

# **MEDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 4 January 2021**

### **695.0      ATTENDANCE**

**Present** : Cllrs Gidley-Wright, Shaen-Carter, Caffrey and Easton

**Also Present** : Parish Clerk (MF), Cllr Rickman (HDC) and 4 members of the public

### **696.0      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared for the meeting.

### **697.0      REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None requested for the meeting.

### **698.0      MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (held 7 December 2020)**

Accepted as circulated with no amendments.

### **699.0      PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS (also via Zoom)**

No matters raised under this item.

### **700.0      CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

700.1      Councillor vacancy – information from HDC is awaited on whether an election has been requested. **Action MF**

700.2      An interest in the vacancy has been made by one member of the parish. MF was tasked to request further details and a personal statement from the interested parishioner, and for an appointment to then be considered at the PC's February meeting. **Action MF**

700.3      Following the filling of this vacancy, CllrC confirmed she will be tendering her own resignation.

700.4      An update had been received from County Highways on the application to install 'Village gateways' as traffic reduction measures. Further information from the PC is required, including evidence of consultation with those households in the properties close to where the Gateways would be installed / erected.

Councillors agreed to compile details of the addresses for the households who should receive a letter from the PC on the proposed Gateways. MF will draft a letter for such consultation and circulate to Councillors. Cllr SC will provide an OS map (scale 1:500) for each of the proposed locations that will be issued to the households. **Action all**

A record will be made of all the letters sent – no receipt of the letters arriving will be required. Time will be allowed for a response.

- 700.5 No further response had been received from farmer/land-owner of the Ashley Road field with the overhanging hedge. Cllr GW will contact Emma Bargh to check contact details for farmer. **Action GW**
- 700.6 MF had been in contact with County Highways on the subject of the PC being allowed to erect local parking notices – the contact had been acknowledged, but no further response yet received. CllrGW had yet to make contact with the police on the same matter.
- It was agreed that MF ask NALC / LRALC for advice on what powers the PC could use to challenge inappropriate parking. **Action MF**
- 700.7 It was noted that the HDC Community Hub is in operation, and this should be broadcast on the village website.
- 700.8 Dates for the PC meetings 2021-22 were agreed and will be confirmed on the village website with DT. **Meetings will revert to a 7.30 start from February 2021.**
- 700.9 Cllr Rickman noted he is to stand as a candidate in the coming County Council elections, alongside his HDC responsibilities.
- 701.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:**
- 701.1 **Village Hall**
- Nothing to report.
- 701.2 **MEFT**
- Nothing to report.
- 701.3 **Sports Club**
- Work is to start replacing the rotten windows today. The club remains on a sound financial footing, so other maintenance is set to continue within the scope of its existing funding.
- 701.4 **Village broadband/website**
- Nothing to report
- 702.0 TO CONSIDER AND COMMENT ON PLANNING MATTERS**
- 702.1 Applications to HDC:
- 702.1.1 Ref. No: 20/01888/FUL - Eightacre, 54 Main Street Medbourne (Change of land use for the siting / extension to a horse transporter to from accommodation ancillary to the residential property)
- HDC is to be asked if a temporary permission for the proposed use could be changed in time to a permanent use, to which there would be firm objections. Cllr R agreed to raise this again with HDC.

Consideration will then be given to asking for planning advice from NLRC / LRALC. Parish Council is to request that the full planning application be changed to an application for temporary permission, which they could consider favourably, rather than full planning permission to which the PC would object. **Action MF**

- 702.1.2 Ref. No: 20/01897/PDN - The Reading Room 33 Main Street Medbourne (Prior Approval for the proposed change of use of office (Class B1(a)) to 3 dwelling houses (Class C3)

It was agreed to make no comment. **Action MF**

- 703.1.3 Ref. No: 20/01974/VAC - Innarla Caravan Park Hallaton Rd. Medbourne (Variation of 17/01694/FUL : Condition 7 - to change layout; Discharge of Conditions - foul water, etc.)

It was agreed there were no objections. **Action MF**

- 702.2 Other planning matters:

Discussion was had on the adverse impact for future flooding and surface run-off from the proposed development at Paynes Lane, and similar future developments.

It was agreed that Cllr R ask to 'call in' the planning application for a fuller discussion by the Planning Committee and to check on the village's overall foul water and sewage capacities.

### **703.0 TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- 703.1 The meeting noted the recent traffic collision between horses and riders and a motor car coming from the Hallaton direction. Concern was raised that parishioners had previously offered to pay for the erection of signs giving motorists a warning of local equestrian use, but County Highways had not supported this.

- 703.2 Cllr R agreed to raise this subject again with Cllr Pendleton at County Hall and to ask if, in light of the recent tragedy, the Parish Council can, with the financial assistance of private individuals, be allowed to erect relevant signs .

### **704.0 2020-21 BUDGET AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

- 704.1 **Payments approved for payment in January 2021:**

- M Field (salary for January) : **£173.48**
- Eon (lighting maintenance) : **£126.43**
- Heritage Fencing : **£2200 + VAT** + cost of the licence  
(NB : this was approved in principle, but not to be actioned until permission for the 'Gateways' is received from County Highways)
- Cllr Shaen-Carter (for OS maps /traffic consultations) : **£44.00 + VAT**

- 704.2 **Bank reconciliation to December 2020** - details had been circulated
- 704.3 **Quarterly monitoring** (update) – MF noted that overall final salary adjustments meant that expenditure to end-Qtr3 was just equivalent to 75% of the year's precept.
- 705.0 2021-22 Parish Precept and Budget**
- 705.1 Revised proposals for the 2021-22 precept and budget had been circulated, with an approximate 10% increase on 2020-21 precept.
- 705.2 It was agreed to submit a completed 2021-22 precept figure for a budget up to £13482.00. **Action MF**
- 706.0 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
- 706.1 MF noted that the initial 'accessibility audit' of the village website is due to be undertaken on 5 January 2021. The cost of this will be @£240.00 (incl. VAT).
- 707.0 GRANT APPLICATIONS**
- None received.
- 708.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR**
- None received.
- 709.0 ITEMS OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**
- 709.1 Discussion was had on concerns that irregular maintenance and clearance of ditches is contributing to the excessive flooding seen in the recent periods of heavy rainfall. Councillors noted the need to point out the responsibility of adjacent landowners to carry out this work.
- A walk-around the parish will be undertaken to look at ditches and watercourses when Covid-restrictions permit.
- Cllr R noted that there is an awareness at senior levels of the County Council of problems across village areas, and this is being raised with Heads of departments and services.
- 709.2 Cllr SC has been chasing up the sewerage overflow at the manhole cover near the Ashley Road bridge. Although Anglia Water sent a rep out to view this, it was not overflowing at the time. SSC has asked Anglian Water to ring back to discuss action. **Action CllrSC**
- 709.3 A number of proposals had been received from parishioners for action by the PC for environmental improvements and other repairs, aside from the focus on measures to reduce traffic speeds. These included:
- making contact with groups of local motorbike riders
  - removing the remaining rotten posts & gate by the playground
  - repairing existing dog bins and using all bins for dog waste

- repairing the footpath at corner of Village Hall, from Main Street towards pedestrian bridge (a County Highways task)
- repairing railings by the Pack Horse Bridge (this is a Listed Monument, so will be a County Highways task) **Action MF**
- providing a new path by Hallaton Road (near Paynes Lane)
- repairing path and fencing to footpath from Nevill Holt Road to Rectory Lane (the responsibility of the landowners)
- improve the condition of the 'flood' signs, such as by Hallaton Road
- cutting back the hedging along Manor Road (the responsibility of the landowners) **Action MF**
- further measures to reduce traffic speeds, like flashing signs
- double yellow signs or chevron lines on the road at the road junctions near the shop to help road / traffic visibility.

709.4 Other points of discussion and conclusions included:

- Distributing leaflets to bikers' garage – it is not the PC's responsibility to police speed and it was felt the garage owner may not be receptive.
- A new footpath to the kissing gate is unlikely to be approved or funded by County Highways.
- There was uncertainty on who is the landowner of the path from Nevill Holt Road to Rectory Lane.

709.5 From the above list, Councillors noted which actions are already in hand, and agreed that the rotten posts by the playground should be removed and that the existing gate be rehung between new posts and existing fence modified to allow prams to pass through in due course.

709.6 Councillors also noted that a general encouragement could be given for parishioners themselves to change the 'flood' warning description on signs like at Hallaton Road, when ground conditions merit such a warning for approaching motorists.

709.7 It was also confirmed that a future installation of 'flashing' speed reduction signs in the village should be a next phase to speed reduction measures, once the proposed 'village gateways' have been installed. A sum of up to £7000 from budgetary reserves will be set aside to cover this potential cost. **Action MF**

## **710.0 COUNCIL TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

710.1 It was agreed that some training expenses will be incurred in the induction of new Councillors in the coming year. A sum of £250 will be set in the budget for this cost. **Action MF**

## **711.0 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- To review contacts for Village Emergency Helpline (Feb or March)
- Village flood prevention measures

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

*Monday 1 February 2021*

*All future meetings to start 7.30 pm.*