

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 6TH APRIL 2009

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair), Smith, Tweddle, Caldwell & Clarke

Parishioners: Gerald Garfield, Rennie Barbour & Peter Jackson

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Beaty & Keith Sandars.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2009:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

No matters raised.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 During the month notification of a Planning Committee Meeting being held on 17th March 2009 had been received regarding the revised application by Mr & Mrs Heyman for conversion of outbuildings to a dwelling, including an extension, at The Manor House, Manor Road.

Since then Planning Permission has been granted and the relevant notice received. The consent cannot be implemented however without associated Listed Building Consent, a final decision on which has to be referred to Government Office due to it relating to a II* Listed Building.

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

4.3 Cllr Polito advised that he had met with Diana Cook of the Rural Community Council to discuss the Parish Plan and the voluntary Village Design Statement we had undertaken and passed to Harborough District Council. The new officer allocated to deal with our Village Design Statement however was not satisfied with the outcome and there is no prospect of it being done again. We must therefore prevail on planners to accept it adopted as an attachment to the Parish Plan. The consensus of opinion by the current consultants however is that it would not have the same weight and therefore not be such a critical document. We are presently waiting to hear regarding the outcome.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1 During the month the following correspondence has been received and circulated to councillors:

- Notification from Rockingham Forest Wheelers regarding Open Events and Club Time Trials taking place this year.
- Letter from ABC Tidy Gardens offering their services for maintenance work around the village.
- Thank you letter from South Leics Citizens Advice Bureau for our donation of £50 together with information relating to the times their offices are open for advice.

- Notification of the 2008/2009 Salary Award for Local Council Clerks.
- March 2009 Newsletter published by L&RALC.
- Poster advertising new methods of payment for Council Tax.
- Minutes of the meeting held by the Leics & Rutland Society of Local Council Clerks.
- Notification of a Public Meeting of the Leics Safer Communities Strategy Board on 18th March 2009.
- Notification of procedure for public safety relating to flower basket attached to street lighting columns.
- Details about a recruitment drive for public membership to the NHS Leics County & Rutland Trust.
- Notification of the Standards Committee meeting to be held on 23rd March 2009 at the Council Offices.
- Copy of the RCC Weekly Bulletins published during March 2009.
- Summary of Progress Report for Leics Local Transport Plan 2.
- Partial Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan.
- Letter seeking support for the Leics County Neighbourhood Watch Association.

6.0

QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:

6.1

Cllr Smith asked if anyone was aware that Leics CC have a scheme whereby people over 60 years of age can apply for £33 worth of Taxi Vouchers each year for use instead of a bus pass. Applications should be submitted before the end of April. Peter Jackson will print off a few forms that are available on the website and give to Cllr Twedde who will make an announcement at the next Autumn Club meeting. Rennie Barbour, who was aware of the scheme, advised that once an application has been made an allocation of vouchers are received automatically each year. The vouchers can also be used on trains.

7.0

REPORTS:

7.1

Cllr Caldwell reported that he had attended the annual Rural Action Seminar with Cllr Polito on 12th March 2009 at County Hall. The main theme of the meeting centred around 'green issues' showing how some villages in Leicestershire had made an effort to publicise and promote good environmental issues without adopting a heavy or controversial approach. We were also made aware of funding opportunities for various projects and heard how some villages had been quite progressive in establishing 'good neighbour' schemes and youth action groups.

The overall impression of the evening was good and Cllr Caldwell has asked Cllr Polito to see if we could ourselves put some time aside at a future meeting to see if we, as a Parish Council, can consider and perhaps encourage a more eco-friendly approach to day to day issues. He felt sure that there are many items from recycling to just being aware of simple steps that can be taken to reduce our 'carbon footprints'.

From the County Council down through Harborough District Council these issues are regularly on the Agenda and he felt that we too should be playing our part, however small.

- 7.2** Cllr Polito reported that he had met with Andy Wright of the Environment Agency regarding various issues relating to the brook, particularly the silting up between the packhorse bridge and the Irish ford, and the ash trees growing from the brook side as no work had been actioned over the last two years.

The Environment Agency are now looking at realigning the bank to make it slightly narrower to improve the flow and implanting coir matting into the 'constricted' part of the brook between the two road bridges. They intend to conduct a trial which would incorporate 'tacking' down plants to the bed of the brook in an effort to get the plants established. Hopefully the work will take place over the next three months and if successful the whole length of the brook between the two road bridges will be done.

8.0 YOUTH CLUB:

Cllr Polito spoke of the report received from David Gibley following the Parish Council's agreement in principle to a donation of £400 a year subject to an update each year of the financial position of the Youth Club and how many youngsters are attending.

Both club meetings at Great Easton & Medbourne have had a successful year and a clear message has been given that county funding for the Leader and one Assistant Worker would be provided on a permanent basis if local support is forthcoming. The Youth Club Finance Committee therefore need the continuous financial support from the Parish Councils of £400 for the year 2009/2010.

The Clerk will therefore arrange to forward the relevant cheque to David Gibley together with a letter indicating that we will look at the situation again in a year's time.

9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:

A report will be given by Cllr Tweddle at the Annual Parish Meeting that follows on from this meeting.

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

- 10.1** Cllr Smith advised that Bryan has asked the highway maintenance team not to mow too close to the trees that have been planted.

- 10.2** Peter Jackson mentioned maintenance of the green in front of the Nevill Arms and Manor Farm. Cllr Polito will speak to the Highways Dept.

- 10.3** Cllr Caldwell advised that branches on the tree by the gate coming into the Village Hall grounds on the right hand side are hanging low. Bryan Smith will be asked to lop the offending branches.

- 10.4** Cllr Caldwell also advised that the bottom lock on the notice board by the shop isn't working.

- 10.5** Cllr Smith advised that Bryan is concerned about branches from the willow tree adjacent to the children's playground breaking off and causing injury. Cllr Polito indicated that trees along the side of the brook belong to the adjacent landowner, in this case being the MEFT. As the tree is in a conservation area planning permission would most likely be required. Cllr Smith will consult with the Trustees of Medbourne Charities to ascertain whether they would cover the costs of the

work required to make the tree safe. In the meantime Cllr Caldwell will speak with the MEFT about obtaining a tree surgeon's report. It seems likely that the tree itself would need to be felled. Cllr Caldwell will also contact E.on to enquire if they would carry out the work when there is a risk to overhead electricity cables.

11.0 ACCOUNTS:

11.1 The Clerk advised that the Standing Order needs to be set up to make the annual payment of £250 into the Mower Fund Account agreed in the Precept calculation for 2009/2010 at the December 2008 meeting. As the Sports Club are to make a similar payment but are in the process of changing their banking arrangements, it was agreed to defer setting up the Standing Orders for the time being.

11.2 During the month a cheque for £350 had been received from the Treasurer for District Church Council representing the donation to the Taxi Voucher Scheme given by the family of the late Bob Faulks from the collection at the funeral service. A thank you letter has been sent to the family.

11.3 During the month the following invoices had been submitted to councillors for payment:

V Simkin & Son Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 15.00
Kwik Cabs Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 50.00
Eyebrook Bird Feeds The Hollow	£ 51.75
Mr Morton Lifting & Marine Dinghy for The Hollow	£350.00
G Garfield Petrol – Parish Mower	£ 18.02
Kwik Cabs Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 35.00
Bryan Smith Swan Food – The Hollow	£ 11.90

11.4 At the meeting the following invoices were presented for payment:

Parish of Six Saints Circa Holt Donation – Parish Magazine	£200.00
E.on UK Energy Street Lighting Maintenance	£110.95
J Sandars Clerks Salary 6 months to 31.3.09	£429.52

Proposed: Cllr Caldwell. Seconded: Cllr Smith.

11.5 The notice of annual audit for the year ending 31st March 2009 has been received from Clement Keys, the External Auditors together with the relevant documents for completion.

12.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be the Annual Statutory Meeting on 11th May 2009 at 7.45pm. The following meetings will be 1st June 2009 and 6th July 2009.

13.0 COUNCILLORS HOLIDAYS:

Dates councillors will be away were given at the meeting.

14.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

14.1 Rennie Barbour asked if the Sports Club had made any further progress regarding additional car parking space. It was confirmed that Alan Hinch had given his agreement to use of a strip of land in the field adjacent to the sports field but negotiations are still taking place with Brudenall's, the landowners. At present their only agreement would be to rent a strip of land to the Sports Club only whilst Alan Hinch still holds the tenancy of the remainder of the field.

The Sports Club are now in a position to apply for Planning Permission but it is likely that the provision of additional car parking would be a requirement. In view of the difficulties in negotiating with the agents for Brudenall Estates, other options for additional car parking are being looked into.

14.2 Rennie Barbour thanked the Parish Council for the good work they done for the village. Cllr Polito expressed appreciation for his comments on behalf of councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm.