

# Medstead Parish Council

**Minutes** of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at 7.30pm.

**Present:**

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

**Also in attendance:** Mrs G Fuzzard, Mr C Jackson & Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

**Action**

**17.31 OPEN SESSION**

- a) Mrs Fuzzard highlighted the apparent increase in retrospective planning applications being submitted and approved by EHDC and making a mockery of the whole planning process. This gave the perception that this was becoming a generally accepted practice which EHDC should discourage immediately.
- b) Cllr Kercher detailed the recent damage which had been caused to the Village Green, probably by badgers. He reported that the Chair of the Cricket Club had spent a number of hours undertaking the reparations which normally would have been undertaken by the Council. Councillors asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Chair of Medstead Cricket Club.
- c) Cllr Kercher further reported that a tractor had been hedge cutting in Hattingley Road and elsewhere and had spread debris across the road.
- d) Cllr Buckland mentioned that whilst there had not been an organised litter pick in Medstead in support of the "Litter Spring Clean", he reported that most verges were relatively clear of litter.
- e) Cllr Penny asked who was responsible the fencing and debris on the pavement in Greenstile which was a danger to pedestrians. She further highlighted the number of vehicles parking on the pavement in that area and was advised that this was a police issue and if any photo evidence was available this should be forwarded on to the authorities.
- f) Cllr Penny highlighted the state of the area behind the Hardware Stores and Cllr Jackson agreed to contact the EHDC Enforcement Officer to make them aware.

**Clerk**

**Cllr Jackson**

**17.32 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mike Smith (holiday) & Hans Taylor (holiday) Peter Fenwick (attending the EHAP&TC Meeting on behalf of Medstead Parish Council).

**17.33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**17.34 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017** had been previously circulated. With one small typographical amendment, these were proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Pullen, seconded by Councillor Penny, **and signed by the Chairman.**
- b) **Matters Arising.**  
None.

## 17.35 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

### a) Planning Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on **8<sup>th</sup> February 2017** having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. **Chairman Report** – Again a quiet month with nothing much to report but including a couple of ‘Refusals’ being a replacement dwelling at Annaliese, Soldridge Road and a change of use of land at Hart Hill, Grosvenor Road.
- iii. **Parish Liaison Meeting.**
  - a) Cllr Pullen gave a summary of the outcome of the recent Parish Liaison meeting with Cala, Miller & Beechcroft Homes. The minutes of that meeting and the answered questions are on the Parish web site. A further meeting is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.
  - b) There is another Liaison meeting with William Lacey Group on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Four Marks Village Hall.

### b) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017** having been previously circulated, **were ratified.**
- ii. Medstead Parish Council Disciplinary Procedure & Policy. **Approved and adopted by Council.** Proposed by Cllr Pullen & seconded by Cllr Kercher.
- iii. Medstead Parish Council Grievance Policy. **Approved and adopted by Council.** Proposed by Cllr Pullen & seconded by Cllr Kercher.
- iv. Medstead Parish Council Sickness Absence Policy & Procedure. **Approved and adopted by Council.** Proposed by Cllr Pullen & seconded by Cllr Kercher.
- v. Grant Mansfield Park Surgery. This application has now been withdrawn by the applicant.

### c) Maintenance Committee

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017** having been previously circulated, **were ratified**
- ii. **Chairman Report** –
  - a) Following the Clerk’s letter to the Village Fete committee, they had responded saying that they would be happy for the Parish Council to take over responsibility for the Christmas lights. The Clerk was asked to get a qualified electrician to carry out a safety test on the lights.
  - b) The outcome of the application to the Winchester Diocese to permit works within the cemetery was still awaited.
  - c) The Maintenance Committee would be walking the route from the Village Green to south Medstead as part of the improvements to the Green Infrastructure as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.
  - d) Medstead Parish Council Health & Safety Policy. **Approved and adopted by Council.** Proposed by Cllr Pullen & seconded by Cllr Jackson.
  - e) The area at Five Ash crossroads was being considered as a location for a bus shelter for schoolchildren. However the maintenance committee felt that due to the high cost of a shelter a better option would be to install wooden benches and a footway with clear edged kerb. Maintenance Committee would consider this further.

**Clerk**

**Maintenance  
Committee**

**Maintenance  
Committee**

f) Memorial Wall

- i. The new spur footpath to the Wall was nearing completion.
- ii. The cost of the plaques was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should proceed with arranging marble effect plaques from Brunel Engraving to be available at the cost of £69.95 (plus VAT). This cost and the admin cost of £40 would be then passed on to any purchasers.

Clerk

- g) Medstead Women's Institute (WI) has requested that a tree be planted in the Village to commemorate their centenary. They had no particular preference as to where it should be planted or what species it should be, but it was suggested that it might be most appropriate for it to be planted on the Green, which was agreed by Council. Cllr Kercher would respond to the WI.

Cllr Kercher

- h) Agenda item 5c (vii) would be heard at the end of the meeting due to the confidential nature.

### 17.36 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- An invitation had been received for a representative to attend the opening of the Garden House Day Nursery and Cllr Pullen offered to attend on behalf of the council. The Clerk would inform the Convent accordingly.

Clerk

### 17.37 PARISH CLERK REPORT

- i. Attended Day 4 (of 4) of CILCA course.
- ii. Agreed work schedule with tree contractor (Hampshire Woodlands) at URC. Work commencing Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- iii. Agreed work schedule with Parish Lengthsman who visited Medstead on 20<sup>th</sup> February. He undertook work on FP35 and treated the legs of certain benches on the Green.
- iv. Dialled into an HMRC "Webinair" meeting on end of year procedures for payroll etc.
- v. Organised the agenda and questions for the parish liaison meeting with Cala / Miller / Beechcroft on 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- vi. Agreed start date with Authorn regarding the footpath work on the Green which will be w/c 10/4/17 during Easter holiday.
- vii. Attended Rights of Way workshop.

### 17.38 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

#### District Councillor Report: Deborah Jackson

A month that seems to have been dominated by developers!

The end of February saw the second of the Resident Liaison Meetings for the combined Miller/ Beechcroft/ Cala site at the bottom of Lymington Bottom Road. This time the meeting was open to members of the public. Unfortunately the representative from Miller homes arrived 45 minutes late, which as you can imagine, did not go down well with anyone in the hall.

Mud and parking remain the mains issues and residents were keen to find out the anticipated finish date for each of the sites. We were told that Miller's target completion is

March 2018, with Cala a little later at the end of the June. The smaller Beechcroft site should be completed in September this year.

There was much discussion about mud on the road (and pavements) and the effectiveness or otherwise of the current wheel washing and road sweeping facilities that are in place. It was agreed that a weekly sweeping of the pavements north and south of the railway bridge would be carried out to remove mud sprayed up from the road.

Each of the developers agreed to request their contractors and workers park within the parking areas provided on-site and not on Lymington Bottom Road, or the privately owned Station Approach. (A few days later and at my request, Simon Jenkins (EHDC Head of Planning) paid an unannounced visit, and as luck would have it, found the sites all to be operating according to their specified conditions).

One of the conditions of the Cala approval is the provision of a further pedestrian crossing at the A31, within the proximity of the Lymington Bottom Road junction. We just need to confirm the timing of this in relation to the completion of the site.

Requests from residents that these liaison meetings be held later in the day failed to elicit the desired response. The developer representatives are only prepared to meet during their business hours – hardly a tick in the box for public relations!

The next meeting is due to be held on 28 April, at 11.45 in Medstead Village Hall. Any questions for the developers need to be submitted to the Clerk of Medstead Parish Council by 14 April.

The confusion over traffic movements away from the Cedar Stables site is ongoing, and it now appears that EHDC submitted a different revision of the Construction Plan to that which was being adhered to. As we stand at the moment, heavy vehicles from the site are being directed along Roedowns Road, past the school and onto Boyneswood Road and the already over-stretched junction with the A31. I have no doubt that this will all sort itself out, but whether or not this is before building has been completed!!

Last week I touched base with my co-ward councillor, Ingrid and County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee – I am pleased to report that the seeking of a resolution to the Boyneswood Road bridge, pedestrian footway and the junction itself are still high on the agenda.

The March full meeting of Council welcomed a BBC film crew into the council chamber to record the almost unprecedented cutting of Council Tax, which has been made possible by the Council's investment policy. The Council will be making a written representation against the TAG Farnborough proposals due to the potential negative impact upon the district and its inhabitants. The contracts for the building of the new sports centres in Alton and Bordon together with the refurbishment of the Taro have been announced, although it still seems uncertain exactly how much input local residents and stakeholders will actually have in what gets built.

In a furore of activity, the remainder of my Community Grant money was distributed between the new Mansfield Park Surgery patients' group, the local Speedwatch and Four Marks Rotary (towards a project within the Hearing Impaired Unit and Medstead School). I am expecting the grant scheme to be running again for 2017, so put your thinking caps on for any local community-based projects that might benefit from a cash injection of £100 to £1000!

## **District Councillor Report: Ingrid Thomas**

A real highlight this month was attending the East Hampshire Sports Awards for 2017 at Old Thorns. There were a lot of entries for the awards which were presented by Fred Dineneage who has been involved in every sports awards event since they started. It is very humbling to listen to the really inspirational stories and supreme efforts by people of all ages. Four Marks School won an award for the school team of the year, congratulations to the Cricket Team. Perfect timing as cricket is returning to the recreation ground this summer!

The parking at dropping off but particularly at collecting time at Four Marks School is an ever increasing problem. Every parent surely has to care about the dangers that careless parking causes to other children and their parents? Why park so close to the Fiveways Junction that others cannot see round you? Why park on the restricting zigzags - even for a moment? I have been to speak to the EHDC traffic management team who will be following up reported issues, Mark Kemp Gee is working with HCC highways department so that together with the School, Parish Council and all the parents we may be able to come up with a solution.

Medstead School suffers similar problems and has recently had to deal with lorries passing the school with deliveries to building sites. Keeping children safe must be a priority for us all. The number of construction vehicles around the villages whilst children are catching and getting off school buses is of great concern, one child was seriously injured last year.

The first meeting of the Friars Oak residents' liaison group has taken place, about 50 residents attended and met with Mr George Spinks, Mr Richard Bell and Mr Ian Gilmore of WLG who hope to start building the site in about a month. Concern was expressed by residents that the exact route for the sewerage had not yet been decided. The two routes being either over the Boyneswood Road Bridge or joining the Bargate Homes route down Boyneswood Lane, Stoney Lane, Station Approach and joining at Lymington Bottom Road, the decision on which route to take will be made by Thames Water in the next month. Unlike the other developers who have decided to construct their own sewers WLG are requisitioning Thames Water to build theirs, this means Thames Water will do the work of laying the sewerage pipes for this development. There is to be a similar requisitioning of fresh water supplies, with the water company doing the work. Mr Gilmore seemed concerned that residents believed the water pressure to be too low already and suggested people should write to South East Water and ask to have their water pressure tested.

Great concern was expressed about how the Construction Method Statement would be monitored including the parking of vehicles in Boyneswood Road, we were assured that the agreed arrangements would be adhered to. Let us hope so. The next meeting will be on Monday 24th April at 7pm in Four Marks Village Hall.

There has been another meeting of the Miller Homes, Beechcroft and Cala liaison group too but this was during the daytime making it difficult for people who work to attend. The first houses on these sites are being sold.

This month I have been to a conference in London looking at Rural Health Issues. One of the surprising facts that came out was that loneliness can have the same effect of shortening a person's life as smoking 15 cigarettes a day for life. This is a national problem but can be most severe in rural locations. It is easy to become isolated, our villages are noted for being friendly so perhaps we already try hard to look after our neighbours? We are lucky to have so many groups and clubs in our villages which are very welcoming and go a long way towards helping people to escape being lonely.

During the storms quite a large number of trees were blown over noticeably in Weathermore Lane woods where considerable felling last year must have left trees more exposed than they are used to. The land owners have already replanted a large area of the woods.

Mr Garside the Tree Officer has been out and about in the villages looking at trees with TPOs on them, there has been concern raised about work being done to TPO trees. Any tree with a TPO cannot have work done to it without permission, the fines can be quite large if permission is not granted before work is done. for example if a tree is removed to enable planning permission to be granted and that tree has a TPO the fine can be as much as the increase in the value of the site which could be thousands of pounds.

The plans for Festiwell are making good progress, there are still some pitches available for stands or activities please contact Sarah Goudie Four Marks Parish Clerk if you would like one, we are a little short of alternative therapy representation at the moment. The event promises to be full of interesting things to do, ideas on how to make your life healthier, food ideas, fitness ideas and plenty of things to try and join in with. So please mark SUNDAY 9th JULY in your diaries.

As ever if I can be of assistance please contact me 01420 561552 or email [ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk).

### 17.39 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure against budget report to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Transaction detail</u>
08/02/2017	2608	Idverde	243.60	Idverde Bin Emptying
08/02/2017	2609	Nat Walden (NWES)	624.00	Nat Walden Electrician (Pavilion)
08/02/2017	2610	Parish Clerk	784.84	Clerk Salary Jan 17
08/02/2017	2611	Acorn Office Supplies	82.82	Printer Cartridge
08/02/2017	2612	HALC	132.00	HALC Planning training course
08/02/2017	2613	HALC	18.00	HALC Transparency Code Training
08/02/2017	2614	Parish Clerk	77.68	Clerk expenses (Jan 17)
10/02/2017	DD	Vodafone	17.00	Parish Mobile Phone

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliations (as approved by Cllr Buckland) as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### 17.40 MEDSTEAD POND(S)

- i. **Five Ash Pond** – No further update since last month. The Council is still awaiting the outcome of the application for a grant towards exploring the feasibility of a bore hole
- ii. **Village Pond Restoration.** A possible source of the water leak has been identified and hopefully fixed and water levels will be monitored.
- iii. Cllr Kercher reported that the drainage ditch on Five Ash Road, near to the junction with Beechlands Road is thought to be fed from an unrecorded drainage pipe under the road. It was suggested that if this was cleaned out it might alleviate the flooding at this junction. Cllr Jackson said that she would report this via HCC Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee.

**Cllr Jackson**

#### 17.41 DEVOLUTION

No further update.

#### 17.42 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

The future Christmas lighting was discussed under the maintenance section above.

#### 17.43 MEDSTEAD POST OFFICE

The move had been confirmed by the Post Office from the Hardware Stores to the Handy Stores. The Parish Council agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the owners of the Hardware Stores for their years of service to the community in the running of the Post Office in Medstead.

Clerk

#### 17.44 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- Cllr Buckland reported that the “Hog the Limelight” performances had been a sell-out success.  
He stated that there would be a Village Hall committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March.  
He further reported that C4 television had been filming in the village for the “Location, location, location” programme.
- Cllr Kercher stated that the Sports Club AGM would be held in the Sports Pavilion on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- Cllr Jackson reported the Neighbourhood Plan Committee had met on 6<sup>th</sup> March and it had been agreed that the Committee would remain in place. There had been discussion over the provision of second defibrillator at the Castle of Comfort public house but, due to the relative close proximity of the existing defibrillator at the Village Hall, it was felt that this was not required.  
Cllr Jackson further reported that a flashing speed indicator sign was being considered.

**It was resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussions regarding contract extensions where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.**

#### 17.45 CONTRACT EXTENSION(S)

**Medstead Cemetery / St. Andrew’s Churchyard Maintenance Contract.** It was resolved that the Parish Council would instruct P J Grace to continue to carry out the work associated with the maintenance of Medstead Cemetery and St. Andrew’s Churchyard for a further year from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 as per the agreed specification.

Clerk

**Medstead Village Green Mowing Contract.** It was resolved that the Parish Council would instruct Mr J Kimber to continue to carry out the work associated with the mowing of Medstead Village Green for a further year from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 as per the agreed specification.

Clerk

**Medstead Day Work Contract.** It was resolved that the Parish Council would terminate the current contract and advertise for a new contractor for 2017/18 as per the agreed specification.

**Clerk**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

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