

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 10th August 2016** at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors, Deborah Jackson, Roy Pullen, Peter Buckland, Stan Whitcher, Ken Kercher, Mike Smith, Peter Fenwick and Jean Penny.

Also in attendance: Two members of the public, (Mr Coles & Mrs G Fuzzard) & Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

Action

16.93 OPEN SESSION

- a) Mr Coles outlined the issue regarding the Post Office in Medstead and the possibility of moving it from the current location and requested the support of Medstead Parish Council.

Cllr Fenwick reported that he had a conversation with the owner of the Handy Stores being a possible alternative site but who at this stage does not require support from the Parish Council.

Cllr Kercher also reported a similar conversation and said that at this stage, the Handy stores owner just wanted the Parish Council to be aware.

Cllr Jackson reported that both she and the Clerk had had representation from the Alton Herald as they are looking to run an article shortly.

Cllr Buckland stated that the Post office wishes the location to remain in the current proximity.

- b) Mr Coles asked for Parish Council consideration for a footpath from Homestead Road along South Town Road towards the Village Green to improve safety of pedestrians. Cllr Jackson advised that this was outside of the scope of the Council.
- c) Cllr Buckland commented that Medstead Bowls Club had held their open day on 16th July and had been attended by Cllr Kemp-Gee but was disappointed that there were not any Parish Councillors in attendance.
- d) Cllr Buckland passed thanks to Cllr Pullen for all the work he has undertaken on the restoration of the Village Pond.
- e) Cllr Penny stated that footpath FP13 was becoming overgrown and needs to be cut back. This would be referred to the Maintenance Committee.
- f) Cllr Smith outlined the on-going issues which are preventing the Speedwatch Team from carrying out more activity.
- g) Cllr Smith further reported that many road signs are becoming overgrown with vegetation and required cutting back. Cllr Smith was asked to log this on to the HCC web site for HCC to take the necessary action.
- h) Cllr Fenwick reported that like FP13 (e above), FP28 was becoming overgrown and needs to be cut back. This would be referred to the Maintenance Committee.
- i) Cllr Pullen commented that a single strand of galvanised wire was to be installed on the new Pond fencing.

**Clerk /
Maintenance
Committee**

Cllr Smith

**Clerk /
Maintenance
Committee**

16.94 APOLOGIES

Cllr Hans Taylor & District Councillor Ingrid Thomas.

16.95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kercher declared an interest in item 9e (Sports Pavilion)

16.96 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2016 having been previously circulated, were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Pullen, seconded by Councillor Smith, **and signed by the Chairman.**
- b) All matters arising had been dealt with or in hand.

16.97 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

c) Planning Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2016 having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. Cllr Pullen reported *“another relatively quiet month on the Planning front and another month when we have not had to attend a Planning meeting at Penns Place. The appeal was upheld for the additional dwelling at the rear of Firfield, Windsor Road although the applicant’s claim for costs was refused. The agents for the site at The Haven, Boyneswood Road which EHDC refused earlier this year have lodged their appeal, which will be in written form. You will have seen the chaos caused by the road closure in Lymington Bottom Road which got even worse when the Water Board had to carry out emergency repairs to their main on Boyneswood Road bridge”*

d) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- i. No meeting has been held since the last Full Council meeting

e) Maintenance Committee

- i. No meeting has been held since the last Full Council meeting
- ii. Cllr Kercher confirmed that the resurfacing of the footpaths had now been completed to a good standard with favourable comments having been received.

16.98 CHAIRMANS REPORT

“On 19th July, with my dual MPC Chair and EHDC hat on, I attended the licensing service of our new Priest in Charge, the Rev Canon Ed Pruen. I have also briefed Canon Ed that his new role in the Parish includes trusteeship of the Mulcock Charity – it seems that he has had some previous experience working with the needy in his former parishes and it may be that he can find a way of distributing grants.

For those councillors who may have been concerned by the appearance of hoof prints on the edge of the Green by the cricket pitch, these were the result of an emergency loading of a pony into a lorry. The pony would not load and after 10 minutes of trying I asked the owners to move to a safer location.

Last Friday Cllr Taylor, the Clerk and I met at the pond with representatives of CPRE. The pond restoration project has been selected as a finalist for a “Countryside Award” in the Community and Voluntary category. The judges left armed with a sheaf of notes about the project and a number of photographs – we will not hear any more until the winners are announced at a celebration reception to be held later in the year.

Earlier today I was approached by the Alton Herald for a comment from the Parish Council in relation to the suggested closure of the Medstead sub post office and possible re-location to Lymington Barns. I have indicated that this is something that the Parish Council is unlikely to support and following comments gathered from tonight’s meeting will produce an “official” response.”

16.99 PARISH CLERK REPORT

The Clerk provided an update of the current activity, specifically:

- a) Written to HCC about the routing of the 613 bus (in relation to the positioning of possible bus shelters). Now been advised that this route is operated by Stagecoach who have also been contacted and a response is awaited about whether the routing can be reversed to allow possible shelters to be positioned correctly;
- b) Trees in Foul lane have now been deadwood to prevent branches falling;
- c) Trees at Knapp next to the URC are being cut back by SSE and further tree work is to be considered by Maintenance Committee;
- d) Increased burial / memorial activity in the month;
- e) Reviewing fixed assets / insurance for Council assets;
- f) Creation of Wake Account savings account;
- g) Previous Hampshire operated web site for Medstead Parish Council is now defunct and the new site is live.
- h) Approval was given by the Council for renewed membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) which had lapsed since the previous Clerk had resigned.

Clerk

16.100 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Jackson

On 28th July, together with Cllr Hans Taylor and Ingrid Thomas met with County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee, Derek Rawle and other representatives of Hampshire Highways to discuss the siting of new soakaways to help alleviate some of the flooding occurring at the lower end of Lymington Bottom Road. Two new soakaways are to be constructed: one to the south of the railway bridge and one to the north adjacent to Clementines. I have also requested that, when money becomes available, the team considers something similar further up the road and closer to the Five Ash crossroads. Hans and I also took the opportunity to suggest improvements to the signage advising of the Lymington Bottom Road closure.

I have requested a status update on the proposed TPOs for the verge side oak tree at the top of South Town Road and the boundary chestnuts and avenue at the convent. With no response received from Stuart Garside I believe that he may be on holiday, but will continue to follow up.

District Councillor grant funding has been approved for the Parish Council's proposed new BBQ – additional funding could also be available should the council wish to extend the seating in the area.

A couple of weeks ago I attended the opening of the new teenage play equipment at Four Marks recreation ground. Whilst it was a pity to see that vandals had already damaged the new table tennis table, it was interesting to see how Four Marks had utilised the available space and incorporated a basketball hoop.

Last week representatives of CALA homes were on site removing equipment that was needed on other of their developments. I have however been advised that all of their pre-development conditions have now been discharged, meaning that they are now able to commence work. Hopefully this will not be until the road under the bridge has been opened again. As many will have seen, CALA have chosen to give this site the working name of "Medstead Grange". I have been in contact with the relevant EHDC officer and, even though I have pointed out that there is already a Medstead Grange (that incidentally is also having building works), there is no control over what name the developer chooses to use. Final street names are approved by an officer of EHDC and I have asked that the Parish Council be included in the process.

Devolution activities continue, with information now being generated by both EHDC and HCC, which the Clerk has already circulated. The Borough and District Council leaders are working together to pull together a cohesive package of information explaining the benefits of the "Solent" group and I know that representatives of the Parish Council will be attending the briefing from HCC. The Leader will be briefing EHDC councillors later this month and I will pass on any relevant information to you.

And finally.... in a recent survey, 75% of the East Hampshire residents who responded indicated that they were either “satisfied” or “more than satisfied” with the services provided by EHDC. This is a significant increase against the results of the last survey, and is encouraging for the District Council.

After discussion on the District Councillor Jackson’s report, it was agreed that Devolution would be a standing item on each future agenda.

Clerk

16.101 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk explained the latest Nat West bank accounts for the three accounts regarding the latest financial position.

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 31st July 2016.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation (as approved by Cllr Penny) as at 31st July 2016.
- c. The Clerk notified the meeting that a “Notice of Conclusion of Audit” had been received from the external auditors and no matters required investigation. The Certificate has been approved and accepted by the Council and has to be displayed on the web site and notice boards for 14 days and made available for public access for not less than 5 years.
- d. It was agreed that a new web domain name (medsteadpc.org) be procured for a ten year period to remove the long unwieldy name currently being used on the Hugofox platform

Clerk

Clerk

Before item e below, due to a declaration of interest, Cllr Kercher left the meeting.

- e. A fire risk assessment is required to be carried out and the Clerk had obtained two separate quotes to undertake this assessment which had last been carried out in 2006. It was agreed that the quotation from FCS Live be taken forward.

Clerk

Cllr Kercher returned to the meeting.

16.102 COUNCIL POLICY

None.

16.103 FIVE ASH POND – FLOODING

No further update,

16.104 VILLAGE GREEN ENHANCEMENT

The Clerk reported that funds had been received through the DC Grant from EHDC and therefore the barbeque for the Green and possibly an additional picnic bench could now be procured by Cllr Taylor.

Cllr Taylor

16.105 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Village Hall –

- a. Cllr Buckland reiterated that the AGM would take place on 27th September 2016.
- b. It was further reported that the editor of the Medstead Times had resigned and a replacement was being sought.
- c. Repairs to the fire escape were being undertaken by the Village Hall Committee.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

ChairmanDate.....