

# Middleton St George Parish Council

**Date: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Doris Jones (Chair), Steve York (Vice-Chair), Brian Jones, Mark Miller, Martin Walker, Maggie Beadle, Andy Hill, Jeff Quick, Ian Dodds  
Joyce McBride - Clerk  
Dave Roberts - Press

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Rhys Maybrey

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors D Jones, B Jones and S York declared an interest in Agenda item 11. children's entertainment for Christmas Tree Light Switch on 06Dec09.

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August were approved as a true record with one correction agreed at 8.c. – Councillor D. Jones will ask DBC to look at falling tree branches causing a hazard on allotment.

## **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- 4.a.** Tender again for decorating of exterior of Parish meeting room - in abeyance.
- 4.b.** Notice Board at Virginia Estate – Clerk updated that this has now been installed and notices are current.
- 4.c.** Relocation of Alan Walker's Bench – Cllr B. Jones informed that its relocation is under investigation.
- 4.d.** MOR Public Footpath – see Addendum Minutes for 6pm walkabout.
- 4.e.** Grounds Maintenance Contract – Cllr. D. Jones has spoken to Mr. Palfreman, Grounds Maintenance Contractor who gave more detail on work carried out. After discussion Parish Councillors agreed that strimming of edges would be monitored.
- 4.f.** Photocopier – Acceptance of maintenance contract with Mastercopy was approved

## **5. Discussion on Walkabout, The Front, MOR**

- 5.a.** See Addendum for Minutes of Parish Council Walkabout Meeting held at 6pm 14Sep09
- 5.b.** Approval was given for provision of refreshments to Northumbria Water's volunteers for reinstatement of riverbank footpaths on 16Sep09. A skip is not needed as it was agreed to leave on site all that is cut down.

## **6. Planning Applications:**

- 6.a. 09/00516/FUL** Erection of single storey rear extension to form garden room & kitchen/utility at 42 Middleton Lane (comment date extension applied for and granted). **No Comment.**
- 6.b. 09/00553/FUL** Variation of Condition 6 of planning permission 03/00210/FUL dated 19Sep03 to permit the erection of boundary wall enclosure at 18 The Beeches (comment date extension applied for & granted). **Object on grounds of safety on road outside.**
- 6.c. 09/00574/FUL** Erection of sunroom to rear 32 Woolsington Drive. **No Comment.**

### **7. Christmas Tree and Lights**

**7.a.** As last year's lights were vandalized approval was given to buy more this year. It was agreed that a smaller tree should be purchased this year, 20ft. instead of 30ft.

**Resolved:** Cllrs. D Jones, Beadle and Miller to purchase lights and tree.

**7.b.** Lighting is Sunday 06Dec09 at 4pm and help is required to prepare for the event on the previous Friday 04Dec09 throughout the day.

**Resolved:** Cllr. D Jones to set up a rota to help with supervision on the day.

**7.c.** Cllr Miller suggested that Mr. John Lynn, Litter Picker, be invited to assist the oldest village resident in switching on the lights, this was approved.

**Resolved:** Clerk to write invitation letter to Mr. John Lynn.

### **7. Playing Field**

**7.a.** Cllr York signed the Health and Safety report.

**7.b.** The Playground Sub Committee Minutes were approved. The annual Health and Safety Inspection highlighted areas of remedial work and Cllr. D Jones has negotiated for it to be carried out free of charge. Discussion took place on the large amount of litter left on the playing field and it was agreed to send a letter to all Football Clubs who use it.

**Resolved:** Clerk to write letter to all Football Clubs using the playing field.

**7.c.** Wicksteed's equipment guarantee – as the baby swings often require repair, which has been done free of charge by Profix, Cllr. D Jones requested and obtained approval to raise with Wicksteed their guarantee.

**Resolved:** Cllr D. Jones to contact Wicksteed re. their 20 year guarantee.

### **8. Allotments.**

Cllr Martin Walker updated that:

**8.a.** Allotment Society members were in the process of getting a quote for fencing and applying for grants. Break-ins were sporadic.

**8.b.** Letters had been sent to those allotment holders under-using allotments requesting that they reduce to a half plot and release the other half for those on the waiting list.

Letters also sent re. tidy up, keeping chickens and new contracts issued.

Cllr. D.Jones thanked Cllr Martin for his good work for allotments.

### **9. Water Park**

Cllr. D. Jones updated that she had entered a competition using a Community Cashback leaflet from Tees Valley for a grant of £58,000 to revamp the disused tennis court for a floodlit sports area. Of 37 applications half had been discarded and Middleton St. George remained in the competition.

### **10. Financial**

**10.a.** The following payments were approved:

- Climb'n'Slide Annual Inspection £172.50 includes VAT.
- Stationery & postage £6.59.
- 4 Black Printer Cartridges £9.99.
- Whitehill Direct Limited £593.40 (noticeboard £366+VAT & installation £150+VAT)
- Communicorp subs. renewal for Clerks & Councils Direct £10.00
- MSG Community Association £100 - children's entertainment for Christmas Tree Light Switch day on 04Dec09

Wages – Litter Picker £480.43, Parish Clerk £421.33 (problems with HMRC CD-ROM on last 2 payslips adjusted this month)

**10.b. Payments coming in**

- Allotment payments £22.00

**10.c. Internal Audit by Councillor due end September - Cllr Miller volunteered to do this**

**14. Correspondence**

- Discussion took place on the MOR Public Toilets email from Mr. M.McBride  
**Resolved:** Cllr. D. Jones to send letter to Mr. McBride on behalf of all Parish Councillors.
- Cllr. D. Jones informed the meeting that a Thank you letter had been handed to Cllr. Frank Richardson at the last meeting on 10Aug09 for the MSG Youth Trust donation of £3,500 towards replacement of the playground space net.
- Discussion took place on an acknowledgement letter from Luke Swinhoe, Head of DBC Legal Services regarding our requested alcohol ban on the Playing Field and Water Park.  
**Resolved:** Cllr. D. Jones to follow up for clarification purposes.
- All other correspondence was acknowledged without further actions.

**15. Date of the next meeting** – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 when Parish Councillors will meet at 6pm on the railway bridge, Middleton St. George, for an inspection walkabout, after which the meeting will commence at the Parish Meeting Room at 7pm.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....