

Middleton St George Parish Council

Date: Monday 10th August 2009 at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Doris Jones (Chair), Brian Jones, Martin Walker, Andy Hill, Rhys Maybrey, Jeff Quick, Ian Dodds
Joyce McBride - Clerk
Councillor Frank Richardson (attended for item 7 as trustee of MSG youth fund trust)(left meeting after item 7)
Dave Roberts - Press
Maz Holmes, Sue Shaw - Allotment Association (for item 8 then left the meeting)

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Maggie Beadle, Steve York

2. Absent: Councillor Mark Miller

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Andy Hill declared an interest in Agenda item 5.c. planning application 09/00503/FUL

Councillor Ian Dodds declared an interest in Agenda item 5.a. planning application 09/00491/FUL.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July were approved as a true record.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.a. Tender again for decorating of exterior of Parish meeting room - in abeyance.

5.b. Water Park - Cllr. D. Jones updated that the award application has now gone in.

5.c. Traffic system – Cllr D Jones informed that there had been an overwhelming response to the traffic survey and that she has a meeting with the Highways Department next Tuesday to go through them.

6. Planning Applications:

6.a. 09/00491/FUL Raise garage eaves by 400mm to facilitate habitable use of roof space at Thorntree House, Middleton Lane, MSG. **Object due to overdevelopment at Thorntree House**

6.b. 09/00481/FUL Erection of single storey lean-to conservatory to rear Oak Tree Granary, MSG. **No comment**

6.c. 09/00503/FUL Construction of tiled roof over existing conservatory at 4 Heathrow Close, MSG. **No comment.**

6.d. 09/00535/LBC Listed building consent for erection of lean-to conservatory at Oak Tree Granary, MSG. **Clerk to request sight of plans**

7. Playing Field

7.a. Cllr Martin Walker signed the Health and Safety report.

7.b. The Playground Sub Committee Minutes were approved. It was agreed that there be 4 playground sub committee meetings per year between the two parishes with Cllr Steve York as Chair, they will then report to this meeting.

7.c. Cllr Frank Richardson, presented a cheque for £3,500 from Middleton St. George Youth Trust as a donation towards replacement of the playground space net.

8. Allotments.

8.a. The Allotment Sub Committee Minutes were approved. It was agreed that there be 4

allotment sub committee meetings per year with Cllr Martin Walker as Chair, they will then report to this meeting.

8.b. Cllr D. Jones thanked Mr. Dave Roberts and his partner for being judges of the allotments.

8.c. Ms. Maz Holmes and Ms Sue Shaw requested that the parish council look at falling branches from a willow tree causing a hazard. It was agreed that the Allotment Sub Committee would do so. **Correction agreed at 14Sep09 meeting – Councillor D. Jones will ask DBC to look at instead of the Allotment Sub Committee.**

8.d. Cllr M Walker suggested posting a notice at all allotments requesting the conservation of water with suggestions for doing so. Unanimously approved.

8.e. Mr. Dave Roberts agreed to get back to us with the overall winning allotment for the Overall Winner Trophy.

9. Notice Board – Virginia Estate.

The Clerk confirmed that Whitehill Direct would be replacing the old notice board by the end of August. Confirmation was received from them that the old one would be removed

10. Relocation of Alan Walker’s Bench

Cllr Andy Hill obtained approval from the meeting for a quotation from S.M. & A. Short for restoration at a total cost of £65. Cllr B Jones has arranged for installation

11. Public Footpath at Middleton One Row

Cllr D Jones reported that volunteers have been requested from Northumbrian Water for work on reinstating the footpath at Middleton One Row.

12. Grounds Maintenance Contract

Cllr Martin Walker reported that edges of playing field and allotments needed strimming to remove ragwort, keep tidy, etc.

Resolved: Cllr D Jones to follow up with Mr. Palfreman, Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

13. Photocopier

Cllr D Jones reported that emergency repairs had been carried out on the Parish Meeting Room photocopier. The cost amounted to £110 but the company had instead offered a maintenance contract for £20 per month which would avoid the need for this repair payment. As it was not clear whether this covered parts as well as inks and repairs it was agreed to obtain a second quotation.

Resolved: Cllr A Hill to obtain a second quote including inks, parts and repairs.

13. Financial

13.a. The following payments were approved:

- Donation to MSG Allotments Annual Show £100.00
- Prize money for MSG Allotments Annual Show £90.00
- Postage £4.10
- Butterwick House Children’s Hospice Donation £50.00
- Npower electricity bill £187.61
- Palfreman Grounds Maintenance Apr-Jun09 £1,623.15. This cheque not to be sent until Cllr D Jones has spoken to Mr. Palfreman.
- MSG Community Association £853.43 balance of Youth Club money for them to manage their own accounts from now on (except 106 money)
- Allotment Judges Prizes £20.99

Wages – Litter Picker £545.30, Parish Clerk £421.33

13.b. Payments coming in:

- Allotment payment £66.00
- HMRC VAT repayment £3,122.34
- Zurich Insurance Co. refund on annual insurance premium £262.51

13.c. Internal Audit by Councillors due June - Cllr D. Jones thanked Cllrs Maggie Beadle and Ian Dodds for completing the Internal Audit.

14. Correspondence

- Financial questions email from Mr. M. McBride – discussion took place where it was explained that the only cost to the Parish of converting the toilets at Middleton One Row to storage facility would be approximately £100 pa rates and perhaps insurance costs, these would be split with Sadberge Parish Council. It was clarified that Northumbrian Water will put MOR back to its original state when they had finished their works and that an amount of £3,000 from their Open Space and Nature fund was a gesture of goodwill and not compensation. It had therefore been decided to put this towards the Water Park which could obtain match funding. Mr.McBride’s query on what the Borough Council intended to spend on the conversion of the MOR public toilets to a storage facility would need to be addressed to Darlington Borough Council.

Resolved: Clerk to let Mr. M. McBride have the name of the DBC person handling this.

- All other correspondence was acknowledged without further actions.

15. Date of the next meeting – Monday 14th September 2009 when Parish Councillors will meet at 6pm on The Front, Middleton One Row, to inspect completion of work by Northumbrian Water, after which the meeting will commence at the Parish Meeting Room at 7pm.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....