

MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29th APRIL 2015 AT MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM

Present:

Cllr Ken Kercher (Chairman); Cllrs Peter Buckland, Hans Taylor, and Councillor Roy Pullen (reserve member). There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Also present: Miss Katie Knowles (Clerk).

15.01 OPEN SESSION

a) **Councillor Buckland** raised the following issues:

- Badgers were active in the Cemetery and it is not clear at this stage if they are establishing a new set. Currently the activity is not close to any graves but their activity would need to be monitored and advice sort.
- A resident had recently visited Medstead Cemetery and had expressed concern that a large mature Cupressus tree was in close proximity to the grave she was visiting. If some of the lower branches are removed this would improve the accessibility to the grave.
- The area around the cupboard housing the tap is often muddy and slippery in wet weather and would be improved with some slabs at the base.
- The hedge on Hussell Lane (Convent side) needs cutting back.

b) **Councillor Taylor** confirmed that he had looked at the trees outside the school reported by Mr Coles at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the matter to the Highways Engineer.

c) **Councillor Pullen** reported that the Notice board for the Cemetery and Boyneswood Road had been delivered.

15.02 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jean Penny.

15.03 MINUTES

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2015 having been previously circulated, **were agreed and a true record and were signed by the Chairman.**
- b. There were no matters raised on the February minutes.

15.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15.05 MEDSTEAD CEMETERY

The Committee considered a number of proposed amendments to the Cemetery Regulations summarised as follows:

- 1 Graves (marking of graves, observing safe practices during the grave digging process, reporting relevant issues back to the Council and the required distance between graves.)
- 2 Interments (change to the permitted times for interments to reflect the winter months)
- 3 Memorials (to insert the metric measurements as stated elsewhere in the regs.)
- 4 Responsibility & Inspection of Memorials (introduction of a charge against a grave where no identifiable owner can be traced and the Council have to carry out works to make a memorial safe)
- 5 Burial Rights (ability of the Parish Council to purchase back a Burial Right during its 50yrs, that is no longer required, for same fee it was purchased at and the introduction of a maximum number of persons that may purchase a Burial Right).

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendments as discussed.

15.06 VILLAGE GREEN

- a) The Committee received an update from the Clerk on the new playground project which it is anticipated will be installed prior to the start of the summer holidays. The contractor requires a 50% deposit which the Clerk was in the process of organising.
- b) The Committee considered if any preparatory works would be required prior to the start on the installation. The Committee agreed that the brambles behind the current area needed to be cut back and overhanging branches removed. The Clerk also highlighted that there was a single low level branch overhanging the junior swings which needed to be removed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk arrange for a contractor to carry out all identified works.
- c) The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve a marquee on the Green next to the Village Hall for the Village Fete Committee Summer Ball on 13th July 2015.

15.07 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

a) & b) The Committee considered works programme for improvements to footpaths and a project list for 15/16 and the following actions were agreed:

- Footpath 16 – Surfacing the remainder of the footpath at the rear of Greenstile.
- Phased improvements to the Green Infrastructure paths identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- To investigate the feasibility of a footpath from the Five Ash Road junction that links to The Knapp.
- To install a Village Hall & Church Hall Fingerpost in the High Street.

As this was the last meeting of the Committee before the election and the Annual Meeting, the Chairman thanked the Committee members for all their work over the past year.

At the conclusion of the discussions the meeting was closed at 8.05pm

SignedChairman

Date.....