

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 4TH JULY 2011

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair), Clarke, Pilkington & Palmer
Cllr David Beaty

Parishioners: Rennie Barbour, Ian Stevens, David Tuffs, Declan Woods.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Tweddle & Keith Sandars.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2011:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
Proposed: Cllr Pilkington. Seconded: Cllr Clarke.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2011:

3.22.3 Speeding along Main Street: A response has now been received from the Highways Dept, the outcome of which is that in spite of the apparently reckless behaviour of motorcyclists through the village their records indicate that there have been no reported injury accidents over the last five years. We would therefore be considered a low priority for any scheme to reduce road casualties as these are prioritised on the numbers of accidents and their severity, with priority being given to sites with more pressing road safety issues. The Highways Dept spoke of initiatives available to communities which are given their support such as the Community Speed Watch scheme and the Mobile VAS initiative, which they are promoting, whereby a parish can purchase vehicle activated signs that can be moved around the community to try and tackle speeding issues.

3.13.0 Speed gun: PC Andy Cooper is planning to start issuing reports this month, a copy of which will be sent to the Parish Council. He has used the speed gun twice when he was in the village but this was during the week at 10am. and 1pm. He will arrange to come at more relevant times if we let him know when it is a particular problem ie weekends, particularly Sunday mornings and commuter times. As Mark Paine recently raised the continuing problem along Main Street, Cllr Pilkington will ask him if there are any other times of particular concern so that the Clerk can send a list of days and times to PC Andy Cooper.

3.8.2 Parish Website: Cllr Polito had sent a letter to Peter Jackson thanking him for the work he had undertaken in respect of the website for a number of years.

David Tuffs had arranged a display at the fete, which generated some interest and had received offers of help with the supply of material, particularly in relation to the history of the village and the village school.

David has set up a page for Local Businesses and is receiving positive interest from a number of people. At present he has been able to feature the village shop, including pictures and details of the services available, the Nevill Arms, B & B at Medbourne Grange and is currently working with Derek Hunt to put information on about his stained glass business.

The Clerk spoke of a letter received from Leics CC indicating that they propose to levy an annual charge for the Parish Council website to cover the support provided by the Community ICT team. As most of the information from the Parish Council website is fed through to the leicestershirevillages website, David thought it may be feasible to use this site instead, as it is a

service provided to all villages free of charge. The letter from Leics CC will be circulated to councillors and put on the agenda for the next meeting in August.

3.12.4 Bank Mandate: The Clerk asked if all councillors had now been into Barclays Bank with their completed Personal Details Form and ID. It only remained for Cllr Clarke to go into the bank within the next few days so that authorization for all councillors to sign cheques can be put in place.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 During the month notification had been received that Ms Emma Granger has withdrawn the application for erection of an attached single bay garage, Bridgedale Barn, Brook Terrace.

4.2 Mr A Cory – Discharge of condition 2 (materials relating to planning ref:10/00199/PCD relating to 40 Main Street: Discharge of this condition has been refused by HDC on the basis that the design and appearance of the windows would detract from the building and Conservation Area.

4.3 During the month Planning Permission had been given by the Development Control Dept in respect of:

J Beaty & Sons – Installation of steel lattice radio mast and creation of associated compound at Home Farm Holt Road.

J P Polito – Renewal of planning permission for demolition of existing building and erection of dwelling at The Old Slaughterhouse, Springbank.

4.4 During the month details of Planning Applications submitted to the Development 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;

- Details about Playground Inspection Training Courses available through the L&RPFA.
- Further information about Neighbourhood Planning as part of the Localism Bill.
- Invitation to apply for positions as Parish Representatives on the Standards Committee for HDC.
- Copy of Policy Consultation relating to Relaxation of Planning Rules for Change of Use from Commercial to Residential.
- Legal Briefing relating to Councillors' Notification under the Data Protection Act 1998.
- Further details about the Northants Minerals & Waste Development Framework.
- Notification of the AGM for the L&RPFA.
- Unmetered Supply Certification issued by Western Power Distribution.
- Email from the Planning Officer at LCC regarding submission of the Waste Site Allocations document.

- Rota of Meetings arranged by HDC.
- Information from Communities in Partnership about various initiatives taking place during Older Persons' Month in September 2011.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL:

7.1 Cllr Clarke reported that the meetings he has attended seem very positive. New people have joined the Management Committee and a number of suggestions for fund raising have been made. Karl Jenkins, the new Chairman, is keen to have a programme for routine maintenance and is compiling a list of work that would require attention during the calendar year. The Dilapidation Report showing the present condition of the Village Hall is being drawn up by Martyn Jones.

7.2 The Balance Sheet produced shows the expenditure being far greater than the income. The Management Committee are therefore looking at hire charges to see if they are comparable with other village halls.

8.0 REPORTS:

8.1 Cllr Palmer reported that he had attended a Conference arranged for Heritage Wardens, which had been interesting and has asked Bryan Smith to carry out a survey regarding the population of swifts, swallows and house martins.

8.2 Cllr Clarke reported that there has been a very positive reaction by the Sports Club to the developments being made on the village website and the various clubs are keen to have a page on the site promoting their activities.

The ball organized by the Sports Club had raised £2,500 for the Extension Fund and meetings regarding the design of the extension are ongoing.

8.3 Cllr Pilkington reported that the annual clean up of the playground has been arranged for this Saturday 9th July 2011. Anyone able to help is asked to contact Louise. There are also a number of small repairs that need to be undertaken but nothing of any significance.

9.0 SPORTS CLUB – Funding of Ground Maintenance:

Following a letter received from the Sports Club inquiring about the possible use of the funds held in the Mower Fund Account to cover ground maintenance, representatives of the Sports Club attended the meeting to speak of the need to improve the ground, which is beginning to deteriorate with the increase use for both football and cricket.

The Chairman clarified that initially the Mower Fund had been set up specifically for replacement of the gang mower. Some years ago it had been agreed that use of the funds be extended to allow for the replacement and/or reconditioning of equipment for mowing the field. Although it is appreciated that new techniques are now available for improving playing surfaces, it is essential that adequate funds are kept available for the purchase of major capital equipment, as opposed to them being used for ground maintenance work or other revenue items.

The Chairman went on to say that we are most fortunate to have such sports facilities for so many people from both the village and surrounding areas to use. It is fully understood that this in itself presents a problem of deterioration of the playing surfaces, unless work is undertaken to improve

the soil structure.

However, the overwhelming feeling of the Parish Council, was that the costs involved should be borne by those participating in the various sporting activities by contributing towards ground maintenance through their subscriptions, match fees or fundraising and that use of the monies held in the Mower Fund should be limited to the purposes for which it is currently intended.

10.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:

The scheme continues to run well for those in the village without access to a car, who need assistance with transport arrangements.

11.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE: Nothing to report.

12.0 ACCOUNTS:

12.1 Annual Audit: Carolyn Frostwick, Internal Auditor, has carried out her audit of the Parish Council accounts and has found everything in order but has raised the question of whether VAT can be reclaimed in respect of the Legal Fees for the Village Hall Lease. She has asked that the position be clarified before she is able to sign off the question relating to VAT on the Annual Return.

The Clerk has spoken to the Association of Local Councils and they will contact us once they have been able to check this out with their Legal Dept. Their feeling is, however, that as we have been reimbursed by the Village Hall Management Committee for the costs involved ie £3,700, it would not be considered as a 'Non Business' activity and we would therefore be unable to reclaim the VAT of £647.50.

Cllr Polito indicated that if this is the case, the Parish Council would need to ask the Village Hall Management Committee to meet the full cost of the Legal Fees and reimburse us with the sum of £647.50.

12.2 The Clerk asked if all councillors have now completed their Registration of Members' Interests form and returned to the Monitoring Officer at HDC.

12.3 Confirmation of renewal of the Parish Council's insurances through Came & Co. has been received from Aviva Insurance Ltd.

12.4 A booking will be made for Cllr Pilkington to attend the training day arranged for Tuesday 1st November 2011. The Clerk will ask if a firm booking can be made nearer the date.

12.5 During the month the following invoices had been submitted to councillors for payment:

Leicestershire Police Authority	£292.50
Donation to Speed Gun	

Harborough District Council	£ 75.00
Election Fee	

At the meeting the following invoice was presented for payment:

Murphy's Taxis	£ 20.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Palmer.

13.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The date for the next meeting will be Monday 1st August 2011, followed by Monday 5th September 2011. There will be no meeting in October.

Cllr Pilkington gave her apologies for being unable to attend the next meeting on 1st August 2011

14.0 COUNCILLORS' HOLIDAYS: No details of any holidays given.

15.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No questions raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.