

Medbourne Parish Council
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2013

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair (part)), Pilkington (Chair (part)), Clarke, Oliver and Dunckley
Cllr Beaty
20 members of the public

1.0 APOLOGIES: None received.

2.0 STEPHEN POINTER: HEAD OF POLICY PLANNING, HDC
Stephen Pointer gave an overview of HDC planning policy.

3.0 DICK BEATY

Complaints had been received regarding tractor movements through Medbourne (minute reference 11.3 November 2013) and Dick was at the meeting to apologise and to explain the reason for the movements.

Three years ago J Beaty & Sons were given approval for an anerobic digestor on their land. This is effectively a power plant, where power is produced from the digestion of maize and the power generated but not used on site is fed into the National Grid.

In the week of intense traffic movements 600 acres of maize was harvested, representing the annual supply to the plant. These 600 acres were previously planted with wheat, so in effect lorry movements have been replaced by tractor movements. Throughout the year small loads will take the waste out from the plant and in the spring liquid produced in the plant will be used as fertilizer.

Vehicles involved in the harvesting and delivery of the maize moved on a specific route – full trailers were to travel to the site through the village towards Uppingham, empty vehicles then travelled down Manor Road to the War Memorial and out of Medbourne. The maximum speed the J Beaty & Sons tractors can travel is 30 miles per hour. Subcontractors were used, who could possibly have travelled slightly faster. When tested, the fastest speed tractors with a full trailer were able to travel was 18 miles an hour.

Whilst undesirable for all parties, damage to the roadside verges is sometimes unavoidable.

It was acknowledged that the attitude of the drivers is critical to the relationship with the community and Dick assured the meeting that this will be addressed. The harvesting week is likely to always be in the first three weeks of October - it was suggested it would be helpful to advise exactly when, nearer the time.

4.0 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE

Attention was once again drawn to the general procedure for a Parish Council meeting with regard to public participation.

5.0 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Polito declared an interest in the Drayton Road planning application.

6.0 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

At this point Cllr Polito left the room.

6.1 The opinion was expressed that approval of the Drayton Road planning application would set a significant precedent because it is outside the boundary of the limits to development. Also that the best vehicle for debating and determining future development is a Neighbourhood Plan,

giving the best route for democratic agreement and for removal of accusations of self-interest. Therefore could the Parish Council put effort into considering a Neighbourhood Plan?

The opinion was expressed that no new development should be allowed outside the boundary.

The opinion was expressed that the Parish Council represent themselves and not the village.

The opinion was expressed that Parish Council comments online say that they would approve the development as long as it does not go against Core Strategies – but it does. They also say they can't see a better site inside or outside the boundary and then every other area is protected (ie. suggested as Local Green Space) apart from Drayton Road.

The opinion was expressed that the Parish Councils decision a few months ago not to pursue working on a Neighbourhood Plan was regrettable, given the current situation. Stephen Pointer referred to objectively assessed needs – therefore would ask that Medbourne apply for a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is not about stopping housebuilding – it is about trying to ensure everyone is happy with where they are built.

The opinion was expressed that people should attend meetings regularly and support the Parish Council.

At this point Cllr Polito returned to the room.

7.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th NOVEMBER 2013:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman and Vice Chair as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Dunckley.

8.0 MATTERS ARISING:

8.6.3.9.2 A request had been received from a parishioner to explain why the Parish Council had not chosen the lowest quote for the work required to the Ash Tree. The quotes varied slightly in their description of the work to be undertaken as suppliers were asked what they would actually do. The middle quotation went a step further than the lowest in that it was for a reduction of the crown rather than just removing branches and it was felt this would be the best course of action.

8.11.2 A response has been promised before Christmas on whether the Superfast Broadband proposal is viable or not.

8.12.1 A planning application has been submitted for the proposed work on the War Memorial. The Heritage Lottery Fund application was completed on 28th November and a response should be received within 8 weeks. Thanks were expressed to Keith Sandars for all his hard work.

8.13.1 Highways have undertaken an initial inspection of the deep ruts on Ashley Road and say further investigation is required.

8.13.3 The signpost at the Paynes Lane / Slawston Road junction is now on Highways 'to do' list.

9.0 PLANNING:

At this point Cllr Polito left the room and Cllr Pilkington chaired the meeting.

9.1 The Paddock, Drayton Road Field - a weekend open display took place in the Village Hall, with plans available to view and comment on and representatives from the developers available to answer questions. Feedback from the developers was that it was worthwhile from their point of view, it was hoped that parishioners also found it useful.

The closing date for consultations on Drayton Road was 28th November. The Parish Council submission is online on the Harborough District Council website.

At this point Cllr Polito returned to the room.

9.2 Councillors considered the following Planning Application:

- **Miss J Swaine & Miss R Day, land adjacent to Dale Farm– erection of a detached dwelling (access to be considered)**

Resolved – Councillors had no comments on this application.

9.3 During November details of Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District had been received and circulated to councillors.

9.4 A decision on the development on the site of The Old Slaughterhouse on Springbank was deferred at the November Harborough Planning Committee Meeting, in order to clarify issues relating to flood risk.

10.0 LOCAL GREEN SPACE:

The Parish Council had commented on the submission of Drayton Road Field as a site for Local Green Space – that they did not submit or endorse the inclusion of this site.

11.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- A letter of complaint from a parishioner regarding the November PC Meeting
- Details of a public consultation on a revised proposal for local bus services
- LRALC October Newsletter
- Details of consultation on Leicestershire minerals and waste local plan

12.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

13.0 REPORTS:

13.1 Cllr Polito reported the resignation of the Clerk, due to a contract extension of her main employment. Anyone interested in taking over was asked to come forward, the position will also be advertised via LRALC.

13.2 Cllr Polito also reported that he had attended a presentation from Leicester County Council, at which the message was given that a further £110m needed to be saved and therefore more self-help is needed!

13.3 Cllr Clarke reported that the sports club is progressing well and now looks quite different. There is £107.60 remaining in the Taxi Voucher fund, vouchers will only be issued to use up this balance.

13.4 Cllr Pilkington reported that the MEFT had gratefully received a cheque for £1000 from the Truck Pull. Since urgent repair work costing just over £1000 is required, the money will be put to good use. The annual clean-up had also taken place, thanks to the regular group of helpers!

14.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

14.1 The break up of concrete on the Irish Bridge (over the Brook) will be reported to Highways.

15.0 ACCOUNTS:

15.1 The clerk advised the meeting of the revised pay scales for council clerks issued by NALC. The hourly rate for Spinal Column point 15 (the lowest rate for a clerk) has increased from £8.34 to £8.43. This rate applies from April 2013.

Resolved – Councillors approved that this rate be applied retrospectively to the clerks salary from April 2013.

15.2 A copy of the precept calculation for 2014/15 had been circulated to councillors. This included increasing the clerks paid hours to 17 per month (based on the LRALC recommendation of minimum paid hours for part time clerks). At the meeting councillors agreed that £250 should be added to the precept under the category of tree maintenance. Assuming the council tax support grant remained at the same level as 2013/14 this resulted in a precept requirement of £6832.75. Resolved – Councillors agreed a precept requirement of £6832.75.

15.3 At the meeting the following invoice was presented to councillors for payment:

SLCC	£48.00
subscription	

Proposed Cllr Pilkington, seconded Cllr Oliver.

16.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at 7.45pm on Monday 13th January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.