

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 13th April 2016** at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors, Roy Pullen (Acting Chair), Ken Kercher, Peter Buckland, Peter Fenwick, Hans Taylor, Stan Whitcher, Mike Smith and Jean Penny.

Also in attendance: One member of the public (Mrs P Constance) and Mr Peter Baston (Clerk). Another member of the public (Mrs A Moore) joined the meeting before the end of the open session

16.38 OPEN SESSION

Action

- a) The member of the public asked if the Council could consider providing step(s) down from the pavement opposite the Cemetery entrance to allow safer crossing of South Town Road. The Clerk was asked to contact the Day work contractor to suggest a solution and provide an estimate. This would then be discussed at the Maintenance committee.
- b) Cllr Kercher provided feedback from a recent Devolution workshop he and Cllr Fenwick had attended.
- c) Cllr Penny raised the issue over motorbike activity as reported to her by a member of the public on the footpath near to the cemetery. It was suggested that a kissing gate could be installed to prevent such activity and the maintenance committee were tasked with taking this forward.
- d) Cllr Taylor asked for Council permission to allow the careful burning of scrub waste / cuttings near to the Pond arising from the Pond group clearing brambles etc, which was approved.
- e) Cllr Buckland asked for some work to be undertaken on the gate in the churchyard from Church Lane which is fouling on a tree root.
- f) Cllr Buckland further suggested that consideration be given to enhancing the village signs on the various approaches to have fencing long side the signs similar to both Herriad and Bentworth
- g) Cllr Fenwick reported that following several representations to him that the Planning committee had discussed Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) in the area and it had been agreed that a meeting would be held with EHDC to discuss possible action. Cllr Jackson was arranging the meeting
- h) Cllr Smith reported that a bin used for dog waste near to Station Approach had been removed. The Clerk was asked to contact EHDC to get it replaced near to the corner of Station Approach on Lymington Bottom Road.
- i) Cllr Pullen had been asked by Cllr Jackson to enquire about the frequency of the bin emptying as it was considered that they were becoming full very quickly and that the frequency of emptying needs to be increased. Clerk to contact the contractor.
- j) Cllr Pullen further reported that the fence where Hussell Lane becomes Abbey Road near to the pond was damaged and that Cllr Jackson was reporting this to Hampshire County Council.

**Clerk /
Maintenance
Committee**

**Maintenance
Committee**

**Maintenance
Committee
Maintenance
Committee**

Cllr. Jackson

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Jackson

16.39 APOLOGIES

Councillor Deborah Jackson and District Councillor Ingrid Thomas.

16.40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16.41 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th March 2016 having been previously circulated, were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Penny, **and signed by the Chairman.**

16.42 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

a) The minutes of the **Planning Committee** held on 9th March 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.** Cllr Pullen had circulated a separate planning report for the meeting.

b) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Medstead PC Web Page— Council were reminded that support of Hants web ceases in July 2016 and there is a need to upgrade. The Clerk reported that with Cllr Jackson and Cllr Fenwick, they had met to discuss the preferred way forward. The Clerk had subsequently met with a local web service provider and a quote had been received for his services to provide a bespoke web site. The initial costs would be around £2.5k - £3k with a monthly management fee thereafter of £120. The Clerk also reported that he had been on a course with other Parish clerks run by a firm called Hugofox who provide a free platform on which parishes can build their own web site. Also included with this platform is a direct link to the Planning Tracker at EHDC which would greatly assist planning tracking. The Clerk reported that Kingsclere PC are using the Hugofox platform and asked Councillors to review that website. An independent review of the Hugofox platform is being arranged by Cllr Jackson and his comments are awaited before recommending the preferred option.

All Councillors

Cllr Jackson

c) Maintenance Committee

i. **Medstead Village Hall porch** – Cllr Buckland reported that the work was almost complete. He further reported that following a request for clarification that planning permission is not required and that he had provided written confirmation from EHDC. The Clerk would forward this onto Cllr Jackson.

ii. **Village Green / Cemetery footpath(s)** – Cllr Kercher outlined that two quotes had been received for £18.1k and £11.7k. Both were considered high and were in excess of the funds allocated in the 2016/17 budget for these purposes. The Finance & General Purposes committee were asked to review the budget to consider reallocating funding for this purpose.

**Finance & General
Purposes
Committee**

iii. Cllr Fenwick highlighted that recently announced was the Small Grants Scheme which should be considered as well and this will be reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**Finance & General
Purposes
Committee**

iv. **Playground Equipment.** - Agreement was given to the quotation (£418.00 plus V.A.T) to replace the cradle swings on the Green. It was further mentioned that a request be made to EHDC for funding through the District Councillor and the Clerk would contact Cllr Thomas in this respect.

Clerk

- v. **Medstead Cemetery / St Andrews Churchyard Paths** - Cllr Kercher asked for agreement that the contractor be allowed to spray weed-killer on a twice annual basis as this had been overlooked in the original specification. In total, this would be an additional £120 over the agreed contract price. This was agreed by Council and the Clerk would contact the contractor to give the go ahead.

Clerk

16.43 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Through Cllr Pullen the Chairman reported that due to the Easter holidays it seems to have been something of a quiet month. The work party coordinated by Councillor Taylor and the recent Medstead Times article by Lisa Stevenson have raised the profile of the village pond restoration project, leading to a number of positive comments from residents. Villagers are now keen to see the work completed and the orange temporary fencing removed – thoughts that the Chairman knows are shared by those working on this project.

16.44 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Jackson - Firstly my apologies for not attending in person, as I need to be at the Four Marks Annual Assembly this evening.

The recent meeting of EHDC saw agreement to adopt the Housing and Employment Allocations Plan, the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the Local Planning Enforcement plan. It is still disappointing that the District Council chose not to exclude the Juniper site within the housing allocations, but we are left where we are and need to make the best of the current situation, particularly as information is starting to be circulated regarding a consultation for the next revision of said Plan.

The new Enforcement Plan takes a slightly more proactive approach to what we have seen in the past, and is described by the Portfolio holder and her Assistant as “having teeth”. This plan will be further developed over the coming year. Additional news on this front is a reorganisation within EHDC, which now has the enforcement team working under the same umbrella as Environmental Health, rather than reporting directly into Planning.

CIL took effect from 8th April and it was interesting to see the flurry of activity, not least of all from planning case officers, to try and get applications approved without the need to recalculate the necessary contributions.

This most recent planning meeting saw a rare success and a strike for common sense in the ward, with the refusal for change of use and building of houses in the industrial park on station approach. I have no doubt that there will be an appeal lodged, but in the meantime it is important to try and get this site developed and used for its original intended purpose. I propose talking with district Councillor Nick Drew, the Portfolio holder for employment and business development to see how we can encourage the use of this site for employment.

Further to our meeting with the case officer for the Northfield Stables application, I have heard that the applicant has requested an extended period to enable additional drainage

reports to be commissioned. Susie Ralston has suggested that Cllr Pullen and I meet with her again once this information has been submitted.

Miller Homes still seem to be unable to follow the simple process of informing the Parish Councils of the proposed lorry movements. Whilst I am in the early stages of setting up the residents' liaison group, I am not sure that this will resolve this particular issue. I am not happy that we just have to put up with what appears to be flagrant flouting of the conditions and intend to follow this up further.

As many may already be aware, the planning permission for the proposed development adjacent to the Hardware Store has been deemed "lapsed" due the applicant not completing the agreed pre-conditions in the required time. It is my understanding that they will now be required to tidy up the site – good things do eventually come to those that wait!!

The Devolution bid is still up in the air. Plans for a combined Solent authority have been put on hold due to the sudden decision of Hampshire County Council not to sign. Further developments are awaited.

Cllr Thomas – a report from Cllr Thomas was received and circulated after the meeting

16.45 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk explained the latest Nat West bank accounts for the three accounts regarding the latest financial position.

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the income and expenditure reports for March 2016.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 29th March 2016.
- c. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation (as approved by Cllr Penny) as a 29th March 2016.

16.46 COUNCIL POLICY

a. **Annual Parish Assembly** – The agenda for the Assembly on 19th April 2016 was discussed and the Clerk would re-jig the order to include the election of the Parish Plan Committee.

Clerk

16.47 FIVE ASH POND – FLOODING

Cllr Pullen reported that there was nothing to report on the pond itself but there is a further meeting scheduled for Thursday 21st April 2016 with Highways etc to discuss the footpath at that end of Lymington Bottom Road. To remain on future agendas.

16.48 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- a. **Village Hall** – Nothing to update.
- b. **Sports Club** – The AGM was held on 6th April 2016, with the committee being re-elected.

- c. **Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group** – It was noted that the referendum is being held on 5th May 2016.
- d. **Parish Plan Committee**– Cllr Jackson circulated a note on the latest meeting held on 11th March 2016. Of the three remaining projects from the original Parish Plan, two have now been completed (installation of a defibrillator and the replacement playground) and the third, the re-instatement of the village pond is well underway and due for completion this summer. A £300 grant from District Councillor Thomas will be used to enhance the planting around the pond whilst a £500 grant from District Councillor Jackson will provide a seat.

Future projects that this group would be happy to oversee include the Wildflower walk and the Medstead green infrastructure which were identified within the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Implementation Committee are due for re-election at the Annual Parish Assembly and all members have indicated that they are willing to stand again.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

ChairmanDate.....