

MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th AUGUST 2015 AT MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Present:

Cllr Ken Kercher (Chairman), Cllrs Peter Buckland, Jean Penny and Roy Pullen (reserve member). There were no members of the public present at the start of the meeting. A member of the public joined the meeting at approximately 8.30pm.

Also present: Miss Katie Knowles (Clerk).

Prior to meeting the Committee visited the Village Green to inform the discussion on item 6 (minute ref 15.22).

15.17 OPEN SESSION

- i. Cllr Pullen informed the Committee that the Parish Council had been contacted by a resident of Lymington Bottom Road to report that their property had flooded earlier that day. Cllr Pullen had spoken to the property owner in the absence of the Chairman. As a result of the intense rainfall, water had run off the road into the property via the front. The owner also highlighted flooding in the rear garden. Hampshire Highways have dug out a section of the verge outside the property in preparation for the new footway which may have exacerbated the problem. The home owner is now looking to Hampshire Highways and the Parish Council for a solution.
- ii. Cllr Buckland highlighted a section of box hedge in the Cemetery hedge which needs attention as it is leaning outwards. Chris Sparkes who maintains the Cemetery and is also a hedge layer and may be able to direct on the best course of action. Additionally a new 'no horse riding' sign was required at the entrance to the Green from South Town Road as horses had been seen exiting from the Green. Finally Cllr Buckland reported that the seal on the door of the noticeboard by the Bus stop at Greenstile needed attention.

15.18 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Hans Taylor.

15.19 MINUTES

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2015 having been previously circulated, **were agreed and a true record and were signed by the Chairman.**
- b. Minute ref 15.09 - The badger set in the proximity of the Cemetery is still being monitored and the Clerk confirmed that the Bench at the bus stop has now been repaired.

15.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.21 MEDSTEAD CEMETERY

The Chairman reported that a quotation to construct the wall had been received from D Prior for £600. Cllr Penny proposed that the quote was accepted which was agreed by all Cllrs. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Prior to instruct him to carry out the works.

15.22 VILLAGE GREEN

Following the site visit prior to the meeting the Committee **AGREED** the following programme of works on the Village Green and South Town Road:

- i. To cut back the brambles on the boundary with Hussell Lane by 1m and remove all arising's.
- ii. To cut back the roadside hedge on Hussell Lane opposite Old Hall Place.
- iii. To cut back the encroaching grass, on both sides from the metal surface of the raised footpath on South Town Rd and trim back encroaching brambles.
- iv. To include the dead wooding of two Oak Trees on Roe Downs Road, brought to the attention of the Parish Council by Hampshire Highways, with the agreed tree works in the Cemetery.

The Committee took the opportunity to look at a suitable location for the picnic bench that was previously sited in the old enclosed play area. The Inspector who had carried out the inspection of the new play scheme had suggested it was not possible to site it within the new fenced area as there were safe distance requirements which could not be met. The Clerk was asked to confirm what they were before a final destination was agreed. It was noted there was not a litter bin within the new scheme.

The Clerk updated the Committee that a response had been received from the Director of Playdale in response to the Council's letter of complaint about the delays experienced with the installation and included an offer. The Committee were disappointed with the offer. The Parish Council had secured the order in April as Playdale had strongly indicated that they would be able to deliver the scheme in advance of the start of the summer holidays. As a result of the delays the children had been deprived of equipment for 5 of the 6 week school holiday period. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk draft a response reflecting the Council's disappointment and circulate it for comment.

15.23 FOOTPATHS

- a) The Committee considered how to improve the access on **FP28** following the report from Cllr Taylor, circulated by email, that the stile is too high and presented a barrier to the less able. It was agreed that the location would be suitable for a kissing gate and it was noted that the location was just outside of the Parish boundary with Bentworth. The Parish Council have been offered a kissing gate by the Alton Ramblers and it was agreed that this was an ideal location as it would benefit residents in both Parishes. The Clerk was asked to make contact with Bentworth PC and the Ramblers Association.
- b) The committee considered a quotation from Scott Stewart to surface the remainder of **FP16** for £1,835. It was not clear which section of the FP was included in the quotation or the practicalities of how the scalping's would be delivered. The Clerk was asked to confirm this information.

The Committee also considered a quotation to erect a fence either side of the kissing gate on **FP35**. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £386.

The Clerk reported that a wooden gate on **FP26** near the Covent had largely disintegrated and would be a suitable location for a kissing gate. The Committee agreed to include provision for it in the 2016/17 budget.

15.24 OAK GREEN PARADE

The Committee were asked to consider a financial contribution towards the replacement of the flower beds at Oak Green Parade which Four Marks Parish Council are undertaking. It was noted that the Parish Council had previously approved the use of Developers Contributions funding from Medstead Parish to part fund the existing scheme. It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the fact that there are currently no developers contributions funds available and the Council has no allocated budget in the current financial year the Council it was not in a position to make contribution at present.

15.25 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- a) The Committee agreed a list of works for the Lengthsman for his September visit , these were:

- Repair/replace the door seal of the noticeboard at Greenstile.
 - To cutback the roadside hedge on Hussell Lane outside Old Hall Place.
 - To remove the overgrown vegetation from FP16.
- b) The Committee reviewed the project list for 2015/16. The Clerk proposed that the tender of the Village Green mowing contract and the Cemetery and Churchyard Contract were added to the list. Both expire on 31 March 2016.

Cllr Buckland suggested that the Committee visit the churchyard and review the trees on the footpath prior to the next meeting, which was agreed.

At the conclusion of the discussions the meeting was closed at 8.55pm

SignedChairman Date.....

Post meeting note:

After the Chairman closed the meeting he invited Mr Hill a resident of Lymington Bottom Road to talk to the Committee about his personal experience of the flooding of Lymington Bottom Road earlier that day (minute ref 15.17i). The Chairman informed Mr Hill that although the issues he raised could not be dealt with by the Committee, Cllr Kercher would request that an item regarding Five Ash is included on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Council on 15th September.