

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 1ST AUGUST 2011

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

Parishioners: Rennie Barbour, Keith Sandars and David Tuffs.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Pilkington

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4TH JULY 2011:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.13.0 Speed Gun: A report has been received from PC Andy Cooper listing the times and dates he has been to the village using the speed gun during July. No speeding offences took place at the times he was in attendance but it was not carried out at a critical time and not helped by a member of the public parking a vehicle near the shop with a note placed on the rear window warning drivers that speed monitoring was in place.

A list of times causing the biggest problem with speeding has been give to Andy and if it transpires that the times causing the biggest problem are not being attacked we will need to contact him.

3.12.1 VAT on Legal Fees for Village Hall: It has been established that the Parish Council is unable to reclaim the payment of VAT on Legal Fees for drawing up of the new lease and as a result the full cost of the invoice must be met by the Village Hall.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 During the month details of the following planning applications had been received from the Development Control Team and circulated to councillors for comment:

Mr N Hackett – Extn to existing conservatory at Foxhill, 17 Old Holt Road: Councillors had no reason to comment on this application.

Mr R Hallam – Felling of trees at 29 Main Street: Councillors had no reason to comment on this application for removal of trees on land to the rear of this property as they would block too much light from the proposed dwelling.

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:

- Questionnaire from HDC relating to Consultation on Dog Control Orders taking place from 1st July to 30th September 2011. This has been completed and returned.

- Request for nomination of Parish Representatives to the Standards Committee.
- Invitation to apply to be a Trustee of the Rural Community Council.
- Information relating to some of the highway, landscape design and construction services offered by Leics CC.
- Details from the Elections Manager at HDC about the employment of casual, temporary staff to assist with the annual canvass of electors taking place this Autumn.
- June 2011 edition of the Newsletter published by LJ&RALC.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL:

7.1 Beer Festival: Following the recent success of the Beer Festival the Parish Council has been asked by the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to comment on a similar arrangement being made for next year as a number of people had made complaints about the noise over a long period of time.

Overall opinion was that whilst it is a good event for both The Nevill and the village, some restriction should be placed on the finishing time for music, especially if it is held over three consecutive days. Additionally it would be courteous to give plenty of notice to those residents within the immediate vicinity of the dates and times the event would be taking place.

It is also understood that cleaning up after the event involved a lot of work being required by the caretakers of the Village Hall.

After a discussion it was agreed that any potential problems need to be resolved well beforehand. A response to the Chairman's email will be sent suggesting that the arrangement for next year includes:

- Ensuring that the length and lateness of the music be restricted to a reasonable time on Friday and Saturday evening. On Sunday, lunchtime – 8pm would seem appropriate.
- Nearby residents given plenty of notice of dates and times for the event.

7.2 Fees for Hire of Hall: At a recent meeting an increase in fees to be more in line with other village halls in the vicinity were considered.

7.3 Roof Repairs: Quotations are being sought to carry out extensive repairs to the roof and clearing of the gutters.

8.0 REPORTS:

8.1 Dovecote in Nevill Arms Car Park: Cllr Pilkington had been approached about the imitation dovecote in the Nevill Arms car park. Local opinion is that the nature of its construction is not in keeping with the area and that it is pointless having a dovecote if birds are unable to use it. Cllr Palmer will speak privately to the owners of the Nevill Arms.

8.2 Sports Club Award: Congratulations to John Burrows on winning the Groundsman of the Year Award given by Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association for the pitch in best condition for state of play. John also came 3rd in the National Award following an inspection of the pitches by two representatives from Manchester City. This is a tremendous achievement and just reward for all the hard work John puts into groundwork preparation of the football pitches that are extensively used by both Junior and Senior teams.

9.0 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: Notification from the Development & Community ICT Programme Manager for Leics County Council had been received, that following funding cuts an annual charge is to be levied for the support provided by the Community ICT Team for use of the *parishcouncils* website.

It was agreed the internet is the most appropriate way of circulating Parish Council information and councillors gave consideration to the nature and extent of information that needs to be placed on the site. David Tuffs kindly gave councillors his thoughts regarding other options that could be considered as against the merits of continuing with the *leicestershireparishcouncils* site and paying the annual fee of £150 being proposed. David also made the point that as both the *leicestershirevillages* and *parishcouncils* website are operated by separate teams within Leics CC, rationalisation of their IT resources should be possible by merging the two sites.

On balance it was agreed that it would be more cost effective and less complex to stay with the *leicestershireparishcouncils* site. When returning the Response Form however the Parish Council will suggest that savings could be made by merging this site with the separate website for *leicestershirevillages.com*, also operated by the Council using a similar data base and whilst we accept that the annual fee would initially be justified to cover the expenses incurred by merging the two sites, the annual fee to cover ongoing costs should be reconsidered.

10.0 HARBOROUGH COMMUNITY FORUM:

Information had been received from Leics County Council who have agreed to take over the organisation of Community Forums within Harborough District. The aim is to provide an opportunity for sharing and addressing issues in the local area and about joint working to find and implement solutions. To this end the County Council would welcome Parish Representatives interested in taking on a pro-active role in liaising with surrounding parishes to identify topics and issues of common interest ahead of meetings.

The previous forums organized by Harborough District Council had received little support, and whilst it was agreed that the ideas being put forward for the new forums look more positive, councillors preferred to limit their involvement to taking up any issues of importance to the village that appear on the agenda for the forum meetings as and when they arise.

11.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:

This continues to tick over slowly, being used regularly by the few people presently in need of the scheme.

David Tuffs is developing a page for Local Transport on the *leicestershirevillages* website and would like to publicize the Taxi Voucher Scheme. The Clerk will provide David with the relevant information.

12.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

12.1 Blocked drains along Ashley Road: Following the recent roadworks carried out on the Ashley Road the drains have become blocked with silt and debris. Cllr Polito will report this to the

Highways Dept.

- 12.2 Water Leak near footbridge by Nevill Arms Car Park:** Despite being repaired the leak appears worse than ever and Severn Trent are to investigate the problem further. The contact telephone no. for Severn Trent is 0800 783 4444.
- 12.3 Mowing of Towpath:** Mowing of the towpath is now done separately to the churchyard but has not been mown since the work was allocated to another gang. Having contacted Matthew Bills the gang have been asked to mow the area once a month. This has now been done but we need to keep an eye on it being mown regularly.
- 12.4 Footpath along Rectory Lane:** This has become impassable due to the weeds growing at the base of the wall. Contractors for HDC should spray the complete length of the footpath but for some reason usually stop at the Rectory. As they only spray once a year however it is not sufficient but the grass adjacent to the footpath is cut regularly and should not be a problem to walk on this time of year.
- 12.5 Well on Manor Road:** This has now been cleared of weeds.
- 12.6 Wasps around footbridge:** It has been established that there is no nest in the immediate vicinity but the wasps appear to be eating the wood. Unfortunately it seems nothing can be done to overcome this.
- 12.7 Ragwort in Leviathan Wood:** The Estates Manager for owners of the wood has been contacted due to growth of ragwort. He will arrange for it's removal and implement a three year programme to eradicate this poisonous plant in the spring.
- 12.8 Replacement of damaged litter bins:** These will be replaced within the next three weeks.
- 13.0 ACCOUNTS:**
- 13.1 Bank Mandate:** Confirmation has now been received from Barclays Bank that all formalities are complete and the new Mandate is now up and running. All councillors are now authorized to sign cheques for the Parish Council.
- 13.2 Annual Audit:** As it has now been established that the Parish Council is unable to reclaim the VAT relating to Legal Fees for the village hall lease the Internal Auditor has been able to sign off the relevant section of the Annual Return and this has been forwarded to Hacker Young, the External Auditors.
- The Village Hall Management Committee are presently raising a cheque to reimburse the Parish Council for the VAT element of the invoice for legal fees.
- 13.3** During the month the following invoices had been submitted to councillors for payment:
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| V Simkin | £ 35.00 |
| Redeemed Taxi Vouchers | |
| E.on | £179.67 |
| Street Lighting Charges | |
| J P Polito | £ 51.43 |
| Reimbursement for payment to Diamond Mowers for repair to | |

parish mower.

At the meeting a receipt of £13.28 for reimbursement to Ian Stevens for purchase of petrol for the parish mower was presented for payment. Proposed: Cllr Tweddle. Seconded: Cllr Clarke.

14.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th September 2011. There will be no meeting in October and the following meeting will be Monday 7th November 2011.

15.0 COUNCILLOR'S HOLIDAYS: Details of when councillors would be away during the forthcoming month were given.

16.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

16.1 Footpath along Ashley Road: Rennie Barbour advised that the hedge adjoining the footpath has become overgrown, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. Cllr Polito will speak to the landowner.

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