

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 12th April 2017** at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors Deborah Jackson, Mike Smith, Hans Taylor, Peter Fenwick, Peter Buckland, Ken Kercher, Jean Penny and Stan Whitcher.

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public & Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

17.46 OPEN SESSION

Action

a) A member of the public highlighted the issue of possible global warming and the impact that this could have on the water supply for the area should there be a total power failure. He suggested that Medstead Parish Council consider supporting the provision of a manual pump to provide drinking water in such an eventuality. The Clerk had written previously to the South East Water Company when this was raised previously in May 2016 but had not received a reply and was again asked to contact the authorities and also EHDC.

Clerk

b) Cllr Buckland commented about the increase in the parish council precept in 2017/18 and why there had not been any new properties occupied in the previous year to minimise the overall increase on properties in the parish. He further asked if developers have to pay the council tax on properties completed but not sold. The Clerk was asked to contact EHDC for a response.

Clerk

c) Cllr Penny mentioned that the usage on the service bus from Medstead was high and that any plans should they occur to reduce the service should be strongly opposed.

d) Cllr Taylor had been approached regarding the staging of an open air film show on the Green which would be held for charity. This was considered to be a positive idea and Cllr Taylor would take this forward subject to the relevant approval / licences being in place.

Cllr Taylor

e) Cllr Taylor further mentioned that the landlord of the Castle of Comfort public house has asked if a directional sign can be shown attached to the existing sign post at Greenstile. This was approved and Cllr Taylor to contact the landlord. Further, it was discussed about the provision of directional signs for both the village hall and church hall at the same location and this would be discussed at the next Maintenance Committee meeting

Cllr Taylor

Maintenance Committee

f) Cllr Jackson asked whether video conferencing (e.g. Skype) could be considered for absent councillors. The Clerk was asked to see whether this was something that other parish/ town councils used.

Clerk

g) Cllr Jackson further suggested that "Speedwatch" became a standing agenda item.

Clerk

17.47 APOLOGIES

Cllr Roy Pullen (holiday). This was approved by Council.
District Cllr Ingrid Thomas. Attending the Four Marks APM.

17.48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17.49 COUNCIL MINUTES

a) The minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 8th March 2017** had been previously circulated. These were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Kercher seconded by Councillor Penny, **and signed by the Chairman.**

b) Matters Arising.

Cllr Fenwick reported that with Cllr Pullen, he had attended the recent Garden House Day Nursery opening event. He mentioned that they had met with the head-teacher regarding the recent trench (septic tank) that had been dug in the adjacent field that was known to contain archaeology.

17.50 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on **8th March 2017** having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. **Chairman Report** – Another quiet month in terms of large applications although a steady flow of the smaller, and mainly uncontentious, ones. We seem to be seeing more retrospective applications which either means EHDC are checking up more or, and this is the more likely reason, neighbours are starting to get fed up with things happening without permission when the vast majority go through the correct process. One of my big bug bears is that EHDC appear to allow all of these applications as I cannot recall one that has had to take down/undo something. A typical example of this is that the day after it was announced that Bellway Homes had purchased the site at Friars Oak from the William Lacey Group two tall flags and a large sign was erected in the verge outside of the site. This was queried with the EHDC compliance team and now there is an application for the retention of these items, which means that until EHDC make a decision the board remains where it is.

By the time you have the full Council Meeting there will have been another Liaison meeting for the Friars Oak site (Monday evening).

i. Parish Liaison Meeting.

- a) Cllr Jackson gave a summary of the outcome of the Parish Liaison meetings for the Friars Oak site held on 13th March 2017 and 10th April.
- b) A further meeting is scheduled for the Cala/ Miller / Beechcroft sites on 28th April 2017 at Medstead Village Hall at 11.45am.

b) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- i. No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council.

c) Maintenance Committee

- i. No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council.
- ii. **Chairman Report –**
 - a) The Committee would be walking the route to south Medstead shortly to consider the options for the Green infrastructure.
 - b) The Clerk reported the response he had received from the Local Bus and Home-to-School transport tem of HCC where between 15 – 20 children used the stop at Five Ash Crossroads.
 - c) Cllr Whitcher raised the condition of Foul Lane and whether the Council would consider repairing the surface. This will be placed on the next Maintenance Committee agenda.
 - d) Cllr Kercher asked for an update on the position of the day work contractor which is currently unfilled. The Clerk reported that he was liaising with Four Marks PC regarding possibly operating under their day work contract which is being set up.
- iii. Barbeque – Cllr Taylor reported that he had to make some adjustments to the BBQ but hoped to have it installed on a concrete base shortly, with the necessary warning signs in place. The notices would be approved by the Maintenance Committee.

**Maintenance
Committee**

**Cllr Taylor /
Maintenance
Committee**

17.51 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Arrangements underway for next week's APM.
- Liaising with the Clerk regarding recent damage to the Green caused by badgers hunting for chafer grubs and a number of emails from local riders and horse owners who have expressed concerns regarding speeding traffic on local roads (both of which are agenda items for tonight's meeting)

17.52 PARISH CLERK REPORT

- i. Working on year-end financial activities in preparation for meeting with internal auditor;
- ii. Liaised with two purchasers of memorial wall plaque(s), sourced supplier and taken delivery of plaques. These will be fitted shortly by Cllr Pullen;
- iii. Preparing Financial Report for Annual Parish Assembly and arranging agenda and attendees;
- iv. Finalised the contract extensions for the Cemetery and Village Green maintenance;
- v. Wrote to the Day Work contractor terminating his contract with Medstead Parish Council;
- vi. Attended meeting with Medstead Village Hall Committee regarding possible future expansion plans;
- vii. Liaised with Medstead Cricket Club regarding badger damage to the Village Green (and assisted with damage repair);
- viii. Completed the Diocese Faculty application for the work proposed in Medstead Cemetery;
- ix. Agreed take-over of responsibility for the lights previously operated by the Village Fete committee;
- x. Wrote to Medstead Hardware thanking them for the service to the community with the Post Office.

17.53 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

District Councillor Report (key points): Deborah Jackson

- A busy few weeks with a number of District and Parish Council meetings, not to mention Annual Parish Assemblies! (I have had to send my apologies to the Four Marks Assembly this evening)
- The second “Friar’s Oak” resident liaison meeting (chaired by Cllr Thomas) was held on 10 April and was well attended. WLG have now sold the site to Bellway Homes, who intend to start work in the next month. Minutes should be available shortly and will be posted on the Parish Council websites. The next meeting will be held on 05 June at 7pm, in Four Marks Village Hall.
- The next meeting of the Miller/ Beechcroft/ Cala (Lymington Bottom Road) Liaison Group will be here at Medstead Village Hall, at 11.45 on 28 April. If any Parish Councillors or members of the public have any questions or issues that they wished to be raised with the developers, could these be submitted to the Parish Clerk by the end of the week.
- This month I have made one representation at EHDC Planning Committee on behalf of the ward, supporting residents and Four Marks PC’s opposition to the expansion of the traveller site in Willis Lane. Although some committee members were clearly sympathetic, the ongoing requirement for traveller sites in the district, together with the precedent set by the existing pitches meant that we were fighting something of a lost cause.
- The recent Festival of Health (in Bordon) was well received and attracted interest from approximately 120 local residents. A second event is scheduled for 09 July and will be held more locally, at Four Marks.
- After 10 successful years, the format of this year’s Butserfest will be changing slightly – rather than a stand-alone event, EHDC will be sponsoring the “Butserfest Stage” at the Victorious Festival, to be held at Southsea over the August bank holiday weekend. The alcohol and drug-free ethos will continue to be encouraged.
- The local press recently reported that 45% of the cars parking fines issued by EHDC were over-turned. This was a miss-quote, and should have read that of the 9202 tickets issued, 1390 were challenged, and of these, 45% (635) of the challenges were allowed (mainly for non-visibility of disabled permits) – representing a slightly better success rate for EHDC!
- I am pleased to be able to advise that the District Councillor Community Grant scheme is running again for 2017, with Cllr Thomas and I each having £4500 of funding available. Application forms can be downloaded from the EHDC website.

District Councillor Report (to 15 March): Ingrid Thomas

A real highlight this month was attending the East Hampshire Sports Awards for 2017 at Old Thorns. There were a lot of entries for the awards which were presented by Fred Dinenage who has been involved in every sports awards event since they started. It is very humbling to listen to the really inspirational stories and supreme efforts by people of all ages. Four Marks School won an award for the school team of the year, congratulations to the Cricket Team. Perfect timing as cricket is returning to the recreation ground this summer!

The parking at dropping off but particularly at collecting time at Four Marks School is an ever increasing problem. Every parent surely has to care about the dangers that careless parking causes to other children and their parents? Why park so close to the Fiveways Junction that others cannot see round you? Why park on the restricting zigzags - even for a moment? I have been to speak to the EHDC traffic management team who will be following up reported issues, Mark Kemp Gee is working with HCC highways department so that together with the School, Parish Council and all the parents we may be able to come up with a solution.

Medstead School suffers similar problems and has recently had to deal with lorries passing the school with deliveries to building sites. Keeping children safe must be a priority for us all. The number of construction vehicles around the villages whilst children are catching and getting off school buses is of great concern, one child was seriously injured last year.

The first meeting of the Friars Oak residents' liaison group has taken place, about 50 residents attended and met with Mr George Spinks, Mr Richard Bell and Mr Ian Gilmore of WLG who hope to start building the site in about a month. Concern was expressed by residents that the exact route for the sewerage had not yet been decided. The two routes being either over the Boyneswood Road Bridge or joining the Bargate Homes route down Boyneswood Lane, Stoney Lane, Station Approach and joining at Lymington Bottom Road, the decision on which route to take will be made by Thames Water in the next month. Unlike the other developers who have decided to construct their own sewers WLG are requisitioning Thames Water to build theirs, this means Thames Water will do the work of laying the sewerage pipes for this development. There is to be a similar requisitioning of fresh water supplies, with the water company doing the work. Mr Gilmore seemed concerned that residents believed the water pressure to be too low already and suggested people should write to South East Water and ask to have their water pressure tested.

Great concern was expressed about how the Construction Method Statement would be monitored including the parking of vehicles in Boyneswood Road, we were assured that the agreed arrangements would be adhered to. Let us hope so. The next meeting will be on Monday 24th April at 7pm in Four Marks Village Hall. There has been another meeting of the Miller Homes, Beechcroft and Cala liaison group too but this was during the daytime making it difficult for people who work to attend. The first houses on these sites are being sold.

This month I have been to a conference in London looking at Rural Health Issues. One of the surprising facts that came out was that loneliness can have the same effect of shortening a person's life as smoking 15 cigarettes a day for life. This is a national problem but can be most severe in rural locations. It is easy to become isolated, our villages are noted for being friendly so perhaps we already try hard to look after our neighbours? We are lucky to have so many groups and clubs in our villages which are very welcoming and go a long way towards helping people to escape being lonely.

During the storms quite a large number of trees were blown over noticeably in Weathermore Lane woods where considerable felling last year must have left trees more exposed than they are used to. The land owners have already replanted a large area of the woods.

Mr Garside the Tree Officer has been out and about in the villages looking at trees with TPOs on them, there has been concern raised about work being done to TPO trees. Any tree with a TPO cannot have work done to it without permission, the

finances can be quite large if permission is not granted before work is done. for example if a tree is removed to enable planning permission to be granted and that tree has a TPO the fine can be as much as the increase in the value of the site which could be thousands of pounds.

The plans for Festiwell are making good progress, there are still some pitches available for stands or activities please contact Sarah Goudie Four Marks Parish Clerk if you would like one, we are a little short of alternative therapy representation at the moment. The event promises to be full of interesting things to do, ideas on how to make your life healthier, food ideas, fitness ideas and plenty of things to try and join in with. So please mark SUNDAY 9th JULY in your diaries.

17.54 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 31st March 2017.

| <u>Date Paid</u> | <u>Chq No</u> | <u>Payee</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Transaction detail</u> |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 08/03/2017 | 2615 | Parish Clerk | 784.84 | Clerk Salary (Feb 17) |
| 08/03/2017 | 2616 | Cllr Pullen | 91.10 | Expenses (Pond) |
| 08/03/2017 | 2617 | Parish Clerk | 113.30 | Clerk expenses (Feb 17) |
| 08/03/2017 | 2618 | Mr P J Grace | 492.00 | Hedge planting Cemetery |
| 13/03/2017 | DD | Vodafone | 17.00 | Mobile phone contract |
| 22/03/2017 | 2619 | Cllr Pullen | 105.00 | Speed Gun |
| 22/03/2017 | 2620 | Brunel Engraving | 220.98 | Memorial wall Plaques |
| 23/03/2017 | 2621 | Hampshire Woodlands | 672.00 | Tree work at URC Medstead |
| 23/03/2017 | 2622 | Vincent Hire Ltd | 28.80 | Compactor for Cemetery path |

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliations (as approved by Cllr Smith) as at 31st March 2017.

- iii. The Clerk presented the Annual Governance Statement which was signed off by the Chair and Clerk confirming that financial propriety and governance was followed in 2016/17. The Statement would now be forwarded on to the external auditors.

Clerk

- iv. Hampshire County council had confirmed that Medstead Parish Council had been successful in its application for grant funding from the Community Challenge Fund amounting to £750 towards investigations into flooding at Five Ash Crossroads. The balance of £1,050 would be funded by Medstead Parish Council. The Clerk would take forward with the contractor and HCC.

Clerk

17.55 MEDSTEAD POND(S)

- i. **Five Ash Pond** – See 17.54 (iv) above
- ii. **Village Pond Restoration.**

- a. Cllr Taylor outlined that further work to identify the source of the water leak has been identified and hopefully fixed and water levels will be monitored. Lack of rain at present had prevented this being completed.

- b. Cllr Taylor further updated the work planned where landscaping on the Village Green side of the Pond was to be undertaken along with further Pond planting.
- c. Cllr Taylor also reported that a wheelbarrow had been stolen from the Pond.

17.56 SPEEDING VEHICLES

Correspondence had been received from several local horse riders who were concerned with vehicles speeding past horses on the public highway. It was noted that the Hampshire mounted police had been riding in the area to assess the problem and also Speedwatch had been contacted to see if they can assist.

It was agreed that HCC Cllr Mark Kemp Gee be contacted to see if the Community Awareness Programme being run by HCC can also assist, along with requesting that additional horse awareness road signs be erected at key places.

Clerk

17.57 MEDSTEAD CEMETERY FACULTY

The faculty application for Medstead cemetery was signed by the Chair and the Clerk would send to the Diocese for sign off to allow the work to finally proceed.

Clerk

17.58 MEDSTEAD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly would take place on 18th April at 7.30pm at Medstead Village Hall and the Agenda had been placed on the village notice boards and web site.

17.59 VILLAGE GREEN DAMAGE

Cllr Kercher detailed the current position regarding the damage caused by (probably) badgers. Given badgers are a protected species, little can be undertaken to deter them and the only product on the market which would kill off the source of the chafer grubs, being their food source, had been withdrawn from the market in 2016.

However, the situation appears to have now improved and minimal damage had occurred in recent days and this would continue to be monitored.

17.60 VILLAGE FETE

It was agreed that the Parish Council would have a presence at the Medstead Village Fete to be held on 8th July 2017 to highlight the work being undertaken by the Council. This could take the form of information boards and include details of, for example, Speedwatch. This might also provide an opportunity to raise public awareness of horses/ cyclists/ pedestrians using the roads. The Clerk was asked to contact the Fete Committee to book a space at the Fete.

Clerk

17.61 ALTON SPORTS CENTRE

The future of Alton Sports centre was discussed by Council and in particular the lack of consultation on the issue.

17.62 “GREAT GET TOGETHER”

Information previously circulated from EHDC was noted by Council.

17.63 DEVOLUTION

No further update and this standing agenda item would be removed from future agenda.

17.64 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

See 17.60 above.

17.65 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- i. HATAPC: Cllr Fenwick outlined the Local Plan Part 3 and consultees have until 16th May to respond as to how the consultation will be carried out. Cllr Fenwick will lead on the response.
- ii. Village Hall: Cllr Buckland reported that the Medstead Times was now being run well. He further reported that a swing sign was now being used to restrict unauthorised parking.
- iii. Cllr Kercher reported that the Sports Club AGM had been held. He further reported that the supplier for the gas at the Pavilion had been changed from British Gas to SSE on more favourable terms.
- iv. Parish Plan Implementation Committee: Cllr Jackson reported that new flags for the church flagpole had been purchased by funding from the Parish Plan.

Cllr Fenwick

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

ChairmanDate.....