

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2011

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

Parishioners: Peter Jackson & Keith Sandars

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr David Beaty, Rennie Barbour & PC Andy Cooper

Before commencement of the meeting Cllr Polito paid tribute to Colin Pitcher who has died recently. Colin had served as Chairman of the Parish Council for a number of years in the 1990's.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 10TH JANUARY 2011:

3.3.4.1 Tree Preservation Orders: The Clerk had circulated the list of trees within the village subject to individual tree preservation orders that had been provided by the Landscape Officer at LCC. In addition, any tree within the Conservation Area of the village over 75mm in diameter at 1.5m from the ground, is protected.

The question was raised whether there are advantages in having individual preservation orders placed on specific trees within the Conservation Area as Cllr Caldwell expressed his concern that diseased trees in need of removal may not be replaced. The Clerk will seek clarification of this and if there are any costs involved.

3.3.6.1 Parish Website: Peter Jackson is looking into the practicalities of using the leicestershirevillages website now it has been improved.

3.3.8.1 Youth Club Funding: David Gibley has sent an email to Cllr Caldwell outlining the position regarding the extent of use of the Village Hall required by the Youth Club.

It appears funding from LCC is likely to cease, although the Support Group are working on the basis of the Youth Group continuing to operate, at least on the current alternate Thursdays between Medbourne & Great Easton and possibly twice as was the position originally. David is preparing a funding paper which the Committee will need to agree, to cost both options and recommend the way ahead. He is anticipating that the most likely option, dictated by funding, will be to initially operate once a week, alternating as now.

3.14.1 War Memorial: Details of the method to be used for cleaning the war memorial have been circulated to councillors by the Clerk. Basically the use of soap and water with a soft brush is required. A resident who may be interested in undertaking the task will be approached by Cllr Polito.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 Brudenell Estates – removal of condition 13 (pedestrian visibility splays) of 10/00848/FUL Pagets Farm, Main Street: Permission has been given by the Development Control Team.

The Clerk is still waiting for a response to our letter of 14 January 2011 relating to enforcement of Condition 19 of the Planning Consent dated 11th August 2010. Having spoken to Paul Taylor in the Development Control Team he is of the opinion that enforcement could only be made on occupation of the dwellings due to the wording of the condition. However he will

speak to the architects involved asking if, due to our concerns regarding the access, the hedge could be cut back before work commences and contractors vehicles are going in and out of the site. He will respond to our letter next week.

4.2 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:

- New Price List from Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds.
- Thank you letter from CAB for donation of £50.
- Information about requirements for Disclosure of Expenditure in excess of £500.
- Details from Harborough Police in Partnership with HDC about 'Hate Crime Awareness Week 24th - 30th January 2011.
- Application to apply for invitation to Buckingham Palace Garden Party 12th July 2011 open to council Chairmen of Parish Councils.
- January 2011 Newsletter published by L&RALC.
- Development Control Advice on 'Making Comments on Planning Applications'.
- Details of training sessions available in January & February for Councillors & Clerks.
- Information about the Localism Bill published by the government.
- Consultation documents from the National Association of Local Councils relating to Boundary Reviews & Tree Preservation Orders.
- Notification of the next meeting of HDC 24th January 2011.
- Notification of the next HDC Standards Committee meeting at the Council Offices 25th January 2011.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL:

7.1 Cllr Caldwell advised that he would not stand for re-election as Chairman of The Village Hall Committee at the AGM due to take place on Monday 18th April at 7.30pm. If any member of the existing Committee would like to volunteer and be proposed for the position they are asked to let him know. Alternatively if there is a suitable candidate elsewhere in the village who a committee member would be happy to recommend Allan would be pleased to hear from them.

Allan said that he had enjoyed his time as Chairman and gave his thanks to everyone for the support given over the last five years. He is pleased with the progress that has been achieved on many fronts to preserve and enhance the value of the Village Hall for the local community

as a whole.

8.0 REPORTS:

8.1 Parish Council Election: The Chairman reported that Cllr Caldwell has also given notice that he would be standing down from the Parish Council at the elections on 5th May 2011 to give ample time for candidates to come forward. The Chairman thanked Allan for all the work he has done during his time both as councillor and Chairman of the Village Hall Committee which is greatly appreciated.

The question of a successor for Allan was discussed and whether there is anyone known who would be interested in being put forward for election. Councillors will start to put the word round. As there are now a lot of young people in the village it would be of particular interest if there is someone of this age group willing to submit a nomination.

Past experience dictates however that we are unlikely to get a total of more than five nominations. It is important that we ascertain the number submitted to HDC at the closing date so that any of the present councillors can consider withdrawing their nomination in order to give someone new the opportunity of taking up a position on the Parish Council, without incurring the high costs to the village of holding a contested election. The Clerk will make a diary note of the dates as the timescale for making a withdrawal after close of nominations is very tight.

9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:

Although numbers continue to be low the scheme gives important support to those people in need of assistance with transport costs who do not have access to a car. One new application to join the scheme has recently been received .

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

10.1 Leak on Hallaton Road: Cllr Smith has reported a leak near the entrance to the car park of the Sports Club to Severn Trent.

10.2 Damage to churchyard wall: The church surveyor has made a complaint about the presence of a puddle caused by a depression at the siting of a gully cover that is causing damage to the churchyard wall.

10.3 Litter bins: Cllr Caldwell reported that two of the litter bins have broken catches. One is opposite the telephone box and the other near the Old Forge. Cllr Polito will report the damage to Street Scene Services at HDC.

11.0 ACCOUNTS:

11.1 Since the last meeting an invoice for £146.99 in respect of the annual service for the parish mower had been received from Diamond Mowers and submitted to councillors for payment. A number of parts had required replacement, the main one being the clutch blade plate at a cost of £40. The service element of the invoice was £78. VAT totalling £24.50 would be reclaimed in the usual way.

11.2 At the meeting an invoice for £100 from KwikCabs (Market Harborough) for redeemed taxi vouchers was submitted to councillors for payment.

Proposed: Cllr Caldwell. Seconded: Cllr Clarke.

- 11.3** The Clerk had emailed Andy Holyoake asking about the annual donation of £250 by the Sports Club which had not yet been paid into the Mower Fund Account.
- 12.0** **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th March 2011 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. The following meeting on Monday 4th April 2011 will be the Annual Parish Meeting. On Monday 9th May 2011 the Annual Statutory meeting will be take place when the councillors elected on 5th May 2011 will take up their positions.
- 13.0** **COUNCILLORS' HOLIDAYS:** Details of holidays being taken by councillors during the month were given.
- 14.0** **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** No questions raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.