

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2011/12

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to Middleton Parish Council's 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: In April 2011 we met formally with representatives from the Highways Agency to press our case for a pedestrian crossing. We were encouraged to learn that for the first time the Crossing had been included in the Agency's list of future projects. However this was tempered by the news that due to funding cuts across government there would be no funding available to action any improvements to the A47 in Norfolk during the next two financial years. Despite this we have continued to lobby the Agency, with the support of Henry Bellingham MP. Earlier this year we were advised that the Agency had found sufficient funding to carry out the design phase of the project. Whilst we have no news about funding to complete the work we believe that by funding the design the Highways agency have demonstrated a meaningful commitment to completing the Crossing when funding is subsequently available.

Other Highways Issues: The Council agreed to fund warning lights on School Road from the Parish Pit Charity Fund. We were very pleased when the installation was completed late last year. We issued 30 mph stickers for residents, who live on the main routes through the Community, to attach to their refuse bins. This has been very well supported and any residents who require extra stickers should contact the Clerk.

Playing Field: The BMX facilities have continued to be well used and the year has seen a significant reduction in the levels of vandalism experienced on the Field. We have decided to embark on a major project to update and improve the range of facilities available on the Playing Field. A Project Team has been set up and they will be shortly embarking on a major consultation exercise covering all sections of our Community. Please let us know what you would like to see on the Playing Field

Sporting/ Leisure Activities: We organised a programme of summer holiday activities for school children aided by a grant from the Borough Council. The response to the activities was limited and in view of this and financial restrictions we have reluctantly decided not to repeat the programme this summer. With the kind support of Middleton badminton Club we have continued to support a junior badminton club. However the funding for this will end on 31st March.

In the autumn we supported two Theatre productions by the Keepers Daughter Company. The attendance for both performances was well over 100 and we were very pleased by the support and the comments we received. It has been decided to organise two performances in September and December 2012 so please look out for details.

Finances: For the Financial year 2012/13 the Council decided not to seek an increase in the precept. However given the inevitable increases in costs, particularly around our facilities maintenance responsibilities we were faced with a potentially significant deficit. Consequently we made some difficult decisions to reduce our support to the Village hall and the maintenance of Middleton Mount, in addition to withdrawing our subsidy for the junior badminton club. Whilst this has enabled us to balance the budget our scope to take on any additional responsibilities is now severely limited

Conclusion: I would like to thank our Litter Contractor Mr Smith and our website Co-ordinator Mr Gardner for all their valued work. We are also grateful to Mr Skipper for his work with the Community Car scheme and to all our Community Speedwatch volunteers.

Particular thanks are due to our Clerk Kate Senter whose energy and enthusiasm contributes significantly to our work

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

| INCOME | | | EXPENDITURE | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Budget | Current | | Budget | Current Exp. |
| Precept | £ 17,500.00 | £17,500.00 | Administration | | |
| VAT Repayment | £ 1,060.00 | £ 1,120.41 | Annual Subs. | £ 350.00 | £ 231.55 |
| Bank Interest | £ 8.00 | £ 2.05 | Insurance | £ 1,250.00 | £ 1,195.38 |
| Allotment Rents | £ 216.09 | £ 131.04 | Clerk's Salary | £ 4,283.16 | £ 4,280.52 |
| Garden Rents | £ 76.72 | £ 76.72 | Office Costs/Mileage | £ 550.00 | £ 659.27 |
| Comm. Car Scheme | £ 50.00 | £ 98.91 | Training Costs | £ 200.00 | £ - |
| Contributions Arc. Soc. | £ 300.00 | £ - | Election costs | £ 500.00 | £ - |
| Election Fee | £ 6.00 | £ - | Publicity | £ 300.00 | £ 332.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £ - | £ 1,683.63 | Cost of meetings | £ 280.00 | £ 362.00 |
| | | | Audit Fees | £ 250.00 | £ 210.00 |
| | | | Risk Management | £ 1,550.00 | £ 1,550.00 |
| | | | Parks & Open Spaces | | |
| Misc. Income | | | Mowing | £ 988.25 | £ 1,194.77 |
| Dracula performance income | | £ 365.00 | Treatment of BMX Track | £ 272.00 | £ 272.00 |
| Badminton club income | | £ 569.10 | Monthly Field Inspections | £ 333.00 | £ 283.05 |
| Christmas Carol proceeds | | £ 168.00 | Safety Inspection | £ 380.00 | £ 90.00 |
| Summer activities income | | £ 239.00 | Playing Field Maintenance | £ 1,500.00 | £ 1,684.90 |
| Correcting adjustment | | £ 342.53 | New Playing Field Equipment | £ 500.00 | £ - |
| | | £ 1,683.63 | Parkhill Plantation Rent | £ 5.00 | £ 5.00 |
| | | | Tree maintenance | £ 200.00 | £ - |
| | | | Middleton Motte | £ 850.00 | £ 670.00 |
| Misc. Expenditure | | | Misc / Village Hall | | |
| War memorial engraving | | £ 490.00 | Community Car Scheme | £ 60.00 | £ 255.00 |
| 30 mph stickers | | £ 390.00 | Village Hall Car Park Donation | £ 500.00 | £ 500.00 |
| Summer Activities | | £ 400.00 | Churchyard | | |
| Dracula costs | | £ 260.00 | Grass Cutting | £ 551.60 | £ 413.70 |
| Christmas Carol costs | | £ 202.86 | Section 137 Payments | | |
| Correcting adjustment | | £ 342.53 | Poppy Wreath/ Misc | £ 17.00 | £ 17.00 |
| | | £ 2,085.39 | Highways | | |
| | | | Litter Warden Salary | £ 1,750.00 | £ 1,781.04 |
| | | | Extra Litter Collection | £ 1,780.00 | £ 1,796.00 |
| | | | Litter Warden Equipment | £ 100.00 | £ 168.00 |
| | | | Dog Bin Emptying | £ 334.00 | £ 644.79 |
| | | | Allotments | | |
| | | | Rent | £ 112.00 | £ 112.00 |
| | | | VAT | | |
| | | | On Payments | £ 807.60 | £ 1,172.64 |
| | | | Misc. | | £ 2,085.39 |
| | £19,216.81 | £20,612.76 | | £20,553.61 | £ 21,966.00 |
| Bank balances as at 1st April 11 | | | Bank balances as at 31st March 12 | | |
| Current Account | | £ 98.31 | Current Account | | £ 2,004.43 |
| High Interest Account | | £ 7,593.29 | High Interest Account | | £ 3,975.40 |
| Parish Plan Account | | £ 36.15 | Parish Plan Account | | £ 36.15 |
| | | £ 7,727.75 | | | £ 6,015.98 |
| less uncleared cheques b/fwd | | | less uncleared cheques | | |
| 100088 | | -£ 33.60 | 100088 | | -£ 33.60 |
| 101531 | | -£ 16.00 | plus income not yet received | | £ 342.53 |
| | | | | | |
| | | £28,290.91 | | | £ 28,290.91 |

The Council has, once again, kept expenditure reasonably within budget. The maintenance of the playing field is always a large expenditure for the Council, however, it has begun a project to vastly improve the playing field and its facilities to provide a location of all in the village to enjoy. The installation of new equipment will also decrease the cost of maintenance for the Council in the future.

The Council has, once again, 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. It had to make some difficult decisions at the beginning of this financial year to reduce expenditure, which has included the loss of funding to the junior badminton club, a reduction in the annual donation to the Village Hall and a reduction in its contribution to the maintenance of Middleton Mount. Should circumstances improve the next financial year, the Council will revisit these areas of expenditure.

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 31st March 2012, 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
Ray Smith
Don Taylor

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

Village website details: www.middleton-news.co.uk