

MIDDLETON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held remotely using Zoom
On Wednesday 16th September 2020

PRESENT – Councillors Mr Davies (In the Chair), Ball, Harris, Mrs Johnson, Jones, Knight, Mansfield, Mrs Mills, Newton, Mrs Pendleton and the Clerk.

- 1. APOLOGIES (Approved)** – None
(Noted) - Councillor Mrs Haywood

- 2. MINUTES** – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd September 2020 having been circulated were approved. Minutes will be signed once meetings on Zoom are not required

- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillors Mrs Mills, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Pendleton all declared non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 10(d), all Trustees of Friends of Middleton-on-Sea Pond & Green Charity.

- 4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD** – Five members of the public were present. Mr Hurrell stated that he was attending as an observer. Mr Faircloth a Trustee of Friends of MOS Pond & Green Charity informed the committee about the Trustees and volunteers who regular attend work parties at the pond and green, together with raising funds. Mr Faircloth invited Parish Councillors to come along to one of the work parties at the pond and green to speak with the volunteers and local residents. Mr Thompson thanked the Parish Council for all their community support work during COVID-19 and that COVID-19 is increasing in this area. Mr Wiseman who is a Trustee of the Friends of MOS Pond & Green Charity supported the work that has been done at the pond.

- 5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** – The Clerk having previously circulated the report was noted by members.

- 6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT** – County Councillors Mrs Pendleton gave a verbal report in respect of objections to the Ford Energy and Waste planning application and the strategy regarding Electric Charging points.

- 7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** – The Clerk having previously circulated the report was noted by members.

- 8. ITEMS not otherwise on the Agenda which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency due to special circumstances** – The Clerk stated that Councillor Mrs Haywood requested that the following be considered by the committee. That the Parish Council will seek to ensure that if there is a second lock-down that the previous system of volunteering will be resumed by the Parish Council to all those residents who need it. The committee agreed to the Parish Council continuing the support needed.

9. FORWARD PLAN

Nothing to report at this time

10. MATTERS ARISING

a) Co-opting of New Councillors – The Clerk informed members that both Councillor Alan Ball and Councillor David Knight have signed the necessary documents. Both Councillors then took up their positions on the Parish Council.

b) Update on actions from previous meeting – The Clerk having previously circulated a report to members was noted.

c) Parish Council Meeting Dates – Amendment to Standing Orders – The Clerk having previously circulated a report with regard to the amendment to Standing Order 3 which now reads,

THE COUNCIL SHALL HOLD NOT LESS THAN THREE OTHER MEETINGS A YEAR. These additional meetings shall be held on either the first or third Wednesday of any month during the year except the month of May when the meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, except where such a day shall fall upon a Bank or Public Holiday and at such other day as the Chairman of the Council shall decide

The amendment to Standing Order 3 was proposed by Councillor Mrs Pendleton and Seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed unanimously by members. Councillor Mrs Pendleton thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the District Councillors for this amendment. The Clerk to amend the Standing Orders

d) Middleton Pond – De-silting of Pond – Councillor Mrs Mills, Chairman of the Trustees of the Friends of MOS Pond & Green Charity read out the following statement,

“As Chairman of the P & G Friends it gave me no pleasure to sign the Trustees response to Councillor Mrs Hayward’s letter.

It **was** essential however, from a fundraising, volunteer and community support point of view, that we were seen to robustly counteract the serious accusations contained in her letter.

A letter that at **her** request, was sent to all Parish Councillors.

Accusations that were in fact **so** emotive, that the immediate reaction from one councillor was to suggest the Parish Council take back control of the Pond and rescind the lease with immediate effect.

The Friends of MOS P&G are a Charity, our only income is from community grants and donations. We **cannot** afford to allow unsubstantiated and defamatory allegations to ruin our reputation.

Can you imagine for one minute that we would have received substantial grants from the likes of Tesco, Bilsham Solar Farm, WSCC and this Parish Council, or received donations and voluntary support from the local community, if we were known as the ‘overzealous’ group who ‘trashed’ a Village Pond and Green?

If the PC does not want to risk losing the good will of the Friends and hardworking volunteers it is absolutely essential that this Parish Council makes it clear that they have every confidence in the Friends to conserve and maintain the Pond and Green for the benefit of the community going forward”.

Councillor Mrs Pendleton gave her support to the statement and stated that the Trustees have done amazing work to the pond and green and are helping to maintain wildlife not destroy it.

Councillor Mansfield was concerned with the big deep hole that has appeared but a recent report from the contractor who carried out the work has gone some way to reassure him. Councillor Mansfield has concerns that with no lining in the pond the water will drain away and the report from the contractor seems to imply that no soil was removed.

Councillor Mansfield requested that the Friends of MOS Pond & Green Charity commit to lining the pond with clay if the work that has been done does not solve the situation.

Councillor Mrs Johnson stated that the number of hours that volunteers have worked on the pond and green since it was taken over by the charity amounts to 1,000 hours or around £8,000 at basic rate labour terms.

Councillor Mrs Mills stated that the Trustees of the charity could not commit to lining the pond, as it was never a clay lined pond. Councillor Ball stated that it was a sensible approach to wait and see what happens to the pond following the work that has been done and a possible back-up plan if we have got it wrong. Some of the criticisms need to be toned down or retracted. Councillor Jones gave his apologies in respect of his initial reactions to the letters received from Mr and Mrs Haywood and now having read the various reports he supports the work that has been done by the charity to the pond and green. Councillor Harris supported Councillor Jones comments and his change of attitude.

Councillor Mrs Pendleton stated that this had created an emotional trauma to the Pond & Green community it was a dreadful experience, people ill-informed, rude and call on the Parish Council for apology. Councillor Davies stated that members of the Parish Council are entitled to their opinion but it has not benefitted the village and we should now move on and support the charity going forward.

The Parish Council gave a vote of confidence and its on-going support to the Trustees of the Friends of MOS Pond & Green Charity for the work they continue to do in respect of the village pond and green.

This was proposed by Councillor Mrs Pendleton and Seconded by Councillor Harris, all members voted in favour of the proposal with Councillor Mansfield abstaining.

e) Update Newlands Barn (formerly Farm Shop) – The Clerk having previously circulated a report was noted by members. County Councillor Mrs Pendleton stated that she was working with West Sussex County Council to ascertain relationship of the barn with the Parish Council. Councillor Mansfield stated that the Farm Shop also sold furniture, had a coffee shop and held events such as a millennium part of which 150-200 people attended.

Councillor Mrs Pendleton left the meeting to attend a meeting at Arun District Council

f) Insurance 2020-2021 – The Clerk having previously circulated a report to members was noted. Councillor Ball stated that the difference in the quotes is small and changing to a new insurer is a risk and that the Parish Council should stay with the current insurance provider. This was agreed by Councillor Mansfield the current insurers have

done a good job for the Parish Council over many years. Members agreed unanimously to stay with Came & Co our current insurers for the next three years. The Clerk was requested to advise the insurance companies accordingly.

g) Meeting with Elmer Residents – Parking – The Clerk having previously circulated the report to members was noted. The Clerk read out a statement from Councillor Mrs Haywood who wished to congratulate Councillor Mrs Pendleton on a fantastic report. Councillor Mrs Haywood also stated that perhaps a Parish Councillor would be interested to take the lead on the traffic matters as they arise. Councillor Newton asked if this could be sent to all the Resident Associations, the Clerk stated that an abridged version of the report is in the autumn 2020 edition of Middleton News. Councillor Jones stated that regular patrol parking enforcement is taking place and speaking with the Enforcement Officers they would like body cameras to record any incidents that may arise. Councillor Jones requested that pressure be put on Arun District Council to see if these can be provided. The Clerk to discuss with District Councillors.

h) Village Gateways – The Clerk informed members that the two gateways are on order and should be delivered in 3-4 weeks and Bognor Regis Town Force will install them.

I) Friends of MOS Pond & Green Minutes – The Clerk having previously circulated the minutes to members was noted.

j) Public Rights of Way Inspection – Councillor Mrs Johnson stated that the planned inspection planned for April 2020 had to be cancelled and the inspection is now set for April 2021.

k) Cycling in Middleton – The Clerk having previously circulated a report to members was noted. The Clerk stated that of the points raised the question of a 20mph speed limit through the village needed consideration. Councillor Jones stated that the 20mph speed limit was not possible as it is a bus route. Councillor Harris stated that speeding limits need to be addressed. The Community Speed Watch Group was discussed and it was only recently that the police have allowed this to start up again and members suggested that this route could assist in reducing speeding vehicles.

11. Development Control Committee – The minutes dated 15th July, 5th August and 19th August 2020 having been circulated to members were noted

12. General Purposes Committee – Nothing to report.

13. Parish Land & Property Committee – Nothing to report.

14. Correspondence:

(a) Clerks & Councils Direct

(b) Rights of Way Summerley Estate (circulated)

(c) Arun DC – Confidential briefings COVID-19 (8 reports circulated)

(d) WSCC Town & Parish Council News (7 reports circulated)

(e) Arun DC Interim Monitoring Officer Arrangements (circulated)

(f) Update Elmer Road/Villa Plage Beach Pathway (circulated)

(g) Arun DC – West Bersted Masterplan Consultation (circulated)

(h) News Release – WSCC Special Recognition Volunteer Award (circulated)

- (I) News Release – WSCC £4.7 million bid for cycling & walking improvements (circulated)
- (j) Coronavirus Survey Results (circulated)
- (k) Pavement Licences (circulated)
- (l) News Release – WSCC Archives Service Re-open to public (circulated)
- (m) West Sussex Association of Local Councils Virtual Board Meeting (circulated)
- (n) News Release – WSCC New Highway Maintenance Contracts (circulated)
- (o) Consultation Public Space Protection Order (circulated)
- (p) Emergency Active Travel Fund (circulated)

15. Finance Committee:

(a) Bank Accounts:	Current	£1,250.00
	Business Reserve	£58,996.13
	Total	£60,246.13

(b) Accounts for payment

Dementia Support	Well Being Packs	*	£375.00
Ken Wilson	Internal Auditor	*	£150.00
Gillian Fowler	Middleton News	*	£436.12
Bognor Regis TF	Tree Watering	*	£52.80
Admor Ltd	Middleton News	*	£1107.00
Joe Lake	Face Masks	*	£239.94
Joe Lake	Office Allowance	*	£216.00
WSCC	Payroll	*	£1226.56
Joe Lake	Stationery	*	£117.37
Bognor Regis TF	Repairs	*	£321.74
Habitat Aid	Pond	*	£1690.08
Friends of P&G	Donation	*	£1000.00
WSCC	Payroll	*	£1226.56
Netwise	Support & Domain Name	*	£480.00
Primavera Landcare	Pond	*	£27282.00
	Total		£35,921.17

* Issued prior to meeting

16 Any Other Business – Councillor Davies informed members that Elmer Garage will be closing from the 23rd September to 5th November 2020. Elmer Garage have been open all through the lockdown with COVID-19 and are now taking a well-earned break.

There being no further business the Chairman reminded members that the next meeting will be held on the **21st October 2020** at 7.00pm and the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Unconfirmed