

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** held on
31st October 2016 at 7.30pm at Four Marks Village Hall.

Present:

Councillor Deborah Jackson (Chair to 8.30)
Councillor Roy Pullen (Chair from 8.30)
Councillor Ken Kercher
Councillor Peter Fenwick.

Also present: Peter Baston, Clerk to the Council.

Action

16.45 OPEN SESSION

None were raised.

16.46 APOLOGIES

None.

16.47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16.48 MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2016 **were agreed** by Cllr Kercher and seconded by Cllr Fenwick and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- b) No other matters arising.

16.49 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This was agreed by Committee and would be submitted to Full Council for adoption.

Clerk

16.50 2017/18 LOCAL GOVERNEMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT

- a) The Technical Consultation had been submitted by the Clerk on line following comments received from Councillors.
- b) The contents of the HALC letter of 24th October to the Minister of State for Local Government were noted.

16.51 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL 2017/18 BUDGET / PRECEPT

Committee reviewed the draft figures presented by the Clerk and with a few amendments, this will be tabled at the next Full Council meeting for approval.

Clerk

16.52 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Two applications had been received from Medstead Pre School and Nursery and Victim Care Service. After debate, it was agreed that Medstead Pre School and Nursery would be awarded £800 with Victim Care Service awarded £200. This would be tabled at Full Council for approval.

Clerk

16.53 EHDC PARISH CHARTER

Medstead Parish Council has reviewed the proposed Charter and while they consider the principles to be laudable, they are concerned as to the practical implications and unnecessary interference in parish business.

Additionally, the Council consider that whilst the form of devolution in East Hampshire is unresolved, it would be inappropriate to sign this charter as it may be used politically by the competing options.

Turning to the detail of the document the council wish to highlight the following concerns:

- Paragraph 2. Information, Social Media and Information
- T & PC's undertake to:
 - d) This is superfluous as councils have a duty to manage their precepts according to their community's wishes. Central government is already threatening to interfere in financial management of parishes and any opportunity for the District Council to interfere in the independence of parish council must be resisted at all costs.
 - g) This parish will provide information to its community in a manner which it deems appropriate.
- Paragraph 3. Consultation and Joint Governance
 - The principle of shared accountability is contrary to best management principles and cannot be supported.
 - T & PC's Undertake to:
 - c) The Parish Council fully support working together with the District Council to resolve contentious issues but considers that there will have to be a major cultural change in the District Council, at all levels. This must be reflected in what the District Council undertakes to do.
- Paragraph 4. Practical Support and Training
 - c) The word "Familiarise" is too weak.
 - Add additional paragraph committing the District Council to a cultural change programme and the inclusion of Parish and Town Council representatives to provide a balance and a 'customer' perspective. This programme is particularly relevant to improving relations with the Planning Department.
- Paragraph 5. Sustainability and Planning
- East Hampshire District Council undertakes to:
 - b) This is a vital commitment which the District Council must consistently adhere. There are currently too many instances of commitments being made only to be reneged.
 - Add additional paragraph committing the District Council to holding informative discussions with Parish and Town Councils on all major/controversial planning application over and above statutory requirements.

The association is named East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils and the document must be signed as such to have any validity. Throughout the document the association is miss named as a party to the Charter.

16.54 CILCA 2015

Following a request by the Clerk, it was agreed that the Clerk's hours should be increased from 20 to 23 per week to allow him the additional time to study for the CILCA qualification. This would be for an initial period of one year (the advised duration of required study). One caveat was that should the Clerk leave the Council whilst studying, or within one year of completing the qualification, then any payment received by him in that time for the additional hours would be repaid to Medstead Parish Council. This would be taken to Full Council for agreement.

Clerk

Cllr Jackson left the meeting. Cllr Pullen took over the Chair.

16.55. S106 FUNDING

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk contact EHDC following the e mail from the Developer Contributions Monitoring Officer at EHDC.

Clerk

16.56 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

This was reviewed by Committee and would be tabled at Full Council for adoption

Clerk

16.57 MEDSTEAD CEMETERY

- a. **Future Planning** – The Clerk had written to the two neighbouring land owners regarding possible purchase of land. One had responded and stated that the land was not for sale. No other response had been received and the Clerk was asked to re-write again to the second land owner.
- b. **Memorial Wall Path** – Cllr Pullen agreed to take this forward once his commitments with the Pond restoration had been completed.
- c. **Memorial Plaques.** Following a couple of casual comments to the Clerk, a notice will be displayed in the Cemetery Notice Board highlighting the availability of memorial plaques for the Memorial Wall.
- d. **Cemetery Fees** – It was agreed that the current fee structure should be retained and reviewed again in 12 months' time. This would be taken to Full Council for agreement
- e. **Wake Trust – Memorial Repairs.** Cllr Fenwick questioned whether there could be repercussions if repairs were made to memorials without the agreement of the relatives. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the ICCM to seek a view as to whether work could be considered and what if any action needed to be taken prior to such work.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

16.58 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

In the absence of Cllr Jackson, this item would be held over to the next meeting. Cllr Fenwick did report though that the incorrect e mail address is being shown in the Medstead Times and the Clerk was asked to contact the Medstead times to get this changed.

Clerk

At the conclusion of the items on the agenda the meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....