

# Middleton St George Parish Council

**Date: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Doris Jones (Chair), Brian Jones, Rhys Maybrey, Jeff Quick, Maggie Beadle, Martin Walker, Ian Dodds, Mark Miller  
Representing Northumbrian Water and Byzak – Mr. Paul Wood, Mr. Ivan Jepson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Mark Lewis and Mr. Andrew Martin – present until end of item 3.  
Residents of MOR, Church Lane and Roman Way – present until end of item 3.  
Dave Roberts - Press  
Joyce McBride - Clerk

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Steve York, Andy Hill

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **3. MOR and Church Lane – Northumbrian Water and Contractors**

Cllrs. D. Jones opened this discussion by setting out the concerns of MOR and Church Lane residents regarding the poor quality of work and outstanding further remedial work required along the Front and Church Lane

Residents of MOR, Church Lane and Roman Way asked questions regarding the quality of the work done and Mr. Paul Wood and Mr. Mark Lewis answered them with apologies. Mr. Martin on behalf of Northumbrian Water and Contractors gave his commitment that The Green will be as good as it was or better and that all remedial work to turf, roads, kerbs, etc. will be rectified with a target date for completion of 18Dec09 given. Cllr. D. Jones asked if all residents would be updated by letter and he confirmed that this would be done.

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November were approved as a true record.

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

**5.a.** Notice Board refurbishment at The Front, MOR – in abeyance.

**5.b.** The Clerk updated that Durham Land Registry had now returned details of all three title numbers but it was still unclear who owns the footpath as the Parish Council do not. Cllr. D. Jones read out an email with photographs from Mike McBride adding more information but setting out that he believed DBC records pre-1900 would have to be searched. Cllr. B. Jones pointed out that a lot of time and effort had already been spent on this and proposed that if Enterprise Inns have a problem they should investigate its ownership themselves. Proposal carried.

**Resolved:** Clerk to write letter to The Devonport Hotel and Enterprise Inns informing.

**5.c.** Cllr. B. Jones informed the meeting that the bike sheds on the railway bridge had been removed.

**Resolved:** Clerk to write to Owen Wilson, DBC, thanking him.

## **6. Christmas Tree and Lights**

Cllr. D. Jones updated that all had gone very well on Sunday 06Dec09. She proposed that for next year a Christmas Tree Committee be set up and widened to include the Community with Cllr. Miller as Chairman. This was agreed.

**Resolved:** Cllr. Miller set up the Christmas Tree Committee in September 2010

<p><b>7. Change Timing of Meetings Proposal</b> It was agreed by all to change the start time of all future meetings from 7pm to 6.30pm.</p>
<p><b>8. Planning Applications</b> – None this month.</p>
<p><b>9. Playing Field</b>  <b>9.a.</b> Cllr Dodds signed the Health and Safety report.  <b>9.b.</b> Cllr. D. Jones informed the meeting that DBC will include our playground in their H&amp;S report.  <b>9.c.</b> Cllr. D. Jones informed that DBC would provide £30K in the next year for additional children’s equipment.  <b>9.d.</b> Cllr. D. Jones passed round photographs of the extreme damage done to our football pitch on Sunday morning 06Dec09 by a football club.  <b>Resolved:</b> Clerk to write to the football club concerned banning them from using the pitch again. Clerk to write to all other football clubs asking them not to use the pitch until it can be rectified.</p>
<p><b>10. Allotments.</b> No update this month</p>
<p><b>11. Water Park</b> Cllr. D. Jones updated that there is a meeting on 14Dec09 with Lisa Kwok and Tees Valley to gather advice on how best to advance further.</p>
<p><b>12. Land drainage ditch &amp; soak-away pond, rear of The Crescent</b> Cllr. Quick outlined the problem of being unable to determine the owners of the land in order to resolve the flooding problem. As this is a DBC issue and not a PC issue Cllr. D. Jones will work with Cllr. Quick to address separately.</p>
<p><b>13. MOR Public Toilets</b> Cllr. D.Jones apologized for the delay which in part is due to needing to restore the electric light which has been cut off. Cllr. D. Jones has spoken to DBC’s relevant department who are looking at completing as a matter of urgency, including the removal of signs.</p>
<p><b>14. Financial</b>  <b>14.a.</b> The following <b>payments</b> were approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• War Memorial Wreath £20.</li> <li>• Postage £3.59</li> <li>• Christmas Tree Lights £152.90</li> <li>• Premier Waste Management, Water Park, £900.00 (replaces cancelled £1000 cheque written in Feb)</li> <li>• DBC Install last year’s Christmas Tree lights £897.58</li> <li>• BDO LLP, fee for Annual Audit £667.00</li> <li>• Drivesure Haulage collect Christmas Tree £184.00</li> <li>• Christmas Tree fence £19.94</li> <li>• Wages – Litter Picker £491.13, Parish Clerk £421.33 – It was agreed to use Current bank account only for wages, i.e. discontinue usage of Community Directplus account.</li> </ul> <b>14.b. Payments</b> coming in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDPC Payment towards Grounds Maintenance - £158.42.</li> <li>• NEDL Wayleave Agreements £4.96</li> </ul> <b>14.c. 2010 Budget</b> – including Precept and Grant 2010-11</p>

A letter from DBC informs that there is no Grant increase next year. Discussion took place on a Precept increase. After a vote it was agreed to increase by £3 per household

**Resolved:** Clerk to reply to DBC informing them of this decision.

**14.d. Internal audit** – by Councillor due end December

Cllr. Beadle volunteered and agreed to liaise with the Clerk on a date for the audit.

**14.e. External Audit** – Annual Return YE 31Mar09 Completed by BDO was approved and accepted including Issues Arising Report

**Resolved:** Clerk to display all necessary Audit Conclusion notices on 1 noticeboard.

**15. Correspondence**

**15.a.** Mr. M. McBride’s letter regarding the road condition leading up to The Square is a matter for DBC, not the PC.

**Resolved:** Cllr. D. Jones to liaise with Dave Winstanley, DBC, for Mr. McBride.

**15.b.** Durham County Council Public Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2011/12 is to be displayed on all 3 noticeboards.

**15.c.** All other correspondence was acknowledged without further actions.

**16. Any Other Business**

**16.a.** Cllr. D. Jones informed the meeting that the mink pest problem in the Water Park had now been addressed.

**16.b.** Cllr.D. Jones requested that a cleaner be employed to clean the Parish Meeting Room, The Community Centre and the Youth Club at a cost of approximately £1,500 per annum for 5 hours per week at £6 per hour. Discussion took place over cost and whether an outside firm would be better than employing a cleaner. Agreed to advertise for a cleaner if necessary.

**Resolved:** Cllr. D. Jones to investigate the cost of employing an outside firm

**17. Date of the next meeting** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....