

# Middleton St George Parish Council

**Date: Monday 8th February 2010 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Doris Jones (Chair), Brian Jones, Martin Walker, Mark Miller, Ian Dodds, Rhys Maybrey, Maggie Beadle  
Lisa Kwok – Groundwork North East  
Dave Roberts - Press  
Joyce McBride - Clerk

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Steve York, Jeff Quick, Andy Hill

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January were approved as a true record.

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

**4a.** Notice Board refurbishment at The Front, MOR – reminder letter being sent to Mr. A. Short. New Notice Board at The Front, MOR, reported by the Clerk as faulty due to condensation has now been repaired by the vendor.

**4b.** Conversion of MOR Public Toilets to storage area – Cllr. D. Jones informed the meeting that she now has the keys and that after a first meeting and site visit with Sadberge Parish Council we will start to use it for storage of items, e.g. Christmas tree related.

**4c.** The Clerk informed the meeting that the plumber is waiting on a new valve to complete the repair but that there is a temporary “fix” which enables the heating to be on.

## **5. Playing Field**

**5.a.** Cllr. Walker signed the Health and Safety report.

**5.b.** Cllr. D. Jones informed the meeting that we are waiting on Darlington Borough Council to restore the faulty baby swing.

**5.c.** It was pointed out that the Millennium seat in the play area is in need of refurbishment.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to write to Mr. A. Short requesting the refurbishment.

## **6. Allotments**

**6.a.** Cllr. Walker updated the meeting that Northumbria Water is coming on Wednesday to repair the leaking tap on the meter at Sadberge Road Allotments. He is also contacting a plumber to install isolation taps at all three allotment sites.

**6.b.** Cllr. Walker proposed an allotment rent rise this year of £4 per full plot and £2 per half plot. This was seconded by Cllr. B. Jones and agreed unanimously. Cllr. Walker then read through the rent notice and details form, outlining plans for collection day on 11<sup>th</sup> April in the Community Centre, including separate sections for each of the three allotment sites. Cllr. D. Jones suggested also having plant suppliers available, seeds for sale and tea and coffee.

## **7. Water Park**

### **7.a. Access to Nature Grant Application**

Ms. Lisa Kwok spoke to the meeting about the Access to Nature Grant application for

which the deadline is May 2010. Cllr. D. Jones read out an email from Chris Browning giving a comprehensive list of all the wildlife and wild birds already found in the Water Park. Lisa explained that Stage 1 is complete and Stage 2, the final stage, is now starting which requires the submission of more detailed plans. She had been advised by the facilitator, Steven Collins, to use the services of an advisor to help in creating the submission, for which there would be a cost of approximately £5,000 based on 12% of estimated Groundwork fees. Lengthy discussion, including the fact that no money had been spent on the Water Park since the 1950s and that there is now a regular income from Ferryhill Angling Club, members agreed that the £5,000 be provided from the fishing club rent.

**Resolved:** Lisa Kwok to provide information on how many applications Groundwork had been successful in the past.

#### **7.b. Playbuilders**

Lisa informed the meeting that Middleton St. George had been given a £30,000 grant via DBC from Playbuilders, The Department of Children, Schools and Families, to improve and extend its play area. Lisa handed out leaflets giving information on Playbuilders, the criteria that must be applied and the consultation they have already undertaken within Middleton St. George. There will be more consultation, e.g. going into the School.

Cllr. D. Jones thanked Lisa Kwok and pointed out that we have already received £10,000 from CDENT thanks to Lisa's work.

**Resolved:** Lisa Kwok to provide information on what has been done in the past for circa £30,000.

#### **8. Equal Opportunities Policy**

It was agreed by all to retain the Equal Opportunities Policy distributed by The Clerk to the Parish Councillors.

Cllr. D.Jones informed the meeting that we also need a "Green Policy".

#### **9. Risk Assessment**

It was agreed to keep this on the Agenda for possible additions after the Water Park grant application has been decided.

#### **10. Bus Shelter, High Stell**

Discussion took place and photographs distributed of vandalism to the bus shelter at High Stell. Cllr. D.Jones informed the meeting that the Police had been contacted.

#### **11. PACT Meeting**

Cllr. D. Jones summarized the last PACT meeting and informed the meeting that speed watch will be at St. Georges Gate, Killinghall Row and Middleton Lane. The next PACT meeting is in Nesham Reading Rooms on 24<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm, with March's meeting to be held at MSG School. Cllr. B. Jones offered to arrange a visit to the Darlington Police Control Room.

**Resolved:** Cllr. B.Jones to organize visit to Darlington Police Control Room for all interested Parish Councillors and The Clerk.

#### **12. Planning Applications – none.**

**12.a.** Notification has been received that consideration of 10/00002/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension and single storey extension to rear of existing garage to form utility room at 30 The Greenway, MSG, will take place at the Town Hall at 4pm on 10Feb10.

**12. b.** Cllr. B. Jones informed the meeting that 09/00848/CU Change of existing dwelling

(C3) to ground floor tea room at 4 Temple Buildings, The Square, had been withdrawn.

**13. Financial**

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

- Npower electricity supply 07Oct09 to 05Jan10 £228.94
- SEM Electrical Ltd. Test Christmas Tree Lights £199.81
- LT Gas Services, boiler repressurised & call out charge £35.00
- Ayton Fire Protection service fire extinguisher £23.60
- Keys cut (£16.50), Postage (£3.60) and copier paper (£2.17) - £22.27
- Wages – Litter Picker £491.13, Cleaner £126.00, Parish Clerk £421.33

**13.b. Payments** coming in:

- HMRC VAT Repayment £270.55
- Ferryhill & District Angling Club Rent (£2,100) and day tkt comm. (£314) - £2,414.00
- DBC Section 106 CN Hadley MSG £5,924.18
- Cllr. D. Jones updated that she had received a cheque for £500.00 from Middleton Hall Retirement Village which is to be used for the tennis courts.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to write to Mr. Jeremy Walford, Middleton Hall, thanking him.

**14. Correspondence**

**14.a.** Discussion took place over M.McBride's Cummins offer regarding some improvements to the banks at MOR by way of a general clean up, restoration and clearing of undergrowth, for which Parish Councillors were grateful. Cllrs. D. Jones and B. Jones volunteered their help with the clean up.

**Resolved:** Cllrs. Walker and Beadle to liaise with Mr. McBride over work to be done. The Clerk to write to Mr. McBride thanking him and informing him that Cllrs. Walker and Beadle will liaise, via The Clerk, over work to be done.

**14.b.** Discussion took place over Mrs. Hughes email on litter bins.

**Resolved:** Cllr. D. Jones to enquire of DBC whether a litter bin could be provided in this area.

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

**15. Date of the next meeting** – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

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