# Street Lighting Policy

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Aims and Objectives
3. Background – Legal Obligations and Limitations
   1. Defining Responsibilities
   2. Highway Authority
   3. Residents Associations
   4. Building Developers
   5. District and Parish Councils
   6. Unmetered Electricity Supplies not covered by the Highways Authority
4. Maintenance Strategy
   1. Cyclical
   2. Reactive
   3. Electrical Safety Certficates
   4. Monitoring the Operational Status
   5. Reporting a Fault
   6. In the Event of an Emergency
5. Requests for Changes to Street Lighting
6. Performance Reporting
7. Asset Management
   1. Records Maintained
   2. Repair or Replace
   3. Maximum Response Times
   4. Contract Terms with Suppliers
8. Environmental Impact
   1. Inventory by lamp type
9. Street Lighting on Wooden Poles
   1. Decommissioned wooden poles now the responsibility of the parish council
   2. Commissioned wooden poles serving more than one utility provider
10. Methods of Communication with Residents

## 1. Introduction

The following information relates to the Street Lighting Policy in Middleton Cheney and aims to set out a code of practice which sets a high standard for compliance, in recognizing our responsibilities.

Facts and figures shown were current at the time of signature.

The parish council owns and maintains **193** street lights within Middleton Cheney. These are located within the residential roads of the village. This policy relates to the maintenance and operation of these units.

The public are welcome to report any issues with these lights to the Clerk for the Parish Council, whose details are published on the website and we will notify the appropriate authority.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

* Maintain the street lights, in a safe condition, within the agreed budget
* Anticipate budget changes in line with maintenance costs and replacement rates
* Avoiding the need to take out loans to complete work
* Learn from past experience and historical data
* Keep in line with current legislation, legal requirements and best practice
* Continually aim to reduce costs and power consumption, year on year, without a detrimental effect to illumination or safety
* Replace lamp posts at the end of their life or when beneficial to overall aims

## *3.* Background – Legal Obligations and Limitations

3.1 Defining Responsibilities

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Responsible Authority** | **Area of Responsibility** |
| Highway Authority | Main roads in their area |
| Residents Associations | Private or unadopted roads on which they live |
| Building Developers | Retain responsibility until the road is adopted at the end of a building project |
| District and Parish Councils | Adopted side roads in their area |

3.2 Highway Authority

The Highways Act 1980 empowers a Highway Authority to provide lighting for any highway or proposed highway for which they are, or will be, the Highway Authority.

The Highway Authority has a duty of care to the road user. However, this duty does not require the Highway Authority to keep the public lighting lit. It does require the authority to be able to demonstrate that they have systems in place to maintain the public lighting equipment in a safe condition, including the detection of dangerous equipment.

3.3 Developers

The Parish Council needs to work with Developers to secure a successful handover of the street lights by:

* ensuring that they all have a current electrical safety certificate dated at the time of handover.
* working on a plan of action to reduce costs.
* carrying out an inspection of inventory to identify problems.

* 1. District and Parish Councils

District Councils and many Parish Councils have the power to provide lighting as local authorities, acting with the consent of the Highways Authority; these powers were conferred by the Public Health Act 1985 or the Parish Councils Act 1957.

* 1. Unmetered Electricity Supplies not covered by the Highway Authority

In order to obtain unmetered electricity supplies the Parish Council must enter into an *Unmetered Connection Agreement* with an energy supplier. An accurate detailed inventory of all its unmetered lights, must be provided, in accordance with the requirements of the Balancing and Settlement Code Procedure BSCP520 on an annual basis.

## 4. Maintenance Strategy

Our public lighting system obviously requires regular inspection and maintenance to ensure that it is safe, operating correctly, continuing to provide the designated performance and to maximize its life. This maintenance is divided into two aspects:

4.1 Cyclical

These are preventative measures carried out on a cyclical basis to help reduce or eliminate failures and ensure the system is operating correctly.

**A great deal of importance is given to identifying structural faults caused by corrosion, stress or more generally wear and tear. It is important that the Parish Council is made aware of any collisions with road vehicles or maintenance equipment as these may cause stress fractures not immediately apparent.**

4.2 Reactive

Where failures of equipment are recorded and the equipment is repaired or replaced.

See the sections below for details of how to report a lighting problem.

E-on will respond to any faults reported by the Parish Council asap. In some cases, spare parts will need to be ordered, or additional work commissioned with EDF Energy relating to the physical supply of electricity to make the column safe. Such matters will be rectified as soon as possible.

4.3 Electrical Safety Certificates

The *Electricity at Work Regulations* state that “as may be necessary to prevent danger, all systems shall be maintained so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, such danger”. To demonstrate that an installation meets the necessary safety standards, electrical inspection and testing comparable to any other fixed equipment installation should be carried out at intervals of up

to six years in accordance with the requirements of *BS 7671: Requirements of Electrical Installations.*

The Parish Council via E-on conducts a programme of full electrical testing and inspection on each column. This ensures that all units are safe, comply with the latest standards and helps to identify any potential long-term problems with the columns.

4.4 Reporting a Fault

It is worth noting that your Councillors all act in an unpaid voluntary capacity. Unfortunately, it is not practical for every light to be monitored on a more regular basis. We therefore ask that if you observe a failed light **PLEASE REPORT** it so that we can arrange for its repair.

For general reporting, please contact the Clerk and provide details of:

* the lamp number if available (usually displayed on a sticker on the lamp post),
* the location (e.g. outside number 4 XXXXX Road) and
* brief description of the fault (e.g. lamp not on at night/lamp on during the day/etc)
* your contact details (name, address and telephone number).

If the Clerk is unavailable, an answer-phone service will be in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternatively, you can report the fault via email.

For ease of reference, the contact details are:

* phone: 01295 713500
* email: clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk
* or write: Middleton Cheney Parish Council, Main Road, Middleton Cheney OX17 2LR

Except in the event of an emergency we will visit the site to observe the fault before progressing the report

4.5 In the Event of an Emergency

In the event of an emergency, such as a column being knocked down due to a road traffic accident, please contact:

* You should notify **the Police**, who may need to isolate the area on **999** **or** **101**
* and then notify the Clerk to the Parish Council so that the incident can be properly tracked and recorded
* In the event of a road traffic accident, please provide details of the vehicle(s) involved, to the Clerk, as this will be required to institute procedures for the recovery of costs.

## 5. Requests for Changes to Street Lighting

The Parish Council receive, from parishioners, requests for additional street light columns, for their removal or for changes in the light intensity of individual columns. The Parish Council will consider all such requests, conduct further inquiries with all affected neighbouring properties and investigate alternative solutions where appropriate.

Please register any such inquiries with the Clerk. Factors used in the decision making process include safety considerations, cost benefit analysis and the consent of neighbours.

## 6 Performance Reporting

The Parish Council reviews the performance of street lighting, which is our responsibility, on a regular basis and will compile the following statistics.

* Total number of faults identified by type.
* Total number of faults by individual lamp posts
* Annual expenditure for unmetered supply, maintenance, and renewal.
* Costs associated with vandalism

## 7 Asset Management

In achieving a high performance from our inventory of street lighting columns the Parish Council seeks advice from, other Parish Councils energy suppliers or professional bodies able to advise on establishing 'best practice'. We would welcome interest from residents who have experience of the subject and are able to assist us in adopting a strategy for the next decade.

7.1 Records Maintained

MCPC undertake to:

* + establish and maintain an up to date and accurate record of inventory as part of an asset management system.
  + maintain an asset management system to record and control all cyclical and reactive maintenance activities.
  + evaluate replacement policies to limit lamp failures to an acceptable level.
  + operate a system for the reporting of faults by the public.
  + identify recurring problems or common faults with a view to eliminating them.
  + monitor response times for repairs and maintenance tasks.
  + Recognise the need to keep up to date with the regulations which operate in the industry and must continually form the heart of our lighting policy.
  + Require residents with lamps outside their property to ensure the illumination is not diminished by tree branches or other foliage on their property or bushes allowed to grow around the service panel at the base of lamp posts.

7.2 Repair or Replace

Faulty lights are repaired unless we are advised by our contractor that repair is uneconomic. MCPC support the need to reduce light pollution and where the opportunity arises, may elect not to replace a lamp post. New columns erected should be of a high standard and a popular choice appropriate to the area. We will consult with residents and act on the balance of opinion where this is reasonable and within our budget.

## 8. Environmental Impact

Attempts will be made to limit the impact of our street lighting on the environment where possible and economically viable.

This may include:

* moving to more energy efficient lighting.
* bulbs that offer more direction and less dissipation,
* introducing new developments on a timely basis, opportunities will be investigated as they arise.

The European Union's "Energy using Products" directive (EuP) defines the requirements for the environmentally-sustainable design of many products including Street Lighting. As a result, inefficient products are to be phased out and replaced with energy saving alternatives,

## 9. Street Lighting on Wooden Poles

In rural areas Distribution Network Operators for electrical supplies have replaced overhead cables by underground schemes. A pole to which street lighting is attached may remain in place and owned by the Parish Council.

9.1 Decommissioned wooden poles now the responsibility of Middleton Cheney Parish Council

It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain the poles in a safe condition.

9.2 Commissioned wooden poles serving more than one utility provider

It has previously been possible to attach a lantern to a wooden pole or post belonging to an electrical supplier or BT. This practice is no longer permitted in some areas due to the recent death of a lighting engineer electrocuted by power cables.

The Government is reviewing the situation and may introduce legislation to require Parish Councils and other local authorities to retrospectively introduce independent lamp posts.

## 10. Methods of communication with residents

MCPC will use one or a combination of the following to inform parishioners using:

* the Village Website
* the parish council Facebook page
* post
* the annual Parish meeting

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