



# Middleton St George Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 in the Parish Council Meeting Room**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. C. Gilsean (Chairman),  
Councillor S. Crowther (Vice Chairman),  
Councillor Mrs. M. Beadle,  
Councillor A. Blacklee,  
Councillor Mrs. H. Bullock.  
Councillor S. l'Anson,  
Alan Macnab, Clerk.

**In Attendance:** 3 Members of the Public and the three candidates for co-option to the Parish Council

The meeting started at 6.30 p.m.

### **982. Chairman's Opening Address**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular the candidates for co-option to the two Parish Councillor vacancies.

### **983. Public Participation Session**

The Clerk reported that he had not received any prior notification from members of the public who wished to address the Parish Council.

### **984. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Foggett and Smith because of holiday commitments, although it was expected that Councillor Foggett may attend later in the meeting.

The Parish Council **agreed** to accept the apologies for absence which had been received.

### **985. Declarations on Interests**

No declarations of interests were made.

### **986. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 and the Special Parish Council Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, the Special Parish Council Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019 were presented.

The Parish Council **agreed** that they were true records of the proceedings of the meetings and the Chairman signed the minutes at the end of the meeting.

**Chairman's Signature**..... **Date**.....

**987. Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that matters arising would be considered under agenda items during the meeting.

**988. Co-option to the two Parish Councillor Vacancies**

The Clerk reported that three applications had been received for the two vacancies for Parish Councillors. The applications were received from Mr. Kevin Brack, Mr. Michael McBride and Ms. W. Wilkinson. Mr. Brack, Mr. McBride and Ms. Wilkinson were present at the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that Mr. Brack, Mr. McBride and Ms. Wilkinson met the Electoral Commission’s eligibility criteria to stand for election as a Parish Councillor and no exclusions applied. The Parish Council were given Mr. Brack, Mr. McBride and Ms. Wilkinson applications and the co-option procedures.

The Parish Council interviewed each candidate in alphabetical surname order whilst the other candidates left the room.

Following conclusion of the interviews, the Clerk gave each Parish Councillor a ballot paper with the names of the three candidates and asked them to vote for up to two candidates. The folded ballot papers were handed back to the Clerk for counting. The three candidates returned to the room and the Clerk announced that the number of votes cast for each candidate was as follows:

- Mr. K. Brack - 0 votes
- Mr. M. McBride - 5 votes
- Ms. W. Wilkinson - 6 votes.

Mr. Brack was thanked for applying for the vacancy. The Clerk gave Councillors McBride and Ms. Wilkinson the declaration of interests form, the acceptance of office form and the Parish Council’s Induction Pack.

Councillors McBride and Ms. Wilkinson then took their places on the Parish Council and each Parish Councillor introduced themselves to them.

**989. Financial Matters**

**989.1 Financial Report as at the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle gave the financial report as at the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

**a. Parish Council Accounts**

<b>Contingency - Saver Account 1 – Barclays</b>	<b>- £21,396.74</b>
<b>Contingency - Saver Account 2 – Barclays</b>	<b>- £16,333.64</b>
<b>Reserves - Account with Darlington Credit Union</b>	<b>- £5,087.79</b>
<b>Barclaycard Expenditure June 2019</b>	<b>- Nil</b>
<b>Community Account:</b>	
Income	- £110,357.28
Expenditure	- <u>£ 11,607.90</u>
<b>Balance as at the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>	<b>£98,749.38</b>

**Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....**

## b. Progress against the Budget

The anticipated income for the 2019-20 was £117,724.60 and the anticipated expenditure was expected to be £63,616.00 with a carry forward surplus balance of £54,108.60 to the 2020-21 financial year.

## c. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation as at the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 showed that the Community Account spreadsheet balance held by the Parish Council was £98,749.38 and the Community Account balance held by the bank was £98,763.87. A difference of £14.49 which was the result of cheque numbers 200044 for £4.50. and 200046 for £9.99 not being cleared by bank.

## d. Bank Statement

The bank statement for the Community Account on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 was presented and showed the balance in the Community Account at the bank was £98,763.87.

## 989.2 Payments received and payments for approval

### a. Payments received:

Date	Customer	Amount
04.07.2019	HM Revenue and Customs. VAT Repayment April to June 2019	£106.80

### b. Retrospective Payment for Approval for June 2019:

Date	Supplier	Amount
24.06.2019	MSG in Bloom. Plants, seeds, seating and paving for the Bus Shelter Garden	£158.35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£158.35</b>

### c. Payments for Approval for July, 2019

Date	Supplier	Amount
07.07.2019	Scottish Power Gas Monthly	£81.00
12.07.2019	Scottish Power. Electricity Monthly	£80.00
15.07.2019	Julia Storey. Belle View Allotments half yearly rent	£125.00
15.07.2019	Middleton St. George Community Centre. Hiring fee for the Annual Assembly	£60.00
15.07.2019	HM Revenue and Customs. Clerk's PAYE July 2019	£163.68
15.07.2019	Darlington Borough Council. RoSPA Inspection Report	£56.30
29.07.2019	BT Hub	£40.49
31.07.2019	Cleaner - C. I. Wood Pay	£70.00
31.07.2019	Litter Picker - J. D. Lynn Pay	£558.28
31.07.2019	Clerk - A. W. Macnab Pay	£654.72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,889.47</b>

### c. Breakdown of Clerk's PAYE – October 2018 to June 2019

Month	Gross Pay	PAYE	Net Pay
November 2018	£792.00	£158.40	£633.60
December, 2018	£792.00	£158.40	£633.60

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

January 2019	£792.00	£158.40	£633.60
<b>Month</b>	<b>Gross Pay</b>	<b>PAYE</b>	<b>Net Pay</b>
February 2019	£396.00	£79.20	£316.80
March 2019	£792.00	£158.40	£633.60
April 2019	£818.40	£163.68	£654.72
May 2019	£818.40	£163.68	£654.72
June 2019	£818.40	£163.68	£654.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£6,019.20</b>	<b>£1,203.84</b>	<b>£4,815.36</b>

The Parish Council **agreed** that the retrospective payment for June 2019 and the payments for July 2019 be approved with the exception of the payment to Inspirar.

### 989.3 Timetable of Controls for July 2019

The Timetable of Controls report for July 2019 was presented.

The Clerk reported that:

- a. The quarterly audit for April to June 2019 will be completed in July 2019. A date for the audit will be arranged at the meeting.
- b. The statement of receipts and payments to date in the Progress against the Budget was presented to meeting.
- c. The banking arrangements including the bank mandate were reviewed for safety and efficiency at the Annual Parish Council meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
- d. The schedule of payments to be authorised was presented to the meeting as part of the agenda for the meeting.
- e. A list of regular payments was submitted to meeting.
- f. Counterfoils of cheques were signed by the cheque signatories at the meeting.
- g. There were no losses, liabilities or damage which could lead to claims.
- h. The corporate risk assessments were reviewed at the Parish Council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019
- i. The Finance Regulations were reviewed by the Annual Parish Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

The Parish Council **agreed** to note the report.

### 989.4 Draft Budgets for 2020-21 to 2022-23

The Clerk explained that work on the Draft Budgets for three years from 2020-21 to 2022-23 will be presented to the Parish Council for examination on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. The budgets and precept would be set at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council **agreed** to note the report.

### 990. Gas Contract

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council at its meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 had accepted the quotation

**Chairman's Signature**..... **Date**.....

from Opus for one year which had been supplied by its energy consultants, One Unite. He was waiting for an updated quotation from One Unite for Opus Gas for one year.

The Parish Council **agreed** to authorise the Clerk to proceed and accept the price for the supply of gas from Opus for one year.

#### **991. Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Concern was expressed that Darlington Borough Council as the Grounds Maintenance contractor for 2019-20 were spraying grassed areas instead of cutting them and were dumping grass cuttings in hedge backs which affected wildlife. Spraying occurred down the side of one of the ponds in the Water Park which has left a brown mark where nothing was growing.

The Clerk reported that the current contract was due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 and the Parish Council should review the contract at the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will:

- a. Ask Darlington Borough Council why spraying has occurred rather than parts of the grassed areas being cut because it is not part of the Contract with the Parish Council and why cut grass is not removed.
- b. Circulate the current Grounds Maintenance contract to Parish Councillors.

#### **992. Planning Matters**

##### **992.1 New Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were submitted for the Parish Council's consideration:

**19/00531/FUL. Construction of drop kerb and creation of parking area to front garden. 1, Dinsdale Close, Middleton St. George.**

**19/00532/FUL. Demolition of out house/store and conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension, double garage to side elevation and porch to front elevation. 47, Oak Tree Close, Middleton St. George.**

**19/00489/FUL. Erection of detached block of 4 No. garages. 75, Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George.**

**19/00572/FUL. Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) attached to planning permission 18/00509/FUL dated 20th September, 2018 (mixed use development comprising of A1 convenience store and residential development comprising of the erection of 12 No. affordable 2 bedroom bungalows (revised scheme) to permit substitution of 1 No. pair of 2 bedroom bungalows with 1 No. pair of 2 bedroom wheelchair accessible bungalows and provision of 3.7 wide shared access. Land opposite Acorn Close, Yarm Road, Middleton St. George.**

The Parish Council **agreed** that no comments be made on the above four planning applications.

**19/00573/FUL. Erection of 3 No. 2 bedroom affordable bungalows. Land off Yarm Road, Middleton St. George.**

The Parish Council **agreed** that it needed to wait until the Public Rights of Way Officer has submitted his response to the application before the Parish Council can comment on this application and that it be deferred until the meeting of 29th July, 2019.

COUNCILLOR FOGGETT ENTERED THE MEETING

**Chairman's Signature..... Date.....**

**19/00586/FUL. Erection of a part two storey and part single storey rear extension and alterations to front door. 9, Castle Close, Middleton St. George.**

The Parish Council **agreed** that no comments be made on this planning application.

**19/00553/FUL. Proposed track bed improvements, widening of existing path, alterations and improvements at crossing points (provision of timber edge restraints and renew or relocate existing access controls) (additional heritage impact assessment received 26 June 2019 and amended heritage impact assessment received 9 July 2019). Disused Railway Trackbed To A67 A66 Yarm Road To Little Burdon, Darlington.**

The Parish Council **agreed** that in the response to the Borough Council the nature of the gates be mentioned because there was no apparent access for wheelchair users (i.e. preventing them using it), and that they would make it easier for motorbikes to use the path.

#### **992.2 Darlington Borough Council Planning Applications Committee 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

The Chairman reported that the Planning Applications Committee had considered and had approved the following planning applications:

19/00183/FUL. Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for variation of condition no. 4 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 16/00500/FUL to permit changes in design and siting of 2 no. dormer bungalows and external landscaping work. 5B, The Spinney, Middleton St. George.

19/00164/TF. Felling of 1 No. Pinus Sylvestris (Scots Pine) protected under Tree Preservation Order 2018 No. 6 (T1). 1, Church Close, Middleton St. George.

The Parish Council **agreed** to note the report.

#### **992.3 Public Right of Way Diversions Informal Consultation, White House Farm, Middleton St. George**

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council was carrying out informal consultation on the diversion of the public right of way at White House Farm. Plans showing the existing and the diverted right of way were given in the papers for the meeting.

The Parish Council **agreed** that no comments be made on the diversion of the public right of way.

#### **992.4 Footpath Diversion Order. Footpaths 1 and 4, Land to the rear of High Stell, Middleton St. George**

The Parish Council received from the Borough Council the footpath diversion order for footpaths 1 and 4 on land to the rear of High Stell, Middleton St. George. The order and plans were given in the papers for the meeting.

Following a discussion, the Parish Council **agreed** to object to the proposal to divert the footpaths on the grounds that the proposals were at best premature because no decision has been taken by the Planning Inspector on the planning appeal for the site. The diversion of the footpaths will diminish the public enjoyment of the footpaths which have been experienced over many years and will diminish the ecology of the area.

#### **992.5 Planning Appeal Update. Land to the rear of High Stell and Grendon Gardens, Middleton St. George.**

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was still waiting for news of the Appeal Decision by the

**Chairman's Signature..... Date.....**

### **992.6 Neighbourhood Development Plan – Update**

The Chairman reported that funding for the Plan had been approved subject to completion of the acceptance of offer by the Parish Council. The Parish Council had been awarded a basic grant, and there was another technical support package which was available for the housing assessment. The Chairman also reported that there was a need to reconvene the NDP Working Group and a meeting was being arranged and a full report will be submitted to the next Parish Council meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

### **992.7 CPRE Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

The Clerk reported that he had attended the meeting and there was nothing to report.

### **993. Amalgamation of St. George’s and St. John’s CE Academies Consultation**

The Parish Council received the consultation letter from the Headteachers of St. George’s and St. John’s CE Academies which explained the reasons for the amalgamation and a questions and answers document.

The Parish Council **agreed** to support the amalgamation of St. George’s and St. John’s CE Academies.

### **994. Middleton St. George in Bloom and Northumbria in Bloom**

Councillor Mrs. Bullock reported that she was overwhelmed by the support from the community for the Northumbria in Bloom entry which has made a difference and the judges who visited the village on the 15<sup>th</sup> July would definitely have noticed this. The judging was hard, suggestions were made by the judges and there was no indication how the village has done in the competition. She thanked Katherine Matthews and the community for their efforts and was grateful to the judges for their response.

Councillor Mrs. Bullock stated that the work would be continued over the winter months to prepare for next year’s competition.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Mrs. Bullock and the Village Northumbria in Bloom Group for their work and **agreed** that a letter be sent to thank Councillor Mrs. Bullock and the Group.

### **995. Parks and Grounds**

#### **995.1 Water Park**

##### **a. Ponds Structural Survey – Update**

The Clerk reported that the Engineer’s Structural Survey Report had been received and circulated to the Parish Council.

It was suggested that a Working Group be formed to consider the Report and to formulate recommendations. It was pointed out that the drawings and photographs were absent from the appendices to the Report.

Following a discussion, the Parish Council **agreed** that:

- i. The Clerk will send the new Parish Councillors the Structural Survey Report.
- ii. The Vice Chairman will summarise the report and circulate it to the Parish Council for consideration at the Parish Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

**Chairman’s Signature**..... **Date**.....

iii. The Vice Chairman and Councillor I'Anson will contact Darlington Borough Council to determine layout of proposed developments and proximity to reservoir ponds. If the High Stel Appeal was decided during August, the Parish Council will need to convene a meeting.

iv. The Clerk will contact the Engineer to ask for the drawings and photographs which should have been in the appendices to the report.

#### **b. Angling Club**

The Clerk reported that Mr. Appleton of the Angling Club had emailed the Chairman and himself reporting that one of his members was digging one of the pegs quite close to a tree and he has done this without the permission of Mr Appleton or the Angling Club. The member carrying this out had been barred from the club and now under investigation why he has done this without Mr. Appleton's agreement.

There was also a report concerning the uprooting the safety signs which had recently been erected by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

i. The Clerk will inform Mr. Appleton that no work whatsoever including the replacement of pegs must take place in the Water Park until the Parish Council has considered the Engineer's Ponds Structural Survey.

ii. The Clerk, Chairman and Councillor I'Anson will check on the situation with regard to the signage in the Water Park.

#### **c. Incident in the Water Park**

The Parish Council received a report on an incident which had occurred in the Water Park. The report did not give the date or the time of the incident and the person who was responsible.

The Parish Council **agreed** to note the report.

### **995.2 Play Area and Playing Field**

#### **a. RoSPA Inspection Report**

The Clerk reported that the RoSPA inspection of the Play Area and the Playing Field had been received and was circulated to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will contact Darlington Borough Council to ask for a quotation for the work which the report stated needed to be carried out.

#### **b. Health and Safety Inspection**

The Vice Chairman reported that the following faults were noticed during his inspection of the play area:

A cap was missing from the climbing frame.

There was wear and tear on the swings.

The holding chain on the tyres was worn.

There were trip hazards on the floor of the play area which needed to be filled in.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

i. The Clerk will ask the Playgrounds Officer with Darlington Borough Council what action was needed to address the trip hazards in the play area.

**Chairman's Signature**..... **Date**.....



ii. The zip wire will continue to be out of action.

### **995.3 The Front, Middleton One Row**

#### **a. Heritage Views Project Update**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that the planning application for the work to lower the height of the trees and fell those trees which were diseased or dying in order to improve the area for users and to restore the view across the River Tees had been turned down by Darlington Borough Council and Tree Preservation Orders had been placed on three trees. The Parish Council received the Decision Notice for the planning application and the Tree Preservation Order in the papers for the meeting. In addition, the Parish Council received the financial report for the Project.

The Parish Council expressed disappointment that the planning application had been turned down and considered that it should discuss with Groundwork where they think the Parish Council should go next with the Project.

Councillor Mrs. Beadle suggested that Councillor McBride should take the lead on the Project. Councillor McBride agreed to take the lead. The Parish Council **agreed**:

- i. To Councillor McBride taking the lead on the Project.
- ii. That Councillor McBride will contact Groundwork to discuss how the project can go forward, what can be achieved, how much it will cost and informing residents what is happening.

#### **b. Village Green Parking**

The Parish Council received a report from the Owner of The Devonport that parking no longer occurred on the village green.

The Parish Council **agreed** to note the report.

### **996. Rocket Run**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that it had not been possible to contact the Organiser.

The Parish Council **agreed** that this item be taken off the agenda for future meetings.

### **997. Policies and Procedures**

#### **997.1 Website**

Councillor Foggett reported that the Parish Council's website hosting company were refusing to give him the back-up needed to transfer data across to the new website hosting company.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will ask the current website hosting company to give Councillor Foggett the back-up he required.

### **998. CCTV**

The Parish Council **agreed** to Councillor Foggett's suggestion that other quotations be sought for the provision of CCTV.

**Chairman's Signature**..... **Date**.....

## **999. Community Safety**

### **999.1 Speed Monitoring Update**

Councillor Foggett reported that the Speed Monitor was placed in Middleton Lane in June. There was one recording of 60 MPH but the majority of the speeds recording were 30 to 40 MPH.

There was a need for the speed monitor to be put in Yarm Road, Station Road and Neasham Road and for the Parish Council to re-think where it puts the speed monitor. Currently it is placed at Middleton Lane and St. George's Gate. Bishopton Parish Council has three speed monitors which cost a total of £9,000. A grant of £3,000 was obtained from the Banks Group.

### **999.2 Speed Watch**

Councillor Foggett reported that he was no further forward in retrieving the Speed Watch monitor.

### **999.3 PACT**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that the issue of anti-social behaviour during the lighter nights was discussed at the PACT meeting, concerns about policing matters should be taken up through PACT meetings and the Parish Council was encouraged to draw up questions for the new Chief Constable.

## **1000. Resident matters raised via the Parish Assembly – Update**

### **1000.1 Request to investigate the viability of a relief road**

The Chairman reported that the Vice Chairman and she were due to meet the Head of Highways with Darlington Borough Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> July but the meeting had to be postponed. It was likely that the meeting will now be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### **1000.2 Request to review overhead power cables in the village**

The Parish Council **agreed** that this item be deferred.

## **1001. Darlington Association of Parish Councils**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk and she will be attending the Darlington Association of Parish Councils meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 and gave the items which would be discussed at the meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any other issues which could be taken to the meeting. Councillor McBride suggested the coverage of police in Parishes be taken to the meeting.

## **1002. VE Day Commemorations 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 – Update**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that an email had been drawn up to send to village organisations and it was likely that a meeting would be held in September to start the preparations.

## **1003. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Meetings**

No Councillors reports were given and no items for future meetings were raised.

## **1004. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 29th July at 6.30 p.m. – Ordinary Parish Council Meeting (mainly Planning).

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

**Chairman's Signature**..... **Date**.....

**Chairman's Signature..... Date.....**