

Annual Meeting of Middleton St George Parish Council

Date: Monday 16th May 2011 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors: D Jones, B Jones, S York, J Quick, M Beadle, A Hill, J Jarvie, M McBride

J McBride – Clerk

D Howlett – Press

D Jackson – Community Correspondent

J Wilson - Resident

1. Co-option of Parish Councillors

A ballot was held to elect two of the three nominees, this resulted in the co-option of Cllrs. Ford and McBride

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Cllr. York proposed Cllr. D. Jones for Chair and was seconded by Cllr. Beadle. Cllr. D. Jones was elected as Chairman. Cllr. York proposed Cllr. Jarvie for Vice-Chair and was seconded by Cllr. B. Jones. Cllr. Jarvie was elected as Vice-Chair

3. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

All councillors present accepted office

4. Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Maybrey

5. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Quick declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in items 11b and 11c, planning application numbers 11/00202/FUL and 11/00203/LBC

6. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April were approved as a true record

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

7.a. Work Required to The Front, MOR – Cllr. D. Jones said that work is on track, there have been no complaints from residents and the plan is to be finished by mid-June.

7.b. Damage to Village Green, The Front, MOR – The Clerk updated that Cllr. B. Jones had kindly obtained small claim court forms whilst she had been away on holiday. She also said that our insurers, Zurich, had recommended sending a letter to the Ombudsman first. After discussion it was decided to send a final letter to Argos' insurers asking if there had been any progress at all before sending off the small claims court forms.

Resolved: The Clerk to send the final letter to Argos' insurers.

7.c. Localism Bill letter from Navigus Planning – Cllr. B. Jones recommended that no further action be taken.

7.d. Model Boat Club – Electricity – The Clerk updated that a cheque had been received for rent but referred to the various correspondence about electricity. After discussion it was decided that the Model Boat Club should be asked for the same amount towards electricity as for last year.

Resolved: The Clerk to make the request of the Model Boat Club

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

Cllr.D.Jones said that there was nothing to report and that there had been no further meetings.

9. Playing Field

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

9.b. The Clerk updated that copies of the gate key had been obtained and distributed.

9.c. Cllr. D. Jones requested that we all meet in the Play Ground at 6pm for the next meeting on 13th June for an inspection of the whole area.

10. Allotments

10.a. The Clerk referred to the latest update from Nigel Potter, Groundwork, of Self Management meetings progress which she had distributed, everyone was happy that this sounded positive and moving in the right direction.

10.b. It was agreed that the non-payers of allotment rent have their tenancies terminated and be given until 1st June to remove everything from the sites

Resolved: The Clerk to notify each non-payer of allotment rent of this decision.

10.c. Discussion over the M. Brunton email resulted in the Clerk being instructed to reply saying that the site had been accepted as seen therefore the first year's rent would not be reimbursed as requested. If the site were to be given up then the Clerk to offer it to the next on the waiting list.

Resolved: The Clerk to reply to M. Brunton as instructed.

11. Water Park

Cllr. D. Jones requested approval for £200 a year for a maintenance contract for the CCTV system, this was approved. However, Cllr. D. Jones said that she had had a meeting with the police who were concerned that the CCTV cameras were not looking at areas of importance, e.g. the new family area in the old tennis courts. Therefore she had obtained two quotations for an additional two cameras to give the additional coverage, the cheaper quotation being for £2,245.00 with an additional £895.00 to re-site all the other cameras. After discussion Cllr.B. Jones proposed that we go with the cheaper quotation and Cllr. York seconded, all agreed. Cllr. B. Jones asked if we have any plans to do anything with the road near the Model Boat Club as it is in a bad state of repair. It was agreed to obtain two quotations.

Resolved: Cllr. D. Jones to implement new maintenance contract of £200 and obtain additional CCTV cameras with re-siting of existing, also to obtain quotations for repairing the road near the Model Boat Club.

Cllr. D. Jones asked for approval to pay a £185.00 bill to obtain light on the new play area, including a time switch. This was approved.

12. Planning Applications –

12.a. 11/00231/TFC Notification to remove 2 no. fallen trees (species unknown) in a designated conservation area, Land opposite 22 and 22A and 23 Church Lane, MSG – **correspondence from DBC indicated that this was sent to us by mistake.**

12.b. 11/00202/FUL Erection of 26 bed dementia care unit, café to main hall, entrance to hall and 36 No independent living bungalows with replacement caretakers lodge at Middleton Hall Retirement Village, MSG – **Approved – after discussion 1 Parish Councillor was against the development and 6 were in favour.**

12.c. 11/00203/LBC Listed Building Consent for erection of 26 bed dementia care unit, café to main hall, entrance to hall and 36 No independent living bungalows with

replacement caretakers lodge at Middleton Hall Retirement Village, MSG – **Approved** – after discussion **1 Parish Councillor was against the development and 6 were in favour.**

12.d. The Clerk read out a letter just received from DBC referring to our objection to planning application no. 11/00185/TF Works to fell 5 trees at 6 Thorntree Villas asking whether we wanted this to go to the Planning Applications Committee. It was agreed that we did want this and that Cllr. D. Jones would attend to give our views.

Resolved: The Clerk to let Stephen Edwards, DBC, know of this decision.

13. Financial

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

- Bank Charges April, £9.00
- D. Jones, weedkiller for Water Park, £49.96
- Glenwoods, paint for Water Park, £200.00
- Glenwoods, paint, masonry brushes for Water Park, £91.70
- J. McBride, Keys cut for Playfield gate & book of stamps, £14.32
- J.A. Armatage, professional services re. Annual Return to BDO year ending 31Mar11, £160.00
- Dale Johnston, planting, Water Park, £25.00
- John Wade Haulage Ltd, Repairs to lamp post foundations, £222.00
- Wages - Litter Picker £492.00, Cleaner £168.00, Parish Clerk £425.55
- **Out of 106 money** –
- A.E. Duffield & Sons Ltd, surfacing works, Water Park, £12,270.00
- Rennyco Ltd., mesh fencing, Water Park, £6,954.00
- Steve Paton Joinery, new lock fire escape door, £130.00
- John Wade Haulage Ltd., Earthworks in Water Park, £5,007.95
- TV Licensing for Youth Club, £24.25

13.b. Payments coming in –

- VAT Repayment, £639.91
- Allotment Rent, £1,125.00
- Darlington & District Model Boat Club annual rent £404.00
- Allotment Rents £375.00

13.c. Budget forecast 2011-12 – Councillors had no questions of the budget forecast.

13.d. Annual Internal Auditor Report - Councillors had no questions over this report.

13.e. Annual Return Statement of Accounts – the accounting statements were approved by the Parish Council and signed by Cllr. D. Jones

13.f. Annual Governance Statement – the annual governance statement was approved by the Parish Council and signed by Cllr. D. Jones

13.g. Cllr. Beadle requested that a new auditor be appointed to replace Cllr. Miller, Cllr. McBride volunteered and was approved.

Correspondence

14.a. Cllr. B. Jones queried whether any increase in contribution had been received for the litterpicker from Darlington Borough Council, the Clerk replied that despite a query each time there had been an increase in the minimum basic wage no increase had been

awarded. Cllr. B. Jones requested that this be put on October's Agenda when there is another minimum basic wage increase.

Resolved: The Clerk to put this item on October 2011's meeting Agenda.

14.b. All other correspondence was acknowledged without further actions.

15. Date of the next meeting – Monday 13th June, 2011.

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