

Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Council meeting held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 14th June 2017** at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors Deborah Jackson (Chair), Peter Buckland, Peter Fenwick, Ken Kercher, Jean Penny, Roy Pullen, Hans Taylor and Stan Whitcher.

Also in attendance: District Cllr Ingrid Thomas, 4 members of the public & Mr Peter Baston (Clerk).

	Action
17.88 OPEN SESSION	
a) A member of the public from Lymington Bottom Road asked whether “30mph” wheelie bin speed stickers are available. The Clerk would see whether this was possible and provide stickers for the member of the public and also for the Village Fete.	Clerk
b) The member of the public from Lymington Bottom Road also asked about charges for taking rubbish to the recycling centre. Following the Annual Parish Assembly, where Cllr Kercher asked County Cllr Kemp-Gee, it was confirmed that any charges levied were unlawful and can be challenged.	
c) Another member of the public from Greenstile, asked whether the Parish Council would consider undertaking a regular sweep of the new footpath across the Green which it was mentioned would quickly become covered in detritus. This would be referred to the Maintenance Committee for consideration.	Maintenance Committee
d) The same member of the public from Greenstile asked whether the 20mph signs painted on to the road in the Village could be re-painted as they were now faded. Cllr Fenwick had previously logged this on to the HCC portal but no response had been received as yet and it was believed that responsibility has now been passed over to EHDC. District Councillor Thomas would look into this and report back	EHDC Cllr Thomas
e) The member of the public from Greenstile asked about the Village map and whether an electronic version existed in order that a new version could be displayed in the Village. After debate, the Clerk was asked to source a “hard” copy and get it scanned to produce a laminated version.	Clerk
f) He further raised the point previously raised about the water supply in Medstead should an emergency occur and whilst a reply had been received from SE Water, he was advised to contact the company directly for more clarity on their response.	
g) Cllr Buckland stated that the Post Office would open on 30 th June 2017.	

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| h) Cllr Penny outlined the issue over the lack of a footpath alongside Roe Downs Road, where she had been contacted by a member of the public. Whilst the Maintenance Committee are reviewing as part of the Green Infrastructure, it was agreed that Cllr Penny would forward the detail to Cllr Jackson for her to respond. | Cllr Penny / Cllr Jackson |
| i) Cllr Penny further reported that the notices on the notice board at Greenstile was becoming very untidy with some needing removal and it was agreed that Cllr Penny would take on this task in keeping this notice board tidy. | Cllr Penny |
| j) Cllr Pullen stated that BT had undertaken further work at the road junction by the Pond but the resurfacing was sunken and required further repair along with the bank as previously reported. The Clerk was asked to contact BT again to get the issue resolved. | Clerk |

17.89 APOLOGIES

Cllr Mike Smith (holiday). This was approved by Council.

17.90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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| i. None declared. | |
| ii. Update of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. The Clerk was asked to forward a form to Cllr Taylor. All Councillors to complete and return to the Clerk by the next Full Council meeting (12 th July 2017). | Clerk / All Councillors |

17.91 COUNCIL MINUTES

- a)** The minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 10th May 2017** had been previously circulated. Cllr Jackson highlighted one small error in 17.78 which was amended. The minutes were then proposed as a **true record** by Councillor Kercher seconded by Councillor Penny, **and signed by the Chairman**.
- b) Matters Arising.**
Cllr Buckland stated that in relation to 17.68e, there would be an extraordinary meeting regarding the Alton Sports Centre consultation at 7pm on 29th June 2017 at the Alton Assembly Rooms.

17.92 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

- a) Planning Committee**
- i. The minutes of the meeting held on **10th May 2017** having been previously circulated, **were ratified**.
 - ii. **Chairman Report** – Again a quiet month with no major applications just a few private extensions, etc. and some change of condition applications. The major developments in Lymington Bottom Road have been fairly well behaved, helped hugely by the dry weather. Friars Oak and the Bargate sites are still rumbling along in the background, the demolition of

Boyneswood Lodge being the only activity of any note, and this seems to have passed off without too much cause for concern to the local residents

- iii. **Parish Liaison Meeting.** Cllr Pullen reported that a further meeting had taken place for the Friars Oak (Bellway) site. A further meeting is scheduled for 30th June for the Cala / Miller / Beechcroft developments. No advance questions had been received by the Clerk.

b) Finance & General Purposes Committee

- i. No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council.
- ii. Cllr Fenwick was re-appointed as the 4th member of the F&GP committee being proposed by Cllr Penny and seconded by Cllr Whitcher

c) Maintenance Committee

- i. No meeting had taken place since the last Full Council.
- ii. **Chairman Report –**
 - a) The Committee had undertaken a walk of the Green Infrastructure route from Medstead to Five Ash Pond with the findings to be discussed at the next Maintenance meeting.
 - b) The Stone Mason is due to start work on the memorial renovations in mid-July.
 - c) Paul Grace has been asked to undertake the clearance work in the Churchyard.

**Maintenance
Committee**

d) Annual Parish Assembly

The revised minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly now incorporating the crime statistics were proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Fenwick and duly approved by Council.

17.93 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman was pleased to report that the new barbeque had already been used by villagers making the most of the recent good weather.

Everything is on track for the Parish Council stand at the Village Fete, but she would be grateful if of any offers of help from councillors with a spare few moments either before or during the fete.

A freedom of information request has been received from a resident of Lymington Bottom Road. In responding, The Council's procedure is being followed, however input may be requested from other councillors may be requested

The Chairman advised that due to a family commitment, she would be unavailable from 30 June to 03 July.

17.94 PARISH CLERK REPORT

- i. Met with internal auditor with the Parish Council receiving a favourable report with only 3 minor recommendations, with responses drafted;
- ii. Further two memorial wall plaque(s) ordered;

- iii. Start date agreed for the work proposed in Medstead Cemetery for memorial repairs following faculty confirmation from the Diocese;
- iv. Green “*Christmas*” lights tested following the take-over of responsibility for the lights previously operated by the Village Fete committee;
- v. Annual playground inspection undertaken by RPII inspector. Inspection carried out on 9th May with no major issues identified but report will be reviewed by Maintenance Committee;
- vi. Attending a legal update in Fair Oak arranged by SLCC. Presentation will be on current issues that affect parish councils and land registry / boundary issues;
- vii. Due to attend a “Granting, exercising and Transferring Rights of Burial Course in September.

17.95 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

District Councillor Report: Deborah Jackson

- District Cllr Jackson updated the Council on the recent Friars Oaks liaison meeting, which was “quieter” – possibly due to no real work having commenced. Details of an out of hours emergency contact number are still awaited.
- The next Lymington Bottom Road liaison meeting (Miller/ Beechcroft/ Cala) will be held on Friday 30 June at 11.45 in the Village Hall.
- The Joint Environmental Services Committee had received an update on Project Integra: the Veolia recycling site is scheduled for a refurbishment, but will need further investment if pots, tubs and trays are to be recycled. There has been an increase in recycling of cardboard packaging, referred to as the “Amazon Effect”
- The Council was briefed on the proposed review of the Settlement Policy Boundaries which is to be performed as part of LPP3. Cllr Jackson outlined the process to be adopted by EHDC and explained that, despite pressure from her and Cllr Thomas, the current intention was to review the Four Marks and Medstead SPBs, despite their having been recently reviewed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr Jackson gave an update on the district-wide parking charge increase, which the Parish Council had made response to. The Parking Strategy was “called in” by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny committee, who after hearing representations from Tom Horwood (EHDC exec director), Cllr Butler and Alton Town Council voted not to overturn the decision.

Cllr Jackson responded to questions from the council regarding recycling and the proposed review of SPBs.

District Councillor Report : Ingrid Thomas

- District Cllr Thomas updated the Council on the recent Friars Oaks liaison meeting. Boyneswood Lodge has been demolished and residents reported positively in the way that the developer, Bellway Homes, had done this. The next resident’s liaison meeting is at 7pm on 7th August at Four Marks village hall.
- She has spoken to an engineer supervising spraying markings on the road at the Boyneswood junction – it appears that the sewer from the Friar’s Oak development will now be going over the bridge, and laid within a metal pipe to give it strength.
- Cllr Thomas briefed the Council regarding the changes to her portfolio, which now includes working with various enforcement sections of East Hampshire, including litter, dog fouling and parking.

- I have spent a considerable amount of time again this month working on the disturbances caused by the children homes that have appeared in our villages. We had a meeting for all affected residents to listen to problems that are occurring.
- She has met with HCC Children's Services, County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee and representatives of Benjamin UK to discuss current concerns relating to the latter's new children's homes in Medstead and Four Marks.
- Festiwell takes place on Sunday 9th July between 11 and 4 at Four Marks recreation ground.

Cllr Thomas responded to questions from the council relating to her new cabinet position and the revised parking charges in Alton.

17.96 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Due to late circulation due to annual leave of the Clerk, it was **agreed** to hold over to the next meeting the review of expenditure against budget report to 31st May 2017.
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliations (as approved by Cllr Taylor) as at 30th April 2017.
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliations (as approved by Cllr Taylor) as at 31st May 2017.
- Following a slight adjustment to the 2016/17 financial statement (fixed assets), it was **RESOLVED** to re-approve the Financial Statement for 2016/17.
- The Clerk presented the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement confirming that financial propriety and governance was followed in 2016/17. The Statement would now be forwarded on to the external auditors. Cllr Kercher queried why the two sections relating to charitable trusts were not consistent and the Clerk would review the previous year's return and contact the Internal Auditor who had already signed off the Account.
- It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and recommendations contained therein of the final internal audit report for the year ended 31 March 2017 and that the Clerk implement the recommendations and respond to the Auditor.

Full Council

Clerk

Clerk

17.97 MEDSTEAD POND(S)

- Five Ash Pond** (Report from Cllr Pullen)
"The contract has been placed with the expert to provide a report and viability study on the problems/possible solutions to the flooding problems on this pond. I met with him and Cllr Kercher a couple of weeks back and then walked the surrounding area with Mr Hedges. I am expecting his initial report within the next month and will report back again when this is to hand."
- Village Pond Restoration.** (Report from Cllr Pullen)
"The loss of water has, I believe, slowed somewhat since the various works that we have carried out, so now hopeful that over the next few months we will get the water level up almost to the preferred optimum. Part of this is weather reliant, in that once the works are carried out we have to wait for the pond to top

up again to check the results. This means that for the last 3 or 4 months I have spent a lot of time either hoping for rain or for no rain. I hope you have all noticed the landscaping works that were carried out towards the end of last month which I think have lifted the whole scene to a different level. The area between the gabion wall and the water level is to be finished with meadow turf, the turfs not being available until later this month. The idea of this is that we then will only need to cut it once a year and it should give us a few more plants, weeds, flowers for the insects, butterflies, etc. Once we have stabilised the level then we can finish the planting in the pond itself with a few more bits around the banks.”

17.98 BENJAMIN UK LTD

This item was discussed under within the report from District Councillor Ingrid Thomas:

“I have spent a considerable amount of time again this month working on the disturbances caused by the children homes that have appeared in our villages. We had a meeting for all affected residents to listen to problems that are occurring.

I took the points raised to a meeting at HCC offices in Winchester, Hampshire children services, Mark Kemp Gee and myself discussed the issues with the company involved, Benjamin UK. A major issue was rubbish. We explained carefully to the company how the rubbish collection service in our district works, including what should be recycled and what should be put in the green general rubbish bins. The company said they would try harder. Noise and behaviour were discussed but no real progress was made, Benjamin UK would like complaints to be made by email when disturbances happen so that they can tackle them. The email to use is complaints@benjaminuk.co.uk please could you copy ryan.gulliver@easthants.gov.uk and myself so that we can follow up any complaints made.

At the residents meeting several people volunteered to come along to meet company representatives in an effort to improve communications which may help the situation, I am in the process of setting up those meetings.”

17.99 EHDC BOUNDARY REVIEW

Cllr Jackson suggested that due to the deadline, there would be time for all councillors to review the detail on line and a further discussion would take place at the next Full Council meeting.

All Councillors

17.100 CITIZENS ADVICE HAMPSHIRE UPDATE SURVEY

Medstead Parish Council noted the Survey.

17.101 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Fenwick reported that Cala Homes may be reneging on the previous agreement regarding the allotments at their development site in Medstead and there is an urgent need to meet with EHDC to discuss how this will be enforced.

17.102 ALTON SPORTS CENTRE

Cllr Jackson highlighted a “flyer” which had been circulated in the community which gave the details of the consultation process which runs from 30th May to 23rd June 2017.

17.103 SPEEDWATCH

In the absence of Cllr Smith, Cllr Pullen updated the meeting stating that volunteers were undertaking Speedwatch activity around twice each week but more volunteers are still required.

17.104 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Medstead Parish Council are having a stand at the forthcoming Medstead Village Fete and volunteers re required to oversee the stand if possible. The Clerk is purchasing a gazebo and Cllr Jackson is trying to source display boards. Areas to be displayed will be Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Plan, Footpath map, motorist / horse awareness, council meeting dates, web site extracts and suggestion box for future Council projects.

17.105 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- i. A footpath officer for Medstead is required and an advert will be placed in the Medstead Times.
- ii. Cllr Kercher reported that the Sports Club had been approached by a firm regarding “dirty” water charges and warned that other organisations in the area should be aware.
- iii. Cllr Buckland asked if the drinks licence applied to just drinks being sold at events in the Hall or whether it extended to outside the Hall as well.

**Maintenance
Committee / Clerk**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

ChairmanDate.....