**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 5.30 P.M.

Present:

Mr Jonathan Rees Chair

Ms Rachel Makari Vice-Chair

Mr Andrew Fulljames

Mr Al Grenfell

Mr Bill Champion

Ms Jo Dunne

Ms Juliet Cornford

Ms Lucy Tyrrell Clerk

The meeting was attended by 20 Parishioners.

1. Apologies for Absence

None received.

1. Declarations of Interest

None received.

1. Annual Reports from:

**Chair of the Parish Council**

Mr Rees, Chair of the Parish Council, gave his annual report (full copy is attached within the minute book) and recorded:

* Introduced all to the formal statutory meeting, of which it has been two years since the last, due to COVID. Thanked members of the Parish Council for their continued work, and introduced two new members, Juliet Cornford and Jo Dunne.
* Thanked Liz Willmott who has stood down as Parish Clerk, and welcomed her successor, Lucy Tyrrell.
* Highlighted the following current planning concerns to the village: Heyford Park Phase 2, Great Wolf, ORFI and the Oxford 2050 plans and gave an overview of each. Expressed the good news concerning the bus, which has now been moved out of Middleton Stoney.
* Highlighted the ongoing traffic concerns, in particular the continued use of HGV’s coming through the village, and the approaches being considered by the Parish Council.
* Addressed the issue surrounding the pathways to the church and updated Parishioners on the current state of affairs.
* Updated on the events of 23 December 2020 whereby many people were affected by flooding and the continued collaborative work with Councillor Ian Corkin to understand what happened and undertake to ensure this does not happen again.
* Advised that the Parish Council has re-joined the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Forum.
* Highlighted the new defibrillator.
* Thanked Cllr Al Greenfell for his continued efforts to get better broadband for the village.

**Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee**

Mrs Pay, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee could not attend the meeting, and so Mrs Jennifer Hughes gave the report on behalf of the Committee (full copy is attached within the minute book):

* Cash position is strong, given the £10,000 COVID grant received.
* Obtaining quotes for the replacement of lino in the kitchen and entrance hall area.
* Sourcing additional storage cupboards.
* Currenting looking into holding a Christmas Fayre this year.
* Thanked all of those on the Committee, however highlighted that new volunteers would be welcomed.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Mrs Pay for her report, and to Mrs Hughes for presenting it.

**Organiser of the Playground Group**

Mrs Grace O’Dwyer delivered her verbal report as follows:

* ROSPA are organising an inspection.
* Some of the equipment is coming to end of life and will continue to explore plans for costs for replacement/refurbishment.
* Grant applications are being considered.

The Chair thanked Mrs O’Dwyer and her group for her continued work during the year.

**All Saints PC Church**

The Revd. Gareth Miller gave his verbal report to the Parish as follows:

* Following the initial impact of the pandemic, services have now restarted with a full range of services and all are welcomed to join.
* From October, there will be a service held every Sunday.
* The Harvest Festival Service was very well attended, and all enjoyed the BBQ.
* Following a meeting of Church Wardens, architects and the builder, development works including new toilet and small servery will go ahead, however it will be a phased approach with the repairs to the roof planned thereafter.
* Huge thanks to Pat Amos for organising the flowers for the church, who has now stepped down and volunteers for anyone with skills in this area are welcome.
* Expressed his gratitude to the Church Wardens and other volunteers supporting the Parish Church.

**Middleton Stoney Cricket Club**

Mr Andrew Hickman, Treasurer of the Middleton Stoney Cricket Club sent his apologies to the meeting, however his report was read out in his absence as follows (full copy is attached within the minute book):

* Over 40 players are registered with the club, ranging in ages from early teen to veterans.
* On most Sundays between end of April and end of September there is a game being played and visitors are always welcome.
* The last two seasons have obviously been difficult due to COVID restrictions, and the 2020 playing season could not be started until July, then without the use of the club house, which has had detrimental effect upon income.
* We are always looking for new volunteers, even from those who do not necessarily want to play but would be happy to take on some of the tasks during the playing season.
* Further details of the club, its history and current match reports can be found on the very excellent website at [www.middletonstoneycc.co.uk](http://www.middletonstoneycc.co.uk).

The Chair expressed his thanks to Mr Andrew Hickman, for his comprehensive report.

The following questions/comments were asked by Parishioners:

*There is an area of land around the playground that is unused, could this be considered for use by dog walkers?* The Chair responded that this area of land is used by children, and might not be considered suitable, however agreed that that there is an absence of joined up dog walking areas and will consider as an action to take forward.

*Would it be possible to purchase part of the land opposite to Villiers Park?* The Chair responded that an approach to purchase some land parallel to this had been considered and **resolved** to follow this up.

In discussions on how to create more green spaces within the village, the Chair advised that the Parish Council had written to the owners of the village pub and requested that this area be looked after whilst it is being sold, which has been followed up by Environmental Officers at Cherwell District Council and has been responded to.

Mr Al Greenfell updated parishioners on the development at Heyford Park which should give a cycle path from the village into Bicester. This is being followed up by the Transport Group.

There were various complaints regarding the condition of footpaths and overgrowing vegetation around the village making it difficult to safely walk on the paths. Mr Al Greenfell notified parishioners of Fix My Street, enabling members of the public to highlight these areas to the District Council, however, the Council are **resolved** to follow these up.

The formal meeting closed at 6.15 p.m., followed by a social function in the village playground.