

# Medstead Parish Council

**Minutes** of the **Council Meeting** of Medstead Parish Council held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014** at 7.45pm.

**Present:**

Cllrs R Pullen, K Kercher, P Buckland, P Fenwick, S Whitcher, M Smith, J Penny.

**Also in attendance:** District Councillors Ingrid Thomas and Maurice Johnson, Cllr Paul Turner Chairman of Four Marks Parish Council (FMPC), four members of the public and Miss Katie Knowles, Clerk.

**Vice-Chairman Cllr Pullen, chaired the Council meeting.**

## 14.22 OPEN SESSION

- Cllr Paul Turner Chairman of FMPC, stated that he was interested to hear Medstead Parish Council's views on the proposals set out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. In particular, the recommendation that the steering group become a formal Sub-committee of both Parish Councils and that at least two Councillors are nominated, as members of the steering group. He reported that Four Marks Parish Council were meeting tomorrow night (16<sup>th</sup> July) and will be discussing the same proposals.
- Mrs Constantine highlighted the state of the building site at the rear of the Hardware Store. The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the broken fence and the condition of the site to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Hampshire Highways. The HSE had confirmed that as it is not an active building site the enforcement responsibility rests with the District Council. Councillor Thomas offered to make enquiries. She also enquired whether the recent road improvements would be extended to the rest of the High Street and Hussell Lane. The Clerk will make enquiries.
- Residents of Hussell Lane highlighted a number of safety concerns about the bend on Hussell Lane at the entrance to Foul lane relating to the agenda item on the proposed reinstatement of the traffic mirror at the entrance of Foul Lane.
- Mr Cole referred to the resurfacing works in the High Street and made a request that the Parish Council liaise with the County Council in advance these works in the future to ensure that any known areas of standing water on the Highway can be addressed.
- Cllr Buckland highlighted that the bowed rail section of the church fence had not been replaced. Cllr Pullen agreed to chase the contractor again. He also informed Council that a number of national commemorative events will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> August to commemorate the start of the WW1. A national 'Lights Out' will take place between 10pm to 11pm, and people are asked to leave only a single light or candle lit.
- Cllr Penny reported that footpath 16 had been cut by the Lengthsman as agreed by the Maintenance Committee however all the arising's had been left on the path. The Clerk confirmed that he was asked to leave all the arising's at the bottom of the Cemetery and would follow this up.

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

## 14.23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors Jackson and Taylor.

## 14.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- **Item 5(C)** - Councillor Kercher declared a prejudicial interest in item 5 c (minute reference 14.27 c) as he is the Treasurer to the Sports Club. Councillors Penny, Whitcher, Buckland and Pullen declared a non-statutory personal interest in the same item as they are members of Medstead Bowls Club and Cricket Club.
- **Item 8 (a)** Councillor Whitcher declared a non-statutory personal interest in item 8 (minute reference 14.26 a) as he is the neighbour of the applicant.

#### 14.25 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of Council held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 having **been previously circulated** were proposed **as a true record** by Cllr Fenwick, seconded by Cllr Buckland, **and signed by the Chairman.**
- b) **Minute Ref 14.19 b** - Cllr Kercher reported that the Clerk had enquired about the post box at the entrance to Paice Lane which has been removed. She was informed that it and been removed due to damage caused by a vehicle and would be replaced with a box on a post in due course.  
**Minute Ref 14.19 b.** – Councillor Kercher confirmed that the contractor that maintains the cemetery and church yard was now performing as per the contract.

**The Chairman proposed to take amend the order of the agenda and take item 8a next as members of the public had attended for this item.**

#### 14.26 VILLAGE GREEN

- a) Councillors considered a proposal to reinstate the safety mirror on the Green at the entrance to Foul Lane for the benefit of No. 2 Manor Cottages. The correspondence received from the consultation with residents of Foul Lane and Hussell Lane in the vicinity of the proposed mirror had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **Councillor Whitcher stated that he supported the reinstatement of the mirror as it was a dangerous bend and then took no further part in the discussion.** After a careful consideration of all the issues raised it was **RESOLVED** that the sight lines were hampered by the growth of the hedge on the boundary of the property and should be addressed before the Council considers the reinstatement of the sign and therefore the decision is deferred. Councillors also requested further details on the pole that the mirror would be mounted on and confirmation that there is adequate turning space in the applicant's driveway.

#### 14.27 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

- a) The minutes of the **Maintenance Committee** held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.** Council considered three recommendations from the Committee and it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the following proposals:
  - 1 To contract T Marlow to dig the ditches at Five Ash Road Pond at a total cost of £530.
  - 2 To contract Authorn Ltd to construct a footpath at Medstead Cemetery at a total cost of £5,895.
  - 3 To increase the Council budget for the purchase off litter bins to £1,000
- b) The minutes of the **Planning Committee** held on 11th June 2014 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.** Councillor Pullen reported that it has been another busy two months with over 15 applications being considered. Two major applications were for 80 dwellings east of Lymington Bottom Road and 22 dwellings north of the Telephone Exchange also in Lymington Bottom Road. The biggest disappointment was the approval given at the last EHDC Planning Committee for 80 houses at land behind Friars Oak when at one point in the meeting it looked that it might just get refused. However at the vote it went 6 for approval and 4 against. On the 17<sup>th</sup> July the Council will be back at Penns Place for 3 applications, 2 at Cedar Stables (the case officer has recommended approval) and land north of Boyneswood Lane which somewhat to our surprise has been recommended for Refusal. It looks as though it will be another interesting time ahead with several more applications expected and legal challenges by developers who have not had their applications decided yet. Councillor Pullen thanked the Planning Committee members for the huge amount of work they put in and Cllr Jean Penny who has ably filled in at both the last Committee meetings.
- c) The minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.** Council considered a recommendation from the committee regarding the review of the annual rent for the use of the Pavilion. **Councillor Kercher left the meeting room prior to the start of the discussed.** Councillor Pullen summarised the rationale for the proposal. It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the Committee's recommendation that the annual rent for the Pavilion is increased to £200 per annum by staged increases over the next four years as follows:

Yr1 April 2015	£80
Yr2 April 2016	£120
Yr3 April 2017	£160
Yr4 April 2018	£200

**Councillor Kercher returned to the meeting room.**

#### **14.28 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**Councillor Thomas** reported that she felt sad that we were not able to defend Friars Oak and that the Planning Committee had attempted to re-design the virtual footpath during the meeting. Since the decision Cllr Thomas has met with senior Officers and Cllr Cowper and as a result an Extraordinary meeting of Council had been called to look at the Planning Committee. The area of Four Marks and south Medstead now has a total of 189 dwellings with planning permission which exceeds the allocated 175 allocation in the JCS. Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee is addressing the comments made by the Highways Officer at the Planning Committee and the concept of virtual footways.

**Councillor Johnson** recorded his thanks to the Medstead Fete Committee for a very successful Fete this year. He had provided fliers for the Parish noticeboards advertising the 'ButserFest' event which is taking place on the 13<sup>th</sup> September. The District Councils apprenticeship initiative entitled 'Get East Hampshire Working' had provided 20 young people with apprenticeships, leading to full time employment for 13 of them. Finally Councillor Johnson reported that he had been appointed to the Licensing Committee and that he would be writing an article in the Medstead Times about Benefit Fraud in East Hampshire.

#### **14.29 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the income and expenditure reports for May and June 2014.
- b) The expenditure against budget report up to 31<sup>st</sup> June 2014 **was received**.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> June 2014.
- d) The consideration of the Councils revised Financial Regulations (emailed to all Cllrs on 8<sup>th</sup> July) was **deferred** to the September meeting of Council to enable all Councillors the opportunity to read the document.

#### **14.30 VILLAGE GREEN**

- b) Councillor Fenwick's report was circulated prior to the meeting detailing the outcome of the consultation on proposals for the upgrade of the junior play area. It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Fenwick work with Hand Made Places (Scheme A) to develop a proposal which incorporates swings, a roundabout and benches and possible retaining some of the exciting equipment.
- c) **Addendum Item** - Councillors considered a proposal of the Planning Committee that the Parish Council make a formal request to the District Council to revoke the planning decision to grant permission for the 80 dwellings at Friars Oak. Councillor Pullen considered that there were four options available to the Council which were:
  - 1 Take no action.
  - 2 Submit a full and detailed request.
  - 3 Submit and short and succinct request.
  - 4 Support a Judicial Review application.

After a discussion it was **RESOLVED** that a short request outlining the grounds for the decision to be revoked is drafted by Councillor Pullen with assistance from Councillor Kercher, and sent to Julia Potter and Jo Barden-Hernandez.

#### **14.31 INTERNAL COUNCIL MATTERS**

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Councillor Fenwick to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- b) Councillors considered a proposal from the Planning Committee for the Parish Council to commission an independent traffic survey to assist the Council in its objections to planning applications. Councillor Pullen reported that he had liaised with Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee on this matter who had confirmed that he was confident Hampshire County Council (HCC) would agree to conduct the traffic survey at no cost to the Council, as the last survey was conducted in 2008 prior to much of the development on Boyneswood Road. The survey would be for a continuous 7 day period during term time. If the Council were to consider commissioning a traffic survey privately Councillor Pullen confirmed it would be in the region of £550 - £650 for three locations and £800 for four locations.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council make a formal request to HCC to conduct a traffic survey at the following four locations in order of preference and that if HCC do not agree, the Parish Council would commission its own survey.

- 1 Boyneswood Road
- 2 Lyningtom Bottom Road

- 3 High Street
- 4 Hussell Lane / Abbey Road

#### 14.32 MEDSTEAD AND FOUR MARKS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) STEERING GROUP

Councillors considered a paper prepared by the Chairman of the Steering Group on the Councils role and responsibilities and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1 The NP Steering Group will become a formal sub-committee of the Parish Council.
- 2 That two Councillors are nominated as members of the Steering Group with delegated authority to represent the Councils position and make decisions, with the exception of committing Council funds which must be referred back to Council. Cllrs Roy Pullen and Ken Kercher were duly elected at the Councils formal representatives.
- 3 The Parish Council do not consider it appropriate that they take on any of the 'official' roles/posts.
- 4 The Parish Council are of the view that the Steering Group should set up its own bank account. It is likely to cause the Councils some procedural difficulties if one of the Councils act as the banker.
- 5 The Council are uncomfortable with the view that the steering group, even as a formal sub- committee of the Council, will come under the umbrella of the Councils insurance cover, as the Group will not operate under the direct control of either Councils. Independent insurance cover is advised and both Parish Councils should be able to meet the cost of the premium through a grant.

#### 14.33 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) Village Hall – Councillor Buckland reported that there have been two meetings of the Village Hall Trustees since the last Parish Council meeting. The Trustees have now appointed a hall caretaker, Simon Hodgson, a retired policeman who lives in Four Marks. Usage and bookings remain good although there were a slight problem with a blocked drain primarily due to the very slight fall to the soak away and modifications have been made. The next project is still to install the new signs at the roadside entrance and concern was expressed at cars parking opposite the entrance as the road marking have worn away. The Village Hall website is being updated as is the Medstead Times website to encourage varying contributions and advertisements. The next meeting of the trustees is on 22 July at 7.30pm with the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23 September 2014.
- b) Sports Club – Councillor Kercher reported that the open day for the sporting facilities in the Village on 14<sup>th</sup> June unfortunately had limited attendance.
- c) Parish Plan Committee – Councillor Fenwick reported that the Committee were waiting for the village pond consultation results before it met again.

The meeting was closed at 10.02pm

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