

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2011

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

Parishioners: Ian Stevens & Keith Sandars.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Rennie Barbour.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2011:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.13.0 Speed gun: The monthly report had been received from PC Andy Cooper listing times and dates he has been in the villages using the speed gun during October. One local driver had been ticketed in Medbourne for doing 38mph.

After a discussion about concerns that drivers were only being given a ticket if travelling at over 41mph it was agreed that councillors would prefer that PC Andy Cooper continues giving a ticket to drivers found travelling at 38mph or more in Medbourne.

It was also considered that it would be more appropriate for the speed gun to cover the access roads into the village ie Uppingham Road, Drayton Road, Ashley Road & Hallaton Road rather than opposite Rectory Lane where drivers are already going slower due to the number of road junctions in that vicinity and this will be taken up with PC Andy Cooper.

3.6.1 Public Footpath across sports field: Approval by the Parish Council has been given for the Sports Club to apply to HDC to divert the footpath to avoid the playing surfaces, on the understanding that all costs are borne by the Sports Club. It is thought a similar stance would be taken by the MEFT. Ian Stevens advised that for the time being, due to the costs involved, the Sports Club are not pursuing diversion of the footpath.

Stephen Bishop has expressed his concerns and strong views that the MEFT land forming part of the sports field must be available for use by everyone. Cllr Pilkington, as representative for the MEFT, will research into the position in respect of the intended use of MEFT land. Cllr Polito indicated the Sports Club would need to look at the legal documents in this respect and went on to say that they do not have exclusive use of that part of the land leased to them by the Parish Council.

3.7.1 Deep rut between footbridge and the Nevill Arms car park off Main Street: As the Highways Dept are owners of the land in question all relevant information was passed to them and the potholes were filled in the following day.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 Since the last meeting the following Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team had been received and circulated to councillors for comment:

- **Mr R Hallam – Work to tree at 29 Main Street:** Councillors had no comment to make and approval for the work has since been given.
- **Mrs Wilson – Work to trees at Willowbrook House, Hallaton Road:** Some concern was raised by councillors that the extent of the pollarding is unacceptable for these willow trees, which are subject to an individual Tree Preservation Order, and are part of the charm and character of this area along the towpath. These comments have been forwarded to the Development Control Team.
- **Mr & Mrs T Smith – Erection of canopy & insertion of window to front elevation and erection of one and a half storey glazed link extension to rear of 35 Main Street:** Councillors gave their support to this proposal.
- **Mr & Mrs R Hammond – Erection of two storey extension & two storey front extension at 7 Hallaton Road:** Councillors had no comment to make with regard to this application.
- **Work to Trees at The Old School, Main Street:** This application had been submitted by the Village Hall Management Committee in the name of the Parish Council for lifting the crown by 4m. Although consent for the work has been received it is understood that an application for removal of the tree is to be made following an inspection by the Village Hall insurers due to cracks that have appeared in the kitchen area of the building.

The Village Hall Management Committee is to be advised that all Planning Applications must be submitted in the name of the applicant ie the Village Hall Management Committee.

- **Mr Karl Jenkins – Internal alterations to include blocking up existing doorway, creating new doorway & replacement fireplace at The Old House, Old Green:** Councillors had no comment regarding this application.
- **Mr Karl Jenkins – Erection of timber gazebo at The Old House, Old Green:** Councillors had no comment regarding this application.
- **Mr & Mrs R Heyman – Work to trees at The Manor House, Manor Road:** Councillors had no comment regarding this application.
- **Seven Locks Housing Ltd – Installation of cladding to external walls (to provide insulation) and roof covering works at 17 & 19 Hallaton Road & 24,34 & 36, & 42 Drayton Road:** The only comment made was that the work may look strange in cases where an adjoining semi detached property, not in the ownership of Seven Locks, was not done.

4.2 Since the last meeting lists of Planning Applications submitted to the Planning Control Team for the Harborough District during September had been received and circulated to councillors.

4.3 A useful booklet ‘How to Respond to Planning Applications: An 8-step Guide’ had been received and passed to Cllr Palmer, Planning Representative for the Parish Council.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1 Since the last meeting the following correspondence had been received and circulated to councillors:

- Confirmation from E.on that they had completed their annual visit in respect of street lighting in the parish and carried out routine maintenance work.
- Request from HDC for notification of the number of copies of the new Electoral Register required for councillors and the Clerk. The relevant form has since been completed and returned by the Clerk.
- Agenda for the Rural East Community Forum at Glooston Village Hall on Tuesday 27th September 2011.
- Notification about the Village SOS Roadshow taking place at Melton Mowbray on Friday 18th November 2011.
- Offer from the Liaison & Take Up Officer for HDC to give a basic talk to any groups in the village about Housing & Council Tax benefit and how to claim it.
- Draft document regarding the National Planning Policy Framework & Neighbourhood Planning proposal.
- Information about proposals by the Boundary Commission for England on the 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England.
- Information relating to the Postal Ballot for election to the RCC Board of Trustees.
- Notification of the AGM for the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- Notification of the Standards Committee Meeting for HDC.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:

6.1 Sign Post to Sports Club: In view of the increased number of vehicles and people asking for directions it was asked whether we could have a direction sign for the Sports Club at the cross roads by the War Memorial. Cllr Polito will speak to the Highways Dept.

6.2 Advertising Banners: The question on whether Planning Permission should be sought before erecting advertising banners was raised as it is thought that the one for the Cinnamon Lounge is 'a bit of an eyesore'. The one in the churchyard was also mentioned. Cllr Polito will take this up with the relevant people.

7.0 REPORTS:

7.1 Hire Charges for Village Hall: Cllr Clarke reported that complaints are being voiced within the village about the proposed increase in hire charges for the Village Hall.

Keith Sandars, a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, said this had been raised at the last Village Hall meeting but the problem is that over the last financial year a substantial loss had been made, although a percentage of this was due to the costs involved in drawing up the new lease. The Committee had done a comparison with charges made by other village halls in the area, the majority of which charge up to £9 per hour whereas Medbourne charges per

session.. In view of the response from some of the organizations using the Village Hall, the Committee is considering distributing a questionnaire around the village.

Cllr Polito explained that the Management Committee does hold funds from the sale of the Old Village Hall, which were initially ring-fenced to make provision for an alternative Village Hall, but as we now have a new 50 year lease, the funds are being earmarked for repair and upgrade of the building,.

7.2 Beer Festival: Cllr Clarke reported that a consultation had taken place by a sub-committee of the Village Hall Committee and the Nevill Arms to ensure adequate arrangements are in place for next year in order to overcome the problems that had been encountered at this year's Beer Festival.

7.3 Fund-raising for Children's Playground: Cllr Pilkington reported that the recent fund-raising event arranged by the MEFT in the Village Hall had been very successful.

7.4 Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils AGM: Cllr Polito had attended this meeting at which a new constitution had been put in place.

7.5 Councillor Training Course: Cllr Pilkington had attended this course organized by the L&RALC which had been very informative.

8.0 DIAMOND JUBILEE: It was agreed that the Parish Council make a donation towards the celebrations being organized for the village by Gill Pemberton and Elaine Hall.

It was also suggested we light a beacon on top of the hill at Nevill Holt as we did for the Millennium and Cllr David Beaty kindly offered to arrange this on land at The Grange.

The suggestion of planting a tree was also made and it was thought appropriate if is planted in the Village Hall grounds to replace the tree to be felled. Cllr Polito will discuss this possibility with Karl Jenkins and also 'run it by' the Tree Warden.

9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME: The balance remaining in the fund is presently £987. The frequency by which those using the fund could receive replacement books of vouchers was discussed together with the future sustainability of the scheme which would need to be considered at some point. In the meantime it was agreed that people would be allocated a maximum of one book every two months.

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

10.1 Cleaning of War Memorial: David Nance and his son have very kindly arranged for a group of youngsters to clean the War Memorial ready for the Remembrance Service on Sunday. Cllr Polito gave David a copy of the regulations relating to the cleaning of War Memorials and it now looks fantastic. A thank you letter will be sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council.

10.2 Litter Bins: Two new litter bins have now been provided in the village. The litter bin in the Children's Playground however has still not been emptied. Matthew Bills has again contacted FOSCA requesting it to be emptied without further delay as the matter has been outstanding for some time.

11.0 ACCOUNTS – Including Precept:

11.1 Since the last meeting the following invoices had been submitted to councillors for payment:

Murphy's Taxis	£ 45.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
V Simkin & Son	£ 45.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
E.on	£121.54
Street Lighting Maintenance	
J Sandars	£438.00
6 Months Salary -	£433.68
Stamps -	£ 4.32
E.on	£178.83
Street Lighting Charges	
R Murphy	£145.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
Murphy's Taxis	£ 45.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
Kwik Cabs	£ 50.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
J Sandars	£ 14.99
Print Cartridge	

At the meeting the following invoices were presented to councillors for payment:

RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 40.00
Wreath/Donation	
Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds	£ 69.30
The Hollow	

Proposed: Cllr Palmer. Seconded: Cllr Tweddle

11.2 Precept: An analysis of the variances in estimated expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2012 against anticipated expenditure, which formed the basis of the Precept Calculations for the year 2011/2012, had been distributed to councillors by the Clerk. This, together with a draft of the Precept Calculations for the year 2012/2013 was discussed at the meeting.

The higher figures for Estimated Expenses & Payments for the Year Ending 31st March 2012 are due to purchase of the speed gun and the increased donation to the Youth Club, not budgeted for when calculating the Precept.

Included in the Precept for 2012/2013 is:

- An overall increase of 5% for Street Lighting in respect of electricity charges and maintenance costs.
- Increase to £150 for the Parish Mower to allow for one repair and the annual service.
- Increase to £275 to cover the new hire charges for the Village Hall.
- Increase to £250 for grass cutting to cover an anticipated rise in charges made by HDC.
- Increase to £100 for the Parish Maintenance Contingency Fund to build up reserves which only stand at £108.
- £400 for the donation to the Youth Club in line with the amount agreed this year.

This would increase the precept to £5861, an increase of £278 (4.98%) on last year.

This, however, does not include any donation to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. All councillors agreed that a donation should be made and it decided that the sum of £200 be given.

The amount allowed in the Precept for the Parish Mower was discussed as it had been used less this year and would not warrant a full service. Ian Stevens advised that Brooksby College had been in touch with him regarding a scheme to enable students gain experience in repair and maintenance of different types of equipment. Ian plans to take the sports club equipment to them for service and is quite happy to include the parish mower if the scheme goes ahead. Councillors agreed however that at this point we should not rely on this arrangement and would still need to include a figure in the precept calculation.

The Clerk will take the above into account and submit a revised Precept calculation to councillors at the December meeting.

12.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th December 2011, followed by the 9th January 2012 and 6th February 2012.

13.0 COUNCILLORS HOLIDAYS: Details of when councillors would be away were given at the meeting.

At this point Cllr Polito advised that the Clerk has indicated she will be resigning at the end of the financial year, 31st March 2012. A replacement will therefore need to be found and an item to this effect will be included in the next Parish Magazine article.

14.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No questions raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

