

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** of Medstead Parish Council held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 16th September 2014** at 7.45pm.

Present:

Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), R Pullen (Vice-Chairman), K Kercher, P Buckland, P Fenwick, J Penny and H Taylor.

Also in attendance: District Councillors Ingrid Thomas and Maurice Johnson, Damian Walsh, Eastleigh Borough Council and Karen Wright, Hampshire County Council regarding the proposed footway on Lymington Bottom Road and Miss Katie Knowles, Clerk.

14.34 OPEN SESSION

- a) Damian Walsh and Karen Wright had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the proposed footway on the Lymington Bottom Road. Karen Wright explained that the scheme was identified in a feasibility study conducted in 2012 in liaison with Four Marks Parish Council. The scheme will be funded from contributions from development in the Four Marks Parish. The proposed footway will provide a safe pedestrian route from the A31 to Medstead, as far as the Five Ash Road junction. Councillors raised a number of issues including:
- The Parish Plan identified that Lymington Bottom Road was in need of a footpath.
 - The school bus no longer picks up from the Five Ash Road pond and the bus service in the Parish has been reduced to a minimum service. As a result people have to walk along Lymington Bottom Road to the A31.
 - Concern was expressed that a footpath would erode the rural nature of the area and that further work could be done on the design to reflect the Village.
 - There may be a perception of residents that a footway will lead to further development in the Parish.
 - Concern was expressed in respect of the bridge and the impact for drivers if the carriage way width is reduced. Currently the carriage way currently is a width and a half which gives some drivers the impression that there is room for two way traffic despite the traffic priority signs.

Damian Walsh confirmed that he would revisit the design of the footpath to better reflect Medstead and proposed that a site meeting with Cllrs at the bridge would be beneficial to look at the different options for the carriageway width and effectiveness of the priority signs.

- b) Mrs Constantine highlighted that domestic vegetation may have been deposited on the footpath linking Greenstile to the Cemetery. She also asked if the Parish Council could contact Mr Read about the condition of the fence at the building site at the rear of the Handy Stores.
- c) Councillor Buckland highlighted that the seat next to the bus shelter in the High Street would benefit from a coat of wood preservative.

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

14.35 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors Smith and Whitcher.

14.36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported.

14.37 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Tuesday 15th July 2014 having been **previously circulated** were proposed as a true record by Cllr Pullen, seconded by Cllr Penny, and **signed by the Chairman**.
- b) **Minute ref: 14.30C** - Councillor Pullen reported that the planning permission granted for a site in Lovedean (Horndean Parish) that was called in for review by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had been deemed acceptable and will not be determined by the Secretary of State. It is anticipated that a decision in respect of the Friars Oak 'call-in' will be announced in approximately two weeks.
- c) **Minute Ref 14.25b** – Councillor Kercher reported that the post box on Paice Lane had not yet been replaced.

14.38 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

- a) The minutes of the **Planning Committee** held on 13th August 2014 and 10th September 2014 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**. Councillor Pullen circulated his report prior to the meeting. He added that the two applications for Cedar Stables were refused by the District Councils Planning Committee against the recommendation of the Officer. Councillor Pullen referred to the recent correspondence from the District regarding the status of the 5 year land supply, which now stands at 4.7 years with a shortfall of 150 dwellings. Finally Councillor Pullen reported that the Planning Committee had written a letter of complaint regarding the condition and use of the land north of the Telephone Exchange on Lymington Bottom Farm.
- b) The minutes of the **Maintenance Committee** held on 27th August 2014 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**. Councillor Kercher reported that the plans for a memorial wall at the Cemetery have been drawn up by Councillor Buckland and the location in the Cemetery, had been agreed by the Committee. The plans have been sent to the Four Marks and Medstead Rotary for consideration. After receiving two quotes a contractor to carry out some tree works in the Cemetery was agreed by the Committee. Councillor Kercher reported that Brian Marshall, a footpath officer, had contacted the Clerk via Cllr Kercher to seek permission to carry out improvement works at the Knapp employing a local contractor to carry out the works and fund the project in full. The proposed works are to: Clear a 5m wide path from the top of Paice Lane to the Soldridge Rd exit gate by clearing all dead and dying bushes/trees, chipping them and providing a dry path for people to use. The canopy will also be opened up allowing some light to penetrate through and dry the area. He also plans to sow some native wild flowers in the spring and hope get the floor rejuvenated. The Council supported the generous offer of Mr Marshall but proposed that the works should be monitored on site and contact with Mr Marshall and that a copy of the proposed contractor's public liability insurance should be obtained for the Councils records.
- c) The minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on 27th August 2014 having been previously circulated, **were ratified**. Councillor Pullen who chaired the meeting reported that the Committee reviewed the Council's Standing Orders which will come to Council for ratification in November.

14.39 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Thomas circulated her report prior to the meeting and had no additional information to report. There were no questions. Councillor Johnson had no additional matters to report.

14.40 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the income and expenditure reports for July and August 2014.
- b) The expenditure against budget report up to 31st August 2014 **was received and noted**.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation as at 31st July 2014.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure of £250 to relocate the post box outside the Village Hall to a more accessible location, still to be agreed.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant allocation of £1,000 to the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

14.41 REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the Councils revised Financial Regulations subject to the following amendments:
Page 4 – Paragraph 1.14 replace the figure of £5,000 with £500
Page 8 – Paragraph 6.6 Delete

14.42 VILLAGE GREEN

- a) Councillor reconsidered a request to install a convex mirror on the Green at the entrance to Foul Lane from the owner of 2 Manor Cottages. The Clerk confirmed that the hedge on the boundary had been cut and that any obstruction on the drive way that may have prevented adequate turning space was no longer there. After a discussion regarding the high-visibility housing around the mirror and the importance of road safety it was **RESOLVED** to grant permission subject to the following conditions:
 - I. That the mirror housing is an appropriate dark colour (black or brown)
 - II. That the pole that the mirror is mounted upon is also a dark colour (black or brown)
 - III. That the Parish Council as the landowner reserves the right to review the permission and / or request that the mirror is removed at any time.

- b) Councillor Fenwick introduced the item. Councillors were asked to consider two options for revised scheme for the junior play area from Hand Made Places. Councillor Kercher expressed concern that the bonded rubber mulch material only had a guarantee for 2 years. After some discussion Councillor Fenwick proposed that the Council progress option 2 with the bonded rubber mulch. Councillor Pullen made a counter proposal that the Council progress option 1 with the bonded rubber mulch and this was seconded by Councillor Kercher. Councillor Fenwick withdrew his proposal. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council continue negotiations with Hand Made Places on **Option 1 with the rubber mulch material** subject to the supplier reviewing its 2 year guarantee. Councillor Taylor abstained from voting as he felt he did not have enough information to make a decision.
- c) Councillor Taylor presented his report, previously circulated. Councillor voted on the following recommendation: **Medstead Parish Council agrees to continue the detailed planning for the creation and maintenance of the pond at the site of the current soak away at the junctions of High Street, Hussell Lane, Roe Downs Road and South Town Road, in accordance with the details set out by Mr Jones-Parry in his report of November 2012 with a view to getting the final detailed plan to every household in the Parish to give them an opportunity to vote prior to any works on site commencing.**
6 Councillors voted **in favour** of the recommendation and **1** Councillor **voted against**. Councillor Buckland **abstained** from the vote.

14.43 INTERNAL COUNCIL MATTERS

- a) (Item a. and d. were taken together). It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Councillor Fenwick to attend the HALC AGM on Saturday 4th October.
- b) The Council considered the provision of an office base for the Parish Council at the new Parish Office for Four Marks Parish Council at a unit at Lymington Barns. It was **RESOLVED** approve the provision of an office base for Medstead Parish Council at the new Parish Office of Four Marks Parish Council at a unit at Lymington Barns subject to confirmation from FMPC that a lease agreement in place with the landlord and that rent will be paid.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the abbreviated Cemetery Regulations reviewed by the Maintenance Committee at its meeting on 27th August 2014.

14.44 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Village Hall – Councillor Buckland reported that it had been a relatively quiet period during the summer months and school holidays. There had been one meeting of the Village Hall Trustees on 22nd July since the last Parish Council meeting. Access to the car park was closed for a 24hour period to maintain as private property ownership. **The Annual General Meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday 23rd September.**
- b) Sports Club – Councillor Kercher reported that the Parish Councils proposal to increase the rent was being considered by the Sports Club.
- c) Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Councillor Pullen reported that there has been several meetings and the Plan is moving forward. A bank account for the Group is almost operational and a consultant hopefully will be decided at a meeting tomorrow evening. There is still a need for more people to come forward to participate in various section of the NP e.g. Education, Health, Community etc. The Steering Group have had various meetings at Penns Place with varying success and there are at least two more in the pipeline. A logo have been agreed and a website, twitter and facebook are all in hand. The NP launch event will take place on **Saturday 25th October between 9.30am – 4.00pm at St Marks Church, Four Marks.**
- d) East Hants Association of Town and Parish Councils (EHATPC) – Councillor Jackson attended the meeting on behalf of Councillor Fenwick. There was a presentation from County Councils Highways contractor Amey covering future projects, filling pot holes and plans to link up with the utilities when digging up the roads. EHDC are looking for volunteers to help test their new website. Councillor Fenwick reported that he was the nominated representative for the group and would be working with the District to test the website. Parish Councils have been invited to submit articles for the Partners magazine.
- e) Parish Plan Committee – Councillor Jackson reported that there had been no further meetings.

The meeting was closed at 9.51pm

ChairmanDate.....