



# Middleton St George Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 in the Parish Council Meeting Room

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

**In Attendance:** 4 members of the public.

The meeting started at 6.30 p.m.

### **1154. Chairman's Opening Address**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the Acting Chair and Trustee of Middleton St. George Community Association and residents from the Grendon Gardens Residents Panel. The Chairman reported that Lucy Chapman and the Sculptor will be attending later in the meeting to discuss the Sculpture which it was proposed to be placed on the Teesdale Way at Middleton One Row.

### **1155. Public Participation Session**

#### **1155.1 Grendon Gardens Residents Panel**

The representative from the Residents Panel expressed concern that the agenda for the meeting described the submission from the Panel as issues rather than items from the Residents Panel and they were looking from the Parish Council's support. The representative stated that she will be submitting a formal complaint to Darlington Borough Council about the Chairman of the Parish Council's emails which had responded to the request from the Residents Panel to change the wording of the agenda item.

The representative addressed the Parish Council to request that consideration be given to the following suggestions towards alleviating and recording the traffic problems in Belle View Terrace / Station Road:

1. ' Permitted Parking Permit Area' for Belle Vue Terrace residents, thereby reducing 'commuter' parking.
2. Installation of CCTV cameras from The Londis Store to Dinsdale Station. This is the most congested stretch of road in the village where numerous 'near misses' and vehicle damage happen daily.

The Chairman responded that Darlington Borough Council were looking at alternative parking spaces in the centre of the village to reduce parking on the road side. The Chairman and Vice Chairman met the Highways Officer in August 2019 with a number of parking and road safety issues. Unfortunately, despite the Chairman sending a reminder in October 2019, there had not been a response due to officers working on the Local Plan.

The Parish Council commented that residents would have to be consulted to ask if they wished to pay for residents only parking.

Chairman's Signature.....*C J Gilsean*..... Date.....*10/02/2020*.....

The Parish Council **agreed**:

- a. To support the Grendon Gardens Residents Panel in its efforts to address these items but asked for a more detailed submission giving the rationale for the items.
- b. That the Clerk will write to the Head of Highways at Darlington Borough Council for a progress report on the issues raised by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the items from the Residents Panel.

The Parish Council thanked the representative for addressing it on these items.

#### **1152.2 Community Centre Nursery Fence**

The Acting Chair of the Middleton St. George Community Association addressed the meeting on the issue of the nursery fence at the entrance to the Water Park which had been erected in the early part of 2019.

The Parish Council identified safety issues as a result of the height of the fence for motorists entering the Water Park and also on the road between the Parish Council and the Community Centre buildings.

The Acting Chair suggested that a mirror be erected on the former chapel side of the entrance pointing towards the entrance to the Water Park to improve the visibility for motorists entering the Water Park from Station Road. The Acting Chair will give the Clerk the names of suppliers of a suitable mirror. For its part the Community Centre will put safety signs on the fence to get them to enter the Water Park and proceed to the car park slowly.

The Acting Chair referred to its involvement in the VE Day Commemorations. The Community Centre was willing to work and establish a dialogue with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed that a mirror pointing to the entrance to the Water Park to be sited slightly past the waste bin be obtained and installed and welcomed a dialogue and joint working with the Community Centre.

The Parish Council thanked the Acting Chair and Trustee for attending the Parish Council meeting.

#### **1153. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blacklee and Smith because of work commitments, Councillors Foggett and Wilkinson because of family commitments and Councillor Mrs. Bullock because of illness.

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

#### **1154. Declarations of Interests**

The Chairman declared an interest in the Community Centre Fence as a member of the Middleton St. George Management Committee.

#### **1155. Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 and the Finance Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 and the Finance Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were presented.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the minutes were a true record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed the minutes at the end of the meeting.

Chairman's Signature.....*C. L. Alwan*..... Date.....*10/02/2020*.....

## 1156. Financial Matters

### 1156.1 Financial Report as at the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Councillor Mrs. Beadle gave the financial report as at the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The report gave the reasons for the Contingency Accounts and the reserves,

#### a. Parish Council Accounts

Contingency - Saver Account 1 – Barclays	- £21,396.74
Contingency - Saver Account 2 – Barclays	- £16,333.64
Reserves - Account with Darlington Credit Union	- £5,095.42
<b>Barclaycard Expenditure November 2019:</b>	
30.11.2019 Timsons Darlington. Keys cut for the Speed Watch Co-ordinator £14.75	
<b>Community Account:</b>	
Income	- £133,967.69
Expenditure	- £ 39,538.79
<b>Balance as at the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019</b>	<b>£94,428.90</b>

#### b. Progress against the Budget

The anticipated income for the 2019-20 at the end of the financial year was £137,833.88 and the anticipated expenditure was expected to be £75,459.00 with a carry forward surplus balance of £62,374.88 to the 2020-21 financial year.

#### c. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation as at the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 showed that the Community Account spreadsheet balance held by the Parish Council was £94,428.90. and the Community Account balance held by the bank was £94,443.39. A difference of £14.49 which was because cheque numbers 200044 for £4.50 and 200046 for £9.99 not being cleared by bank.

#### d. Accounts Spreadsheet and Bank Statement

The Spreadsheet of all the accounts and the bank statement for the Community Account for the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> November and the 10<sup>th</sup> November to the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 were presented and showed the balance in the Community Account at the bank on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 was £94,443.39.

### 1156.2 Payments received and payments for approval

#### a. Payments In:

NIL

#### b. Payments for approval:

Date	Supplier	Amount
16.12.2019	Darlington Borough Council. Grounds Maintenance Contract. December 2019	£579.00

Chairman's Signature..... *C. J. Gilmore* ..... Date..... *19/12/2020* .....

Date	Supplier	Amount
16.12.2019	Scottish Power. Electricity Monthly	£18.00
16.12.2019	Scottish Power. Gas Monthly	£30.00
16.12.2019	HM Revenue and Customs. Clerk's PAYE December 2019	£163.68
16.12.2019	Julia Storey. Rent for Belle Vue Allotments	£125.00
16.12.2019	Darlington Borough Council. Repairs to play area	£201.14
16.12.2019	Jo-Anne Garrick Ltd. NDP Professional Fees	£1,200.00
16.12.2019	CPRE Annual Subscription	£36.00
17.12.2019	Barclaycard Commercial. 3 flags. 1 Union Flag, 1 Remembrance Flag and 1 St. George's Flag. All 5' x 3'	£11.39
23.12..2019	BT Hub Monthly	£40.49
31.12.2019	Cleaner - C. I. Wood Pay	£70.00
31.12.2019	Litter Picker - J. D. Lynn Pay	£558.28
31.12.2019	Clerk - A. W. Macnab Pay	£654.72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,108.72</b>

The Parish Council **agreed**:

- i. To note the financial report and the income received since the last meeting.
- ii. That the payments for December 2019 as detailed above be made.

#### **1156.3 Timetable of Controls for December 2019**

The Timetable of Controls Report for December 2019 was presented.

The Clerk reported that:

- a. A statement of receipts and payments to date under each budget heading and progress against the budget statement was submitted to the meeting.
- b. The schedule of payments requiring authorisation formed part of the agenda for the meeting.
- c. A list of regular payments was submitted to the meeting.
- d. Counterfoils of cheques would be signed at the Parish Council Meeting
- e. There were no losses, liabilities or damage which could lead to claims against the Parish Council.

The Parish Council **agreed** that it was satisfied that all the actions to comply with the Timetable of Controls for December 2019 were in place.

#### **1156.4 Section 137 Grants. National Limits for 2020-21**

The Clerk reported that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has released details of the appropriate sum for Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

For parish and town councils in England for 2020-21 the appropriate sum will be **£8.32 per elector** which was based on the electoral roll of the Parish.

The maximum amount which a council may spend under section 137 in any one year (e.g. from 1 April to the following 31 March) is an index-linked amount per head of the "relevant population."

Chairman's Signature..... *C. J. Gibson* ..... Date..... *10/02/2020* .....

The relevant population is the number of persons on the electoral roll for the town, parish or community as at 1 April.

The number of persons on the electoral roll for Middleton St. George Parish at the time of the Parish Council elections was 3,461. Therefore the maximum the Parish Council can spend on Section 137 expenditure in the 2020-21 financial year would be £28,795.52.

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

#### **1157. Gas and Electricity Charges**

The Clerk reported that based on meter readings which had been carried out and given to Southern Electric the fixed the monthly gas charges at £30 and the electricity charges at £3.00.

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

#### **1158. Planning Matters**

##### **1158.1 Pending Applications. Applications for sites allocated in the Darlington Borough Council's Draft Local Plan**

###### **a. 16/00976/OUT - Up to 260 dwellings, Station Road, Middleton St. George (site 099 on Draft Local Plan Policies Map)**

The Chairman reported that a further extension to the time limit for this planning application had been agreed by Darlington Borough Council to the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020.

###### **b. 19/00231/OUT – 160 houses, land behind The Greenway (site 375 on Draft Local Plan Policies Map)**

The Chairman reported that there was no further information about this planning application.

###### **1158.3 High Stell**

The Chairman reported that there were no issues regarding the site.

###### **1158.4 Planning Appeal to the Planning Inspector**

The Parish Council was informed that an appeal to the Planning Inspector on the decision of Darlington Borough Council to refuse planning permission for the following application:

###### **18/01108/FUL. Erection of 55 dwellings. Land east of Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George.**

The Parish Council received in the papers for the meeting the Planning Inspector's notice of the appeal, the appellant's submission to the Planning Inspector and the Parish Council's submission to Darlington Borough Council.

The Parish Council agreed to the proposed joint draft written representation to the Planning Inspectorate (MSGPC and CPRE) but with the addition of emphasis on the importance of the green gap and separation of settlements. The Chairman would liaise with CPRE re the amendments, and circulate the amended draft prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Chairman's Signature..... *C. J. Gibson* ..... Date..... *10/02/2020* .....

### 1158.5 New Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the following new planning applications.

19/01092/FUL. Extension and alternation to existing conservatory. 4, St. Anne's Gardens, Middleton St. George.

19/01121/FUL. Erection of first floor extension to rear elevation and car port to south side elevation. 7 Middleton Lane Middleton St. George.

The Parish Council **agreed** that no comments be made on both planning applications.

### 1159. Resolution on the consideration of Planning Applications during the Christmas and New Year Holiday

The Chairman reminded that the next Parish Council will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and there was a need to consider how any planning applications would be considered in the Christmas and New Year period.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the responses to urgent planning applications would be decided via email consultation during the Christmas and New Year break (unless a matter of major importance requires a meeting to be convened).

### 1160. Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

The Chairman reported that the next Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 2 p.m. in the Parish Council Meeting Room.

Since the last meeting of the Working Group, Nick Beedie from AECOM had visited the village on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and was drafting the Design Codes document which will be part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Jo-Anne Garrick was completing the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan document, which hopefully will be submitted to the Working Group on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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

### 1161. Bid for Section 106 Funding for bank side work in the Water Park Update

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Section 106 Officer at Darlington Borough Council following the last meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 to ask if part of the Section 106 amenity space contribution from the 27 houses in Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George can be transferred from the provision of wild flower meadows to work within the Water Park. The response was that the Parish Council's request was being considered and would be informed when a decision had been taken.

The Parish Council expressed concern that its legal responsibilities to ensure that the banks of the ponds were safe and secure. There was therefore a need for the work to the banks to be given the highest priority. It was pointed out that the Structural Engineer in his report did not give the depth of the ponds and there would be a need for the depth of each pond to be measured to determine if they came under the Reservoirs Act or not.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk obtains quotations from companies providing bathymetric survey of the ponds and bring them to the next meeting.

### 1162. Grounds Maintenance Contract 2019-20

The Clerk circulated the response from the contractor, Darlington Borough Council, to the complaints about work not being carried out under the contract.

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

Chairman's Signature..... *CJ Gibson* ..... Date..... *10/02/2020* .....

### 1163. Grounds Maintenance Contract 2020-2023

The Parish Council received the current Grounds Maintenance Contract in the papers for the meeting as the basis for the new Contract. The Clerk reported that the recommendation from the Finance Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 was for the contract to be extended to three years.

The Parish Council agreed that:

- a. The Grounds Maintenance Contract be extended from one year to three years.
- b. The specification be amended for Middleton one Row from "assist with selective tree thinning" to "assist with selective shrub and overhanging filling."
- c. The Clerk will invite quotations from grounds maintenance service providers as soon as possible.

LUCY CHAPMAN, GROUNDWORK, NORTH EAST AND CUMBRIA AND PAT WALLS SCULPTOR ENTERED THE MEETING.

### 1164 The Front, Middleton One Row

#### 1164.1 Sculpture, Middleton One Row

The Chairman referred to her report to the Parish Council on the Sculpture on the Teesdale Way, The Front Middleton One Row.

Lucy Chapman apologised that the procedures were not followed in not consulting the Parish Council on the design of the sculpture. Pat Walls stated that he had been selected to make the sculpture. He thought that the Parish Council had been consulted but this was not the case and he had purchased the stone to make the sculpture. Pat Walls circulated the design to the meeting and the stone to be used. He explained the relevance of the design for the location on the Teesdale Way at Middleton One Row. There would be other designs for different locations along the River Tees which would all be supported by a booklet which would interpret the meaning of each sculpture and each sculpture would have a brass plaque. The sculpture would be up to 3 metres in height.

The Parish Council asked Pat Walls if a fish could be incorporated into the sculpture which he agreed. The designs of the sculpture would be circulated to the village via the Parish Council's website and Facebook page and it would be displayed at the Community Centre Open Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Reference was made to the location of the sculpture in relation to the planning permission which had been obtained. Lucy Chapman agreed to go back to Darlington Borough Council if the preferred location was different and this would be communicated to the Parish Council for its views. Lucy Chapman also agreed to co-ordinate all communications.

The Parish Council thanked Lucy Chapman and Pat Walls for attending the Parish Council meeting.

#### 1164.2 Woodland Management Project

The Chairman's report giving the current situation with regard to the Project was circulated to the Parish Council. Attempts have been made to meet the Head of Planning at Darlington Borough Council to make progress with the Project.

Lucy Chapman reported that she had contacted the Head of Planning who was happy to meet Groundwork and the Parish Council on site to discuss the Project, preparing a Woodland Management Plan for the area and

Chairman's Signature..... *C J Gibson* ..... Date..... *10/02/2020* .....

the work which contractors can and cannot carry out. Lucy Chapman agreed to liaise with the Head of Planning and the Parish Council to find a suitable date for the site meeting.

### **1164.3 Work on Parish Council land to the rear of 38, The Front, Middleton One Row**

The Clerk read the response from the residents of 38, The Front concerning the decision of the Parish Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 to ask the residents to pay for an arborist to survey the trees on the land to the rear of their property.

Following a discussion, the Parish Council **agreed** that the work be included in the site visit by the Head of Planning.

### **1165. Items brought to the Parish Council's attention for the benefit of the community**

A table giving the items which had been discussed by the Parish Council which would benefit the community and who and how the items could be taken forward was drawn up by Councillor Mrs. Bullock.

The Parish Council **agreed** to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting due to the absence of Councillor Mrs. Bullock.

### **1166. Pocket Park Funding**

Information on Pocket Park funding and the type of play equipment for disabled children were circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that she had spoken to the resident who suggested play equipment for disabled children.

The Parish Council were not clear where the play equipment for children with disabilities could be sited and **agreed** that more work was required.

### **1167. Bike Track**

The Vice Chairman reported that he would be discussing the possibility of a bike track being located at the airport with the airport management in January 2020.

### **1168. Water Park**

#### **1168.1 Ponds Structural Survey – Quotations for the Bank Side Work**

The Parish Council received three quotations from companies for clearing the southern banksides of the three ponds.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the quotations be examined a small group consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor l'Anson but before this could happen the Clerk will obtain quotations for a bathymetric survey of the ponds.

#### **1168.2 Drain Cover**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that she had contacted J.T. Atkinson for a drain cover but they required the measurements of the drain. Councillor Mrs. Beadle will give the company the measurements.

#### **1168.3 Community Centre Car Park**

The Chairman relayed a polite request from the Trustees of Association, asking that visitors to the Parish

Chairman's Signature..... *C.J. Gibbons* ..... Date..... *10/02/2020* .....



Council building do not park in the Community Centre Car Park where possible, especially on Monday evenings when it was particularly busy.

#### **1169. Playing Field and Play Area**

##### **1169.1 Health and Safety**

The Vice Chairman reported that there were no health and safety concerns on the playing field and in the play area.

##### **1170. The Whinnies Nature Reserve**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that spraying of weeds had taken place and dog poison and razor blades in tennis balls had been found in The Whinnies. Both incidents were being investigated by the police.

##### **1171. Community Safety PACT**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that the last PACT meeting were informed that 59 new police officers would be employed by Durham Constabulary over the next few years.

##### **1172. Teesside International Airport Consultative Committee**

The Vice Chairman reported that there were no issued to bring to the attention of the Parish Council and the next meeting would be in January.

##### **1173. VE Day Commemorations 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 – Update**

Councillor Mrs. Beadle reported that various clubs and societies had been contacted to form a group for the Commemorations. Two residents will be co-ordinating the village's Commemorations.

##### **1174. Stockton and Darlington Railway, Heritage Action Scheme and Community Engagement Update**

The Chairman reported that the village History Group had contacted the Chair of the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway to discuss how to progress the village's response to the Heritage Action Scheme and engaging the community. The Chairman reported that a meeting was being organised in the New Year.

##### **1175. Annual Parish Assembly 2020**

Due to a clash with dates, the Parish Council agreed to alter the date of the Annual Parish Assembly to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2020. The Chairman would contact the Community Centre regarding the booking of the hall, and inform the What's On in MSG organisers.

##### **1176. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Meetings**

There were no Councillors reports and items for future meetings.

##### **1177. Dates of Next Meetings**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Finance).

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 (Planning).

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman's Signature..... *C. J. Gibbons* ..... Date *10/02/2020* .....