

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** of Medstead Parish Council held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 17th March 2015** at 7.45pm.

Present:

Councillors Roy Pullen (Vice-Chairman), Ken Kercher, Peter Buckland, Peter Fenwick and Jean Penny and Hans Taylor (from 8.40pm). There were no members of the public present.

Also in attendance: District Councillor Maurice Johnson, Lisa Stevenson for item 8 (minute ref 14.79) and Miss Katie Knowles, Clerk.

Councillor Roy Pullen opened the meeting on behalf of the Chairman. He informed Councillors that both the Chairman and Cllr Taylor both had prior commitments and would endeavour to join the meeting as soon as possible.

14.72 OPEN SESSION

There were no matters raised in the open session.

At the conclusion of the Open Session, Standing Orders were applied.

14.73 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mike Smith and Stan Whitcher.

14.74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kercher reported that if the rent review process is discussed under the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 25th February 2015, he would have to declare a non-statutory personal interest as he is Treasurer of the Sport Club.

14.75 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on **20th January 2015** having been **previously circulated** were amended with the correct minute reference under 14.71 and were then **proposed as a true record**, by Councillor Fenwick and seconded by Councillor Penny, and **were signed by the Chairman**.
- b) The following updates were received concerning the Minutes of the previous meeting:
 - Minute Ref: 14.62 – Councillor Kercher reported that the representative of Royal Mail that he and the Clerk met in September 2014 had issued his decision regarding the relocation of the post box situated outside the Village Hall. He has recommended to locate it to the verge outside the Tennis Club which was against the Parish Council's wishes. Cllr Kercher had voiced his concerns regarding this location at the site meeting at it would be inaccessible at certain times of the day due to the volume of parked vehicles and general traffic congestions associated with the School. On the basis that the Council's preferred location of the Village Green had been discounted and the Parish Council had agreed to finance the relocation on the basis that it was located there, Councillor Kercher proposed that the Council's offer is withdrawn. Councillor Kercher's proposal was unanimously supported. The Clerk confirmed that the withdrawal of the offer to fund the relocation had been mooted with Royal Mail and it have been confirmed that the relocation would not take place. Finally, Councillor Kercher reported that the replacement post box for Paice Lane had been confirmed.
 - Minute Ref 14.65 (b) Councillor Fenwick reported he was no longer a Governor at Medstead School.
 - Minute Ref 14.65 (C) The works had commenced at Five Ash Road pond.

14.76 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORT

- a) The minutes of the **Planning Committee** held on 11th February 2015 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**. Councillor Pullen having previously circulated a report took questions. Councillor Fenwick reported that the Barn End application will be considered by the Districts Planning Committee on 2nd April 2015.

Councillor Kercher asked if Alton's Neighbourhood Plan pre submission consultation document had given sufficient weight to the development of a Western Bypass. Councillor Fenwick confirmed that the Planning Committee had reviewed the plan and had agreed to make comments on behalf of the Parish Council which included disappointment that the need to build a western bypass has not been given greater prominence in the plan. It was however recognised that this was outside the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- b) The minutes of the **Maintenance Committee** held on 25th February 2015 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**. Councillor Kercher reported that the Maintenance Committee had only received one quotation for the construction of the Memorial Wall which was excessively high. Councillor Pullen had since kindly offered to construct the base on a voluntary basis with the materials being sourced through WKL where the Council has an account. Councillor Pullen would be able to start the construction of the base during the summer. It was therefore proposed that the Committee does not seek any further quotations which was supported by Council. Councillor Kercher further reported that the Committee had considered a request from the environment group of the Parish Plan Committee to carry out some works on the Green to manage the brambles in the copse area and the cricket boundary with Hussell Lane up to the Jubilee Oak, and the encroachment of the grass onto the Green footpath. The Clerk had since confirmed that the request was to the Parish Council to carry out the works and she had sought a quotation for the works from Chris Sparkes who has a license to use weed killer in public places. The quotation for the work was £200 and Councillor Kercher proposed that the Council accept the quote. Councillor Buckland seconded the recommendation which was AGREED by all.
- c) The minutes of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** held on 25th February 2015 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**.

14.77 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Pullen reported on behalf of the Chairman that:

- 5 Members of Medstead Parish Council went to Headley Parish Council on the evening of 9th March for the presentation of the Kirk Shield to Katie by Steven Lugg.
- Due to unforeseen absenteeism, the scheduled photograph of Medstead Parish Council this evening is now planned for the Annual Parish Meeting.
- All Councillors are invited to view the presentation this weekend of the finalised draft Neighbourhood Plan at the Church of the Good Shepard (Friday and Saturday) or Medstead Village Hall on Sunday.
- This is the last full meeting of Council before the May elections. Councillor Pullen on behalf of the Chairman thanked all the Councillors for their hard work & endeavours on behalf of the community. Councillor Kercher proposed that a record of thanks is recorded to Deborah Jackson for all her hard work during the year as the Chairman, which was unanimously supported.
- Any councillors wishing to stand for re-election need to complete the application pack sent to all by Katie.

14.78 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Johnson reported that that this was his penultimate meeting, after 28 years' service and he would be standing down at the May elections. He thanked the Chairman and Councillors for their curtesy and cheerfulness. He reported that:

- The Planning Department were still facing huge pressures.
- All of his District Councillor grant had been allocated this year.
- There would be no increase in EHDC's proportion of the Council Tax.
- The District Council are actively recruiting more walk leaders for the 'Walking to Health' scheme and training is provided.

Councillor Fenwick, on behalf of Medstead Parish Council recorded a vote of thanks to Maurice for all his efforts for the Parish over the years which was unanimously supported.

14.79 MEDSTEAD A WILD FLOWER VILLAGE – DRAFT DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Councillor Pullen closed the meeting to allow Lisa Stevenson to present her report (dated the 8th March 2015) which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Lisa summarised the motivation behind the concept of a wild flower walk. As a resident of Cedar Stables, the land that had been secured on the northern boundary as part of the development of the site which would be a wild flower meadow needed to be accessible to the Community. Her aspiration is that the land would be linked by a looped walk into the Village and School incorporating many key

assets in the Village including the Convent. Lisa reported that she had started discussions with the landowners and been in touch with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and elements of her concept have been taken forward in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. As one of the main landowners, Lisa wanted to seek the view of the Parish Council. Councillor Pullen thanked Lisa Stevenson for her presentation and opened the meeting. After a brief discussion on the infrastructure and delivery timetable it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supported the concept of Medstead as a Wild Flower Village as set out in the report presented by Lisa Stevenson.

8.40pm Cllr Hans Taylor joined the meeting.

14.80 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the income and expenditure reports for January 2015.
- b) The expenditure against budget report up to 28th February 2015 circulated at the meeting was incomplete and was therefore deferred to the next meeting.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2015.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the introduction of charges for the transfer of Burial Rights as detailed in the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 25th February 2015.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to pay a proportionate subscription cost of £70 of the Clerk's membership fees to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

14.81 VILLAGE GREEN

The Clerk reported that Playdale Playgrounds had offered a further reduction to the cost of the scheme considered by Members at the January meeting. The revised cost is now £41,595.90. The Clerk confirmed that funding had been secured from the County Councillor grant scheme (£1,000) and the Parish Plan Committee (£2,000). The decision on the Council's application for S106 funds (£30,000) is still to be confirmed. With confirmation from EHDC, the Clerk reported that the Parish Council would have sufficient funds to place an order with Playdale Playgrounds. Due to timescales the Clerk requested that subject to confirmation of the S106 funds from EHDC the Clerk is permitted to place an order Playdale Playgrounds. Councillor Fenwick proposed that the Clerks proposal is approved to avoid any further delays, which was seconded by Councillor Buckland and **AGREED** by all.

14.82 VILLAGE POND RESTORATION

Councillor Taylor reported that he had so far obtained two quotes for the works to be carried out, but was having difficulty obtaining a third. Sources of funding are currently being researched which include S106 funds (Environmental Improvements) and the Veolia Trust.

14.83 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) **Village Hall** – Councillor Buckland reported that meeting of the Management Committee had been held on 27th January and 24th February. As you will have seen the new signs have been installed at the road entrance and are now illuminated. At three quarters of the way through the current financial year predictions are that letting income will be about the same as last year. Certain expenditure on maintenance and cleaning has increased. Cleaning arrangements have just been changes because the previous group had grown to become VAT rated and therefore would need to pass on the 20% increase. Replacement and some extra chairs have been ordered with thanks to Maurice for his District Councillor grant allocation towards this.
- b) **Sports Club** – Councillor Kercher reported that the Sports Club had renewed the contract with British gas for the next two years and that the clubs cricket groundsman had returned from his travels.
- c) **Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** – Councillor Pullen had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Councillor Pullen highlighted the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan Draft that Councillors will be asked to consider and accept at an extraordinary meeting of Council on 15th April. He reported that this was a hugely important document and could, if accepted by the electorate, have far reaching effects on our area in the coming years and has been shown to have a great influence on Planning Inspectors when deciding planning appeals in areas where Neighbourhood Plans have been in place.
- d) **Parish Plan Committee** – Councillor Pullen reported that the Parish Plan Committee had met on 16th February with the necessary constitution documents being reviewed and approved. £3,688.38 is currently held, of which £2,000 is earmarked for playground use. The Committee agreed that funds could also be drawn off to support the purchase and installation of a defibrillator. It was agreed that, for the time being the committee would

remain in existence and would support the completion of the pond restoration project and assist with the applications for grants to support Parish projects.

At the conclusion of the discussions the meeting was closed at 9.20pm

ChairmanDate.....