Cheney OX17 2PX. Comment, the Parish Council wish to state the only reason it does not provide "support" is that it is its policy to only do so when the development is of benefit to the wider parish.

The Parish Council request the Planning authority take into consideration the considerable continued development of the surrounding properties (including many side and front extensions, also visible on Google Maps street view).

The Parish Council request that if the Planning authority is minded to refuse this application that they provide a detailed response as to what is not acceptable compared to the surrounding developments. The Parish Council have not been able to determine what the grounds for refusal are when the heavily developed surrounding properties all have very similar developments.

[2024/3719/FULL](#) 8 Washle Drive Middleton Cheney OX17 2PX.

[2024/1058/FULL](#) Middleton Cheney Baptist Church 22A Queen Street Middleton Cheney OX17 2NP. The Parish Council wish to express concern regarding the proximity of the parking to existing graves, though it is aware the officer's report has already commented on the matter of graves. The Council noted that the railings are not necessarily in keeping with the street scene, which is within a conservation area. The Council have concerns

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around the effectiveness of tandem parking.

[2024/3688/FULL](#) The Haven 15 Astrop Road Middleton Cheney OX17 2PG. No comments

[2024/3503/TCA](#) 10 Glovers Lane Middleton Cheney OX17 2NU. No comments

[2024/3758/TCA](#) 9 Braggintons Lane Middleton Cheney OX17 2NG. No comments

Cllr Solesbury-Timms arrived 20:00PM

24/207 Reports from Ward Councillors

Cllr Solesbury-Timms has been raising issues with Housing Association for a neighbouring Parish Council.

24/208 Charges on Land Title held by Parish Council

Cllr Burgess asked to withdraw by the Chairman due to disclosable interest.

Chairman invited comments from members of the public:

PFA Secretary: 2020 – conversation around selling which PFA have stated they are not trying to do. Need to get governance in order. PFA don't have a full set of paperwork for land charges, claimed Council stated they didn't either, queried by Council Chairman.

PFA are not at the point of applying for grant funding, but the charges potentially prevent ability to apply for further grants.

Chairman of the Council noted numerous Councillor queries of "why remove/downgrade" the charges/restrictions and apply for grants, PFA Secretary was asked what the aim of the PFA is.

PFA Secretary – PFA does not have a finite business plan.

Concerns expressed that the PFA is not making quorate decisions, as public domain indicates the organisation is not quorate. Chairman challenged why PFA haven't actively recruited to fulfil the committee requirements as stated by the governance document.

PFA stated FC are threatening legal action.

Football Club representative – FC had a £60,000 5-6 year grant for pitch maintenance. Now into year 3, as a Committee have decided to pause the entire funded project due to issues with the PFA. Concerns there are no clear plans from PFA. FC have taken legal advice, not taking action. Using Chenderit to support growth of FC. Don't want to go elsewhere but have concerns regarding investment in the site.

On the proposition of the Chairman, it was **RESOLVED**: to seek the information to understand what the charges are and what would be involved in making changes to them. Request to PFA to provide further information about long term planning.

24/209 Arrangements for Astrop Children's Play Area

On the proposition of the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: to explore archive to consider existing arrangements with a view to drafting an arrangement.

24/210 Community Communications Strategy

On the proposition of the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: to approve recommendations from Councillors on maintaining and improving communication with residents. Including suggestion box at Parkinsons Shop. Existing discussion group to lead the improvements.

24/211 Press and Media Policy

On the proposition of the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: to approve the Press and Media Policy draft document, as recommended by the Finance and Policy Committee.

24/212 Lamp post replacement

On the proposition of the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: to approve Quote C, Infrastructure technologies for lamp post replacements.

24/213 Play area repairs

On the proposition of Cllr Allen it was **RESOLVED**: to approve quote A for play area equipment repairs on 2 items and ask for further quotes once team on site for Council's later consideration. Skate ramp to be decommissioned and Finance and Policy to consider wider future of play area equipment repair / replacement planning.

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24/214 Grant request application

Cllr Solesbury-Timms was excluded from this item.

Councillors discussed it being premature for the potential organisation to be supported until terms of reference are established. Problematic to transfer funding to a single Councillor. Council to offer to support publicising by other means. No proposal to support the application was made.

24/215 Cemetery digitalisation

On the proposition of Cllr Solesbury-Timms it was **RESOLVED**: to approve quote C, edgeIT software for Cemetery management digitalisation and mapping with PearTech.

24/216 Dog waste collection contract

On the proposition of Cllr Markham it was **RESOLVED**: to approve quote A, The Shield Group, for dog waste collection.

24/217 Authorisation of Payments – (attached)

On the proposition of the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: to place Peninsula on Direct Debit. On the proposition of Cllr Allen it was **RESOLVED**: to approve schedule of payments including addition of bouncy castle deposit.

24/218 Matters for information

Mulberry Homes lighting – Council approve of bollards for dark locations.

24/219 Exclusion of press and public

On the proposition of the Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: that, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted to consider, it is proposed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for agenda items 24/220, 24/221, 24/222 and 24/223.

On the proposition of the Chairman it was RESOLVED: to extend the meeting for a further 15 minutes past expected deadline.

24/220 Christmas Illuminations tender

On the proposition of Cllr Solesbury-Timms it was **RESOLVED**: to proceed with quote A, Blachere Illuminations UK Ltd.

At 22:30 Councillors agreed to call an extraordinary meeting Tuesday 27th August at 7PM to cover remaining items.

Press and public invited back.

24/221 Lamp post rewiring

To consider quotes received.

24/222 Parish Maintenance tender

To consider quotes received.

24/223 Staff management

To consider recommendations of the Human Resources Committee.

24/224 Next meeting

16th September 2024 – Full Council Meeting.

Signed: