

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 14th September 2016** at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors, Deborah Jackson, Roy Pullen, Peter Buckland, Ken Kercher, Mike Smith, Hans Taylor and Jean Penny.

Also in attendance: Two members of the public, (Mr Coles & Mrs G Fuzzard) & Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

Action

16.106 OPEN SESSION

- a) Mrs Fuzzard mentioned that the condition of the Cemetery was now very good and also that most footpaths were also better maintained. The main exception was FP14 which was becoming very overgrown. The Clerk was asked to take action to ensure that the path was cleared of the undergrowth.
- b) Cllr Taylor highlighted that moles had returned to the Village Green and the Clerk had already been in contact with pest control to address the situation.
- c) Cllr Taylor highlighted the charity event "Distinguished Gentleman's Ride" on 25th September, being an international charity event for classic and vintage styled motorcycles that raises awareness and funds for the Movember Foundation's men's health programs and if anyone wishes to sponsor they should contact Cllr Taylor.
- d) Cllr Pullen raised the issue on Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) and Cllr Jackson will take this forward.
- e) Cllr Smith updated Council on Speedwatch and confirmed that the Assistant Chief constable responsible for traffic had now been approached by the Clerk to see if any assistance can be brought by Hampshire Constabulary senior management.
- f) Given the reluctance without steep charges of Royal Mail to move the post box by the Village Hall, Cllr Buckland asked if verge repairs can be considered in front of the post box.

Clerk

Cllr Jackson

16.107 APOLOGIES

Cllr Stan Whitcher & District Councillor Ingrid Thomas. Cllr Peter Fenwick also gave apologies being on official Council business elsewhere.

16.108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 11 (Devolution) and would leave the meeting at that point.

16.109 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on **10th August 2016** having been previously circulated, were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Pullen, seconded by Councillor Smith, **and signed by the Chairman.**
- b) On Item 16.93(g), Cllr Smith was advised by Cllr Taylor to try logging the problem of overgrown signs on to Fixmystreet.com.
- c) On item 16.99(a), No progress was reported and the Clerk was asked to see if a meeting can be set up with HCC and/or Stagecoach about the routing of the bus through Medstead in the morning to allow the Council to consider erecting a bus shelter.

Cllr Smith

Clerk

16.110 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

c) Planning Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. Cllr Pullen reported *"Not a lot to mention again this month. None of the appeals has moved much. Work still not started at Friars Oak or Cedar Stables although both are believed to be imminent."*

d) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
 - a. Cllr Jackson reported that Carbon Smart had contacted the Council about the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) and the Clerk was arranging for that company to make a presentation at the October Full council meeting and local interested community groups would be invited to attend.
 - b. It was further reported that the council had written to adjoining land owners to the Cemetery to see if they would consider selling some of their land for future cemetery use.
 - c. F&GP reported that work was in progress on a draft safeguarding / child protection policy for the Council and this would be laid before Council for approval in due course.
- ii. The Medstead Parish Council grants policy was approved and adopted.
- iii. Retrospective approval was given for the purchase of web domain protection for the parish web site.

Clerk

F&GP Committee

e) Maintenance Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. Cllr Kercher confirmed:-
 - a. that a fire risk assessment had been carried out on the Sports Pavilion and that apart from the need to undertake an electrical inspection, only a couple of points were highlighted of a low risk nature. The Clerk would be taking forward these actions.
 - b. Little progress had been made on the possible re-location of the Royal Mail box near to the Village Hall.
 - c. The Clerk had met with two stonemasons to get quotes which were awaited on the possible renovation of memorials in the Cemetery.
- iii. Cllr Taylor updated the Committee on the installation of the BBQ for the Green.
- iv. The Clerk had received a quote (£492 Inc. VAT) from the Cemetery contractor to raise the tree canopy in the old part of the Cemetery and replace a section of boundary hedging which was approved by Council. Clerk to inform the contractor

Clerk

Clerk

16.111 CHAIRMANS REPORT

It has been a quiet month, with just a single issue that was then acted upon in my capacity as Ward Councillor: An anonymous report of a planning contravention was received by the Clerk. Information was passed to the Enforcement Officer, who decided that no further action was required. This highlighted the importance of obtaining detailed information, including dates, times and wherever possible supporting photographs.

Cllr. Pullen will be representing MPC tomorrow at the Hampshire CPRE awards Reception and will no doubt update councillors with regards the award nomination for the Village Pond Project.

16.112 PARISH CLERK REPORT

The Clerk provided an update of the current activity

16.113 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

District Councillor Report: Deborah Jackson

I am pleased to report that it has been a relatively quiet month. Works to install sewerage pipes under the bridge in Lymington Bottom were completed during the school summer holidays thereby minimising disruption and chaos. Apart from some reported speeding along Five Ash Road, it appears that the diversion was respected and with minimal damage to the grass verges (probably the result of the extended hot, dry weather). In fact, the most frequent complaint I have heard was after the road opened again, with residents commenting on just how much traffic there was, and how they had enjoyed the weeks of relative peace and quiet. I only hope that, when the Boyneswood bridge is closed that residents of this part of the village are also able to experience a period of relative peace and tranquillity!

The pre-conditions for the CALA Homes site (east of Lymington Bottom Road) have been fully discharged, meaning that building can, in theory, start at any moment. That said there is currently no indication as to when work may commence.

Similarly there is no immediate news as to exactly when work will start at the Friar's Oak site, although there was some excitement when the "highways improvements" notices were put up last week. My understanding is that these relate to an island, encouraging a right of way from the A31 and enhancement of the virtual pavement over the bridge.

The Bargate development, north of Boyneswood Lane, has submitted its final layout plans, which appear somewhat different to those anticipated – I am aware that the Planning Committee of MPC will be submitting a response, and Ingrid and I are meeting with residents of Boyneswood Lane to fully understand the potential impact from their perspective.

As you may already be aware, my co-ward councillor, Ingrid, has been appointed to the EHDC Cabinet with responsibility for the new Welfare portfolio. Additionally, in an exciting development for District Councillors, the Leader of EHDC, Cllr Ferris Cowper, is proposing a reformat of the Full Council meetings to encourage more debate on key topics relevant to the district.

My next surgery dates at the Parish office are between 10 & 11am on Fridays 30th September, 14th & 28th October.

16.114 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk explained the latest position regarding the Nat West and Nationwide accounts.

- a. Subject to an adjustment of the financial recording of the path surfacing costs, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 31st August 2016.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation (as approved by Cllr Smith) as at 31st August 2016.
- c. Cllr Penny raised the Mulcock Charity funds and the Clerk reported that he had provided Mr E O'Farrell with paperwork and had offered to meet with the new vicar and Mr O'Farrell to see how the funds can be used going forward.

16.115 FIVE ASH POND – FLOODING

No further update,

16.116 DEVOLUTION

Before Cllr Jackson left the meeting, Cllr Kercher queried whether Cllr Jackson should leave the meeting when Devolution as discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Jackson would seek clarity from the EHDC legal team.

Cllr Jackson left the meeting

The latest position on the devolution process was discussed by Council. It was agreed that the offer of Cllr Cowper (leader of EHDC) to meet with the Parish Council would not go ahead at this point in time.

Cllr Jackson

Cllr Jackson re-joined the meeting

16.117 MEDSTEAD & FOUR MARKS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

Cllr Kercher raised the point about succession planning of the Steering group structure as detailed in section 3 of the ToR. The Clerk was asked to contact the Secretary of the Steering Group to seek clarification as to how this would be handled.

Clerk

It was further requested that any acronyms and abbreviations be explained in the text of the ToR.

16.118 NALC COMMUNITY LED HOUSING SURVEY

Council went through the Survey at the meeting and the Clerk will compile the results and submit on behalf of the Council

Clerk

16.119 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Village Hall** - Cllr Buckland reiterated that the AGM would take place on 27th September 2016.
- b. Sports Club** – Cllr Kercher stated that a new roller was required for the cricket club and a fund raising had commenced to raise the necessary £8k for the replacement.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

ChairmanDate.....