

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY 2011

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair), Smith, Tweddle, Caldwell & Clarke

Parishioners: Peter Jackson

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Beaty, Rennie Barbour, Gerald Garfield & Keith Sandars.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2010:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Tweddle. Seconded: Cllr Smith.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.3.4.1 Tree Preservation Orders: Although the criteria for trees within a Conservation Area having individual TPO's placed on them had been received and circulated to councillors, we are still waiting for the list of trees within the village currently subject to TPOs. Cllr Caldwell expressed concern that he understood HDC are unable to provide a list, which could result in many of them eventually getting destroyed or removed. The Clerk will follow this up with Andrew Shaw the Landscape Officer for Trees & Woodlands with LCC.

3.4.1 Application by Mrs J Wilson for removal of a willow tree at Willowbrook House: Since the last meeting notification of a decision to refuse permission to fell the willow tree has been received from LCC under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. The reason given being that this particular tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order and it would result in loss of amenity to the area.

3.6.1 Parish Website: Peter Jackson advised that the Leicestershirevillages website has been completely revamped over the weekend and now has a Harborough representative on board. As there appears to be an improvement Peter will have a closer look to see if it is more user friendly.

3.10.1 Salt Bin – Old Holt Road: Bryan Smith has located an old salt bin buried in the hedge surrounding the Village Hall near the footbridge. He has offered to organize a group of volunteers to help move it to Old Holt Road but Cllr Tweddle advised that residents appear to have made it quite clear that no-one would want it on any of the verges, all of which are in private ownership.

3.8.1 Youth Club Funding: Cllr Caldwell asked if the Youth Club had yet been able to clarify the funding position as the Village Hall Committee would like to know if the Thursday meetings will still be going ahead. Cllr Polito will provide Cllr Caldwell with the relevant details so that he can take this up with David Gibley.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 Brudenell Estates – Redevelopment of Pagets Farm: Since the last meeting details of an application for removal of condition 13 (pedestrian visibility splays) had been received and circulated to councillors. All councillors objected to the proposal on the basis that the reason for inclusion of this condition on the Planning Permission given in August 2010 was "in the interests of pedestrian safety" giving the implication that HDC are putting this issue aside. Councillors

continue to be of the opinion that the access/exit for this development is dangerous and these comments have been forwarded to the Development Control Team.

The Clerk mentioned that condition 13 of the Planning Permission had also included a requirement that nothing within the splays be higher than 0.9 metres above the level of the adjacent footway/verge/highway. Condition 19 of the same notice however, which as far as we are aware remains in place, requires the hedge fronting No.36 be reduced and maintained in perpetuity at a maximum height of 0.9 metres above the level of the adjacent carriageway. In view of the issue that had arisen at the December meeting about the legalities of whether a condition for the hedge to be cut back could be included, it was decided to write to the Development Control Team asking for confirmation that condition 19 will be enforced before any work takes place.

4.2 Erection of an agricultural building at Mill Farm, Slawston Road, Medbourne: Planning Permission has been given by the Development Control Team to Mr P Bromwich on the basis that by virtue of its size, design, siting and use, it would sustain or improve the rural economy without adversely affecting the character and appearance of the landscape.

4.3 During the month details of Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District had been received and circulated to councillors.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1 During the month the following correspondence had been received and circulated to councillors:

- November 2010 Newsletter issued by L&RALC which included confirmation that Government policies to encourage council tax freezes for the forthcoming year do not apply to the Parish Councils on the basis that taxes raised locally are sensitive to the needs of the people within their own parish.
- Legal Briefing from NALC about responsibilities of local councils for clearing snow and ice.
- Advice from Came & Company following enquiries made regarding clearance of snow or ice and the implication on the Parish Council's insurance.
- Minutes from the Rural East Community Forum Meeting, which included an item on the role of the Planning Enforcement Officer.
- Details about celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and the lighting of beacons to be lit through the UK.
- Details about the Active Together Project based at Harborough District Council with a grant fund of £5,000 for allocation across the district.
- Information about the Localism Bill to be introduced.
- Information from LCC regarding the concessionary travel scheme for older and disabled residents of Leicestershire.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL: Cllr Caldwell reiterated his concern that the Youth Club had not yet clarified the position regarding use of the Village Hall on a Thursday evening. As HDC have been enquiring about use of the village hall for dance classes, the position needs to be clarified as soon as possible.

8.0 REPORTS: No reports given.

9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME: Nothing to report.

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

10.1 An expression of thanks was made to the Sports Club for taking away the tree in the children's playground that needed removing.

11.0 ACCOUNTS:

11.1 At the meeting the following invoices were submitted to councillors for payment:

E.on	£178.83
Street Lighting Charges	

E.on UK Energy	£119.00
Street Lighting Maintenance	

Philip Johnson & Daughters	£125.37
Bird Food – The Hollow	

Murphy's Taxis	£ 5.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

V Simkin	£ 30.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

Proposed: Cllr Tweddle. Seconded: Cllr Caldwell.

12.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th February 2011 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. The following meeting will be Monday 7th March 2011.

13.0 COUNCILLOR'S HOLIDAYS: None given.

14.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

14.1 A question was raised about inadequate work undertaken to repair of potholes in the village. Cllr Polito referred to the recent announcement about cuts in funding to the Highways Department and the consequent knock on effect on maintenance work, which would not improve the situation.

14.2 Vegetation appears to be defacing the War Memorial and it was asked whether permission had been required when we undertook similar work a few years ago. The Clerk will check the position, although it is thought that the only consideration required is the manner in which cleaning is undertaken.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

