



MIDDLETON CHENEY Parish Council

Parish Meeting Room
Main Road
Middleton Cheney
OX17 2LR

PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Venue: Parish Meeting Room

15th January, 7:15pm

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Alan Youel, Chairman
Cllr Kristian Burgess
Cllr Mark Allen
Cllr Ruth Hoose

Cllr Nigel Mills
Pip Davis, Clerk & RFO
Ward Cllr Rosie Herring
3 members of the public

Meeting started 19:15PM

24/006 Apologies for absence

Apologies received: Cllr Nina Truman, personal
Cllr Rachel Washer, medical

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

24/007 OPEN MEETING

None

Closed 19:17PM

24/008 Members' declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

24/009 Approval of minutes of full council meetings 18th December 2024, Extraordinary meeting 3rd January 2024 - attached

On the proposition of Cllr Mills it was **RESOLVED**: to approve the minutes of meeting 18th December 2023
On the proposition of Cllr Allen it was **RESOLVED**: to approve the minutes of meeting 3rd January 2024.

24/010 Receipt of committee minutes - attached

On the proposition of Cllr Burgess it was **RESOLVED**: to receive the minutes of meeting 6th December 2023.

Members received draft minutes of Finance and Policy Committee meeting 3rd January 2024.

24/011 Planning – letters, decisions and applications - attached

No new applications.

24/012 Reports from Ward Councillors*

24/013 ICC

New ICC form to be drafted for Finance and Policy's recommendations.

On the recommendation of Cllr Hoose it was **RESOLVED**: to approve January's ICC.

***On the recommendation of Cllr Hoose item 24/012 was discussed here due to Cllr Herring's delayed arrival to the meeting.**

Cllr Herring:

- Health service have received money from lottery for a pilot scheme. Focus of scheme is improvement for elderly residents due to current statistics revealing locality has highest number of over 75s of all West Northants. Cllr Herring encouraged projects to make contact with her.
- Warm welcoming spaces are encouraged to register with WNC, funding is available (can contribute to heating bills). Cllr Herring stated this is an important initiative to encourage "community".
- Men in Sheds – Brackley. Trying to base a shed at Evenly Wood, requesting donations from HS2 suppliers.
- Upcoming site visit to Tiffield where a new SEN school is due to open 2025.
- WNC Budget focus, current consultation. All are encouraged to comment. Unitary has a deficit which is being addressed but are avoiding cutting services. Some county councils less stable.

MIDDLETON CHENEY

Parish Council

- Question posed by Cllr Burgess: Planning – is it speeding up?
Cllr Herring advised any residents can direct their concerns on specific matters to her. Vacancies slowly being filled however there are still substantial recruitment concerns.
- Local Plan work continuing. Possibility to propose a relaxing of the policy if villages wish (for example, allow some development incrementally). Land supply to look to smaller villages who may wish to develop.

24/014 Quarterly Budget Review

Members reviewed current income and expenditure against budget comparison. No new questions or actions.

24/015 Pension and Retirement Policy

On the proposition of Cllr Mills it was **RESOLVED**: to adopt the to adopt the Pension and Retirement Policy, minor phrasing error to be corrected.

24/016 Village / Parish Council website

Cllr Allen to generate a short brief to identify requirements for new website. Endeavour to circulate within 2 weeks. Council identified the potential to use existing website software provider after 3rd party provider contract expires in the interim while options are explored without pressure to make imminent long-term decisions.

On the proposition of Chairman it was **RESOLVED**: to use existing website software provider in the interim while investigation is undertaken into other options.

24/017 Appointment of candidate to fill casual vacancy by co-option

Peter Cook was automatically co-opted to fill a casual vacancy, as an eligible candidate with equal or greater number of vacancies than candidates. Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by candidate and witnessed by the Clerk.

A vote of the council was held with majority.

24/018 Authorisation of Payments – attached

On the proposition of Cllr Burgess it was **RESOLVED**: to approve schedule of payments December 2023-January 2024.

24/019 Exclusion of press and public

On the proposition of the Chairman, in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Meeting delayed due to member of the public.

24/020 Trees and planting options - attached

On the proposition of Cllr Mills it was **RESOLVED**: to determine full cost of sourcing of trees independently and receive further quotes for watering. Councillors identified potential to request an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to enable a decision within planting window.

Meeting re-opened to public.

24/021 Next meeting

7th February 2024 – Finance and Policy Committee

19th February 2024 – Full Council Meeting.

Meeting ended 21:20PM

Signed: *Pip Davis*

Clerk / RFO to Middleton Cheney Parish Council.