**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Venue: Memorial Hall**

**7PM, 24th April 2023**

**Minutes**

*In attendance: M Allen, K Stevens, N Mills, R Hoose, M Smith, C Stacey, V Furniss, N Truman, G Ugen, SA Dod. P Davis as clerk to the Parish Council.*

**19:04 Meeting called to order  
Appointment of Chairman: Apologies from Chairman of the Parish Council**Mark Allen appointed as Chairman of the meeting.  
 **2301 Welcome from the Chairman of the meeting**The Chairman identified the reason for the meeting as a statutory requirement.

**2302 Minutes of March 2022 (attached)**The Chairman invited commentary or correction of the minutes of the last annual meeting. A resident made comment regarding apologies, the Chairman stated he could amend that item. A resident asked if the reports will be included on the website. A resident commented that historically minutes were approved at the next parish council meeting, the Chairman advised that was not proper protocol due to the annual parish meeting not being a council meeting.  
A resident alleged that some council paperwork might be missing and speculated that someone may have thrown some paperwork away.

**2303 Chairman of the Parish Council's report (attached)**

The Chairman of the meeting re-stated Cllr. Youel’s apologies for absence.  
The Chairman read the report prepared in advance by the Cllr. Youel as Chairman of the parish council. The report covered:

* Precept savings and electricity savings.
* Member changes to the council including resignations and thanks, and new members to the council.
* New clerk appointment.
* Closure of the cemetery to reservations and focus on new cemetery land to be a focus.
* Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, thanks to the council for their conduct.
* Battle of Middleton Cheney re-enactment – Planning in progress for revised event.
* Vacancy for a Parish Councillor – invitation to apply.
* Comment on financial position of the Council as sound. Savings considerations and appropriate expenditure made.
* Auditing – PKF Littlejohn identified actions from previous AGAR and the council are undertaking the current return.
* New contractor appointed for village gras-cutting.
* Thanks expressed to Debbie and Richard for their contribution to the village.
* Open invitation to the village to engage with meetings and events.

**2304 Reports from Middleton Cheney organisations**

Resident M Smith present from MCLSG, report sent in by B Goodey in advance (Attached).  
G Ugen of Middleton Cheney football and SA Dod secretary to the Playing Fields Association present with reports (Attached).

Football Report covered:

* 175 members football club, children and adults. Teams <7 to over 21.
* Girls team in the league shortly.
* Over £1000 invested in the Girls group.
* New sign up to Banbury team.
* Weather interference necessitated Season extension until Mid-May.
* DBS, 1st aid and the min. qualifications of coaches up to UFA lvl 2.
* New feedback system.
* 5 year grant application.
* Quarterly newsletter.
* 6th May St George’s Park field trip.
* Expanding to new members and supporting Henry’s Café and taking no charge to the small local business.
* New defib unit purchased at pavilion.

PFA report covered:

* Update policies and procedures, ongoing process.
* Field remains the main local green space open to all residents to enjoy throughout the year.
* Shortcomings of the hall remain a barrier to regular hiring.
* Host to some significant events included Jubilee celebrations.
* Changes in committee, openings to sport and resident committees.

Library

SA Dod read out her redrafted version of the Library report, (Original version attached). The report covered:

* Covid Van and community fair
* Over 5200 library visits over 2022 calendar year.
* 1600 volunteer hours including DofE volunteers from Chenderit.
* Regular services included rhyme time and stand alone events such as magic shows funded.
* The space is available for renting.
* Warm Spaces received little demand as was experienced across other organisations and businesses in the village.
* Village archive received by Nancy Long. Library rearranged to include new children’s area
* Kitchen funded by 106 money, as well as a new consultation area and young adult reading area.
* More volunteers welcomed, particularly younger generation.
* Libraries remain vulnerable but a watchful eye in place to ensure the survival of the village facility.

History Society

The Chairman of the meeting identified the report from History society was included with the agenda and read this in the absence of a representative. The report covered:

* National and international topics explored in the year to date.
* Rising costs forced increase of membership £15 per annum.
* Upcoming topics in forthcoming year.

**2305 Questions from the public and any other business**

Local Government electors of Middleton Cheney who have the right to attend were invited to speak on any matter of relevance to the parish.

A resident asked what the key priorities of the parish council are. The resident asked why have police and district councillors not provided reports or attended. The resident asked the clerk whether they had been contacted and “actually pursued”. The resident asked which Unitary Councillors had been invited. The resident asked how do the parish council support local organisations. The resident stated another resident was concerned about fly-tipping at the cemetery, the clerk commented this had been reported in the first instance but other options would be explored.

A resident stated there was a lot of rubbish at GUHG garages, concerns regarding asbestos. The resident raised a question regarding the plan for garages, clerk confirmed GUHG have a schedule of works. The resident commented on the meeting being held on Monday. The resident asked if a recurring date for the meeting could be set.

A resident asked about grant funding from the Parish Council. The resident asked about the allocation of s106 money. The resident commented it is a responsibility of the Parish Council to guide allocation of s106 in planning stages. The resident stated the potential of some s106 that could be applied for by PFA and a requirement for the s106 money to be more clearly defined.

A resident stated the legal requirement to hold the meeting and commented it was a shame that there was poor attendance. The resident commented that if the date is announced too late for the meeting then there are some groups who do not have opportunity to meet. The resident made commentary on the lack of representation at the meeting. The resident made a request for the meeting date to be set earlier.

Chairman’s responses to points and questions raised:

* The Chairman outlined the priorities of the Parish Council, including cemetery expansion, with a group working on projections for requirements. The Chairman advised he would take the question of the “key priorities” of the Council to the next Council meeting.
* The Chairman advised the date and location for the meeting was due to venue availability.
* The chair confirmed he would bring the suggestion to publish earlier the meeting date for the annual parish meeting to the Council.
* The Chairman advised anyone is free to make an application for a grant from the Parish Council.
* The chairman explained S106 money is usually negotiated at planning stages for a very specific purpose.

The chairman declared the meeting closed.

Pip Davis  
Clerk to Middleton Cheney Parish Council