

Medstead Parish Council

<u>Minutes</u> of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8th** August 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors Roy Pullen (Chair), Peter Buckland, Peter Fenwick, Georgy Fuzzard, Ken Kercher, Jean Penny, Mike Smith & Stan Whitcher.

Also in attendance: Three members of the public and Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

		Action
.36 (DPEN SESSION	
•	Cllr Buckland asked who is responsible for the glass bottle recycling contained outside the Village Hall. The Clerk will contact EHDC.	Clerk
•	Cllr Buckland also commented that he had heard that a clothing recycling bin will shortly be located in the car park. Cllr Buckland asked if the verge immediately outside the Cemetery gate could be made flat to allow improved access from the adjoining lay by. This would be discussed at the next Maintenance Committee meeting and given the verge is the responsibility of HCC Highways, the Clerk was asked to contact HCC to get their permission for this to be undertaken by the Day Work contractor. Cllr Pullen mentioned that a communication had been received	Clerk / Maintenance Committee
	from EHDC regarding unauthorised encampments in the area and for all councils to ensure that land is made secure where possible.	Clerk
•	Cllr Smith asked if on the next visit by the Parish Lengthsman he could be tasked with ensuring that undergrowth around all 30mph speed limit signs in the Parish could be cut back and for the signs themselves to be washed to improve their visibility to motorists.	
•	A member of the public asked if there were any plans to re- surface the stretch of road between Medstead and Beech as there are many pot holes requiring repair. Cllr Pullen replied that none were planned as far as he was aware but advised the member of the public to log the position of the pot holes on to the "Report a Problem" HCC web site.	

 Another member of the public mentioned issues with the Benjamin UK homes in the Parish and also the neighbouring home in Four Marks. He reported that he had been attending the bi monthly meetings with Benjamin UK but had been increasingly disturbed by the events which occur at the two homes. He is awaiting feedback from Benjamin UK regarding the latest issues. He further reported that District Councillor Ingrid Thomas had written to the Hampshire Safeguarding for Children and also the Secretary of State for Education regarding concerns over poor management of the homes where several incidents have occurred requiring emergency service involvement. He reported that a third property which has been purchased by Benjamin UK for an additional home, has been blocked at present.

18.137 APOLOGIES

Cllr Deborah Jackson and District Cllr Ingrid Thomas – Both approved by Council

18.138 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

18.139 COUNCIL MINUTES

•	The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2018 were reviewed. It was	
	proposed as a true record by Councillor Smith seconded by Councillor	
	Penny, and signed by the Chairman.	
-	Nattors Arising	

 Matters Arising. No matters arising.

18.140 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

•	Planning Committee	
	 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2018 having been previously circulated, were ratified. 	
	Chairman Report.	
	 Another quiet month with nothing of substance to report apart from the recent application received for the extension to the Friars Oak development for which the Parish Council had been allowed an extension to comment given the errors by EHDC s regards logging the planning application information on the EHDC Planning portal. There had been strong objection to the application by consultees and residents. Parish Liaison Meeting(s). Bargate Homes - Cllr Pullen said that a further Bargate 	
	residents' liaison meeting is scheduled for 9 th August at 7pm at Medstead Village Hall.	

	 A Friars Oak Bellway "Azalea" residents meeting was held recently with a further meeting planned for 8th October 2018. 	
• Maint	 tenance Committee The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2018 having been previously circulated, were ratified. Chairman Report. The expected move of the post box by the Village Hall will be undertaken in the next few weeks according to Royal Mail. Maintenance Committee Terms of Reference. This was proposed by ClIr Fenwick and seconded by ClIr Smith and approved by Council. 	
• Finan •	 ce & General Purposes Committee The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 5th July 2018 having been previously circulated, were ratified. Chairman Report. It was reported that following a meeting between the Clerk and Cllr Fenwick that the S106 Highways funding had been calculated at £1.05m and following a further meeting with HCC this had increased to around £1.3m. All councillors were asked by Cllr Pullen to let him have their views by 17th August, on what projects could be funded from the CIL funds which are held by Medstead Parish Council, (currently around £31k but will increase to around £60k later in the year). 	All Councillors

18.141 CHAIRMANS REPORT

"Firstly my thanks go to those councillors who were able to attend the church service in honour of General Halliday VC. Particular thanks to Councillor Buckland for supplying the valuable historical background. There are some photographs available from the event, please let me know if you would like me to forward them to you.

A new date is needed for the meeting with Four Marks Parish Council's F & GP committee. The purpose of the meeting is to look at jointly funded parish projects to benefit both sides of the railway line, as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

I have also responded on behalf of the Council, to a correspondent (via the website) who disagreed with our planning committee's decision not to raise objection to the Croudace signage on Trinity Hill, and making a complaint about the Clerk. I explained the democratic process is used at our committee meetings and the

opportunity for public representation. I also explained that the Clerk is an employee of the Council and not an elected member."	
Cllr Pullen requested that members of F&GP e mail him with available dates for the proposed meeting with Four Marks Parish Council.	F&GP Committee Members

18.142 PARISH CLERK REPORT

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•	Further communication with Surrey Hills Solicitors about the transfer	
	of land from Cala Homes to Medstead Parish Council and also the	
	transfer under "deed of gift" of the wildflower meadow at the	
	Croudace site also to Medstead Parish Council;	
•	Insurance claim for the theft of fencing from play area approved and	
	contractor given the go ahead to replace fencing; the materials for	
	which are on 4 – 6 weeks delivery;	
•	Further contacted Cllr Kemp-Gee regarding the possibility of a new	
	directional sign being placed by the Pond to enhance the area and be	
	similar to the local sign now in place. Response is awaited;	
•	Met with Property Service of Alton regarding a quotation for the	
	improvements to the committee room at Medstead Village Hall.	
	Quote awaited;	
•	Met with Cllr Fenwick to reconcile the EDC records with regard to	
	S106 / CIL funds;	
•	Met Day work Contractor regarding the fitting of the WWI memorial	
	bench;	
•	Met footpath officer (Mr C Whapshare) regarding possible location of	
	kissing gates and identify where clearance of paths is required;	
•	Submitted further S106 claim for Pond related expenditure;	
•	Leave 30 th July – 3 rd August inclusive.	
<u>Cemet</u>	ery Activity	
Nil.		
	Green Booking(s)	
Manor	Colts Football –	
•	Training on the Saturday mornings until the end of August.	
•	6-7pm on Tuesday evenings from the 4th September to the 3rd	
	October.	

18.143 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

District Councillor Report: Deborah Jackson

- The proposed changes to ward councillor boundaries for East Hampshire have been approved by government. Four Marks and Medstead will from next year, have three councillors rather than the current two.
- Despite pre-planning advice that additional development at Friars Oak would not be acceptable, the application continues. As expected there is little support from local councils or residents, particularly following the apparent disregard for our Neighbourhood Plan, current land supply and lack of proposed public consultation, William Lacey Group continue onwards......I am sure that there will be more to follow on this over the coming months.
- The recent community forum held at Alton Community Centre was very well attended. The focus was on provision for older members of the community and saw presentations from a number of organisations, such as dementia advice, Alton Lyons, age concern, U3A and the local Wey Valley radio initiative.
- There has been one new potential planning breach. This relates to a single story extension in Greenstile which is currently being investigated by EHDC Enforcement.
- Finally, much of my time over the last couple weeks, has been acting on behalf of residents/students likely to be affected by the Stagecoach decision to significantly reduce the 613 bus service from Medstead through the villages to Alton. This means that students are not able to get to college for the morning and afternoon start times of 10am and 2pm. It appears that Stagecoach are unlikely to change their mind over this service and it is particularly frustrating that parents of students only found out about this decision by accident. I have been liaising between the governors and senior management of Alton College and the parents' action group and there seems to be some hope of a resolution although at this stage it is not clear what this will be.

District Councillor Report: Ingrid Thomas

- The developments currently under construction have been causing a great deal if distress to residents who are suffering from dust over everything, noise and having to stay inside with the windows shut during our current heat wave. Every sympathy goes out to all those affected, the environmental health team at EHDC have now served notices on both Bellway and Bargate with regard to noise and dust and will be monitoring the sites closely. Let's hope that things improve considerably.
- At the Bellway liaison meeting this week a vivid description was given of the noise created by banging a metal silo with a metal pole early in the morning, such behaviour should not happen when existing

neighbours are so close, these development companies need to show more respect for their neighbours.

- I would like to draw to your attention the application that has been received by EHDC to add another 58 houses to the land already being developed behind Friars Oak. This is a speculative application in a similar way to the Gladman application a couple of months ago. We have more than a five year housing land supply, it is not an allocated site and therefore building in the countryside, all local plan policies have full weight. It would be helpful if you could once again put pen to paper or keypad to work to write a letter of objection to this application (through the planning pages at EHDC ref 25256/045) As the application is against policy it should be refused but the applicant is likely to go to appeal and the strength of local opinion would help the case.
- Another meeting about the Benjamin children's homes was held this week, it's very disturbing to hear that boys are still climbing on the roof of one of the houses, items are being thrown into neighbours gardens, rubbish left on the pavement and once again a boy has gone missing. The residents who go along to these meetings are very concerned about the care of these children and the effect the ongoing activities have on the lives of other residents. We continue to try to get improvements to the situation.
- The first prosecution case went to court for fly tipping, however the case has been adjourned until September. A considerable amount of time and money is spent clearing away these fly tips, an officer is now employed to look for evidence at each incident. If there is any evidence of addresses or other identifying evidence the officer can then begin the long process of collecting evidence, interviewing suspects and eventually getting the case to court. Please remember that if you have rubbish taken away from your home and the person who collects that rubbish from you fly tips it you can be prosecuted. The collector must have a license and provide you with paperwork to show where he will take your rubbish. There is a collection service available through the EHDC / Winchester District Council partnership who will remove large unwanted items at a reasonable cost.
- I hope to be able to give details of a parking survey that we are in the process of setting up in the near future. The aim will be to find out who parks where, for how long and how often, I would encourage you to take part in the survey when it happens as it is a way for you to be involved in future car parking strategy.
- We are about to suffer a period of car parking on the A31 as various closures happen and the traffic grinds to a halt. The purpose is to resurface the road which is probably worth the inconvenience let's be patient!

18.144 FINANCIAL MATTERS

•	It was RESOLVED to approve the Income and Expenditure report for July 2018 . This was proposed by Councillor Penny seconded by Councillor Buckland.	
•	It was RESOLVED to approve the Bank Reconciliations (as approved by Cllr Penny) as at 30 th July 2018. This was proposed by Councillor	

Penny seconded by Councillor Buckland.

18.145 CORRESPONDENCE

•	'There but not there' Project. After discussion, given that the	
	Parish Council are already providing a commemorative bench for	
	the Armistice with the Parish Plan Committee also providing a tree,	
	it was decided not to proceed with this additional project.	
•	Consultation: Bye Laws on Sites of Special Scientific Interest	
	(SSSI's). Noted by Council.	
•	Axing of the 613 bus that serves Alton College. The Clerk was	
	asked to write to Alton College to express thanks that they are	Clerk
	taking steps to ensure that local students are able to get to and	
	from the College following the axing of the 613 service.	

18.146 MEDSTEAD PARISH OFFICE

The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall Committee informing them	
that the Parish Council are considering either to build accommodation at	Clerk
the rear of the Sports Pavilion or to refurbish the existing committee room	
at the Village Hall.	
	Clerk
In addition, the Clerk was also asked to contact EHDC to see whether S106	
funding can be used for this venture.	

18.147 MEDSTEAD VILAGE HALL CAR PARK EXTENSION

Cllr Smith & Cllr Pullen outlined the plans to extend the existing car park by using a "Grasscrete" surface, being a cellular reinforced concrete system with voids allowing grass to grow through. One quotation had been received for the supply and laying of the grasscrete only and using this a budget overall cost of £55,000 was produced.	
It is anticipated that this will be funded through S106 funding but the Clerk was asked to contact EHDC to get their approval.	Clerk
A topographical survey will also be required for the project and a quotation had been sourced of £495 through Solent Surveys. It was proposed by Cllr Penny and seconded by Cllr Kercher that this should be taken forward and the Clerk was asked to contact the company concerned.	Clerk

It was than agreed that once the survey had been produced that the full specification be drawn up and at least three quotations sought for the compete project with the exception of the landscaping and minor items of protective ironwork.	Cllr Pullen/ Cllr Smith
In addition, tree / shrub clearance would be required to be undertaken by the main contractor and the Clerk was asked to contact the tree company who had recently undertaken a generic survey of the area to review in more detail the area concerned.	Clerk

18.148 MEDSTEAD POND(S)

Five Ash Pond – A report is still awaited from the consultant.	
Village Pond – Due to the recent dry weather, it has proved impossible to	
test the effectiveness of the seal but this would be monitored.	

18.149 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Cllr Smith had recently attended the Village Fete to publicise the Speedwatch initiative handing out six application forms, of which three had been returned and were being processed.

18.150 OUTSIDE ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT

18.151 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fenwick said that the site for the allotments is being cleared by Cala Homes and will be complete by the end of August with the allotment shed then being built by Cala. The handover of the site is anticipated as being the end of September but conformation is still required from the legal team as to progress being made.

18.152 BENJAMIN UK LTD

See report in 18.136 (g) above.

18.153 SPEEDWATCH

See 18.149 above.	
Also, the Speedwatch Team have requested that Hampshire Police	
consider allowing Hussell Lane as a suitable location for the	
Speedwatch Team to operate. Confirmation is awaited.	

18.154 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Buckland reported that the Village Hall AGM will take place on 18 th September 2018 at 8pm. He further reported that the Hall is currently being redecorated.	
Cllr Kercher reported that the Sports Club has indicated that the "Veterans" football team which has used the Green last season may cease playing at Medstead due to depleted numbers in their team.	
Cllrs. Fenwick and Pullen had attended a meeting at HCC Winchester with a Four Marks Parish Council representative, HCC Mark Kemp-Gee and various Hampshire Highway Department officers, to discuss various highway issues in the two parishes. Hampshire Highways admitted that they had made mistakes and that the two parishes had probably not been best dealt with correctly. They noted the three priorities agreed by the two parish councils and after two hours of discussions, the main thrust would be for a separate pedestrian bridge over the railway in Boyneswood Road.	

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

ChairmanDate.....