

# Medstead Parish Council

**Minutes** of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016** at 7.30pm.

## **Present:**

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

**Also in attendance:** Member of the public, (Mrs G Fuzzard) and Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

## **Action**

### **16.132 OPEN SESSION**

- a) Mrs Fuzzard thanked the Council for the clearance work which had been undertaken on the footpaths.
- b) Mrs Fuzzard also commented on the mud that had been left on the road by the developers in the area and also the speed of the contractor vehicles on Lymington Bottom Road. Cllr Jackson confirmed that EHDC and the developers had been contacted by the Clerk about this problem.
- c) Cllr Smith commented that Hampshire Police have now agreed to Speedwatch operating in Lymington Bottom Road and are now awaiting the necessary code from the police to allow them to operate there. He also stated that additional volunteers would be welcome to join the Speedwatch Team.
- d) Cllr Kercher asked how long the closure of Lymington Bottom Road would be for and was advised that this would be extended by around one further week due to unforeseen problems which the contractors had encountered. He further commented that it would have been sensible if additional signage at Five Ash Crossroads had been installed.
- e) Cllr Taylor had been approached to see if further seating could be provided near to the young children's play area on the Green and this will be referred to the Maintenance Committee for consideration and which could possibly be funded through a District Councillor Grant.

**Maintenance  
Committee**

### **16.133 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Stan Whitcher - Illness

### **16.134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **16.135 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016** having been previously circulated, apart from one minor amendment to 16.131, were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Pullen, seconded by Councillor Penny, **and signed by the Chairman.**

#### **b) Matters Arising**

- i. The Clerk advised that there e mails were bouncing back from the [planning.medsteadpc@gmail.com](mailto:planning.medsteadpc@gmail.com) e mail address and Cllr Jackson agreed to look into this issue. All other related issues have now been resolved in this respect.

**Cllr Jackson**

- ii. Item 16.123(bii), Cllr Smith would log the problem of overgrown signs on to Fixmystreet.com.
- iii. Item 16.120(i). It has been confirmed by the Medstead Fete Committee that the lights will be illuminated this Christmas with the ensuing electricity costs being covered by the Sports & Social Club.

**Cllr Smith**

## **16.136 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS**

### **a) Planning Committee**

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. Cllr Pullen reported *"Still very quiet in terms of new applications although we are awaiting the Inspector's decision for the appeal on 68-70 Lymington Bottom Road. EHDC have managed to exceed their normal level of disorganisation by not sending a Planning Officer to the site visit. We will have discussed the two appeals earlier this evening – Station Approach and The Haven, Boyneswood Road – and will submit our comments within a few days."*
- iii. Cllr Pullen further advised the meeting that the Appeal date for the Station Approach application will be heard on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at EHDC Penns Place, Petersfield.

### **b) Finance & General Purposes Committee**

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. The Chair outlined the main points discussed including the budget / precept for 2017/18, two grant applications and the change in hours of the Clerk to accommodate his CILCA training.

### **c) Maintenance Committee**

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. On 16.75 (i), Cllr Taylor had visited FP13 and reported that the situation was not as bad as had been reported and little work is required at that location. Maintenance Committee to consider what action does need to be taken.
- iii. On 16.80 (i), the Clerk had contacted the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) regarding clarity on proceeding with renovation on certain memorials. A response is awaited. Once received a decision will be taken to approach the Wake Trustees to see whether funding can be provided to carry out the necessary work.
- iv. Cllr Kercher outlined the latest position on the bus routing and the possible installation of bus shelters at Five Ash Cross Roads and in Boyneswood Road (layby), the latter requiring approval from HCC being on their land. The Clerk will be sourcing suitable designs etc. and report back to Maintenance Committee.

**Maintenance  
Committee**

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

### **16.137 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

*“The Parish Council were contacted recently regarding disturbance to a badger set in the cemetery: badgers are a protected species. Whilst this had taken place without the knowledge of the Clerk or Council, it was obviously was our responsibility to sort this out as it was on our land. Prompt action by the Clerk and our ground work contractor was able to resolve the situation to the satisfaction of the local wildlife volunteers*

*The Parish Council have been contacted by Hampshire Pride, an organisation celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Hampshire Pride is offering Parish, Town and District councils a free rainbow flag to promote LGBT. It is proposed that these flags are flown for one week at the end of February to mark Hampshire Pride. Whilst the Parish Council does not have its own flagpole, I would suggest to Council that we accept this kind offer and make the flag available to other organisations such as the Village Hall all the church who wish to fly it.”*

Council agreed to take up the offer of a Hampshire Pride flag. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

**Clerk**

### **16.138 PARISH CLERK REPORT**

The Clerk provided an update of the current activity.

### **16.139 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

#### **District Councillor Report: Deborah Jackson**

*“Once again much of my time this month has been focussed on the southern part of Medstead.*

*I can at least begin with some good news, that the appeal at 68-70 Lymington Bottom Road has been rejected. (Later addition: the secondary appeal for the award of partial costs to the applicant has also been rejected)*

*Access onto the A31 from Lymington Bottom Road has again been disrupted, this time to enable a series of bore holes to be dug to help alleviate the severe flooding of the road south of the railway bridge. Unfortunately it has not been possible to complete the work in the originally indicated time frame, resulting in a further week’s closure and traffic having to make its way either along Five Ash Road or Winston Rise/ Station approach.*

*With the recent wet weather have come more complaints about the amount of mud pouring onto the road, this time from the CALA site. It is very much hoped that these ongoing issues, together with the failure to provide the Parish Councils with traffic movement updates and lack of CALA site signage will be addressed as a matter of urgency at the first of the Residents’ Liaison meetings. Latest news from Miller Homes (who are setting up a joint meeting) is the offer of a meeting at their site office for a maximum of 10 people, with no more than 2 from each parish and no specific invites to Ward Councillors. I believe that our best option is to accept this date and restrictions (although not the location), if only to get discussions started. Hopefully future meetings will be more accommodating.*

Ingrid recently chaired a meeting with residents living adjacent to the William Lacey development at Friars Oak. There is clearly a lot of dissatisfaction, not only with the commenced development at the site and the pedestrian safety measures that have been installed at the bridge. I can only stress once again that the fragile looking footway is only temporary with a separate pedestrian footbridge being the intended permanent solution. Contrary to rumour, it is not a lack of finances preventing the footbridge but the fact that EHDC/ HCC do not own the land on which it would need to be built; obviously the land-owner's permission or sale of a small portion of land needs to be agreed before further action can be taken. Residents are questioning whether the developers did actually commence works within the allotted time period from the date that permission was granted. This is something that continues to be ambiguous from site to site, and only goes to highlight the points I have already made to the Planning Portfolio holder regarding the importance of making the conditions (particularly around "commencement") crystal clear, enforceable and enforced!

There is not much positive to update on Benwhyles. As you know, the property is being operated by an organisation called Benjamin UK, who, according to their website, provides therapeutic residential care for children and young people. Whilst it is apparent to residents that there are a lot of comings and goings and a large number of vehicles parked both at the property and on drive and on the adjacent driveway, EHDC Planning and Enforcement Officers have indicated that no additional permissions are required. Benjamin UK are already running at least one other similar home in the area and are looking to establish yet another in Telegraph Lane. It seems that these homes take in young people from outside Hampshire, but I am assured that both EHDC and HCC Children's Services have the situation on their radar.

Following the recent reduction in opening hours at the HCC waste disposal sites, at the November meeting of EHDC councillors were invited to debate the topic of "Fly Tipping", something about which we are unfortunately too familiar. Data presented indicated the biggest problem areas as being along the A3 corridor. This was challenged by a number of councillors representing the more rural wards such as ours, where unfortunately too often difficult to dispose of waste can be found littering the sides of the road and bridleways. Steps for trying to reduce occurrences and for trying to apprehend offenders were also discussed.

Next week I will be meeting a group of year six pupils from Four Mark's School when they visit Penns Place. This is a new initiative that is hoped to break down some of the "mystery" of the Council. Amongst the planned activities, there will be a tour of council offices and the opportunity take part in a debate, followed by a mock vote using a ballot slip and ballot box. I only hope I don't get asked too many tricky questions by our future electors, councillors and maybe even members of parliament!"

## 16.140 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation (as approved by Cllr Penny) as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

## 16.141 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2017/18

- i. The draft 2017/18 budget was discussed with an amendment to the Green Infrastructure being proposed, which would have the effect of reducing the originally suggested £10k to £7.5k to lessen the percentage increase in the Council Precept for 2017/18. The proposed 2017/18 budget would then become £66,140, which was proposed by Cllr Kercher and seconded by Cllr Penny and approved by Council with 2 abstentions.
- ii. With the amendments outlined in 16.141(i) above, the 2017/18 Precept would become £31,200. This was proposed by Cllr Pullen and seconded by Cllr Fenwick and approved by Council.

## 16.142 COUNCIL POLICY

- i. **Medstead Parish Council Safeguarding Policy** – This was approved by Council and adopted.
- ii. **Medstead Parish Council Risk Assessment** – This was approved by Council and re- adopted.
- iii. **Medstead Parish Council - Cemetery Fees & Charges** – This was approved by Council and re- adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
- iv. **Grant Applications** – Two grant applications (Victim Care and Medstead Pre School & Nursery) had been received and reviewed by the F&GP Committee and presented to Full Council for acceptance. It was proposed that £150 be allocated to Victim Care and £850 to Medstead Pre School & Nursery. A further late Grant application had been received from Home Start Wey Water but due to the lack of funding available, they would be asked to bid again next financial year. The Clerk would contact all three organisations and arrange for payment to be made as appropriate.
- v. The Clerk had requested that, as part of his CILCA training, he be allowed additional hours to complete his portfolio which it has been estimated would take around 3 hours per week. Subject to pay back of any additional hours paid should the Clerk leave post within one year of completing the course (or should he leave whilst undertaking the course), it was approved to increase the Clerk's hours from 20 hours per week to 23 hours per week for a period not exceeding one year from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.

Clerk

**Cllr Buckland left the meeting at 9.00pm.**

## 16.143 RURAL COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND (RCEF)

Following the presentation at the previous meeting, it was agreed that due to no suitable property being available, the RCEF funding would not be sought by Medstead Parish Council. The Clerk would write to Carbon Smart to confirm.

Clerk

#### 16.144 BT PLC – REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAYPHONE

A request for comments had been received from EHDC regarding the removal of the public payphone in Medstead. After discussion, it was agreed that it was felt that this particular box should be retained given the poor mobile signal in the area and that the box itself should be made a Wi-Fi “hot spot” for mobile reception, which would assist when an emergency occurs. The Clerk would contact EHDC with comments.

Clerk

#### 16.145 TERMS OF REFERENCE – THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

The revisions received to the Terms of Reference were approved by Council. The Clerk would write to the Secretary for the Plan to confirm.

Clerk

#### 16.146 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

- i. It was felt that commemorations should be considered for the centenary in 2018 for the end of WW1 and this would be further considered at the next Full Council meeting in December 2016, with a discussion as to how this will be taken forward.
- ii. Cllr Fenwick asked for approval to purchase a Christmas tree for the forthcoming Tree Festival in Medstead. This was approved by Council and Cllr Fenwick would purchase the tree.

Clerk

Cllr Fenwick

#### 16.129 MEDSTEAD PONDS

- a. **Five Ash Pond** – Grant Funding may be available to carry out a feasibility study for options such as a bore hole and the Clerk was asked to take this forward.
- b. **Village Pond Restoration.** Cllr Pullen outlined the current position:
  - i. Two crab apple trees had been planted with funding from a District Council Grant.
  - ii. The information signs had now been re-installed and apart from a small outlay for materials the cost would be negligible. Once an invoice has been received for the material, a letter of thanks would be sent from the Council.

Clerk

Cllr Taylor

#### 16.130 DEVOLUTION

Nothing further to report.

#### 16.131 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- i. EHATPC – Cllr Fenwick would be attending the scheduled meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 on behalf of Medstead Parish Council.
- ii. Cllr Kercher reported that the Sports Pavilion had been “shut down” for the winter period.
- iii. Cllr Kercher mentioned that there were no interested parties to use the football pitch facilities at present.
- iv. The Village Hall Committee were to meet again shortly.

Cllr Fenwick

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Chairman .....Date.....