

## MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 AT MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM

#### **Present:**

Cllr Ken Kercher (Chairman); Cllrs Peter Buckland, Hans Taylor, and Jean Penny. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**Also present:** Councillor Roy Pullen (for the item on the Cemetery Wall) and Miss Katie Knowles (Clerk).

#### **14.39 OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters raised under the open session.

#### **14.40 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

All members were present.

#### **14.41 MINUTES**

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 having been previously circulated, **were agreed and a true record and were signed by the Chairman.**
- b. There were no matters raised on the December minutes.

#### **14.42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **14.43 MEDSTEAD CEMETERY**

- a) The Committee had received a copy of a quotation from Oak Services Ltd prior to the meeting for the construction of the Memorial Wall which was considered excessively high. The Clerk confirmed that this was the only quotation received. Councillor Pullen offered to construct the base on a voluntary basis with the materials being sourced through WKL where the Council has an account. Councillor Pullen also has a number of bricklayer contacts who might be able to do the brickwork which may be for a fee. Councillor Pullen would be able to start the construction of the base during the summer. Councillor Pullen's offer was supported with thanks. Councillor Kercher confirmed there were enough Councillors to act as labourers. It was agreed to report this information back to Council.
- b) The Clerk had intended to circulate a document which highlighted a number of proposed amendments to the Cemetery Regulations. Unfortunately the wrong document was attached and the Clerk proposed to defer the item to the next meeting.
- c) The Committee considered a quotation for a new noticeboard for the Cemetery which the Clerk proposed would enable contact details for the Parish Council to be displayed together with important information about the Council. The quotation from Greenbarnes Ltd for a single bay noticeboard which would be an identical style to the one on the Village Green was for £675.22. The Clerk confirmed there was sufficient funds in the current maintenance budget to meet the costs. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation and order a noticeboard for the Cemetery.
- d) The Chairman informed the Committee that a member of the PCC had contacted him to inform him that the wooden kissing gate positioned on the Wield Road side of the church fence had been damaged by a vehicle and a section of it had come away and was propped up against a tree. The gate is in need of repair rather than replacement and the Clerk was asked to instruct Scott Stewart to repair it as a matter of urgency.

#### 14.44 VILLAGE GREEN

- a) The Committee considered a request from the Alton U9's Rugby Club to use the football pitch area for training on an ad hoc basis and as an alternative to Anstey Park. After a discussion it was **RESOLVED** to permit the Alton Junior RFC U9's team to use the site as per the terms set out in their email of 19th Jan. The permission was for the period up to the end of July 2015 and will be reviewed by the Committee for 2015/16. It was also agreed that the pitch could only be used when the conditions of the playing surface were suitable and in order to confirm this the club would be required to make contact with Roy Long who has agreed to confirm if it were suitable on behalf of the Council. The Committee confirmed that there would be no charge for the use of the Green at this stage.
- b) The Committee considered a request to site a bouncy castle on the Green for a wedding reception booked at the Village Hall in September. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Council's insurers to find out if there were any implications for the Council to consider. They had confirmed that providing the grounds are in good condition and safe, it was the hire company and the hirers that would be liable for any incident or injury resulting from the use of the bouncy castle on the Green. It was **RESOLVED** to permit the siting of a bouncy castle on the Green outside the Village Hall for the wedding reception booking at the Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- c) The Committee considered a request from the Environmental Group of the Parish Plan Committee to cut back and control the brambles on the copse area and part way along the cricket boundary with Hussell Lane. The Committee agreed the works.

#### 14.45 FIVE ASH ROAD POND

The Clerk updated the Committee on the dredging works at Five Ash pond which will be carried out by Ian Hampshire which was agreed by the F&GP Committee following on from the representations at the January Council meeting and the imminent arrival of spring and the bird nesting season. A summary of the works which are due to start on 2<sup>nd</sup> March are set out below:

- The whole site is completely covered in vegetation and trees. The Island will need to be cleared to allow access for the machinery to dredge the pond.
- The pond would be dug out to a depth of 10 - 12ft. The work will take 3 - 4 days.
- The chestnut fence that was once around the pond is still there in but is in a poor condition and the posts are rotten.
- A new 5ft chestnut fence will be supplied and installed during the works.
- All pond side vegetation will be removed and he will burn it on site.
- All trees that do not obstruct the works will be retained.
- A bund formed of soil will act as a retainer for the spoil. The spoil then will rot down over time.
- The existing water 'holding ditches' will be reshaped to enable the water to flow into the pond.
- A large Oak tree on the boundary with the field behind that is dead. A large branch in the canopy is splitting away from the main stem and the base of the tree is covered in bracket fungus. The will be removed during the works for the cost of the price of the wood. If it is not removed it will fail at a non-specific time causing damage whichever way it falls.
- The site will look decimated when the works are complete, but of course it will regenerate over time.

#### 14.46 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- a) The Committee considered a quotation from Greenbarnes Ltd for £1,614 for a new three bay noticeboard to replace the Talk Talk noticeboard on Boyneswood Road. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation and that two of the three bays are locked and dedicated for Council papers.

- b) The Committee reviewed the agreed works programme for improvements to footpaths and the following actions were agreed:
- Footpath 29 – The surfacing works are still outstanding. It was agreed to issue a completion deadline to Scott Steward of the 31 March.
  - Footpath 16 – The kissing gate is due to be installed imminently.
  - Footpath 12 – To seek confirmation that the stile repair had been adapted to allow larger dogs to get under the stile.
  - Footpath 10 – To seek confirmation that the works have been completed.
  - Footpath 8 – Ask Scott to install a lower step on the stile.
  - Footpath 16 – Councillor Penny highlighted that footpath behind Greenstile which leads the Cemetery was very muddy in places and proposed that it is considered in 2015/16 for completing the surfacing works. This was agreed.
- c) The Committee reviewed the projects list for 2014/15 which is largely completed.

At the conclusion of the discussions the meeting was closed at 8.10pm

Signed .....Chairman

Date.....