

# MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT

## 2010/11

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Welcome to our first formal annual report. Its purpose is to inform you of the activities the parish council has undertaken on your behalf over the last year. I hope you will find it interesting and informative.*

**A47:** During the year we decided to focus our activities on the campaign for a pedestrian crossing. We were encouraged by the formation of the A47 action group and our petition for the crossing was signed by over 580 residents. In the Autumn we received the news that the Highways agency would bid for funding to construct the Crossing in the next financial year. This is particularly significant as it is the first time the Agency has formally acknowledged the need for the crossing to be built. We are currently waiting to hear from the Agency regarding the funding and are working with Mr Bellingham to arrange an early on site meeting with the Agency's Route Manager.

**Recycling Facilities:** As part of our response to the Parish Plan we have introduced recycling facilities for glass and clothing to the Crown car park. We are grateful to Mr Hutton for allocating the space for these.

**Playing Field:** Our decision to upgrade and improve the BMX track was rewarded with a significant increase in usage, particularly during the summer months. We also commenced a project to provide play equipment for younger children at the side of the Village Hall. However the level of response we received to a consultation questionnaire was very disappointing and was not sufficient to allow us to apply for the necessary funding. We have reluctantly decided to shelve the project.

**Sporting/ Leisure Activities:** During the year we worked with the Borough Council to arrange some Carpet bowls sessions. We are very pleased that this has now developed into a thriving permanent club. Also with the Borough Council's support we organised a programme of summer holiday activities for school children. The response to the activities was variable but we have decided to arrange further sessions this summer. With the kind support of Middleton Badminton Club we have helped organise a junior badminton course which commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> February and has been well attended.

**School Road:** Last summer residents raised concerns about vehicles speeding on School Road endangering children and parents. We were grateful for the support of the police in carrying out speed spot checks. We have received quotations for the installation of flashing warning lights on either side of the road approaching the school and approved the funding for this during the April Parish Council meeting.

**Middleton War Memorial:** Working with the local branch of the British legion we have been able to arrange for the names of the fallen from World War II to be added to the War memorial in the church yard. We are very grateful to the Rev Ryan and the Legion for their help and support with this project.

**Website:** The use of the website has continued to expand and the monthly number of visits has now doubled to over 400. We aim to expand the range of communication provided on the website and provide opportunities for questions and comments. Our thanks go to Mr Gardner for all his work.

**Middleton Mount:** We have continued to manage the site on behalf of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust and have again been fortunate to host the "Flying Flock." Regrettably some incidences of unauthorised camping caused significant litter problems.

**Quality Status:** The Council has decided to seek accreditation as a Quality Council. Our Action Plan to achieve this focuses on providing more opportunities for the community to engage with us. We have recently introduced monthly surgeries and organised and held an open morning in February. So far the response has been rather disappointing but we acknowledge that this will be a long term project.

**Conclusion:** I would like to thank out Litter Warden Mrs Howell and our Contractor Mr Smith for all their valued work. We are also grateful to Mr Skipper for his work with the Community Car scheme and to Mr Cloke for overseeing the first three years of Community Speedwatch Team.

During the year the Council was sad to see the retirement of two of our long serving councillors Mr Carter and Mr Ogden. Their work on behalf of our community over many years is very much appreciated and I am personally grateful for their support and encouragement.

Particular thanks are due to our Clerk Kate Senter whose efficiency and enthusiasm contributes a great deal to our work.

Over the past year we have made some progress in implementing the actions set out in our Parish Plan. There is however still much to be done but our ability to deliver will be influenced by the degree of support and involvement we receive from the wider community.

**If you have any questions or comments on any aspect of this report please contact the Parish Clerk on 01553 841387.**

**MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT 10.11**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Current</b>	
			<b>Budget</b> <b>Current Exp.</b>
			<b>Administration</b>
Precept	£ 17,500.00	£17,500.00	Annual Subs.                    £        300.00    £        317.52
VAT Repayment	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,212.76	Insurance                        £        1,350.00    £        1,213.15
Bank Interest	£ 10.00	£ 6.42	Clerk's Salary                    £        4,200.00    £        4,512.97
Allotment Rents	£ 73.25	£ 216.09	Office Costs/Mileage            £        600.00    £        560.60
Garden Rents	£ 69.25	£ 76.72	Training Costs                    £        50.00    £        52.50
Comm. Car Scheme	£ 10.00	£ 46.55	Cost of meetings                £        280.00    £        321.00
Miscellaneous		£ 1,126.00	Audit Fees                        £        250.00    £        210.00
			Risk Management                £        1,500.00    £        1,440.00
			<b>Parks &amp; Open Spaces</b>
			Mow ing                            £        988.25    £        1,009.46
			Treatment of BMX Track        £        272.00    £        272.00
			Monthly Field Inspections     £        333.00    £        111.00
			Safety Inspection                £        270.00    £        373.50
			Playing Field Maintenance     £        1,000.00    £        1,687.75
			New Playing Field Equipment   £        500.00    £        20.00
			Parkhill Plantation Rent        £        5.00    £        5.00
			Middleton Motte                 £        850.00    £        850.00
			<b>Misc / Village Hall</b>
			Community Car Scheme         £        20.00    £        65.00
			Village Hall Car Park Donation £        500.00    £        500.00
			<b>Churchyard</b>
			Grass Cutting                    £        551.60    £        551.60
			<b>Section 137 Payments</b>
			Poppy Wreath                    £        35.00    £        16.50
			Misc - leaflets etc for Open morning £        -        £        102.87
			<b>Highways</b>
			Litter Warden Salary            £        1,680.00    £        1,625.96
			Extra Litter Collection         £        1,780.00    £        1,376.00
			Litter Warden Equipment        £        500.00    £        600.00
			Dog Bin Emptying                £        240.00    £        306.50
			New Dog Waste Bins            £        350.00    £        421.11
			<b>Allotments</b>
			Rent                                £        112.00    £        168.00
			<b>VAT</b>
			On Payments                    £        606.35    £        1,120.41
			Misc.                                £                   £        946.43
		<b>£20,184.54</b>	<b>£ 20,756.83</b>
<b>Bank balances as at 1st April 10</b>			<b>Bank balances as at 31st March 11</b>
Current Account		£ 561.02	Current Account                    £        98.31
High Interest Account		£ 7,686.87	High Interest Account            £        7,593.29
Parish Plan Account		36.15	Parish Plan Account                £        36.15
		<b>£ 8,284.04</b>	<b>£ 7,727.75</b>
<b>less uncleared cheques b/fwd</b>			<b>less uncleared cheques</b>
100088		-£ 33.60	100088                                -£        33.60
			101531                                -£        16.00
		<b>£28,434.98</b>	<b>£ 28,434.98</b>

The Council has kept expenditure reasonably within budget. Its decision to spend more on the BMX tracks was in response to a donation of £500 from MAGIC to perform the work. Without this, the Council would not have been able to commit its funds so readily.

The Council has set its budget with the current country wide economic situation in mind and has not increased its precept. It still aims to provide as many facilities and services as it can as well as committing some funds to ensuring that the Parish is always informed on the Council's activities.

If you have any questions about the financial statement of the Council, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01553 841387.

## **PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS**

**At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, the Councillors of Middleton Parish Council were:**

**Mark Fuller (Chairman)**  
**Mick Porter (Vice-Chair)**  
**Sid Wood**  
**Mervyn Wiles**  
**Val Ward**  
**Elizabeth Barclay**  
**Ewan Miller**  
**Heather Gardner**  
**Stephen Hutton**  
**VACANT**

**The Parish Clerk details are:**  
**Kate Senter**  
**2 Manor Close**  
**Middleton**  
**Kings Lynn**  
**PE32 1RZ**  
**Tel: 01553 841387**  
**Email: [kate@kvtbusinesscare.co.uk](mailto:kate@kvtbusinesscare.co.uk)**

**Village website details: [www.middleton-news.co.uk](http://www.middleton-news.co.uk)**