



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 8th February, 2021

Present: Councillor Mrs. C. Gilsenan (Chairman),
Councillor S. Crowther (Vice Chairman),
Councillor H. Bullock,
Councillor L. Foggett,
Councillor S. l'Anson,
Councillor A. Jones,
Councillor A. Marshall,
Councillor D. Whitfield
Alan Macnab, Clerk.

In attendance: Jo-Anne Garrick, Planning Consultant for the Neighbourhood Development Plan item

No members of the public were present.

The meeting started at 6.32 p.m.

1597. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Jo-Anne Garrick who was present to update the Parish Council on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

1598. Public Participation Session

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

1599. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Blacklee because of work commitments.

The Parish Council **agreed** to accept Councillor Blacklee's reasons for his absence.

1600. Declarations of Interests

The following declarations of interests were made:

The Chairman for agenda item 19. Request from the Community Centre for a Section 137 donation as a trustee of the Community Centre.

Councillor Foggett for agenda item 12. Save the Fighting Cocks Community Pu Group as Treasurer of the Group.

Councillor Bullock for agenda item no. 22. Request for funding for the War Memorial retaining wall as the Secretary of the St. George and St. Laurence's Church Parochial Church Council.

Chairman's Signature..... *C. J. Gilsenan* Date *08/03/2021*

Councillor Marshall for agenda item no. 10. New Planning Applications. Planning applications 21/00017/TF and 21/00018/TF.

1601. Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January, 2021

The minutes of the Virtual Parish Council meeting held on the 11th January, 2021 were presented.

The Parish Council agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 11th January, 2021 were a true record of the proceedings of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes after the meeting and returned them to the Clerk.

1602. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The following documents were submitted to the Parish Council with the papers for the meeting:

1. Neighbourhood Plan Covering Report
2. Updated Consultation Response Table (for reference)
3. Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft (amended following Consultation responses)
4. LGS and POS Background Paper (updated)
5. Settlement Boundary Background Paper (updated).

Jo-Anne Garrick reported that the response table (item b) details the comments received during the consultation on the pre submission draft plan and where it is considered appropriate, identifies where a change is recommended to the plan and/ or one of the supporting documents. This will be helpful for the examiner, so they can see how the comments made have influenced the plan.

The proposed responses to comments, shown in the table, are then reflected in the submission draft plan (item 3), policies map (item 3 to follow, when received from DBC) and background papers (items 4 and 5). Proposed amendments were shown as track changes. The policies map were still with Darlington Borough Council being updated and will be circulated to Parish Councillors when Jo-Anne Garrick has received them back. All documents had also been updated to reflect that they are now submission documents.

Jo-Anne Garrick gave the next steps which were as follows:

Submission

Once the submission draft plan has been agreed by the Parish Council, it can be submitted to Darlington Borough Council for examination. Alongside the policies map, it must also be accompanied by two documents:

- The Consultation statement
- The Basic Conditions Report.

These documents will be prepared once the plan has been agreed by the Parish Council. When the plan and supporting documents are submitted to Darlington Borough Council it will undertake initial checks in order to satisfy itself that the plan complies with all of the relevant statutory requirements. After this, the Borough Council will then organise a further consultation on the submission draft plan and arrange the examination, including appointing an independent examiner. The Parish Council will have input to the process of appointing an examiner.

Examination

Darlington Borough Council will send copies of all representations to the submission draft plan to the examiner. The examiner will likely request further information in response to comments received and any

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matters they are unclear about. Most examinations are dealt with by written representations, so without the need for a public hearing session.

The examiner's report will detail their findings and make recommendations about the draft plan including whether it should be put to referendum.

Referendum

Darlington Borough Council will publish the examiner's report, make changes to the plan and where recommended, will organise a local referendum. For the plan to be adopted, it must receive majority support from the local community. If more than 50% vote in favour, the Borough Council must bring it into force (adopt the plan).

The Parish Council agreed:

- a. To thank Jo-Anne Garrick for her comprehensive report and the work she had carried out.
- b. To circulate the amendments agreed during the meeting, as well as the updated Policy Maps when these had been received from Darlington Borough Council, and it was resolved to agree these via email if this was in advance of the next meeting on the 8th March, 2021

1603. Middleton St. George Community Association request. Net Zero Carbon Future

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the Community Association asking for a dialogue with the Parish Council to achieve the Government's targets for Zero Carbon Emissions and referring to the Neighbourhood Development Plan's reference to the development and approval of planning applications. Jo-Anne Garrick confirmed that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Document 3 Criteria F referred to net zero carbon future but that an action will be included in the Plan to work with the Community Association to achieve the targets.

There was a need for the Parish Council to make a general community statement to achieve a Net Zero Carbon Future.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk will ask the Community Association for details of what it wanted to achieve to be used by other village organisations and how it can benefit the community.

1604. Darlington Borough Council's Local Plan

The Chairman informed the meeting that an inspector had been appointed to examine the Darlington Local Plan. The Inspector's Guidance Notes for Examining the Local Plan was circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Jo Anne Garrick advised that at some point the Inspector will publish a list of issues which he wanted to discuss and the Parish Council should examine the list to see where it can collaborate with other bodies and groups to provide a response. Jo-Anne Garrick offered to carry out some work if needed.

The Parish Council agreed that:

- a. It will retain Jo-Anne Garrick as a specialist consultant for the Inspectorate stage of the Darlington Local Plan.
- b. The Chairman would attend the Zoom meeting of community groups on 12th February organised by Darlington Green Party to see whether there were any matters on which we could collaborate. This was because, depending on which areas the Inspector wishes to focus on, and due to the hearing timetable, it is

Chairman's Signature..... *C J Grewer* Date..... *08/03/2021*

advisable to work together where possible. The Chairman would report back to the next Parish Council meeting).

1605. List of Darlington Borough Council Planning Decisions

It was reported that the following planning decisions had been taken by Darlington Borough Council since the 11th January, 2021:

20/01218/PLU. Demolition of existing conservatory to rear of the dwelling and the erection of a replacement single storey rear extension incorporating 2 no. roof-lights (amended description 12/01/2021). 18 The Meadows, Middleton St. George. Refused.

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

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

20/01219/FUL. Conversion of existing integral garage into habitable space, infill canopy to front elevation to form porch and widening of existing driveway to create additional car parking. 46 High Stell, Middleton St. George. Planning permission granted with conditions.

20/01125/FUL. Erection of a single storey rear extension. 21 Acorn Close, Middleton St. George. Planning permission granted with conditions.

20/01155/TF. Works to various trees protected under Tree Preservation Order (No.11) 1980 - Felling of 1 no. Pear tree (T2)(T21) and 1 no. Goat Willow tree (T4)(T9), reduce canopy up to 1m on 1 no. Pear tree (T3)(T22) and shorten branch up to 2m on 1 no Pear tree (T1)(T20). Pear Tree Lodge The Paddock, Middleton St. George. Planning permission granted with conditions.

1606. New Planning Applications

The Parish Council received and considered the following planning applications:

21/00012/FUL. Alterations to bay window and door with construction of canopy above, additional window to ground floor side elevation and erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing kitchen extension. 5, Harts Building, Station Road, Middleton St. George.

21/00017/TF. Works to 2 no. trees protected under Tree Preservation Order (No. 13) 2007 – Sycamore (T3)(T4) fell, Pine (T4)(T3) cap off southern limb at 3m and 1 no. tree protected under Tree Preservation Order (No. 5) 1997 – Lime (T2)(T1) prune back to clear building. 75, Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George.

21/00018/TF. Felling of 2 no. trees Horse Chestnut (t652)(T1) and Cypress (T590)(T2) protected under Tree Preservation Order (No. 13) 2007. 74, Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George.

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

1607. Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub

The Chairman gave an oral report on the Middleton St George Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Steering Group meeting on 25th January, 2021.

- The meeting marked the first anniversary of the formation of the Steering Group.

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- The Creative Darlington Manager had agreed to work with a small group which would report to the Steering Group to consider and agree a mural for the wall of the Station House.
- The Steering Group asked if the Parish Council can set aside some funding for it projects which would attract match funding.
- The Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub Guide could possibly now be placed on the Parish Council's website.
- The walking and cycling route, connections with paths and signage was discussed and Ross Chisholm of the Friends had sent the Chairman a report on the 8th February, 2021 which would be submitted to the next Steering Group meeting.
- New members of the Steering Group will be welcome.

Councillor Bullock expressed confusion with the number and role of the groups having responsibility for railway heritage in the village.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- a. Funding of Steering Group projects needed further analysis and consideration because of current budget pressures.
- b. The Chairman will circulate an explanation to all Parish Councillors clarifying the context of the MSG S&DR Heritage Steering Group and the work it is doing.

1608. Platform 1 Public House/Save Fighting Cocks Community Pub Group

Councillor Foggett reported in his capacity as Treasurer of the Community Pub Group that the Group had met on the 26th January, 2021. There was support in the village to saving the Fighting Cocks pub. The Group was an unincorporated association now with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and a bank account, and will be shortly registering as a Community Benefit Society. A model constitution for a limited company had been agreed and the Community Benefit Society will be registered with Companies House and the Financial Services Authority which will enable it to raise shares to turn the building into a community asset. A business plan and valuation of the property had been completed.

Officers of the Community Pub Group had met representatives from Exelby near Bedale and Hudswell near Richmond, North Yorkshire who had both bought their own pub in their villages.

An application had been made to the Plunkett Foundation for membership and a prospectus would be issued in March or April this year inviting the purchasing of shares in the Community Benefit Society.

Councillor Bullock queried whether reports should continue to be submitted to the Parish Council because the Group are independent of the Parish Council, they are self -running and when it becomes a limited company it will be separate from the Parish Council. However, it was confirmed that, from the time the Parish Council nominated the pub as a Community Asset in January 2020, to helping set up the Group, it was still important to be updated. However, this could be reviewed in due course.

The Parish Council **agreed** to review at a future date whether to receive reports from the Community Pub Group.

Policy Matters

1609. Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the agreed advertisement had been posted in the three noticeboards, the website and Facebook page. The closing date for applications was the 26th February, 2021. There had to date been no response to the advertisement. A resident who was suggested by Ward Councillor Laing had received information on the Parish Council hand delivered but had not responded.

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The Parish Council agreed that the existing advert be re-shared.

1610. Coronavirus Update

Councillor Foggett reported that the Zoom account will need to be reviewed in March 2021 and the Parish Council needed to think about the provision of Zoom meetings at that time. Government legislation for remote meetings was in place until 6th May 2021 – new guidance was awaited, but it was anticipated that we would still need to meet remotely in the near future.

Community Safety Matters

1611. Speed Watch

Councillor Foggett reported that no speed watch exercises had taken place because of the inclement weather conditions.

1612. Speed Monitoring

Councillor Foggett reported that the Highways Engineer replied to the Clerk stating that he had not received Councillor Foggett's email requesting a meeting to agree the location and the poles for the new and existing Speed Monitors. The Highways Engineer had still not contacted Councillor Foggett to arrange a site meeting to discuss the locations for the Speed Monitors and the poles.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk will write again to the Highways Engineer requesting a meeting with Councillor Foggett to agree the location of the Speed Monitors and the supply of the poles for them.

Financial Matters

1613. Financial Report as at the 1st February, 2021

The Clerk gave the financial report for the 2020-21 Financial Year as at the 1st February, 2021. The report gave the reasons for the Contingency Accounts and the reserves.

a. Parish Council Accounts

Contingency - Saver Account 1 – Barclays	-	£21,453.04
Contingency - Saver Account 2 – Barclays	-	£16,376.62
Reserves - Account with Darlington Credit Union	-	£5,095.42
Barclaycard		
January 2021.		
13.01.2021	Argos Darlington Letter Box for the Parish Council	
	Building	£23.95
	Minus Credit	<u>£77.99</u>
	Total	CR £54.04
Community Account:		
Income	-	£144,049.98
Expenditure	-	£ 35,249.81
Balance as at the 1st February, 2021		£108,800.17

Chairman's Signature.....

CJ Gibson

Date.....

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b. Progress against the Budget and Budget Pressures

The income as at the end of the 2020-21 financial year was expected to be £148,883.77 and the anticipated expenditure £6 which would result in a surplus carry forward of £72,123.50 to the 2021-22 financial year.

The budget pressures in the remainder of the 2020-21 financial year were:

Pressure	Budget Heading	Amount taken	Amount remaining in budget
South facing bank side work	Water Park	£2,000.00	£1,438.00
Water Park	Property Maintenance	£3,000.00	£1,989.75
£18,964 + £3,792.80 VAT = £22,756.80	Contingency	£2,000.00	£0.00
£1,350 + £270 VAT = £1,620	Election	£5,200.00	£0.00
Solar Panel for Speed Monitor	Speed Monitoring	£150.00	£50.00
£150 + £30.00 VAT			
2 x Solar Panel Speed Monitors	Cameras	£3,664.46	Overspend £2,664.46
£3,664.46 + £732.93 VAT			
War Memorial Stabilising and repair to Retaining Wall. £3,220 +£644 VAT	Property Maintenance	£3,220.00	Overspend £2,580.25
Repair to steps at east end of The Front. £458.86	The Front	£458.86	£,2,306.14
Low level cutting back of undergrowth at The Front £360.00	The Front	£360.00	£1,946.14

The pressures were included in the above Progress against the Budget.

c. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation as at the 31st January 2021 showed that the Community Account spreadsheet balance held by the Parish Council was £108,800.17 and the Community Account balance held by the bank was £108,800.17.

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 1st February, 2021 were presented.

1614. Payments received and payments for approval

Payments In:

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Date	Customer	Amount
07.01.2021	HM Revenue and Customs, VAT Repayment October to December 2020	£477.87
28.01.2021	Wally's Angling Club. Rent.	£1,200.00
	Total	£1,677.87

Payments for Approval:

Date	Supplier	Amount
07.02.2021	Scottish Power. Electricity Monthly	£5.00
07.02.2021.	Scottish Power. Gas Monthly.	£30.00

Date	Supplier	Amount
07.02.2021	Scottish Power. Electricity Monthly	£5.00
07.02.2021.	Scottish Power. Gas Monthly.	£30.00
08.02.2021	HMRC. Clerk's PAYE. February 2021	£168.20
08.02.2021	NEST Pension. J. D. Lynn, Litter Picker £47.44 and C. I. Wood Cleaner £5.60. February 2021	£53.04
08.02.2021	Jo-Anne Garrick. NDP Professional Fees	£1,200.00
08.02.2021	4nature. Clearance work at The Front	£432.00
24.02.2021	BT Hub Monthly	£31.99
26.02.2021	Cleaner – C. I. Wood Pay	£66.50
26.02.2021	Litter Picker – J. D. Lynn Pay	£563.31
26.02.2021	Clerk – A. W. Macnab Pay	£673.00
	Total	£3,223.04

The Parish Council agreed that the payments listed in the table for February 2021 be paid.

1615. Budget and Pressures 2021-22 financial year and Budgets for 2022-23 and 2023-24

The Clerk's report was circulated to the Parish Council in the papers for the meeting.

The budget for the 2021-22 financial year which was approved in November 2020 assumed a surplus carry forward from the current 2020-21 to 2021-22 of £77,784.20. The clearance work was identified as a budget pressure but other budget pressures in 2020-21 were not evident but have subsequently been added as budget pressures in 2020-21. As a result the revised surplus carry forward from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is now anticipated to be £72,123.50.

The Parish Council also agreed at the November 2020 meeting that the precept would be increased by 5% from £46,086 to £48,390 in the 2021-22.

The budget for 2021-22 and the following two years with the reduced surplus carry forward was given in the Appendix to his report.

The Clerk identified the following budget pressures for the 2021-22 financial year and allocations made in the appropriate budget headings.

Pressure	Amount	Budget Heading	Amount left in Budget
Seeding of South	£2,000	Water Park	£2,000
Facing bank side	£1,000	Contingency	£1,000
£9,702.00 (inc. VAT)	£3,000	PC Property Maintenance	£2,000

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	£3,702	Saver Account 1	£9,249.53
Woodland Management Project	£2,500 PC Contribution	Woodland Management	£3,396
Woodland Management Project	£2,396 CDCF Grant	Woodland Management	£1,000
Woodland Management Project	£1,000 Tesco Grant	Woodland Management	£0.00

The following were other budget pressures which have not been costed for the 2021-22 year:

Clearing the soil from the car park on Parish Council land

NHS, Social Care and Front Line Workers Day 5th July, 2021.
Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub
War Memorial Centenary 2022.

The Clerk asked the Parish Council to consider allocating amounts for the NHS Day, the Fighting Cocks Heritage Hub and the War Memorial Centenary.

The Parish Council **agreed** to examine the above identified pressures and all pressures at the earliest opportunity in the new financial year, to seek three quotations for the clearance of the soil in the car park.

1616. Timetable of Controls for February 2021

The Timetable of Controls for February 2021 was submitted to the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that:

- The statement of receipts and payments to date and progress against the budget statement was presented at this meeting.
- 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.
- 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.
- There were no losses, liabilities or damage which could lead to claims in December 2020 to date.

The Parish Council **agreed** that It was satisfied that the activities in the Timetable of Controls were being completed.

1617. Councillor's Audit of Accounts October to December 2020

Councillor Foggett agreed to audit the accounts for the period from October to December 2020 and asked the Clerk to deliver the files to his home to ensure that they did not present any Covid-19 hazards.

1618. Financial Regulations Review

The Clerk reported that he had carried out a review of the Financial Regulations to take into consideration the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and to highlight the checks which the Parish Council must carry out during the financial year. The revised Financial Regulations were submitted before the meeting.

The Parish Council reviewed the changes and **agreed** the Financial Regulations.

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1619. National Minimum Wage increase for the Litter Picker

The Clerk reported that the national minimum wage for the Litter Picker will increase from £8.72 to £8.91 per hour on the 1st April, 2021.

1620. Section 137 Limits of Expenditure

The Clerk reported that the Section 137 limit of expenditure will be increased to £8.41 per elector with effect from the 1st April, 2021.

Other Matters

1621. Section 137 Funding Request

The Clerk reported that a Section 137 funding request had been received from the Middleton St. George Community Association towards the cost of providing a defibrillator to be located at the Community Centre. The Parish Council was informed that the Community Association had raised £900 through Crowdfunding.

The Parish Council **agreed** to make a Section 137 contribution of £400 to the Community Association towards the cost of a defibrillator and its housing case.

1622. Parks and Grounds

1622.1 Water Park

a. Maintaining the Structural Integrity of the Reservoirs

The Parish Council was informed that as part of the clearance work on the south facing bank side two middle aged trees on the bank side had been taken out and there was a considerable amount of mess left which the contractor would clear up.

The Clerk reported that immediately before the meeting he had received a complaint from the Managing Director of Homes by Carlton who were developing housing in the next field to the bank side. The complaint was that:

- Not only had the contractors removed the trees on the bank they have also removed all the hedge within its land.
- The contractors had been working on Homes by Carlton land causing disruption to the ground, something the Managing Director expressly asked not to happen
- By removing hedging within Homes by Carlton land the company no longer had a boundary stopping access from anyone onto its land.

The Chairman reported that there had been irate comments made on village Facebook pages about the clearance work.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- i. The Clerk will check the land ownership of the land on which the hedge stood with the Land Registry.
- ii. All complaints be referred to the Clerk.

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iii. the Reservoir Engineer's report be placed on the Parish Council's website.

b. Request from the Angling Club

The Clerk reported that a request had been made by the Angling Club for work to be carried out to the steps and pegs in order to make ponds 2 and 3 as safe as possible. The Parish Council considered that the work to the south facing bank side would not affect the access to the pegs which should be on the water side.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will ask Mr. Appleton of the Angling Club for him to clarify his request.

c. Water Park Safety

RoSPA inspection

The responses from the Health and Safety Officer of Darlington Borough Council and the Health and Safety Executive to requests for legal opinion if the Parish Council complied with health and safety legislation in the actions to reduce the risks, including the risk of drowning, were adequate and the further action which will be needed to fully comply with legislation was circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will update the risk assessment for the Water Park to take into consideration the guidance given by Darlington Borough Council and the Health and Safety Executive.

Assessment of Safety Signage

Councillor A. Jones reported on his assessment of safety signage in the Water Park. Two of the entrances to the Water Park from the public rights of way had signage but there was a need for a sign at the third entrance. The entrance from the rear of High Stell had a sign. Small 'deep water' warning signs had been erected but the one at the top of the steps next to the MUGA which had been erected by Parish Councillors and had a concrete base had been removed. There was a need for signage which is more secure and cannot be taken out of the ground.

The Parish Council **agreed** that Councillors will examine additional signage for Water Park access points which are lacking signage – with clear pictograms (and also better installation re posts near the MUGA and at public right of way at centre north side.

d. Request from the Darlington and District Model Boat Club

The Parish Council received the following requests from the former Secretary of the Model Boat Club:

- The water retaining stonework around Pond 1 was in need of attention. Vegetation from the bank sides was starting to encroach onto the stonework resulting in a slip hazard for those that need to walk around the pond to retrieve a boat.
- A small area either side of the jetty could have a small area concreted over to facilitate launching.
- it would help safety of all water park users if hand rails were fitted as a permanent feature.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- i. The new Secretary of the Model Boat Club be invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss the requests.
- ii. Councillors Bullock and A. Jones seek quotations for the double handrail for the steps.

e. Water Park Security

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The Parish Council received Councillor l'Anson's concerns about local youths, causing damage and littering, walkers finding 2 or 3 dead coots, which appeared to have been killed deliberately. Residents had noticed the nature cams round Pond 3, one in each corner which the Angling Club had erected to deter or to watch for anti social behaviour and to watch for people stealing fish had been removed because residents had taken exception to them. Councillor l'Anson had spoken to the Vice Chairman and both agreed that the cameras should be reinstalled. The Parish Council had given permission to the Angling Club to install the nature cams.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will write to Mr. Appleton of the Angling Club to inform him that the Parish Council would have no objections to the nature cams to be re-installed around Pond 3.

f. Change of Secretary of the Model Boat Club

The Chairman informed the meeting that the former Secretary of the Model Boat Club had retired and a new Secretary had been appointed.

g. Keys to the Model Boat Club Building

The former Boat Club Secretary had proposed that the Parish Council have a set of keys to access the Boat Club CCTV. Currently a boat club member had to be contacted if its CCTV needed to be viewed. The Chairman had asked the current Boat Club Secretary, who recommended that access be via the side entrance, and that they be kept informed of when access was needed. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk and/or Cllr Foggett be given keys to the Model Boat Club building,

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will contact the new Secretary to discuss the provision of keys to the side entrance to the building.

h. Request from the Community Centre for the soil at the rear of the car park to be removed

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the Community Association for the Parish Council to remove a soil heap to the rear of the car park to enable the Community Centre car park to be extended.

The Parish Council were unclear about who owned the land on which the soil was found.

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- i. Councillor Bullock will contact Ward Councillors Mrs. Jones and Laing to find out the history of the land on which the soil was found.
- ii. The Chairman and Councillors Bullock and Marshall meet the trustees of the Community Association to examine the proposals, what needs to be done and to bring the proposals back to the Parish Council.

1622.2 Play Area and Playing Field

a. Health and Safety Inspection

The Vice Chairman reported that he had checked the play area and all the equipment and facilities were in good order and no problems were found.

1622.3 The Front, Middleton One Row

a. Woodland Management Project Update

Councillors A. Jones and Marshall agreed to read through the background papers for the Project and to then contact Groundwork for discussions on how to progress the Project.

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b. Cutting back the undergrowth

Councillor A. Jones reported that cutting back the undergrowth on The Front had now been completed.

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

Councillor Marshall reported that the steps had not been repaired but the work will be carried out.

1623. Flytipping

An email from Sadberge Parish Council was circulated with the papers for the meeting which asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to share the cost of a portable CCTV camera. To monitor fly tipping. Darlington Borough Council would be prepared to monitor a camera if it was purchased by Sadberge and Middleton St. George Parish Councils.

Councillor Foggett drew the Parish Council's attention to an App called Clear Waste which can be used to report fly tipping which if a post code is typed in the App will let the appropriate Council know about the incident. Details of the App will be put on the Parish Council's website.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Clerk will write to the Clerk of Sadberge Parish Council to ask for more information on the portable CCTV camera including its cost.

1624. War Memorial

Councillor Bullock declared an interest in this item and took no part in the proceedings to consider the request for grant aid to repair the War Memorial retaining wall in her capacity as PCC Secretary and the decision to give Section 137 grant aid for the repair of the retaining wall.

A report from the PCC Secretary was circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting.

1625.1 Retaining Wall Update

The PCC Secretary reported that the church was responsible for the maintenance of the retaining wall that sits under the Memorial. They agree that it must be repaired as soon as possible after work on the steps to the Garden of Remembrance was completed. The PCC asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of this work, as the repair is needed directly under the War Memorial, which is maintained by the Parish Council.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Marshall and seconded by the Vice Chairman and agreed that the Parish Council will contribute half the cost of the repair work to the retaining wall based on the quotation by D. France, Stonemason. Mr. France's quotation gave a total cost of £3,864 for the repair work to the retaining wall for which the Parish Council would give a Section 137 grant of £1,932.

1625.2 Centenary Commemorations 2022 Update

The PCC Secretary reported that the church fully supported the idea of inviting the Bishop to lead a commemoration on the centenary of the erection of the War Memorial. A service on Sunday 10th April 2022, the nearest to actual date has been agreed by the PCC.

The PCC asked if the Parish Council would decide if they want the service in the morning during a regular act of worship or later in the day when it would be specifically a commemoration service. The PCC will then invite the Bishop on behalf of the whole community when a time has been agreed. The PCC suggested that a small planning group be set up, consisting of representatives for both PCC and the Parish Council to agree the order of events.

Chairman's Signature..... *CJ Gibson* Date..... *08/03/2021*

The Parish Council **agreed** that:

- a. The centenary commemorations be held on Sunday 10th April, 2022 during the morning act of worship with a commemoration service in the afternoon at the War Memorial.
- b. it awaits the formation of the planning group by the PCC.

1626. NHS, Social Care and Front Line Workers Day 5th July, 2021

The Parish Council agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

1627. Councillors Training. Councillor Social Medial Training 2nd March, 2021

The Parish Council **agreed** that the Chairman will attend this training.

1628. Councilors' reports and items for future agendas

Water Park South Facing Bank Side Work.

1629. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th March, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.58 p.m.

Chairman's Signature.....*J. Alban*..... Date.....*08/03/2021*.....