



Middleton St George Parish Council

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DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN THIS SCHEDULED MEETING COULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN PERSON. A REMOTE VIRTUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD USING ZOOM UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020.

Minutes of the Remote Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 24th September, 2020

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Gilsenan (Chairman),
Councillor A. Blacklee,
Councillor L. Foggett,
Councillor A. Marshall,
Councillor D. Whitfield.
Alan Macnab, Clerk.

No Members of the Public were present.

The meeting started at 6.30 p.m.

1471. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Remote Extraordinary Meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider a resolution for the Parish Council to act as Treasurer to the new Save the Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group.

1472. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Vice Chairman because of difficulties with accessing the meeting using Zoom and Councillor I'Anson because of work commitments.

The Parish Council **agreed** to accept the apologies from the Vice Chairman and Councillor I'Anson.

1473. Declarations of Interests

No declaration of interests were made.

1474. Report from the Save Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group

The Chairman read the report from the Save Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group

Following the Community Survey in August 2020, the new community pub steering group held its first meeting on 1st September, 2020 which she had chaired Ross Chisholm from the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway attended.

The meeting agreed that it now had the criteria to request assistance from the Plunkett Foundation (support from the community via a survey, and a community pub steering group). The Chairman in her capacity as Chairman of the Parish Council requested support from the Plunkett Foundation, and shortly afterwards support was awarded, in the form of remote support with one of their business advisors. 2.5 days in total,

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

across three months.

Owing to the fact that, under the Asset of Community Value (ACV) process, the Parish Council and the Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway were the two eligible bodies who submitted an expression of interest to be considered a bidder for the pub, the Parish Council and the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway would still have an overseeing involvement in the Group for now.

The Group had its second meeting on the 17th September, 2020. The first one with Martin Booth, the business advisor of the Plunkett Foundation. As well as receiving some good advice from Mr. Booth, and holding a very useful discussion, a name was chosen for the steering group (Save the Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group), and Roy Thomason was elected Chairman.

The Save the Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group is requesting that:

The Parish Council acts as “temporary treasurer” for the Save the Fighting Cocks Pub Group until such time as they are in a position to set up a bank account in the Group's name.

Martin Booth gave the reasons for the request because the Pub Group was an unconstituted organisation at the present time and they will not be able to open a bank account in its own name.

The Community Pub Group meeting on the 17th September, 2020 agreed that that they wished to apply to the Plunkett Foundation for a grant of up to £2,500 to pay for the costs of an independent valuation, registration as a community benefit society, any legal fees and other expenditure. The Community Pub Group should be able to submit the funding application within two weeks, once the Action Plan has been completed, but whilst the application could be submitted by the Pub Group the newly formed Group will not yet be in a position to receive these funds or make payment from it (to the valuer for example. Some of the bursary fund grant can be used to pay the costs of registering a community benefit society with the Financial Conduct Authority. Once this is done they can open a bank account in their own name. In the meantime, if the Parish Council supported their aims, it would be very helpful for them to act as their banker.

1475. Consideration of the request from the Save Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group

The Clerk reported that he had written to the County Durham Association of Local Councils for advice on whether the Parish Council could act as Treasurer in principle for a temporary period to the Save Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group and a reply was awaited.

The Parish Council considered that a separate bank account from the Parish Council’s accounts would have to be opened.

Following a discussion the Parish Council agreed:

- a. That it will act as “temporary treasurer” for the Save the Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group until such time as they are in a position to set up a bank account in the Group's name.
- b. A separate bank account from the Parish Council’s accounts be opened with Barclays Bank Limited and the account be titled The Parish Council Special Projects Account.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....