

# Medstead Parish Council

**Minutes** of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017** at 7.30pm.

## **Present:**

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

**Also in attendance:** Mrs G Fuzzard & Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

## **Action**

### **17.15 OPEN SESSION**

- a) Mrs Fuzzard highlighted
  - i. the issues with mud, pot holes, damage to the pavement and the speed of construction vehicles in Lymington Bottom Road near to the development sites;
  - ii. the proposed move of the Post Office in Medstead;
  - iii. the proposed allotments at the Cala site and asked whether they would materialise or whether the developer can apply for a change of use;
  - iv. whether the sign in the lay by in Lymington Bottom Road was ambiguously worded.
- b) Cllr Whitcher highlighted the issue over the verge near to Five Ash Rd. It was reported by Cllr Pullen that this has now been addressed.
- c) Cllr Kercher reiterated that the Post Office consultation period ends on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Cllr Jackson agreed to forward on the details again to all Councillors.
- d) Cllr Kercher mentioned that former Medstead councillor John Mcilree had recently passed away.
- e) Cllr Buckland mentioned again the state of the roads generally in the Parish and the Clerk was asked to copy the Medstead comments being prepared to County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee.
- f) Cllr Penny asked who was responsible for “dog mess” on pavements and was advised that EHDC Environmental Health should be informed.
- g) Cllr Penny highlighted the state of the area behind the Hardware Stores and Cllr Jackson agreed to contact the EHDC Enforcement Officer to make them aware.
- h) Cllr Smith detailed the latest Speedwatch activity and despite the notices being displayed in the Village, no additional volunteer had been forthcoming and again asked for additional volunteers to assist. He further thanked Cllr Jackson for the Grant for the “Hi-Vis” clothing.
- i) Cllr Pullen mentioned that the last day of trading for the Post Office in its current location would be 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**Cllr Jackson**

**Clerk**

**Cllr Jackson**

### **17.16 APOLOGIES**

None.

### **17.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## 17.18 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017** having been previously circulated, were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Whitcher, seconded by Councillor Kercher, **and signed by the Chairman.**

### b) Matters Arising

In item 17.1(c), Cllr Kercher mentioned that some of the timings of meetings had been incorrectly recorded by the Medstead Times and the Clerk was asked to contact the Medstead Times to correct.

Clerk

## 17.19 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

### a) Planning Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on **11<sup>th</sup> January 2017** having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. **Chairman Report** - Things have been a little busier for planning committee this last month. I attended a Planning committee at Penns Place for the first time for over 6 months, this time for a reserved matters application on the Bargate Homes site, land north of Boyneswood Lane. They approved the application although there was a lot of discussion amongst the members, so it was worth taking it to committee, so thanks to our Ward Councillor Deborah Jackson for that.

The appeal for the dwellings in Station Approach was upheld so now wait for other applications to roll in on that road. Will be interesting to see how easily or not it is to sell the houses here when built.

Friars Oak still not starting although the William Lacey Group have agreed to have liaison meetings. The first of which was arranged for this Wednesday -the same evening as our planning and full council meetings? However has now been rearranged for 13<sup>th</sup> March.

The application for new retail units and flats over at Lymington Barns is continuing through the process.

- iii. **Cala Homes Allotments / Play Area.** Following an e mail received from Cala Homes regarding the proposed allotments, The Clerk was asked to respond.

Clerk

### b) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- i. No F&GP meeting had been held since the last Full Council meeting.
- ii. **Chairman Report** – It was felt that the planned training courses available from HALC needs to be better communicated to allow better budget planning for training for Medstead Councillors / Clerk. The Clerk was asked to communicate this to HALC.

Clerk

### c) Maintenance Committee

- i. No Maintenance meeting had been held since the last Full Council meeting.
- ii. **Chairman Report –**
  - a. **Trees at URC** - The Clerk had met the URC representative to ascertain the additional work required which included the urgent removal of a large Oak bough which had just party fallen. A quote is awaited for this work.
  - b. **Health & Safety Policy** - This had not been finalised and will be further reviewed by the Maintenance Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and brought back to the next Full Council meeting in March.
  - c. **Playground Equipment** - The Clerk reported that the Day Work Contractor has been asked to repair the ground near to the “Spinner”. He further reported that a repair had been carried out by Playdale to the faulty “Rota Bounce”.
  - d. **Memorial Wall Path** – Cllr Pullen will liaise with Cllr Kercher & Cllr Buckland regarding this work shortly.
  - e. **Sports Pavilion Canopy Quotation** –Trevor Brown (Builders) hope to commence this work in April 2017.
  - f. **Village Green Path** - It was reported that Authorn Ltd hope to commence the work in the forthcoming February half term.

Clerk

Maintenance  
Committee / Clerk

### 17.20 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- The Clerk has taken delivery of the “PrideHantsWide” Rainbow Flag, the loan of which has been requested by pupils of Eggar’s School for a LGBT-themed assembly.
- Recent comments on a Four Marks-based Facebook page have suggested that the “parish council” (Medstead?) have removed a dog waste bin from Station Approach. This is not the case, and although the red dog-waste bin has been removed, this has been replaced by a new, larger bin at the junction with Lymington Bottom Road. (Councillors confirmed that a new “dog bin” has been positioned at the end of the footpath at the Stoney Lane/ Five Ash Road junction.) If dog mess remains a significant problem, it may be possible to ask EHDC to position a further multi-purpose waste bin in the turning area by the entrance to the station.
- Reminder to all councillors that when corresponding with residents and third parties, particularly by email, to please make it clear whether you are speaking as a resident or as a Councillor. If the latter, please ensure that the Clerk and if appropriate, the relevant committee chair are copied.

### 17.21 PARISH CLERK REPORT

- i. Attended Transparency Workshop to understand what has to be published as far as Medstead Parish Council is concerned, being:
  - a. Expenditure exceeding £500;
  - b. Procurement information;
  - c. Annual publication of local authority land;

- d. Grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations;
- e. Constitution;
- f. Fraud.

All the above will be available on the Parish web site shortly after review of content by F&GP Committee.

- ii. Attended Day 3 (of 4) of CILCA course. Have now passed Unit 1; now for Unit 2!
- iii. Revised Health & Safety Policy for further consideration by Maintenance Committee, prior to Full Council adoption.
- iv. Updated Council insurance policy to include recently purchased item (BBQ);
- v. Review and consideration of the Cala Allotment & Play Area allocation following receipt of e mail from Cala requesting details of rules etc. which Medstead PC will be adopting. Response to Cala due following the Full Council meeting.
- vi. Advised Medstead Times of the revised meeting details of Medstead PC.
- vii. Ordered (and delivered to Cllr Smith) Hi-Vis clothing for Speedwatch;
- viii. Faculty application submitted to Winchester Diocese for Cemetery restoration works. The submission will be on the agenda for the DAC meeting to be held on 15 February 2017 and they hope that they will be able to issue papers to make your application for faculty permission to the Chancellor of the Diocese after this;
- ix. Liaised with electrician regarding Pavilion electrical enhancements. All electrical work now completed and certificate of compliance received.
- x. With Cllr. Pullen met owner of Medstead hardware at his request.
- xi. Contacted Mr O'Farrell regarding a meeting for the Mulcock Charity – no response received so far.

## **17.22 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

### **District Councillor Report: Ingrid Thomas**

The beginning of 2017 has been full of plans for the coming year. I nominated Four Marks rec as the venue for the District Health and Wellness Festival. I met with Janet and Sarah who backed the idea and I hope that you will all do so too. I think one reason for being chosen was the great success of the Queen's birthday weekend.

The reason for choosing the recreation ground as the venue is the number of health and fitness ideas that we could include on a flat ground. We can ask the allotments and gardening groups to take part along with all our care, fitness and

leisure groups as all of the aspects of wellness can be included from art and music to the next Four Marks run being organised by Alton Runners.

The suggestion is that we hold it on the 8th or 9th of July, personally I would go for the Sunday as it allows set up time on the Saturday but what do you think?

This event will have demonstrations and opportunities to try all sorts of activities and lifestyle ideas. The plans are at an early stage so please get in touch if you have any ideas or would like a stall at the festival, any activity, healthy food ideas, ideas which make help to keep our community across the district healthier for longer. More details to follow as they are confirmed, this is a great opportunity for us to come together as a community and how we work together.

East Hampshire officers will help with the organisation and contact various groups around the district, they also have access to some tenting and there is some of my grant money left available to pay for any ideas we come up with. The officers are very keen to bring their juice cycle along! Radian are also keen to bring their health check minibus where people can be checked for blood pressure and gain advice. I would like to find a chef who could demo during the day too.

This could be a great event for Four Marks and Medstead and allow us to show others all the good voluntary groups we have here and locally. I am hoping to arrange a steering group meeting to get things underway in the near future and hope that you can all feel able to support the venture.

Our friends up in Medstead will hopefully be involved too as although this is to be held at FM rec there are many clubs and groups who I hope would want to get involved, whether that is organising a stall or joining in with the activities. Four Marks school have offered to do a display of some sort and I will approach Medstead school to do the same.

Other plans include the continuance of the meetings with developers and the beginning of meetings with William Lacey Group. Miller homes announced at a Planning Committee meeting that they would be opening their meetings in Alton to residents so I assume they will extend the same courtesy to our residents in Four Marks and Medstead.

I met the HCC highways engineer on Lymington Bottom Road one day recently he was inspecting the damage done to the road around the bridge both by the lorries and the sweepers. I hope he had better luck persuading Miller homes to wash their lorry wheels on site than we have had so far.

Interestingly both sites off Lymington Bottom Road have started to market their homes so maybe that will encourage them to make less mess. An ongoing battle I fear but Peter and Roy are working on the problem and I doubt will give up.

The poor residents of Medstead Farm and Four Marks Parish Council continue to battle with Charles Church over the poor standards on the site, lack of landscaping, water problems and various other matters. The destruction of dormouse habitat by the developer is outrageous, these animals are protected by law and yet CC took

no notice and removed the hedges anyway. I think this problem has a way to go until it is resolved.

This week in all the snow and ice the new Lollipop Lady at FM school has been excelling herself, putting down grit, taking longer routes and generally offering help to others. We are very lucky to have lots of people who go out of their way to help others in our community and I was wondering if we should consider inventing some kind of award to acknowledge all they do. What do others think?

I'd like to welcome the new Editor of Four Marks News and wish him well in his new position.

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

I start this month with some good news in that the District Councillor community grants for two Medstead-based projects were signed off earlier this week. I will look out for the brightly-clad Speed Watch team monitoring our roads in all weathers, as well as looking forward to being able to sit on a summer evening on the new picnic bench near Medstead's village BBQ.

The Friar's Oak Parish Liaison meeting, originally scheduled for tonight has been postponed until 13<sup>th</sup> March and will be held in Four Marks Village Hall. Although a few weeks away, this is the earliest date that DC Ingrid Thomas was available to chair the meeting. With no plans to start work in the short term, this is not anticipated to cause any significant issue. I am grateful for those involved for enduring that this meeting is advertised as widely as possible on notice boards and within the village magazines.

Heading to the other junction with the A31, Miller and Cala continue to be somewhat tardy with regard to notifying about traffic movements, and are needing the Parish Clerk's continued encouragement that yes, information is still needed, even if there are no predicted changes from the previous week. Whilst the Clerk is trying to identify when the next Liaison meeting will be (should be end February), I am still trying to pin down the actual completion of actions identified at the last liaison meeting. For example, the wheel-wash facility at the Miller site. Confirmation of the installation date was expected before Christmas, with the equipment up and running by the end of January. I believe that Cala have, at last, got all the required traffic management signage erected, although there are two that still need to be double-checked.

As Councillors may be aware, work recently started at the Croudace site at Cedar Stables, with earth-moving vehicles leaving the site in a northerly direction, rather than through Medstead village centre and adding to the building congestion at the two bridges onto the A31. Although in accordance with the conditioned and agreed Construction Management Plan (CMP), this caused concern for some residents of Bentworth, who bombarded the Clerk of Medstead Parish Council with complaints, then asked their District Councillor to act on their behalf. There have been some heated comments, and for the past 10 days I have been trying to resolve the current difficulties. It appears that not only did the case officer mistakenly inform the Bentworth Ward Councillor that no CMP existed, but further inspection showed the CMP document that had been uploaded onto the EHDC website to be an early draft, and not the final Plan that had been agreed Senior Officers.

Meanwhile the developer has been operating according to the plan that they had agreed to work to! So all in all, a series of clerical oversights (no doubt resulting from the Officer workload), that have had significant local impact. I am in contact with the Case Officer and I am hopeful that this will be sorted out over the next few days.

Further to a recent on-site meeting with Four Marks residents and a case officer, I have been informed that an EHDC press release is to be made; reminding all developers of the need to adhere to approved plans and that approval to changes must be sought before they are made on site and not retrospectively. Whilst I fully support this type of communication, the overwhelming message I am hearing from local residents is a lack of trust in the planning process, with developers being able to get away with whatever they want. Any press release of this nature needs to be both enforceable and enforced!

Following concerns expressed by a householder in Hussell Lane, I am working with Mark Kemp Gee to see what improvements can be made to the pedestrian "refuge track" running from "Gavel Acre" to The Green. The track, which is not wide enough to take a pavement, is being driven over by lorries and no longer serving its purpose. If re-elected our County Councillor is hoping that, with the support of the Parish Council, it will be possible to make some improvements here.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February I attended the meeting of the EHDC Planning Committee, for the Reserved Matters application for the Bargate development on land to the North of Boyneswood Lane. Despite representation from local residents requesting refusal, and from the Parish Council and me asking that the application be returned to the Officers and developers for re-consideration, the site layout was unanimously approved. The only minor concession we did obtain was a condition preventing the cutting of additional private accesses (pedestrian gates etc.) from new the houses onto Boyneswood Lane. Only time will tell as to how enforceable this condition actually proves to be.

In the last month I have also attended meetings of the Environmental Services Committee (JESC), Development Policy Panel (DPP) and the Alton Community Forum. The main discussions at the recent Joint Environmental Services Committee related once again around the topic of litter particularly that dropped along the major roads. From the comments received by the two councils (EHDC and Winchester), this is a significant concern for many residents and something that needs to be focussed on. A number of other potential improvements to some of the waste and recycling services are also in the pipeline, but are currently only in very early stages. DPP provided members with an update on progress with Part 3 of the Local Plan, which will include a review of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the district. At the Community Forum we were given number of presentations highlighting the potential impact that the bicentenary of Jane Austen's death (d1817) will have on tourism in Alton and the surrounding area. Tom Horwood (Exec Director of EHDC) also explained a little about the forthcoming boundary review within the district, where it is planned for a consistent electorate for each district councillor based upon the predicted population in 2023. Interestingly, Ingrid and I represent 28% more residents than when these figures were originally calculated, the largest increase in the whole of EHDC!

### 17.23 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Transaction detail</u>
11/01/2017	2599	Clerk	785.04	Clerk Salary (Dec 16)
12/01/2017	2600	Clerk	81.50	Clerk expenses (Dec 16)
13/01/2017	2601	Nimrod Fire	47.90	Fire Extinguisher Inspection
14/01/2017	2602	SE Water	23.41	Water (Cemetery)
15/01/2017	2603	Acorn Office Supplies	139.19	Filing cabinet
16/01/2017	2604	P J Grace	2571.00	P Grace (Cemetery & Pond)
17/01/2017	2605	Scott Stewart	75.23	Day Work Contractor
18/01/2017	2606	HMRC	826.63	HMRC Q3 Payment
07/12/2016	DD	Vodafone	17.00	Mobile Phone Contract
07/12/2016	2607	Toolstation	215.68	Hi Vis Clothing - Speedwatch

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for the Nat West Wake Trust (as approved by Cllr Taylor) as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliations (as approved by Cllr Penny) as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

### 17.24 MEDSTEAD POND(S)

- i. **Five Ash Pond** – No further update since last month.
- ii. **Village Pond Restoration.** No further activity since last month.

### 17.25 DEVOLUTION

Cllr Jackson had circulated prior to the meeting a round-up of the last week's stories relating to EHDC in the local media which included an article from the Liphook Herald suggesting that the Solvent Combined Authority bid looks unlikely to proceed.

### 17.26 MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL – CAR PARK

Cllr Pullen suggested that a meeting should take place with the Village Hall committee to discuss the future long term plans for the Hall. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chairman of the Village Hall committee to arrange.

Clerk

This will remain a standing agenda item.

### 17.27 HUSSELL LANE "NARROWS"

It was reported that HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee had contacted Cllr Jackson regarding the condition of the narrow footway on Hussell Lane, between "Gavel Acre" and Foul Lane and the difficulty being experienced by pedestrians as a result. A pedestrian refuge was previously constructed when the road was closed to alleviate the flooding but has become unsafe, having been eroded by



traffic He would like to ascertain whether Medstead Parish Council would support the idea of improving and extending this footway to The Green. After discussion, it was agreed that there was insufficient land available on either side of the road to widen the path and that no one wished to see a fully tarmac pavement. It was felt that a higher kerb would improve the situation and Cllr Jackson would feed back to Cllr Kemp-Gee.

**Cllr Jackson**

#### **17.28 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL SCEHDULE OF MEETINGS 2018**

The Clerk had circulated a provisional listing of 2018 dates and these were approved. The Clerk would contact the Bookings Secretary for the Village Hall.

**Clerk**

Discussion then centred on the forthcoming Annual Assembly and those to be invited. The Clerk would take this forward.

**Clerk**

#### **17.29 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS**

Future Christmas lighting was discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact the Fete Committee suggesting that the Parish council take over this responsibility.

**Clerk**

#### **17.30 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Buckland reported that a new editor had been appointed for the Medstead Times.

He further reported that the Village Hall was putting on film evenings with possible support from the Rotary Club. A new licence was required to allow the showings.

Cllr Jackson reported that EHDC had circulated details of the nationwide litter pick on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. It was agreed that whilst the Council would not actively participate, it would be advertised on the notice boards and the web site.

**Clerk**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

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