

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8th June 2016** at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors, Deborah Jackson, Roy Pullen, Peter Buckland, Hans Taylor, Stan Whitcher and Jean Penny.

Also in attendance: One member of the public (Mrs G Fuzzard) and Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

16.68 OPEN SESSION

Action

- a) The member of the public (Mrs G Fuzzard) asked if the Council could follow up on the overhanging trees at the United Reform Church which were supposed to have been cut back by the contractor. The Clerk explained that he had written to the URC asking if they were content but not received a reply. This will be followed up again with the contractor.
- b) The member of the public (Mrs G Fuzzard) further commented that the footpaths and the cemetery were now looking much better.
- c) The member of the public (Mrs G Fuzzard), asked if anything could be done to improve the traffic flow under the railway bridge in Lymington Bottom Road. Following discussion, Cllr Pullen explained that he is attending a meeting with Hampshire CC later in the month and will raise this issue with HCC who have previously promised signage and possible road improvements.
- d) Cllr Taylor provided an update on the barbeque for the enhancement of the Green for which he had received a quotation of around £483. The issue over health & safety was raised and should this be installed a basic safety notice would be attached. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor would draft a note for the public to comment on potential usage and this item would be on the agenda for the next Council meeting
- e) Cllr Penny on behalf of Mrs P Constantine, thanked the Council for the installation of the steps opposite the Cemetery entrance.

Clerk

Cllr Pullen

Cllr Taylor / Clerk

Maintenance Committee

16.69 APOLOGIES

Councillors Ken Kercher, Mike Smith and Peter Fenwick and District Councillor Ingrid Thomas.

16.70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16.71 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 11th May 2016 having been previously circulated, were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Pullen, seconded by Councillor Penny, **and signed by the Chairman**.
- b) It was reported that for item 16.51e (Speedwatch), Hampshire Constabulary have identified only one location where the equipment can be used but after lobbying, they are now reviewing this with potentially other sites being identified.

16.72 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

- a. **Planning Committee** The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**. Cllr Pullen reported that the last month had been relatively quiet in planning terms. He confirmed that the preparatory work had commenced on the Cala Homes site in Lymington Bottom Road with an access road being established. The actual development expected to commence in mid July 2016. He also highlighted that a revised planning application had been received for the two house near to Medstead Hardware where there has been a previous Permission granted.
- 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 he had finished the “build” of the Medstead Parish Council web site and this was now able to be rolled out with the old site being switched off.
The issue over e mail addresses was discussed with a need to create new e mail addresses as the old domain name of Medstead.hampshire.org would not be supported after July 2016. The Clerk would meet with Councillor Jackson to agree the format etc.
- c. **Maintenance Committee**
- i. **Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) membership.**
The Clerk outlined the benefits of Medstead PC being a member of the ICCM which was founded in 1913 and which provides policy and best practice guidance to Burial and Cremation authorities. The ICCM is the only provider of accredited education and training opportunities for those persons working within the service. It was agreed that the Clerk subscribe to the ICM for an annual fee of £90.
 - ii. **St Andrews Churchyard mowing** – The contractor had requested that additional cuts in area 2 of the Churchyard in June & July be allowed due to the rapid growth of the grass which is causing difficulty for his equipment. Whilst it was recognised that the growth in 2016 was exceptional and the additional cuts would be allowed, this should be considered on an ad hoc basis in the future and the contract would be re-worded for the future.
 - iii. **Cemetery mowing.** Cllr Buckland mentioned that the grass cuttings had not been collected in the last cut. The Clerk would follow up with the contractor.

Cllr Jackson / Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

16.73 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Firstly I would like to pass on to Council thanks from the organisers of the “Clean for the Queen” event for the Parish’s involvement in this event.

I have been invited, on behalf of MPC, to attend the Licensing Service for the new Priest in Charge, Rev Canon Ed Pruen, to be held in Bentworth on 19 July. Once our new vicar has had a chance to settle in he will become one of the Trustees of the Mulcock Charity. County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee (MK-G) and I have been involved in correspondence with Ms Aylot (a resident of Four Marks Parish who walks her children to Medstead School). Ms Aylot was repeating her previous request for the construction of a footway along Roe Downs Road. MK-G has indicated that this is unlikely to be possible whilst I have informed Ms Aylot of the green infrastructure proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan.

16.74 PARISH CLERK REPORT

The Clerk provided an update of the current activity, specifically the installation of the new swings, the seat base in the Cemetery, the steps opposite the Cemetery entrance and the repaired gate to the Green.

There had been no burials at the cemetery in May 2016.

It was reported that he is now at the Parish Office every Wednesday morning from 9am – 1pm for drop in sessions.

16.75 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Jackson - I begin this month with a topic that is not (at least directly) planning....A recent update was given to District Councillors on 1st June by the Leader, Ferris Cowper, providing an EHDC perspective on the topic of Devolution. I was unfortunately unable to attend but will be meeting with others who did at tomorrow night's meeting of full Council. Recent circulations from HCC have illustrated a number of possibilities for devolution: combinations of the bulk of the county either with or without the southern cites and the Isle of Wight. Councillor Fenwick is tonight attending a meeting of EHATPC and I look forward to his report regarding their perspective.

One key issue relating to devolution and one that I know Ingrid is closely following up is the status of the EHDC housing allocation plan – if EHDC ceases to exist under a devolved authority, will the agreed plan still be valid? County Councillor Andrew Joy put this very question on our behalf to the recent meeting of HCC cabinet. As I understand the current situation, any existing Allocations Plans should remain valid and in place until the scheduled review date....however an elected Mayor could request an earlier review, which may or may not receive sufficient votes to be carried. Confusing? I certainly think so!

On the topic of the Landscape Group, many people have commented on the lush undergrowth that abounds at the side of the roads in the district, often making it impossible to walk on the verges. TLG have informed EHDC that they have been experiencing problems with machinery and illness (not sure if the two are related!) and that verge cutting will be back on track before the end of June.

Last month Councillor Pullen and I met with Susie Ralston and Stuart Garside to discuss respectively the current Northfield Stables application and assignment of Tree Protection Orders. The awarding of a TPO is essentially resource driven, with the highest priority being given to trees of particular value that are at risk of being removed. The oak tree adjacent to Junipers is currently being investigated, and as a result of our meeting, the avenue of trees approaching the Convent together with the row of horse chestnuts adjoining Hussell Lane have been moved up the priority list.

There is no news as to whether the Neighbourhood Plan will be subjected to judicial review – we may not find out until the end of June.

Most recently it appears that recent pre-building works have caused potential harm to wildlife on at least one of our new local building sites – I have received a number of emails about this today, but have not yet had a chance to read these in detail. I would stress that anyone with concerns should contact either the relevant Case Officer or Enforcement at EHDC.

As promised, I have started the task of evaluating any increase in reporting of Enforcements following the implementation of the new EHDC Policy. There does seem to be an increase, but this may be associated with the diligence of our local officer, Sean Baldock.

Finally, earlier today I had the opportunity to visit the Veolia Materials Recycling Centre on the A31. This is one of just two sites covering the whole of Hampshire and it was extremely interesting to understand some of the issues associated with the recycling and pre-processing of our waste. This might possibly form the subject of a short magazine article over the summer.

Cllr Thomas – “This month’s highlight was the fantastic result of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. We had a huge turnout 41% is amongst the highest in the country! and of those people who voted an overwhelming majority 93.4% said YES so we have done it! A huge thank you to the steering group who worked so hard on behalf of us all, a truly great achievement in a short time. Thank you. You can read the document on EHDC, Parish Council or Neighbourhood Plan web sites or in the Parish Office. At the EHDC full Council meeting the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted so is now part of Planning Policy and needs to be considered in all applications.

There was a sunny St Georges Day parade at Oak Green, the young people looked extremely smart and it was lovely to see all the flags dry for once. The competition winners had prizes donated by the FMN and the standard was very high well done to all those who entered the competitions.

I went to a meeting with HCC highways engineers to look again at what could be done to improve the flooding issues at Five Ash crossroads. The landowner of the pig farm has built up a bund so this may help a little and if the other land owners whose fields border the crossroads were to be able to ditch their land we could see the problem greatly improved. Highways engineers are looking at making alterations to the pond, to try to improve things too.

We have finally been sent the design for the new pedestrian crossing between Lapwing Way and Goldcrest Way and been promised that it will be installed in July 2016. I am very grateful that it will finally provide a safe crossing for our children even if we have had to wait almost three years!

Highways have produced a report which has looked at some of the junctions on the A31 through the village. This report contains some interesting and some worrying scenarios for the future traffic problems we may face. Our County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee, Medstead Parish Councillor Roy Pullen and myself have read and carefully considered the report. We are united in our belief that a separate pedestrian bridge must be constructed at Boyneswood Road over the railway this being the only way to cross the bridge safely and with increasing traffic. Of course there is the added benefit that new water and sewerage pipes could be put under the new bridge thus avoiding the expense and inconvenience of digging up the existing bridge.

We are also of one mind that any suggestion to prevent traffic from turning right out of Boyneswood Road is unacceptable. Highways department told us there was no severe problem with traffic so now we need them to mitigate the effects of that traffic. We want to see traffic lights installed to enable residents to get out of the end of Boyneswood Road. We are working together with Hampshire Highways to achieve these goals.

The recent applications to build yet more houses in The Shrave have been approved subject to conditions, one of which is that the developer must make improvements to the access onto the A31.

The Blackberry Lane application continues to make its way through the planning system but as the scheme is in the countryside, EHDC can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply and have a complete allocations plan and we have our Neighbourhood Plan I believe there is almost no chance the application will be successful because it is against policy.

The application to build at 68-70 Lymington Bottom Road has been refused, full details are to be found on EHDC website.

Having attended Four Marks Annual Parish meeting last month where Roy Perry the Leader of HCC spoke, this month I attended Medstead Annual Parish meeting. At both, the subject of devolution was raised. Devolution is a rapidly changing subject, nothing is yet agreed nor have negotiations with Central Government been concluded. The original proposal for a combined authority covering the whole of Hampshire was rejected by Central Government, shortly before the budget.

There are proposals for combined authority covering one half of Hampshire and another combined authority covering the other half, a combined authority is where local councils work together to make savings, for example as EHDC has worked with Havant on some issues and with Winchester on others saving a great deal of money.

Hampshire CC on the other hand appear to favour a Unitary Authority as was described in a presentation I attended in Winchester with Parish Councillors from all over Hampshire, this would mean the abolition of the district councils much as they have done in Cornwall. The representative of Cornwall council spoke at the meeting and did little to persuade the audience it had worked well. So all is up in the air and we await a Central Government decision.

When an actual deal with Central Government is offered, public consultation can begin, until then there is nothing to consult on. It is a period of great uncertainty with the only certain fact being that Central Government want to restructure Local Government. When there are facts and proposals I will do my best to communicate them to you.

This month I have processed the grant application for some of the entertainment for our Queens Birthday Celebrations, June 11/12th promises to be a great weekend which I hope is in your diary, there truly is something for everybody.

As ever if there is an East Hampshire problem I can help you with please contact me or Deborah”.

16.76 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 expenditure against budget report to 31st May 2016.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation (as approved by Cllr Taylor) as a 31st May 2016.
- c. The Clerk highlighted that the total of all three bank accounts exceeded the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSSC) guarantee of £75k. It was agreed that the Clerk would take steps to identify a suitable alternative bank and that the Wake account should be considered to be moved across once agreement has been gained from the Trustees.

Clerk

16.77 COUNCIL POLICY

- a. **Annual Parish Assembly** – The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 19th April 2016 were reviewed. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee for an update on item 7.11 being the only outstanding action.
- b. **Standing Orders** - The revised Standing Orders were agreed and proposed by Cllr Pullen and seconded by Cllr Jackson.

Clerk

16.78 FIVE ASH POND – FLOODING

Cllr Pullen reported that he had secured agreement from HCC what was required in term of excavating at the Pond and the Council agreed, proposed by Cllr Pullen and seconded by Cllr Taylor that this should proceed. The Clerk was asked to secure two quotations for the work.

Clerk

16.79 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Village Hall –

- a. No meeting had taken place but Cllr Buckland reported that from the tree lopping, a pile of shredded tree material had been left and needed to be moved.
- b. Further, it was reported that around the Hall, the undergrowth required cutting back. Maintenance Committee to review.
- c. Cllr Buckland mentioned that there was a course on use of the defibrillator would take place on 16th June 2016 at 7.30pm.

Maintenance Committee

Maintenance Committee

Sports Club –

- a. It was reported that the Club was happy with the standard of the mowing.
- b. It was reported that the path from the car park to the Pavilion was becoming uneven and required attention. Maintenance Committee to review.

Maintenance Committee

Community resilience Workshop – Cllr Jackson reported that she had attended the workshop run by EHDC & Hampshire Fire & Rescue. It was designed to ensure that parish councils put emerging resilience in place and especially who to contact in an emerging situation. Cllr Jackson would circulate the details and it should be considered as an e=are to be included on the new Parish web site.

Cllr Jackson / Clerk

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

ChairmanDate.....