

MIDDLETON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting
Held in the rear hall at the Jubilee Hall, Middleton-on-Sea
On 4th March 2020

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs Haywood (Chairman), Davies, Harris, Mrs Johnson, Jones, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Newton, Mrs Pendleton and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES – Councillor Shepherd

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AS TO REASONS FOR CALLING THIS MEETING

The Chairman stated that the meeting has been called to discuss the latest position with regard to the Ryebank Rife, Empty Farms in the parish and the pond in Yapton Poultry Farm. The Chairman stated that there are concerns about flooding, the three empty farms in Middleton-on-Sea and the possible dew pond at Yapton Poultry Farm. The reason for the meeting is to have a full and frank discussion on these issues, agree a strategy and be proactive.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD – No members of the public were present.

5. MATTERS ARISING

a) **Ryebank Rife** – Councillor Mansfield advised members where the rife starts and ends and that it is a long time since it was last desilted and that the rife when it floods effects a number of parish/town councils. Following further discussion on this issue it was decided that the first stage would be for Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council to make contact with all the other parish/town councils where the rife extends, to seek a meeting with them to discuss a strategy on how best to proceed. The second stage following the first meeting would be to contact Nick Gibb MP with a clear direction on what needs to be done and request his assistance at future meetings which other agencies such as Environment Agency, West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council will be invited to attend. The Clerk was requested to contact the parish/town councils and invite them to a meeting.

b) **Pond at Yapton Poultry Farm** – The Chairman stated that the local farmer was reluctant to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the possibility that the pond was in fact an ancient dew pond. Following further discussion by members on this issue it was decided that Councillor Mrs Pendleton will advise the Clerk on who was the best person to contact at West Sussex County Council on this matter. The Clerk was requested to 1) obtain a copy of the contract between the farmer (Choller Farms) and West Sussex County Council and 2) to obtain information on the Dew Pond Society in Brighton.

c) **Empty Farms Middleton-on-Sea** – The Chairman stated that the situation at Yapton Poultry Farm is known but the two other farms, Elms Farm which is derelict at this time and Guernsey Farm that has now become empty following the closure of the Farm Shop.

Elms Farm – Councillor Mrs Pendleton stated that a strategy needs to be formed which would show what could be done with this area. Councillor Mansfield stated that the house was derelict but the barns could be made into small craft workshops. Members discuss this matter further and the Clerk was requested to obtain a plan of the site for further discussion.

Guernsey Farm (Farm Shop) – The Chairman requested any information with regard to this site from members. Councillor Mansfield stated that the house is derelict but the barn for the farm shop was good and the land is vacant and possibly up for short term let and there is also a large barn on the site with parking at the front. Members discussed the possibility of the Parish Council obtaining part of the site for a Parish/Community hub which would provide a number of benefits. The Clerk was requested to draft a letter for approval by members to West Sussex County Council to see if they would be willing to open negotiations with the Parish Council with regard to this site.

6) **Any Other Business** – There was none

The meeting closed at 20.04pm