

Medbourne Parish Council
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2012

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair), Tweddle, Clarke, Palmer & Pilkington
Parishioners: Fiona Smith, Keith Sandars, Dec Woods & Nick Hall

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Beaty & Rennie Barbour.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2012:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.7.1 Neighbourhood Planning: This was again discussed now all councillors were present and the topic had also been a feature of the recent Parish Liaison Meeting held by HDC.

Cllr Palmer spoke about the New Homes Bonus Scheme and that HDC intend to recoup 50% of the reduction in funding from Central Government from payments made to them by this scheme.

Cllr Palmer also reiterated that the Neighbourhood Planning Scheme, encouraging Parish Councils to become involved in decision making on land chosen in their communities for new development, would be difficult for the smaller parishes and was being opposed by HDC. It has been suggested however that small parishes could consider joining up with an adjoining parish for this purpose.

The Clerk advised that this topic had been discussed at the recent Annual Parish Liaison meeting she had attended. The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that Parish Councils, particularly the smaller ones, would find it very difficult to find people with the time and commitment to take on the process of setting up such a scheme. She advised however that a consultation on preferred sites for development would be sent to all Parish Councils shortly.

Following a discussion councillors felt that whilst we needed to keep a close eye on how things develop and engage with the consultation process relating to the 'Call for Allocation of Sites' for development it was doubtful that the Parish Council would take on a scheme of this nature. Cllr Palmer said the information booklet, presently in circulation, gives a detailed explanation of the Neighbourhood Planning Scheme and would help councillors come to a final decision.

3.9.1 Mowing of Towpath: Cllr Clarke thought that a number of the older boys in the village would be willing to help out with the mowing, a few of whom are undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was therefore agreed that as only 6/7 cuts would be needed we should be able to manage it with the use of volunteers.

3.3.11.2 Servicing of Parish Mower: Cllr Clarke advised that the first lot of equipment from the Sports Club had now gone to Brooksby College for servicing and that the parish mower would be included with the next batch. Ian Stevens thought that as the mower had not been used much last year it is unlikely to need any repairs.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 Revised Planning Application – Brudenell Estates, Pagets Farm, Main Street: As there have been a number of objections to this proposal, the application will be discussed at the next

Planning Committee Meeting at HDC on Tuesday 6th March 2012. Representatives from the Parish Council will attend.

4.2 During the month lists of planning applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District had been circulated to councillors.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1 Extension of 30mph Speed Limit on Hallaton Road beyond the Sports Ground: A letter has been received from the Highways Dept indicating that requests of this nature cannot be contemplated without a history of personal injury at sites they are asked to consider for such measures to be taken.

In view of this Cllr Polito will ask the Highways Dept about the possibility of having warning signs to emphasize the need for care due to the number of people, especially children, in this vicinity using the sports facilities.

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

- January 2012 edition of the Newsletter produced by L&RALC. This included information about training courses being arranged for both Councillors and Clerks together with details of Road Show events being organized in March 'Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning'. Cllr Pilkington expressed an interest in attending if it would be of benefit.
- An online survey, for completion, regarding HDC's Priorities for the District in 2012. This will be completed and returned by the Clerk.
- Booklet issued by the NALC – 'Planning Explained'.
- Change in contact details for Unmetered Supplies.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:

6.1 Allotments: The Parish Council has again been asked if we are able to source land for allotments. This question has arisen previously and we now have a number of people who would be interested. It was decided that before the Parish Council tries to establish if anyone in the village has some land they would allow to be used as allotments, Cllr Pilkington would look into the position regarding provision of this type of amenity for the village.

7.0 REPORTS:

7.1 Village Hall: Cllr Clarke reported on the following items at a recent meeting of the Management Committee:

- A quotation of £11,000 has now been received for repairs to the roof.
- A problem encountered with regard to a weekly booking in the evening requested by the dancing group, that would have brought in an income of £1,200, had been discussed. Such income is desperately needed due to the costs of maintaining and running the building and it had therefore been disappointing that other groups using the facilities were not prepared to be flexible so that the booking could be made.

- The insurers of the village hall have advised that beech tree must be removed as it is causing structural damage. Arrangements will be made for the wood to be cut into logs and sold.

8.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME: Nothing to report.

9.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

9.1 Pothole outside the Old Forge: Cllr Polito will report this to the Highways Dept.

9.2 Gritting of Old Holt Road: Cllr Tweddle reported that a huge thank you is owed to Steve Garfield for fetching grit from the bin in Marlow Court and spreading it along the length of Old Holt Road during the recent heavy snow fall. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks.

9.3 Damage to War Memorial: Once again a lorry turning into Manor Road has run over the corner of the War Memorial causing deep ruts and damaging the box plants. It would be a shame to have to stop planting this area as the idea is that the plants would grow to form hedging around the flower beds. Although they are quite expensive to replace it was therefore decided to grow on a few plants separately so that they could be used as 'infill' as and when necessary.

10.0 ACCOUNTS:

10.1 A Credit Note for £132.31 has now been received from HDC to reflect the reduced number of cuts made to the towpath.

10.2 During the month the following invoices have been submitted to councillors for payment:

HDC	£392.47
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Grass cutting & Servicing Dog Bins	
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Eyebrook Bird Feeds	£ 76.42
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The Hollow	
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Murphy's Taxis	£ 30.00
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Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
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R Murphy	£ 55.00
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Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	
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Proposed: Cllr Tweddle. Seconded: Cllr Clarke

10.3 A letter has been received from The Parish of Six Saints Circa Holt asking for confirmation that the Parish Council will be making it's usual contribution of £200 towards publication costs of the Parish Magazine. This has already been agreed and reflected in the Precept Calculation for 2012/2013.

11.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th March 2012 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 2nd April 2012 and the Annual Statutory Meeting on Monday 14th May 2012.

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

13.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

14.0 ‘Pork Pie Night’: Dec Woods advised that everyone is invited to make a pork pie for tasting and judging by Neville Hackett at an event being arranged at the Sports Club on Friday 24th February 2012.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.