

Middleton St George Parish Council

Date: Monday 11th April 2011 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors: Doris Jones (Chair), Steve York, Jeff Quick, Andy Hill, Maggie Beadle, Mark Miller, Ian Dodds, Rhys Maybrey
Dave Roberts - Press
Joyce McBride – Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Brian Jones, Martin Walker

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Miller declared a personal interest in item 5, Closure of St. Laurence Church

3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March were approved as a true record

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.a. Work Required to The Front, MOR – Cllr. D. Jones said that work is underway with road closure due this week for two weeks.

4.b. Damage to Village Green, The Front, MOR – Cllr. D. Jones said that after the Clerk had sent emails, letters, quotations and photographs to Argos/Homebase and their insurers but could get no action she had sent an email herself which had prompted the reply that more photographs were needed. Cllr. D. Jones sent more photographs and said that failure to repair the damage would result in her instructing the Clerk to take the matter to the small claims court.

Resolved: The Clerk to refer the matter to the small claims court if still no response within 7 days.

4.c. Localism Bill letter from Navigus Planning – to be deferred until Cllr. B. Jones can report.

4.d. Equalities Act 2010 – as we have an Equal Opportunities Policy no further action is necessary.

5. Closure and Disposal of St. Laurence Church, MSG

Cllr.D.Jones said that a meeting was held on 30th March but that they are not much further on with both English Heritage representatives and officers from the Town Hall requesting a copy of the last structural survey. Cllr. D. Jones will keep us informed of any progress, this item to remain on the Parish Council's Agenda.

6. Playing Field

6.a. Cllr. York signed the Health and Safety report.

6.b. Cllr. York said that the gate is now complete and handed its key to the Clerk requesting that three copies be taken.

Resolved: The Clerk to obtain 3 copies of the gate key, one to be handed to Cllr. Hill for him to control the giving out and collecting, 2 copies to be given to Cllr. D. Jones and the master to be retained by the Clerk, Mr. M. Palfreman already has a copy in his possession.

6.c. The litterbin has now been fitted and the Litterpicker is emptying it regularly.

7. Allotments

7.a. The Clerk read out updates from Nigel Potter, Groundwork, of Self Management

meetings progress, everyone was happy that this is moving along well.

7.b. The Clerk thanked Cllrs. Quick and Beadle for assisting her in collecting rents yesterday morning.

7.c. Cllr. Maybrey agreed to monitor for water leaks at the Sadberge Road allotments.

8. Water Park

Parish Councillors inspected and were pleased with progress on flattening the mound in front of the old tennis court to stop antisocial behaviour. Cllr. D. Jones informed us that progress was being made for the new tarmac flooring, fencing and all Play Innovation sporting equipment will be put in on 1st May. It was pointed out that motor cycles should not now be allowed in. Cllr. D. Jones said that the maintenance contract for the C.C.T.V. is up for renewal and proposed approaching other companies for quotations, approval was given for spending up to £200 for this. Approval was also given to buy more green paint for the old tennis court area.

Resolved: Cllr. D. Jones to obtain quotations and implement new maintenance contract of £200 or less. The Clerk to write to the Motor Cycle Training Club in Darlington letting them know that they are not now allowed access as this is a sport area. Cllrs. D. Jones and York to obtain legal wording for a sign to this effect. Cllr. D. Jones to let the Clerk have details for a letter to be sent to a resident re. not accessing from their gate into the Water Park as this is a children's play area.

9. Model Boat Club – Rent and Electricity

The Clerk informed the meeting that an increase of about 5% to £404 had been offered but that, after sending details of quarterly payments made by the Parish Council to nPower, a decrease from £699 last year to £555 had been offered for electricity.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to the Model Boat Club requesting a justification of why a decrease has been offered when our yearly payments have increased.

10. Fixed Assets Schedule

The Clerk told the meeting that she had updated this Schedule in line with Zurich's insurance figures and given to Peter Harker, Auditor, for his inspection.

11. Hogweed, The Front, MOR

Cllr. D. Jones asked for approval for approximately £500 to be spent on the control of hogweed at The Front, MOR, this was given.

12. Local Strategic Transport Fund

Cllr. B. Jones email was read out requesting that we write a letter of support to Sue Dobson in connection with a bid by DBC for funding from the Local Strategic Transport Fund. This was approved. Cllr. D. Jones told the meeting that she is pulling a case together for three standard lamp posts between the bridge and Virginia Estate.

Resolved: Cllr. B. Jones to provide details for the Clerk to write letter of support to Sue Dobson.

13. Planning Applications –

13.a. 11/00124/FUL Redevelopment of existing bungalow including erection of two storey extensions to each side elevation and an increase in the roof height to provide first floor accommodation, Thornly Close, Neasham Road, MSG – **No Comments as this is in Low Dinsdale PCouncil. Clerk to inform DBC planning department**

13.b. 11/00143/CAC Conservation Area Consent for demolition of existing dwelling, 23

Church Lane, MSG – **No Comments**

13.c. 11/00172/FUL Erection of single storey extension to form toilet block, insertion of fire escape door, installation of fire escape gantry to first floor and escape ladder, Window Wise, Aviation Way, Durham Tees Valley Airport, MSG – **No Comments**

13.d. 11/00185/TF Works to fell 5 no. trees (3 Cedar, 1 Fern, 1 Cherry) at 6 Thorntree Villas, MSG - **Object on grounds of this being a conservation area and because of the fact that they have been poisoned it does raise concerns. We would like to be advised what they will be replaced with and what size before they are taken out.**

13. e. 11/00207/FUL Erection of dwelling house and detached garage at 5A The Spinney MSG - **Object on grounds that this is infill and think it may set a precedent for further development in that area which is already congested we are also concerned with the drive into this development and this will add to the traffic problems.**

14. Financial

14.a. March quarter end statement of accounts were accepted and approved.

14.b. The following **payments** were approved:

- Bank Charges March, £9.00
- Meirhosting Ltd, MSG website domain name payable every 2 yrs, £9.98.
- HMRC PAYE for 2010-11 £128.15
- Jim Roberts, Siting of Sculptures in Water Park, £200.00 grant funding
- MSG Community Association, Gas supply 14Sep10 to 08Mar11 £392.87
- Steve York, masonry brushes, £62.00
- nPower electric supply Jan-Mar11, £515.63
- Wages – Litter Picker £510.14, Cleaner £210.00, Parish Clerk £425.55

14.c. Payments coming in –

- Northumbrian Water Sadberge Road Allotment, £46.00
- Main Grants, Lottery Fund for Water Park, £10,000.00
- DBC, Parish Precept 11-12, £19,716.00
- DBC, Parish Grant 11-12, £12,966.00

15. Correspondence

All correspondence was acknowledged without further actions.

16. Date of the next meeting – Monday 16th May, 2011.

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