



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 Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th December, 2020

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Gilsonan (Chairman),
Councillor H. Bullock,
Councillor L. Foggett,
Councillor A. Jones,
Councillor A. Marshall,
Alan Macnab, Clerk.

No members of the public were present.

The meeting started at 6.35 p.m.

1539. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Bullock who was attending her first meeting following her sabbatical.

1540. Public Participation Session

The Clerk reported that no requests had been made to address the Parish Council.

1541. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Vice Chairman because of holiday commitments, Councillors Blacklee and l'Anson because of work commitments and Councillor Whitfield because of family reasons.

The Parish Council **agreed** to accept the apologies from the Vice Chairman and Councillors Blacklee, l'Anson and Whitfield.

1542. Declarations of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in the item on the Community Centre's request for funding as a Trustee of the Community Centre. Councillor Foggett declared an interest in the Save the Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group, Grounds Maintenance and Killinghall Row Allotments items as Treasurer of the Community Pub Group, and Secretary of the Allotments Association and Councillor Marshall declared an interest in the Killinghall Row Allotments item as a part owner of the land.

The Councillors also declared that they would not take part in the discussions on the items which they declared an interest in except for clarification purposes and they will not participate in the decision on these items.

Chairman's Signature.....

CJ Gilsonan

Date.....

11/01/2021

1543. Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th November, 2020

The minutes of the Virtual Parish Council meeting held on the 9th November, 2020 were presented.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 9th November, 2020 were a true record of the proceedings of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes after the meeting and returned them to the Clerk.

1544. Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that no applications had been received for the Parish Councillor vacancy. The advertisement for the vacancy had been placed in the notice boards, the website and Facebook page. Councillor Bullock reported that Ward Councillor Laing had received an expression of interest in the vacancy and advised the resident expressing an interest in the vacancy to contact the Clerk. The Clerk reported that he had not received the expression of interest but he would contact Councillor Laing to find out the name and address of the resident who was interested in the vacancy.

The Parish Council **agreed** that a further advertisement for this post, with a closing date of 1st January 2021, be placed in the three noticeboards and the Parish Council's website and Facebook page.

1545. Coronavirus Update

The Chairman reported that the Covid-19 notices at the entrances to the Play Area and the MUGA in the Water Park had been removed by unknown persons. Darlington Borough Council had installed permanent Dog Exclusion Area signs at the entrance to the Play Area and the entrance to the MUGA.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will give the Chairman the Covid-19 signs which will be put up again in the Play Area and MUGA. The Chairman will laminate the signs and arrange for them to be placed at the entrances to the Play Area and MUGA.

1546. Community Safety

1546.1 Community Speed Watch

Councillor Foggett reported that the weather conditions were against any Speed Watch operations being held.

1546.2 Speed Monitor

Councillor Foggett reported that the solar panel was being fitted to the existing Speed Monitor. He had received two quotations for supplying two new speed monitors with solar panels. The companies will not provide maintenance of the monitors nor will they erect them for the Parish Council but Councillor Foggett did not foresee that this would be a problem.

The Parish Council considered the three quotations, which Councillor Foggett had obtained, for additional speed monitors. Councillor Foggett recommended that the quotation of £4,397.59 (including VAT) from ElanCity for supplying two Speed Monitors with solar panels be accepted

There would be a need for three 3.5 metre high poles to be purchased for the speed monitors. It was suggested that Darlington Borough Council be asked to supply and erect the poles for the speed monitors. Councillor Foggett stated that he had not approached the Borough Council because the Parish Council needed to take a decision on the permanent locations for the three speed monitors. The Parish Council felt that further consideration was needed to decide the three locations.

Chairman's Signature.....

CJ Gibson

Date.....

11/01/2021

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- a. The quotation of £4,397.59 (including VAT) from ElanCity be accepted for the two new Speed Monitors with solar panels.
- b. Councillor Foggett will ask the Highways Officer of Darlington Borough Council if his staff will supply and erect the three Speed Monitors.
- c. A further discussion be held at the next Parish Council meeting on the 11th January, 2021 to decide the three locations for the Speed Monitors.

1546.2 Traffic Safety

a. Speed limit signs at St. George's Gate

The Clerk apologised that the response from Councillor Brian Jones on the speed limit signs at the entrance to the village at St. George's Gate was not circulated with the papers for the meeting. Councillor Jones asked if the data from the speed monitor been sent to the Durham Police Traffic Management Officer? If not then there would be little chance of achieving a reduction in the speed limit. The police have a big part to play in this, it was not just a case of changing the signs but involves changing Traffic Orders as well. The 40mph limit was put in as a 'buffer' zone leading to the 30 limit. If there was evidence it was not working, then it must be demonstrated.

The Clerk also reported that he had written to the Highways Officer about the speed limit signs at St. George's Gate but a reply had not been received.

b. Speeding motorist concerns in Station Road

The Clerk reported that the resident's concerns had been forwarded to the Highways Officer but a reply had not been received.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will ask the Highways Officer for a reply on both issues and will ask the resident to report all speeding incidents to the police on 101 when a crime number will be issued and if there are sufficient reports for this road the police may carry out traffic monitoring.

Financial Matters

1547. Financial Report as at the 7th December, 2020

The Clerk gave the financial report for the 2020-21 Financial Year as at the 7th December, 2020. The report gave the reasons for the Contingency Accounts and the reserves.

a. Parish Council Accounts

Contingency - Saver Account 1 – Barclays	- £21,439.53
Contingency - Saver Account 2 – Barclays	- £16,366.31
Reserves - Account with Darlington Credit Union	- £5,095.42
Barclaycard November 2020	Nil CR £77.99

Chairman's Signature..... *CJ Gibson* Date..... *11/01/2021*

Community Account:	
Income	- £142,372.11
Expenditure	- <u>£ 26,682.07</u>
Balance as at the 7th December, 2020	£115,690.04

b. Progress against the Budget

The Clerk reported that the Progress against the Budget statement had been revised since it was included in the Financial Report and now gave details the known budget pressures to the end of the financial year and a more accurate forecast of the income and expenditure and the carry forward to the next financial year at the 31st March 2020. The revised statement was circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting. The year end income was expected to be £146,590.62 and expenditure was expected to be £60,798.95 giving a surplus carry forward to the 2021-22 financial year of £85,791.67.

The Clerk's report stated that the contractor, E & M Leighton, who had been engaged to clear the south facing bank side of the three former reservoirs in the Water Park and to re-seed the bank side had informed him that, because of the need to clarify the clearance work the clearance work would not now start until January 2021 and there would be a 10% increase in the agreed quotation. The transfer of amounts from budget headings for this work had to be revised to include the 10% increase and he asked the Parish Council to agree the 10% increase in the charge for clearance work and the transfer of £2,068.80 from the Ground Maintenance budget to help fund the work.

The Parish Council **agreed:**

- i. The 10% increased payment of £22,756.80 for the clearance work to the south facing bank side of the three former reservoirs in the Water Park.
- ii. The transfer of £2,068.80 from the Grounds Maintenance budget to contribute to south facing bankside of the three former reservoirs in the Water Park clearance work.
- iii. The revised Progress against the Budget Statement.

c. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation as at the 7th December, 2020 showed that the Community Account spreadsheet balance held by the Parish Council was £115,690.04 and the Community Account balance held by the bank was £115,708.04. The reason for the difference was the payment of £18.00 to Direct Signs for the Woodlands Green Car Park sign sticker had not been taken from the bank account.

d. Accounts Spreadsheet and Bank Statement

The Spreadsheet of all the accounts including the transactions in the Community Account and the bank statements for the period up to and including the 7th December, 2020 were presented.

1548. Payments received and payments for approval

Payments In:

Date	Customer	Amount
	Nil	

Chairman's Signature..... *C J Gibson* Date..... *11/01/2021*

Payments for Approval:

Date	Supplier	Amount
07.12.2020	Scottish Power. Electricity Monthly	£5.00
12.12.2020	Scottish Power. Gas Monthly.	£30.00
14.12.2020	Direct Signs. Payment for Playing Field Car Park Sticker	£18.00
14.12.2020	Jo Anne Garrick. NDP Planning Consultant's Fee 2020-21 Second Invoice	£1,320.00
14.12.2020	HMRC. Clerk's PAYE. December, 2020	£168.20
14.12.2020	NEST Pension. J. D. Lynn, Litter Picker £47.44 and C. I. Wood Cleaner £5.60. December 2020	£53.04
14.12.2020	Mazars. External Audit of 2019-20 Accounts	£360.00
14.12.2020	Mrs. J. Storey. Half Yearly Rent. Belle Vue Allotments	£125.00
23.12.2020	BT Hub Monthly	£31.99
31.12.2020	Cleaner – C. I. Wood Pay	£66.50
31.12.2020	Litter Picker – J. D. Lynn Pay	£563.31
31.12.2020	Clerk – A. W. Macnab Pay	£673.04
	Total	£3,414.08

The Parish Council agreed that the payments listed in the table for December 2020 be paid.

1549. Timetable of Controls for December 2020

The Timetable of Controls for December, 2020 was submitted to the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that:

- a. The statement of receipts and payments to date and progress against the budget statement was presented at this meeting.
- b. The schedule of payments which required authorisation was included as part of the agenda for this Parish Council meeting. Invoices were provided to support the schedule of payments.
- c. A list of regular payments was presented at its meeting. No cheques are being drawn up during the Covid-19 pandemic and they were replaced by standing orders and bank transfers.
- d. There were no losses, liabilities or damage which could lead to claims in November 2020 to date.

The Parish Council agreed that it was satisfied that the activities in the Timetable of Controls had been completed.

1550. Councillor's Audit of Accounts July to September 2020

Councillor Blacklee's report on his audit of the accounts for the period from July to September 2020 was circulated to the Parish Council.

Councillor Blacklee reported that the accounts and supporting documents appeared to be a true and accurate record of the Parish finances and that all appeared to be in order. However the August spreadsheet stated that the payment to the Clerk was £654.32 whereas the HMRC PAYE form stated the payment was £654.80. September spreadsheet stated that the payment to the Clerk was £764.60 but the HMRC PAYE form showed the payment was £764.20. The Clerk explained that the differences were the result of changes to the PAYE tax rates and the reason was the payments to HMRC for his PAYE were made before the HMRC form was

Chairman's Signature..... *C.J. Blacklee* Date..... 11/01/2021

generated. He has explained this to Councillor Blacklee and undertook to examine the payments made to HMRC to ensure that they were correct.

1551. Electricity Contract with Scottish Power

The Clerk reported that the current electricity contract with Scottish Power for the Parish Council building was due to expire on the 31st January, 2021.

The Parish Council paid £5.00 each month to Scottish Power under the business rates. The current rates were:

28.140 p per day. Daily Service Charge
16.130 p per kWh. Day Units
13.890 p per kWh. Evening and Weekend Units.

The renewal form gave the options and prices for renewing the contract with Scottish Power.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the contract for the supply of electricity with Scottish Power for a two year fixed price period tariff (expiry date 31st January 2023) as follows:

34.67 p per day. Daily Service Charge
16.830 p per kWh. Day Units
14.700 p kWh. Evening and Weekend Units.

Planning Matters

1552. Planning Decisions taken by Darlington Borough Council

The Chairman reported that the following planning decisions had been taken by the Borough Council since the 9th November, 2020 for information.

a. Planning approval had been received for the following applications:

20/00432/FUL. Erection of outbuilding (Retrospective Application) at Almora House, Middleton Lane, Middleton St George.

20/00814/FUL. Erection of garage to side elevation, 55 Woolsington Drive, Middleton St George.

20/00845/FUL. Erection of single storey extension to rear elevation, 1 Middleton Lane, Middleton St George.

20/00871/FUL. Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension at 10 The Paddock, Middleton St. George.

20/00922/FUL. Removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension to side elevation, 24 Pine Tree Grove, Middleton St George.

b. Approval of variation of Section 106 Agreement:

20/00936/FUL. Discharge of planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 attached to planning permission 88/00789/MISC dated 11 October 1989 (Erection of a dwelling, stable block and ancillary buildings for the operation of a stud farm - in outline).

c. Approval of Tree Felling Work:

20/00942/TF. Felling of 1 no. Beech tree (T2) protected under Group Tree Preservation Order 1980 (No.7)(G1), 67 Middleton Lane, Middleton St George.

Chairman's Signature..... *C.J. Blower* Date..... *11/01/2021*

d. Further Planning Approvals:

20/00948/FUL. Erection of 2 no. dwellings (substitution of housetype on plots 20 and 24 of planning permission 16/00972/FUL), Plots 20 and 24 Romangate, Middleton St George.

20/00956/FUL. Erection of a two storey extension to the side and rear at 17 Stansted Grove, Middleton St. George.

1553. Planning application decided as a matter of urgency

The Chairman reported that the following planning application had had to be decided between the Parish Council meeting on the 9th November and the present Parish Council meeting because of extenuating circumstances:

20/00956/FUL. Erection of a two storey extension to the side and rear at 17 Stansted Grove, Middleton St. George.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor Foggett had been consulted and the decision was that no comments be made on the planning application.

The Parish Council **agreed** the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor Foggett's decision.

1554. New Planning Applications

The following new planning applications were submitted for consideration:

20/00906/FUL. Erection of first floor extension to front and side elevation, erection of single storey rear extension, alterations and enlargement to roof, replace rear door with window and associated internal alterations, 41 The Front MIDDLETON ONE ROW DARLINGTON DL2 1AU

20/01027/FUL. Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension, replacement flat roof with increased height to existing garage, additional window to ground floor side elevation and associated internal alterations. 13, Palm Tree Villas, Station Road, Middleton St. George.

20/01072/TF. Felling of 4 no. trees protected under group Tree Preservation Order 1980 (No. 7) (W2) - 2 no. Horse Chestnut trees (T892 & T894), 1 no. Larch tree (T893) and 1 no. Beech tree (T895). Almora Hall, Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George.

20/01092/FUL. Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of first floor store area to habitable space with dormer extension and roof light to rear elevation and dormer to front elevation, 2 Ashdale Close, Middleton St. George.

20/01099/FUL. Demolition of outbuildings and erection of single storey rear extension with 2 no. roof lights and replace window with door in rear utility, 15 Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George.

20/01125/FUL. Erection of single storey rear extension, 21 Acorn Close, Middleton St. George.

20/01148/FUL. Erection of single storey rear extension, 64 Heathfield Park, Middleton St. George.

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

1555. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Chairman's Signature..... *C.J. Gibson* Date..... *11/01/2021*

The Chairman's progress report was submitted with the papers for the meeting. She reminded the meeting that consultation with the public and statutory bodies was held from the 28th September to 23rd November, 2020 mostly online due to COVID. Letters informing about the Consultation were sent by the Clerk via email to Statutory Consultation Bodies, and responses received forwarded to Jo-Anne Garrick, the NDP Planning Consultant. Responses received by the Clerk from residents were also forwarded to Jo-Anne Garrick who collected responses from residents who completed the online questionnaire/survey.

A breakdown of the costs of the Plan and the table of responses from the public and statutory consultation were attached to the report. The response table was not for publication because it was still work in progress.

The Chairman's report gave the following specific outstanding matters regarding the Response Table which Jo-Anne Garrick would be asked to consider.

- To examine the wording for the energy efficiency and renewable energy policy;
- To consider the approach to the medical centre and retirement village in relation to the settlement envelope;
- Check the boundaries of POS05 and LGS08;
- Understand why a resident believes the protection of site POS07 is 'too late';
- Whether it is appropriate to include a specific community action regarding vehicles parking on double yellow lines;
- For the Parish Council to consider if it wanted to include an additional community action regarding the ongoing work around the Platform 1 pub?
- For the Parish Council to consider if it wanted to include the Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub
- Whether AECOM can update the design code.

The next steps were given in the report and included asking Jo-Anne Garrick to review all of the comments and draft responses, to decide if amendments were needed to the Response Table and to update the draft Plan.

The Parish Council **agreed** to thank Jo-Anne Garrick and the NDP Working Group for their work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and to invite Jo-Anne Garrick to a meeting of the Parish Council.

1556. Platform One Public House

The minutes of the initial meeting on the 1st September, 2020 to form the Save the Platform One Pub Steering Group were circulated with the papers for the meeting. Since that meeting, seven meetings of the new Steering Group had taken place.

A bursary had been secured from the Plunkett Foundation and new members had been welcomed. The valuation on the pub had been carried out, a Business Plan was being drawn up, and how to progress to being a Community Benefit Society and set up a share issue was being investigated. The previous tenant of Platform One was now on the Steering Group and the Steering Group also contained two residents with catering experience.

1557. MSG Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Steering Group

The minutes of the Steering Group on the 16th November, 2020 were circulated with the papers for the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that three persons present at the meeting were member of the Community Pub Group. The amended minutes will be sent to members of the Steering Group.

The proposals for the Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub was considered at the Parish Council meeting on the 9th November 2020. Three members of the Save the Platform One Pub Steering Group were members of the Railway Heritage Steering Group. The Chairman suggested to the Railway Heritage Group that a railway related piece of art work be installed on the A67/Mill Lane roundabout. The Railway Heritage Group suggested that residents be asked what they would like to see on the Mill Roundabout and the mural on the garage wall of the Station House.

Chairman's Signature..... *CJ Gibson* Date..... *11/01/2021*

A draft notice asking for suggestions for the art work on the A67/Mill Lane roundabout and the garage wall of the Station House was circulated to the Parish Council. The notice would be placed on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page.

The Chairman stated following the Railway Heritage Steering Group meeting the Clerk had written to Darlington Borough Council's Creative Darlington Manager for his comments on the suggested art work on the A67 roundabout and possible sources of funding. The replies from the Creative Darlington Manager gave very helpful comments on the suggestion and possible sources of funding.

The Parish Council received the Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub Guide which was produced by Ross Chisholm, the Planning Officer of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The guide would be useful for funding bids.

The Chairman's report and draft letter from the Parish Council to Darlington Borough Council regarding its involvement in discussion and planning of the S&DR Cycle and Walking Route were circulated.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- a. The draft notice asking for residents suggestions for the art work on the A67/Mill Lane roundabout and the garage wall of the Station House.
- b. The Clerk's correspondence with the Creative Darlington Manager be sent to all Parish Councillors.
- c. The Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub Guide be sent to senior officers of Darlington Borough Council. The Chairman will send the list of names to the Clerk.
- d. The draft letter to Darlington Borough Council regarding the Parish Council's involvement in the discussions and planning of the S & DR Cycle and Walking Route.

1558. Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Annual General Meeting 3rd December, 2020

The Chairman reported that she attended the Friends Virtual Annual General Meeting and her report was circulated to the Parish Council for information.

Other Matters

1559. Grounds Maintenance Contract

Councillor Foggett reported that since the virtual meeting with the Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces Manager and Street Scene Manager on the 5th November, 2020 the hedges in the allotments and the paths in the Playing Field had not been cut. The Parish Council considered the withholding of payment until this work was carried out.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will ask the Parks and Open Spaces Manager when the allotment hedges and paths in the Playing Field would be cut.

1560. Tree work on Parish Council Land

Three quotations for work to lower the trees and bushes in the Water Park to the rear of 58, High Stell and in the Playing Field on the path to the rear of Mount Pleasant Close and to the rear of 27, Woodlands Green were circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Following a discussion, the Parish Council **agreed** that the quotation of £816 (including VAT) from All Seasons Arborists be accepted.

Chairman's Signature..... *CJ Gibson* Date..... *11/01/2021*

1561. Killinghall Row Allotments Rent

Councillor Marshall reported that the Partners of St. George's Medical Practice (including himself) had purchased land in Killinghall Row in 2012 with a view to building the new Health Centre there. They did not know at the time that the land they purchased included the allotments and therefore they bought the allotments by default. Councillor Marshall had held a meeting with the Partners who asked the Parish Council if the rent could be backdated to when they purchased the land in 2012.

Councillor Marshall then withdrew from the virtual meeting and took no part in the following discussions.

Councillor Foggett, in his capacity as Chairman of the Allotments Association, explained that an agreement was made in 2012 between the Parish Council and the landowner of the Belle View Allotments and the then landowner of the Killinghall Row Allotments to pay rent for the use of allotments by residents but the Sadberge Road Allotments would continue to be owned by the Parish Council. The Allotments Association would manage the three allotments. In his view the Parish Council should honour the agreement in 2012 to the owners of Killinghall Row Allotments.

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

- a. Councillor Foggett will send the 2012 agreement with the landowners of the Belle Vue and Killinghall Row Allotments.
- b. £125 half yearly rental payments be made to the Partners of St. George's Medical Practice for Killinghall Row Allotments starting in December 2020 in accordance with the 2012 agreement.
- c. Further discussions on backdating the rental payments for Killinghall Row Allotments be considered at the next meeting on the 11th January, 2020.

1562. Parks and Grounds

1562.1 Water Park

a. RoSPA Safety Inspection

The Clerk reported that he had circulated the 2015 RoSPA Safety Report to Parish Councillors after the last meeting on the 9th November, 2020. The Clerk was asked to re-circulate the 2015 RoSPA Safety Report to Parish Councillors to enable them to go through the report and decide which parts have been completed and those which have not been completed to enable the Parish Council to decide in a new Safety Inspection Report was needed or not at the next meeting on the 11th January, 2021.

b. Proposal for the MUGA Update

The Chairman's report which gave a progress report from the Working Group on the proposals for the MUGA was circulated to the Parish Council with the papers for the meeting.

The Parish Council expressed concern over the large amount of funding which would be required for the conversion of the MUGA, the need to identify funding and the management and maintenance of the facility if it was converted to an all weather surface with lighting. The Parish Council was also concerned that the facility may only be used by a small number of people in the community. Councillor Bullock stated that the car park would have to be extended and part of the car park was owned by the Parish Council.

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

- i. The Clerk will contact the Section 106 Officer at Darlington Borough Council to ask if Section 106 funding can be used for the MUGA proposals.

Chairman's Signature..... *C J Benson* Date..... *11/01/2021*

ii. It had expressed concerns (i.e. regarding the high costs, etc.) and that the Parish Councillors in the working group would feed these concerns back to the rest of the working group early in the New Year.

c. Request from the Angling Club for a storage container

The request from the Angling Club for the siting of a storage container in the Water Park was circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed to the request from the Angling Club for the siting of a storage container.

1562.2 Play Area and Playing Field

a. Health and Safety Report

The Health and Safety Report was not given due to the absence of the Vice Chairman.

b. Car Park sign

The Chairman reported that the additional information sticker was now in place on the car park sign.

c. Leaning Tree

The Chairman reported that there was a leaning tree in the playing field near the car park. Councillor Foggett stated that the trees had stays on them to keep them upright and it would appear that the stay has been removed from the tree.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk will ask the Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces Manager if he will arrange for a new stay to be placed around the tree.

1562.3 The Front, Middleton One Row

a. Woodland Management Project Update

The Parish Council agreed to defer consideration of the Project until the next meeting on the 11th January, 2021.

b. Steps at the eastern end of The Front repair work

The Clerk reported that one quotation was received for the repair work to the steps. Councillors A. Jones and A Marshall offered to obtain two quotations for the repair work.

The Parish Council agreed that Councillors A. Jones and A. Marshall obtain two quotations for the repair work.


c. Sculpture Update

The Chairman reported that the Groundwork had informed her that the sculpture would be installed on the 12th December, 2020.

1563. CPRE Annual Subscription

The Clerk reported that the CPRE had informed him that the annual subscription of £36 was due.

The Parish Council agreed to renew the annual subscription to the CPRE of £36.

Chairman's Signature.....  Date..... 11/01/2021

1564. County Durham Association of Local Councils. Smaller Councils Meeting

A report on the Smaller Councils meeting on the 19th November, 2020 was circulated for the information of Parish Councillors.

1565. Consultation on Custody Suites

The Durham Constabulary consultation on centralized custody suites was circulated with the paper for the meeting.

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

1566. Arrangements for Christmas 2020 and Requests for Donations

A report giving various information regarding Christmas arrangements was circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Community Centre had not been able to organise an event this year because of the Covid-19 restrictions, but the village Christmas Tree was lit on the 4th December.

Darlington Rotary Club would not be able to collect residents' Christmas trees this year, but this would be carried out by the staff and volunteers themselves from St. Teresa's Hospice. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Parish Council usually gave a donation to St. Teresa's Hospice for the Christmas Tree Collection Service.

The report also conveyed a request from the Community Association for funding towards the cost of installing a new ventilation system in the basement of the Community Centre because the existing system was ineffective and could not be repaired.

The Parish Council **agreed** that Section 137 grants of £500 to the Community Centre towards the cost of installing a new ventilation system and £200 to St. Teresa's Hospice for the Christmas Tree Collection Service.

1567. War Memorial Centenary 8th April, 2022

The Clerk reported that the War Memorial would reach its centenary on the 8th April, 2022 and gave details of the dedication service on the 8th April, 1922 in the presence of the Bishop of Durham and the rededication service following repairs to the War Memorial on the 7th September, 1997.

Councillor Bullock asked how often the War Memorial was inspected to ensure that it was structurally sound. Councillor Bullock reported that the Tommy statuette would be installed on the weekend of the 18th December.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will write to the Bishop of Durham to invite him to the centenary commemorations and find out from the CDALC and D. France, Stonemason who had carried out work on the War Memorial how often it should be inspected for structural stability.

1568. Councillors Training

No report was given.

1569. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

1569.1 Incidents in the Water Park

The Parish Council received a report on a distressing incident in the Water Park. Councillor Foggett asked

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when the incident occurred to enable him to access the CCTV recordings. The incident occurred on the 6th December between 1 a.m. to 3 p.m. which meant that it was too late for it to be reported to the police. The incident resulted in the request by the Angling Club for the yellow barrier at the side of the Model Boat Club building to be brought back into use.

Because of time constraints on the meeting the Parish Council **agreed** to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting on the 11th January, 2021.

1569.2 Streamlined Agenda

The Parish Council expressed concern about the length of the agenda for this meeting and asked for the Chairman and Clerk to streamline the agenda for the next and future meetings. The Chairman and Clerk acknowledged that there had been various urgent matters as it was the end of the year, but that there would be fewer items on the next agenda.

1570. Date and time of Next Meeting

Monday 11th January, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

Chairman's Signature..... *CJ Gibson* Date..... *11/01/2021*