

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL, LOW ROAD, MIDDLETON, LA3 3LG

Annual General Meeting

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 12th May 2025 at 8pm.

Venue: Middleton Parish Hall, Low Road, Middleton.

Chair D Hoyle (DH); **Vice-Chair** W Doyle (WD); N Shacklady (NS); P Shacklady (PS);
T Porter (TP); G McMurray (GM) T Smith (TS)

Agenda

Welcome from the Chair.

Present, Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

Any items from member of the public.

1, ref AGM 05/25/01, Annual report of the Chair (DH)

2, ref AGM 05/25/02, Election of new Chair (All)

Chair's annual report 2024-2025

Parish Hall

Strawberry Dance School at the Parish Hall continues to be successful and Middleton Parish Council is pleased to provide a long term home for the studio which provides a popular activity in the village as well as an essential contribution to keeping the hall open for the use of all residents.

Middleton Bowling Club every Thursday morning are our longest-running regular users of the hall - celebrating their 25th anniversary on the 22nd May!

A new online booking system is being trialled which is set to make it easier for residents to book the hall. Council members have had training on how to operate the website and new booking system.

Issues with the drains have been investigated, and damage leading to the frequent blockages was identified. The estimated repair cost is £20,000. The council is prioritising areas to address and fundraising over the coming year.

New front doors were fitted to improve security and appearance of the main entrance. Improvements have been made to the safety handrails on the stage.

Damage to the exterior render causing water ingress around the main entrance has been identified and quotes sought for repair.

The energy supply contract is up for renewal after 3 years, the council is seeking the best quote and also plans to bring the separate accounts for the hall and the sports pavilion under one new contract.

The snooker table is in poor condition. The council proposed removing the table to allow the snooker room to be hired out for small events, meetings, childrens' playgroup etc. However there were multiple requests from residents to keep the table available. Therefore the snooker table remains available to use free of charge, but there has been no interest in using it.

Playground

The National Lottery Community Fund has awarded Middleton Parish Council £19,890, which will pay for a new ninja trail that will replace the current monkey trail at the bottom of the park. This is a huge first step forward in the park renovations and we are thankful to the National Lottery Fund for deciding that our community would receive the huge sum of money!

With the playground fund that we have built up over the years by holding events at the hall, we are looking to replace the swings and small climbing frame and add some new play

equipment, hopefully this can be done in time for summer. This will then mean only the large climbing frame is left to replace. We are constantly looking at funding options to help with this.

We would like to add some new picnic tables (including disabled access benches) outside the playground for people to gather with friends and family whilst children play in the park.

Some trees/ hedges will be planted to section off seating areas and make a barrier behind the football net.

I Dig Trees has gifted a selection of 950 trees to the village, these will be planted in public areas around the Parish Hall, play park and green areas around the village to give some colour, interest and encourage nature. A huge thank you to I Dig Trees for providing not only the trees, but canes and safety covers for each one (free of charge!) to protect them and give them the best chance to grow.

Sports field

Refurbishment of the public tennis court was completed, with a new high quality surface and nets installed.

The football pitches have seen ongoing issues with drainage during the winter. There has been concern over tree maintenance and balls going over fences around the pitches, discussions are ongoing with landowners and football club to resolve this.

The changing pavilion has received much needed refurbishment, funded by the Middleton & Overton Sports FC.

Community Hub

Deborah Hoyle and Gemma McMurray decided to come together and open a community hub and cafe within the Parish Hall, it is open 3 days a week and welcomes all from both inside and outside the village. The aim is for the hub to be a place where young and old can come to meet in a warm, friendly atmosphere. A huge thank you to all those that have donated toys, furniture, time and effort both cleaning, fixing and painting the hall getting it ready to welcome new visitors.

The hub opens 3 mornings a week, during winter it was available as a warm space for anyone who was struggling to heat their homes. Now Spring has arrived we are looking to move our Friday session outdoors and get a group of volunteers together to plant trees, flowers and litter pick around the village.

Once a month on a Saturday evening we host a 'gaming together' session that is open for teenagers to use our snooker room and hub to meet new friends and play a range of online games, board games and use our facilities. This has only been running since March and already new connections and friendships have been made.

Lancaster City Council community fund panel awarded Middleton Community Hub and Cafe a £700 grant to get set up, only a portion of this has been used so far to purchase supplies

to get everything in place for providing a safe and warm space for both young and old alike. We have purchased everything required that would ensure mothers visiting with both babies and young children have everything they need.. for example high chairs, bottle warmers etc. We have invested in everything we need to set up a small cafe area for around 30 adults and 25 young children, including cups, glasses, plates, plastic beakers with straws and plastic plates for toddlers. We have also designed a logo for our community hub so we can advertise locally to try and bring as many of our community together as possible. We use the logo inside the hub on both mats and signs.

We are applying for grants where possible to constantly make improvements to both our Parish Hall, play park and all other areas within our village. Any ideas/recommendations of what people would like to see are always welcome.

Events

Events held at the hall such as Halloween, Christmas party, Bingo and more have helped to raise funds for the playground and these will continue in 2025. The Parish Council has special thanks to Marilyn Homer who held many fundraising events at the hall over the years and who sadly passed away in April.

Planning

A major planning application is in the initial stages to develop light industrial and office facilities along Imperial Road, just off the bypass. The Parish Council has stated that the priority for the parish is opening of the missing road link between Middleton Road and Imperial Road, which would improve road safety and access for the village. Members of the City and County councils supported this position and further work is being carried out on how to deliver this. The application is now open for public comment on <http://imperialroadheysham.co.uk/>

Council

The council thanks Daman Bogucki who joined the council in 2023 and has recently stepped down. There are vacancies available on the council; any interested residents are invited to come along to meetings and find out more.

Signed..... Chair Deborah Hoyle, 10th May 2025.