



Cheney Chatter

SUMMER ISSUE
JUNE 2023



First Steps

All Saints Church
Middleton Cheney

Wednesdays
2-3pm
term time

Singing Story time Crafts

Free to all pre-school children
& their parents/carers.
Refreshments provided

A design to reflect our village surroundings and community

MIDDLETON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

NEW LOGO COMPETITION

Runner-Up entries to form new artwork in the village

Entries welcomed from residents of any age

To be used on all Parish Council publications (print and electronic) as well as our website and social media

Deadline extended 28th August 2023
clerk@middltoncheney.org.uk / paper copies to Parish Meeting Room, Main Road, OX17 2LR

Coronation Celebrations

Dressed to impress

It's been the talk of the village, the much-admired flower tower returns! Originally installed to add a vibrant backdrop to the village's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Flower Tower has undergone essential repairs and a bit of a zhuzh. Special thanks to Joanne Watts, Alison Moses and Rachel Jarrett who, with the support of the local Knit & Crochet group and others in the village, masterminded the tower. Thanks also to Daniel of DOCC Treecare and Chris of CTS Forestry & Arboriculture Ltd for the safe installation at All Saints Church, which kindly hosted the Flower Tower over the King's Coronation. The village has also enjoyed yarn-bombing and a return of the jubilee bunting, with red white and blue, crowns, soldiers and spirals galore.



RESIDENTS YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

A collaborative response to extreme weather, fire, pandemic, road incidents, unplanned loss of utility services etc.

The Emergency Plan co-ordinates the skill-set and resources within the parish to compliment Emergency Service response, to minimise the impacts of a significant village emergency.

Are you a:
 ☆Nurse ☆Medic
 ☆First responder
 ☆Electrician
 ☆Plumber ☆Builder

Do you have a:
 ●Generator ●Tractor
 ●4 x 4 / Towing vehicle

FOR THE 2023 VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN.

Please contact clerk@middltoncheney.org.uk to note any specialist skills or resources you could offer in an emergency.

BE THE CHANGE

MIDDLETON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Casual Vacancies

Middleton Cheney currently has a councillor vacancy

As part of the Parish Council, you form the level of government closest to the people.

You will:
 Be PASSIONATE and ENGAGED with your community
 REPRESENT the interests of residents
 Have time DEDICATED to village projects and research

clerk@middltoncheney.org.uk 01295 713500 Over 18, must be resident or work in Middleton Cheney

COUNCILLOR VACANCY



Coronation Coddiwomple
 Never heard of a coddiwomple?

On the Coronation Sunday, many residents enjoyed "travelling in a purposeful manner towards a vague destination" as part of a Coronation-themed treasure trail, an excellent opportunity to create their own keep-sakes, solve a few clues and take in the splendid village decorations. Worthy adventurers claimed their goody-bag reward, with a treat for our 4-legged pals of the village and for adults, a chance to win a bottle of wine.



Commemorative gifts

The Parish Council organised 2000 enamel badges for all school-age and under children of the village which will serve as a personal reminder of the coronation in Middleton Cheney and they've been spotted being worn with pride. Many thanks to Kay Stevens and village volunteers for perfectly packaging these special gifts.



Eagerly awaiting the next event?

Keep your eyes peeled for updates on our website, noticeboards and our social media pages.

The Chairman's Annual Report 2022-23 (summary)

It has once again been a difficult year for so many, what with the effects of global economic challenges, and the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, but despite this it has been wonderful to see the strong sense of community in Middleton Cheney. Middleton Cheney Parish Council is extremely proud of its voluntary groups and organisations which work consistently to support the local community.

As is normal, the Parish Council have experienced highs and lows during the 2022/23 Financial Year. While maintaining the usual high quality of services though, the Parish Council managed to reduce the precept demand by approximately 15% in the last financial year, meaning a lower Parish Council element to resident's council tax; and have again brought down the demand for the forthcoming year. Investment in updating streetlights from the SOX lighting to the latest LED technology last year is already realising significant savings in energy costs.

Following on from membership challenges in the previous year the Council has gone from strength to strength in the last 12 months. There have been few changes in Council membership. We were very sad to lose Councillors Stuart Howard, Peter Gliwitzki, Alison Knight and Kay Stevens

and thank them sincerely for their valued contributions. We are delighted to welcome Councillors Rachel Washer and Nigel Mills. It is fantastic to see their commitment and enthusiasm to their roles. It is without doubt they will be fantastic assets to the Council and community of Middleton Cheney.

It was with deep regret the Parish Council closed the existing Cemetery provision to reservations earlier this year. For many years the Council has been building plans to enable acquisition to facilitate the opening of a new Cemetery provision within the village. Preparation of a Cemetery extension will be a major project for the Council in the coming years.

In addition to the scheduled monthly meetings, a number of Members gave additional time to attend Committees and Working Groups to address specific issues and support future events. This has been a fantastic effort by Members of the Parish Council and volunteers and is to be applauded. I would like to thank you all for your attendance and achievements and support over the last year.

It was very sad to lose her majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022. This invoked operation London Bridge to which Council responded with great agility and precision. Many thanks to all members, for their hard work to make this protocol successful, and particular thanks to Cllr. Burgess for the excellent delivery of the proclamation address.

VILLAGE DIARY

Middleton Cheney Art Group ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

10TH AND 11TH JUNE 10AM – 5PM
CHACOMBE VILLAGE HALL

Art work and cards will be for sale at reasonable prices

Tea/ coffee and cake is available, so you and friends can relax and absorb the atmosphere

Members of the group will be present to help and answer questions.
We hope regular fans will continue to support us and new visitors will come and see us

Sunday 25th June 3pm

Cheney Chase!



Walk, Jog or Run!

Approx. 2.5 mile circular route - all ages/abilities

Pushchair & dog friendly

Start/Finish: New Inn, Middleton Cheney, OX17 2ND

Adult £5, Child £3, Dogs £1, Families £12 -

To enter, visit
<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/cheney-chase-2023>,
or scan the QR code.



Or contact:
Helen: 01295 712073
Helen.h.harman@hotmail.com

Graham: 01295 971086
g.raven@sky.com

cruk.org
Together we will beat cancer



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (208896), Scotland (SC044066) and the Isle of Man (12072).



WHEN
Friday 9 June 2023 - eyes down @ 7.00pm!
Doors open at 6.30pm

WHERE
Memorial Hall, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney

WHY
To raise funds for the PFA's project to improve/develop the Memorial Hall and Sports Pavilion

Cost
Tickets to be purchased in advance @ £5 per person and 5 bingo tickets will be received on the night. More tickets can also be purchased on the night.

Please email info@mcfpaproject.co.uk or call 07971 980803 to buy tickets

A licensed bar & raffle will be available on the evening



FOR MORE INFO
ON THE PROJECT
PLEASE VISIT

WWW.MCFPAPROJECT.CO.UK

ASK A UNITARY COUNCILLOR

SURGERY WITH Cllr. R SOLESBURY-TIMMS

An opportunity to meet with a councillor to discuss any matters relating to the ward of Middleton Cheney

1:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday 15th June
PARISH MEETING
ROOMS

cllr.richard.solesburytimms@middletoncheney.org.uk

Caring for the village in a cost of living crisis

In December the Parish Council confirmed their budgets and precept demand. The precept is the Parish Council's charges that form part of our residents' council tax bill. The Parish Council has been working to continuously become more spend-efficient and look long-term at strategies to reduce unnecessary costs.. The Precept from the 2023/24 budget of £133,728 represents a 2.16% reduction on the previous year.

The table below shows the Middleton Cheney Parish Council Precept for the last 5 years. What can be seen here is a modest inflationary level rise in the 2020/21 year, followed by a large 22.1% increase in the subsequent 2021/22 year. From then though, the Precept has been reduced first by 14.4 % in 2022/23, then reduced again this year by the 2.16% for the forthcoming 2023/24 financial year. The overall change over the 5-year period now stands at +3.43%.

Year	Precept	Difference	5-Years
2023/24	£133,728	-2.16%	3.43%
2022/23	£136,680	-14.40%	
2021/22	£159,680	22.12%	
2020/21	£130,757	1.13%	
2019/20	£129,297		

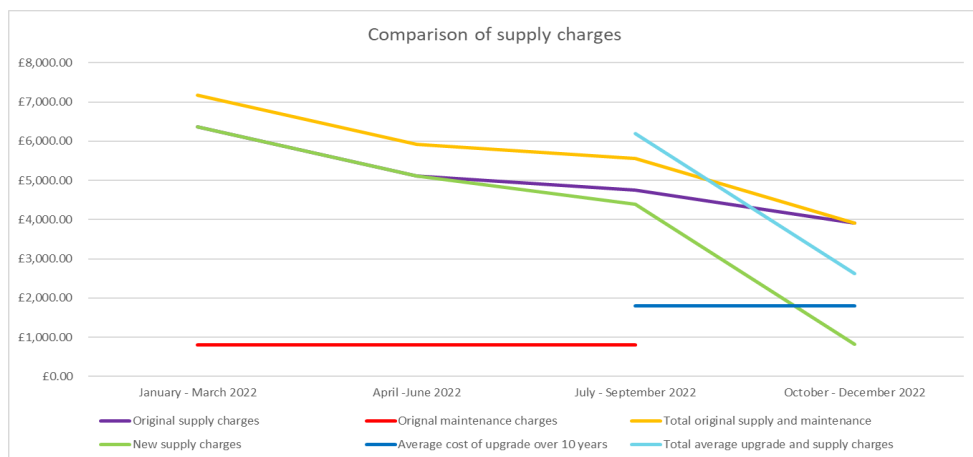
Reducing light pollution, reducing our costs, improving our infrastructure

Due to the street lights in Middleton Cheney reaching the end of their lives and replacement parts falling out of manufacture, the Parish Council instructed new energy efficient upgrades to all Parish-owned lights. The National Grid have now corresponded with our electricity supplier for the Parish Council street lights. We now have some data to show the early savings we have already made by upgrading to more energy efficient lighting.

The **original** supply for the past year averaged £5035.15 per quarter, excluding **maintenance**.

The **new supply** charges for the last 2 Quarters of 2022 average £2602.20. Maintenance charges are excluded as the lamps are guaranteed for **10 years!**

Including the **upgrade costs averaged** over their 10 year guarantee, the **total averages charges** have began to plummet in comparison to the **previous total charge** projections.



The Council is working towards hosting a commemoration event over the coronation weekend which was to involve a battle re-enactment from the Sealed Knot. Unfortunately securing a suitable site to host the battle has not been achieved, so we have had to halt this element of the proposal. More details of the revised plan will be coming soon. Many thanks to Members for the great deal of work which has already taken place and is still going into this.

Throughout the hardships over the last few years, we have achieved so much. The time Members give of freely is noteworthy and although the Council carried some vacancies for a spell, we now only hold one vacancy. Members bring together diverse skills to support the Council work and those interested in becoming a Parish Councillor are invited to apply.

Our financial situation is sound, with adequate cash reserves, but with the continued financial pressures on local authorities we remain prudent. As Councillors it is imperative that we operate good financial stewardship principles to ensure we spend money wisely. We continue to look for every opportunity to save on our budgeted expenditure, and this year our External Auditor PKF Littlejohn will again audit to confirm our financial management. The previous year's final audit returns have been delayed due to concerns raised, the auditors have highlighted their issues and weaknesses which will inform the latest AGAR submission accordingly.

The Parish Council have recently engaged a new contractor to maintain the Cemetery, parks, and open spaces in good order. Councillors are also currently working on various regeneration initiatives relating to green areas. The Council's Parks and open spaces continue to be well used, and the Council is proud and committed to retaining its open space provision and to build upon this for the benefit of parishioners now and in the future.

Finally, I must thank the Council's other staff, Debbie, and Richard. Who as a team have ensured that the village has been kept tidy, but moreover for their commitment to ensuring our facilities are kept clean and safe for all users. I am very grateful to them both.

I hope the Parish Council and parishioners continue to look forward to better times and the Council invites all to engage and attend its meetings and events and activities it is proud to host in Middleton Cheney.

**Cllr Alan Youel, Chairman
Middleton Cheney Parish Council**

Contact the Parish Council :
Email : clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk
Telephone : 01925 713500
Or visit the office in person at the Parish Meeting Rooms, Main Road.
Keep updated via our website www.middletoncheney.org.uk,
Facebook page www.facebook.com/MiddletonCheney and noticeboards.



Need space?

The Parish Meeting Rooms is available to hire for one off occasions and ongoing bookings. The space now has a comfy conversation area added to the room, which also has a large conference table with seating for 12-16, large display board and presentation equipment. There is a disabled-access toilet and the kitchen has been equipped with a fridge-freezer, microwave and full kitchenware. Please contact the clerk for booking information.

Village planting

The Council are considering its use of green spaces. We'd like to hear your thoughts on what planting you'd like to see at the greens at Archery Road and The Bullring to inform whether a proposal is put forward to the landowner. This can be anything from areas of wildflower and springtime bulbs to hedging plants, shrubs and a canopy of trees.



Growing together

The garden space at the Parish Meeting Rooms is slowly being transformed into an accessible space that will ultimately host a community garden. We will be looking for volunteers to work on the project as well as donations of unwanted garden items such as paving slabs. Please contact office@middletoncheney.org.uk to discuss further.



Village maintenance

Grass-cutting

We're pleased to have secured the reliable and friendly services of Slade Estate Services who are overseeing our grass-cutting. As this is a new contract for the team and Council, we welcome any information from our residents if you think an area has been missed from our original plan.

Street lighting

Sometimes a streetlamp may become confused with day and night, or have problems waking up / falling asleep! If you notice something not right, please contact the office with the number on the sticker of the lamppost and the street name and we'll inform our lighting team. Lighting on the Main Road can be reported to WNC Highways via www.fixmystreet.com.



The Queen's Green Canopy

The Parish Council is pleased to have registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme and have 4 crab apple saplings which, once bigger and stronger, will provide a lovely dappled shade in Stanwell Park and the A422 entrance to the village.



Are you part of a local group / organisation or running an event?

If so then we would love to help publicise you to the community and include any events in what will be a regular "Village Diary" page.

Please send any copy to : office@middletoncheney.org.uk. Or contact Middleton Cheney Parish Council on 01295 713500

Volunteer animal warden

The Council is fortunate that it been approached by an individual who will support the village's 4-legged friends and their owners. The volunteer has the facilities to scan micro-chips of lost pets, can signpost residents to support for behaviour and welfare concerns and will support residents to report on issues such as fouling. Contact 07879 895927

