

Medbourne Parish Council
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2013

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair), Pilkington, Clarke, Cory and Gidley Wright
Cllr Beaty

1.0 APOLOGIES: Sheelagh Shaen-Carter

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2014:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.1 Reference 8.1 – Concern about the subsidence off the Uppingham Road has now been reported to the County Council with a reference no. 8091214

3.2 Reference 8.2 – An update had been received from the Local Highway Authority regarding the verges off Ashley Road which had been reported following damage from vehicles. The response outlined that the verges were not a highway matter. The Parish Council did not consider this a satisfactory response and further clarification would be sought.

3.3 Reference 17.7 – The tour to the Anaerobic Digester Plant on 24th May 2014 had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. Mr Beaty is hopeful of re-arranging the opportunity for the tour as soon as possible.

4.0 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

4.1 Four members of the public (Steve Hollingsworth, Lynn Easton, Bill Barrie and Nickie Philbin) made representations regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, all of which supported the development of a plan and/or encouraging the Parish Council to raise awareness/seek views on whether a Neighbourhood Plan should be progressed. The representations made can be summarised as follows:

- Changes have and are taking place to the Planning System and Neighbourhood Plans are integral to that balance.
- A Neighbourhood Plan would allow for some say at Development Control Meetings at Harborough District Council and may assist in any conflicts of interest of both councillors and residents.
- There have been big changes to 'normal' planning.
- People may not be aware of the changes to the planning system and many people don't see the minutes that are on the internet or on the village notice board. Villagers should be consulted and opinions sought so the character of the village isn't eroded.
- It is appreciated that a Neighbourhood Plan would be a lot of work, but the Parish Council is a vehicle for the Plan to go through, but they don't have to do all the work.
- There was a strong feeling villagers should be consulted for many reasons, it affects all the residents, people need to be made aware of the legal significance of the planning system and also to find out the appetite of the residents for a Neighbourhood Plan

- Offers for help with the hard work were made as a Neighbourhood Plan is important to the future.
- It was recommended to seek mentoring from villages that have or are already going through the process, should a decision be made to go ahead.

4.2 Cllr Beaty highlighted that the measurements for the road closure may have been wrong at last year's Truck Pull. The crossroads in the middle of the village were police controlled, which had an impact on people travelling down the main road. Keith Sandars noted that the distance had to be a measured mile and as such the location and road closure was due to safety issues for those taking part in the event.

4.3 Lyn Easton raised concern that footballers were not clearing up their rubbish. Declan Woods would relay this to those using the facilities at the sports club

4.4 Lyn Easton mentioned that there were problems with the number of rabbits in The Hollow and that this was causing problems when walking dogs.

4.5 Nickie Philbin also raised concern that it is impossible to capture people's comments later on in the meeting, as there was no opportunity for residents to raise views during particular items on the agenda. Cllr Polito outlined that the format of the agenda and public representations was in line with advice from the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils and was not adopted to preclude people from commenting. The Parish Council Clerk outlined that the format of the meeting was in line with the relevant Act of Parliament that allows the public to attend and make representations. However this is done in a specific format to allow any one who wishes to make representations at the meeting, to do so without favouring one individual over another. The Parish Council Clerk encouraged and welcomed any one who wishes to make Councillors aware of their views etc. to email the Clerk so that their concerns, opinions and views can be passed on to Councillors prior to meetings so that they are fully appraised and can be taken into consideration prior to a meeting. Residents can also make further or the same comments under the public representation item should they wish to.

5.0 PLANNING:

During the month no Planning Applications had been submitted to the Development Control Team. The Lawful Development Certificate application at Tanglewood Cottage, Drayton Road had been determined and was considered Permitted Development.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

During the month a number of items had been circulated amongst Councillors, most notably from PCSO Martin Doyle who had reported a number of community issues, which had been raised by a resident. These issues had been passed on to the area officer, PC Andy Cooper, as the issues were considered police matters. PC Cooper will speak with PCSO Doyle to determine if any further action is required.

7.0 REPORTS:

7.1 Cllr Gidley Wright attended the Village Hall Committee Meeting and reported that a contractor had now been appointed to effect the repairs to the roofs and guttering etc. The job will take a couple of weeks to complete. A start date had yet to be formalised but would take place over the summer.

- 7.2** It was being considered that Planning Permission may be sought for further aesthetic works to the hall, such as changes to the colour of guttering and fenestration. In addition to this, it is believed that some of the roof may not be repairable so architects were being sought to tender for a scheme to consider if the village hall could be extended along with its use.
- 7.3** The Village Hall Committee also would like to hold a Christmas party on 6th December and also put up a Christmas tree, lights and decorations up.
- 7.4** Cllr Polito and Keith Sandars met with Liz Blood and Emma Harrison from Harborough District Council regarding the War Memorial. It was agreed that some re-engraving could take place and the letters to be painted in black ink. As this was considered a like for like repair, no Listed Building Consent would be required.
- 7.5** Cllr Polito also reported back that David Tuffs would be collating the results from the village broadband survey which concluded on 31 May. The results would be made available to residents. David Tuffs will also now be the representative of Medbourne on the Welland Broadband Committee and will work to safeguard the interests of Medbourne.

8.0 TRUCK PULL

- 8.1** Cllr Polito outlined that Gary (organiser of the Truck Pull event) had been invited to attend and present at the meeting however no further response was received.

Cllr Clarke noted that Gary had made approach to the Chairman of the Sports Club and a committee meeting was being arranged to discuss this in the next week or so. Cllr Clarke would report back when the Sports Clubs views have been established.

9.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 9.1** Cllr Cory introduced the agenda item by summarising the representations that had been received from 5 residents prior to the meeting, as well as the preliminary views of the Councillors that had also been circulated prior to the meeting. The comments received thus far from the public were a mix of positive and negative views and these reflected those under the Public Representation agenda article.
- 9.2** Cllr Cory then highlighted a number of discussion points taking into account the comments and views of members of the community and council, the questions for discussion are:
- What is the best way forward?
 - Do we want to investigate this further?
 - How do we go about it?
 - What are the best means of canvassing the village to assess whether the village as a whole has an appetite for such a plan. A leaflet drop / website / questionnaires in the shop?
- 9.3** Cllr Gidley Wright highlighted that the entire village needs to be consulted and their views canvassed as to what sort of development they would like to see within the village. However, residents may be unaware of what a Neighbourhood Plan actually is.
- 9.4** Cllr Polito concurred and noted that Harborough District Council recommended that a good starting point for a Neighbourhood Plan was to seek to establish what the appetite is within the

village to be involved and canvass opinion.

- 9.5** Cllr Pilkington agreed with the Councillors and supported the view that people need to understand the basics of what a Neighbourhood Plan is. This would ensure that people have an informed opinion. Cllr Pilkington did impress that the divisive nature of planning should not be underestimated.
- 9.6** Cllr Beaty was invited to speak regarding what the impact of a Neighbourhood Plan has when it comes to determining planning applications. Cllr Beaty said that whilst it does give the green light to development in terms of policy, an application still has to go through the planning process.
- 9.5** Cllr Gidley Wright confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan should be a 'positive approach to planning'. This is outlined in Campaign to Protect Rural England's 'a guide to neighbourhood planning'. The key element of a Neighbourhood Plan is positive planning in line with the District Council's Local Plan. Every one will have their views on positive planning and these will be varied.
- 9.6** Cllr Pilkington: We need also to establish what people's attitude to planning is in general, as well as towards a Neighbourhood Plan. Once the appetite towards a Neighbourhood Plan is established, it is at this point we can seek Harborough District Council's and other Parishes experience. The wants and needs of the village must be established first as a Neighbourhood Plan may not be the most appropriate plan and, potentially, the Local Plan might already cover this.
- 9.7** Cllr Cory confirmed the Harborough District Council's Local Plan is not due to be complete until July 2015.
- 9.8** Cllr Gidley Wright: It may be odd timing to rush into a Neighbourhood Plan before the Local Plan is adopted – views need to be sought for long term planning, not a short term fix.
- 9.9** The next step was discussed amongst Councillors. It was suggested that relevant information and a questionnaire could be circulated around the village. The Council agreed that meetings should take place amongst Councillors to discuss the method, as well as detail, of how this could be conducted, as it was very important to get as many responses as possible.
- 9.10** After the results from this work had been received, it is at this point that the next stage can be looked into. In the meantime, more booklets from CPRE could be sought.
- 9.11** Cllr Polito did impress on those attending that should a Neighbourhood Plan be written, a referendum would then have to take place before it can be adopted. 50% of those eligible to vote would need to cast their vote and 50% of those would then need to support the plan for it to be adopted.
- 9.12** It was resolved that Cllr Cory would arrange meetings for Councillors to attend to discuss the most appropriate way to consult and inform residents of Medbourne about a Neighbourhood Plan for the village.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Pilkington.

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

- 10.1** There were no updates regarding Parish Repairs and Maintenance.

11.0 ACCOUNTS:

- 11.1 Annual Return for Year ending 31st March 2014 – Accounting Statement:** The Accounting Statement of the Annual Return was considered and approved by councillors, the final accounts for the year having been approved at the May meeting (Minute reference 19.0)

The Accounting Statement was signed by the Chairman.

- 11.2 Annual Return for Year Ending 31st March 2014 - The Annual Governance Statement:** The section of the Annual Return relating to the conduct of Parish Council business was considered and approved by councillors.

The Governance Statement was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

- 11.3** The books and documents relevant to the annual accounts have been audited by Roger Lee, the Internal Auditor and he has completed the Internal Audit Section of the Annual Return. The Annual Return will now be sent to the external auditors after the end of the Inspection Period ends.

- 11.4** During the month the following invoices had been submitted to councillors for payment:

Broker Network (Came & Company)	£ 442.89
Insurance	

Barham Stone	£ 1140.00
War Memorial	

David Tuffs	£ 80.99
War Memorial	

- 12.0 COUNCILLORS HOLIDAYS:** Councillors were reminded to advise the Clerk, when they will be away over the coming month.

13.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at 7.45pm on Monday 7th July 2014. The following meeting will be on Monday 4th August 2014.