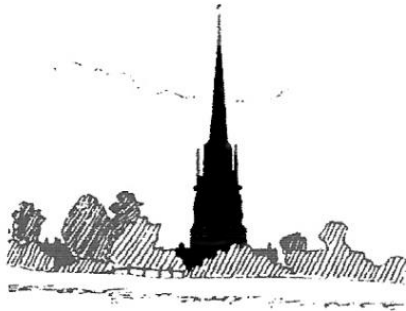


MIDDLETON CHENEY

Parish Council



Parish Meeting Room

Main Road

Middleton Cheney

Banbury

Oxon

OX17 2LR

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Venue: Village Hall, 7:30pm

24th March 2022

Minutes

24/1001 Welcome and apologies

The Vice-Chair, having stepped in for the Chair due to illness, welcomed residents to the meeting and passed on apologies from the Chair (Cllr. Allan).

24/1002 Report from Parish Council Chairman

The Chair opened with a report on the state of the council and discussed the improvements the parish had made to ensure that council operations continue to run in an efficient way.

The report also elaborated on the history of the council and the previous challenges Middleton Cheney Parish Council had faced over the last year, outlining covid and other factors as great challenges to the village.

Further, the chair discussed that spending reserves was a priority to the council, and that the council had actively been looking into improving the street lighting across the parish. The Chair concluded the report and mentioned that council will actively seek to co-opt more members throughout the year, welcoming further applicants.

24/1003 Cllr Rebecca Breese – Planning advice and WNC update

Cllr. Breese introduced herself to residents and explained the new council arrangements, detailing that South Northants Council and Northamptonshire County Council, would now be replaced by West Northants Unitary Authority (WNC).

Cllr. Breese updated residents on the joint court strategy, suggesting that WNC officers were investigating where to position strategic planning sites across West Northamptonshire. Cllr. Breese outlined that there had been a planned development on the A4 22, with a proposal of a new roundabout in Brackley.

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Venue: Village Hall, 7:30pm, 24th March 2022

Cllr. Breese also discussed the recent West Northants Council (WNC) green bin charge, outlining that the local government ombudsman recommended the charge. Cllr. Breese suggested that central government had been looking at making green bins free, and indicated that if this was to happen, then West Northamptonshire residents may be reimbursed.

A resident asked Cllr. Breese what they could do to prevent the A4 22 roundabout development and how they can help fight against the proposal.

Cllr. Breese stated that she had already rejected to the plan, however the application had once again been submitted. Cllr. Breese referred to current WNC planning policies, highlighting that the development does not reflect WNC's vision and policy provisions. She indicated that WNC officers would conduct an active consultation on this development and urged residents wanting to object, to object to unique material issues, while also ensuring that each resident writes their own individual objection.

The Farthinghoe By-Pass was discussed, and residents asked Cllr. Breese for an update on this matter.

Cllr. Breese responded by highlighting that big infrastructure projects such as this, must have a good business case, and with regards to this specific application Cllr. Breese does not believe that a sensible business case had been proposed, casting her doubt on this specific application. Cllr. Breese outlined how WNC had received 1.5m of Levelling Up Funds from central Govt to fund this project, but due to the immense work on the developments it is expected that WNC would have to contribute a further 5m towards the development, a fee which WNC would be reluctant to spend without a 'sound' business plan.

Another resident raised the issue of rural road taking a lot of the impact from A43 overflow traffic, and asked Cllr. Breese how this could be controlled.

Cllr. Breese recommended that the resident proposes alternative suggestions/mitigations, deriving that this input is indeed very valuable when considering the application .

Residents also discussed the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, which took place in 2019 and was halted due to the pandemic. Raising the question if a Neighbourhood Plan would make a difference with planning applications.

The Chair responded that there had been no new developments on the neighbourhood plan and suggested that the neighbourhood plan carries very little weight over strategic developments, essentially no longer having the power to fight against developers. The Chair highlighted that even if the development was paused, it would only go on to win in appeal – much like past developments across the parish. The Chair reiterated his remarks that if residents wanted to continue work on the Neighbourhood Plan then the PC would support them in doing so, however residents would firstly have to come together to make necessary arrangements/suggestions.

Question on the recent solar/eco electric developments ongoing in Bicester.

Cllr. Breese clarified that Bicester is currently listed as an ecozone, thus necessary enforcement of all buildings requiring particular clean electrical outputs would be routinely

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Venue: Village Hall, 7:30pm, 24th March 2022

monitored. Cllr. Breese reported that this is a recent development and WNC will look into including further climate control measures within future WNC Planning policies.

24/1004 Reports from other village organisations

The Chair read the Tennis Club and Pre-School Reports to attendees and thanked both organisations for sending in their reports.

The Chair welcomed any residents to read out reports which were not sent to the parish clerk.

A resident volunteered to read out the local library reports which set out the libraries plan to recruit IT support and maintenance volunteers. As well as outlining that the library will begin to be open to more groups from the 21st of September allowing 24 organisations to attend, and finally urged local residents to get involved and register to volunteer.

The Middleton Cheney playing field association report was also read at the meeting, outlining that since the pandemic outdoor facilities and sports are an absolute priority within the parish, ensuring that residents can keep active and continue to enjoy the playing fields. The association has also provided a space for residents to donate items towards the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The jubilee committee reported that a series of grants had been approved by the parish to fund particular events. Urging residents to enjoy the events throughout the Jubilee week.

24/1005 Any other issues parishioners wish to discuss

Residents asked if Middleton Cheney parish councillors in attendance could stand up and introduce themselves, so that residents may become familiar with who they are and what they wish to add to the parish.

All members present introduced themselves to a welcomed audience.

Meeting Close

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Venue: Village Hall, 7:30pm, 24th March 2022