

# Medbourne Parish Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009

**Present:** Cllrs Polito (Chair), Tweddle, Caldwell & Clarke.  
Cllr Beaty

Parishioners: Rennie Barbour, Peter Jackson & Keith Sandars.

**1.0 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Smith and Gerald Garfield.

**2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2009:**

These were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.  
Proposed: Cllr Tweddle. Seconded: Cllr Clarke.

**3.0 MATTERS ARISING:**

**3.10.11.1 Sports Club Banking Arrangements:** The Clerk has contacted Andy Holyoak and in view of the new banking arrangements for the Sports Club not yet being finalized he has offered to arrange for a cheque for the initial payment into the Mower Fund to be forwarded to the Parish Council.

The Standing Order for will now be put in place for the Parish Council's annual payment of £250 into the fund from November 2009.

**3.14.3 Overgrown hedge at bottle bank:** Cllr Caldwell has kindly cut bank the hedge. Rennie Barbour indicated however that the lid can still not be lifted far enough for it to support itself, making it difficult to put items into the bins.

**3.10.2 Street lamp Old Holt Road:** Cllr Clarke reported that this is now in working order.

**3.6.1 Signage on outside wall of The Nevill Arms:** It has been confirmed that Planning Permission would be required and all such complaints are referred to the Enforcement Officer for decision.

**3.9.2 'No Footway Sign' Main Street:** Not yet resolved.

**3.13.2 Soil samples on sports field:** An analysis of the soil on the sports field had kindly been arranged by Cllr Beaty as there are concerns about the grass not growing as it should.

**4.0 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCILLORS MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009:** Following a letter received from solicitors acting for the owner of the Shieling in sale of the property it had been necessary to call an urgent meeting to act on the request for a Deed of Variation that:

1. The Right of Access runs with the property rather than the individual owners so as not to cause any issue upon re-sale of the property.
2. The right to cancel the Right of Way upon giving one years notice be deleted.
3. A right to park on the area of Parish Land be given.

After full discussion it was agreed that it would be logical for the Right of Access to go with the

property.

Additionally it was agreed that, apart from the fact that it would also be very difficult to enforce, it would be totally unreasonable to deny any individual access to their property and the PARISH Council could not envisage any situation whereby it would wish to do so.

With regard to the right to park, although it was recognized that the current owner of the property does park on the land in question, this is completely different to giving someone the right to park. After considering the various aspects of this request it was agreed by all councillors that a right to park should not be given.

Additionally all agreed that the Deed of Variation should specify that access to the Parish Land beyond the area in question must be available at all times.

The Clerk was asked to write to Richard Hammond instructing him to act for the Parish Council in respect of the Deed of Variation, to include the decisions made on points discussed at the meeting and this has since been undertaken.

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

Proposed: Cllr Caldwell. Seconded: Cllr Clarke.

## 5.0 PLANNING:

5.1 During the month the following Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team have been received and circulated to councillors:

- **Medbourne Sports & Social Club – Erection of extension to sports pavilion, Hallaton Road:** Support to the proposal had been given by all councillors. An observation had been made however that more parking spaces need to be made available to accommodate both existing users and allow for increased traffic that will be using the facility. As the Parish Council owns the freehold to the land it had been necessary to declare an interest in the application when returning comments to the Development Control Team.

Cllr Beaty expressed some concern that the issue of parking had been raised in case it put back a decision being given by the Planning Dept, although he felt it would not affect the final decision.

Cllr Polito made the point that parking is a problem that needs to be resolved otherwise it will only be a matter of time before there is an accident. Additionally a complaint had been received regarding the issue of double parking on the Hallaton Road with cars needing to be moved to allow traffic through. It is understood however that the position regarding the possible provision of a strip of land adjacent to the sports field owned by Brudenall Estates has now been resolved with the farmer and details have been passed to Declan Woods, Chairman of the Sports Club.

- **J P Polito – internal alterations at the Old Queen House, Springbank:** Cllr Polito declared his interest in this application. Support to the proposal had been given by councillors and returned to the Development Control Team.

- 5.2 During the month Planning Permission had been given by the Development Control Team to the following:
- Mr K Galway – Change of use of ground floor under railway arch to form residential unit to include first floor addition (resubmission of 01/00808/FUL) at Innarla Caravan Park, Hallaton Road.
  - Mrs A Driver – Erection of two storey extension (renewal of 03/00774/FUL) at 5 Springbank.
  - Mr R Hallam – Felling of trees at 29 Main Street.

5.3 Notification had been received from HDC that the application by Miss J Swaine & Miss R Day for erection of a detached dwelling on land adjacent to Dale Farm had been withdrawn. The applicant may however decide to re-submit this application or one for a different proposal at some point in the future which would be publicised in the normal manner.

5.4 **Appeal by Mr A Cory against refusal for erection of a replacement dwelling at 40 Main Street:** Notification had been received that an appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate. As all councillors had supported the application and considered the design of the proposed dwelling to be an improvement on the existing property it was agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

5.5 During the month lists of Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District have been received and circulated to councillors.

5.6 **Planning Application by Mrs Florence Biddle & Others for change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site on land to south of Leicester Road Belton in Rutland:** The Parish Council had been contacted by the Parish Clerk for Allextion regarding an application made to Rutland County Council, by this family presently residing at Justin Park, Market Harborough, a number of whom had been convicted for criminal activities following a high profile raid by police. The villages of Belton, Allextion, Wardley and Stockerston have put together a working group to raise awareness in other local villages and get support for their campaign to stop the proposal going ahead.

The land in question is on the A47 and the application includes creation of a slip road from the A47 for access to the site. Cllr Beaty clarified that the proposal submitted is for sixteen families having one static caravan and one touring caravan each. Due to the many concerns regarding the proposal it is understood the Planning Dept have deferred hearing the application until December although the closing date for comments and objections would be well before then.

Cllr Beaty went on to say that it is a government requirement that councils provide permanent sites for travelling families and that HDC itself must find nineteen sites by the year 2012.

Cllr Polito advised that individuals who wish to protest should write to the Planning Dept at Rutland County Council, sending a copy to Alan Duncan MP. It was also agreed that a letter of objection be sent by the Parish Council on the grounds of highway safety, protection of the environment and provision of education. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter and circulate to councillors.

## 6.0 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

6.1 Since the last meeting the following correspondence had been received and circulated to councillors:

- Copy of the Open Spaces Strategy Consultation Document.
- Copy of the July & August Newsletter issued by the L&RALC.
- Letter from LCC regarding Community Composting.
- Notification about a course arranged by the SLCC relating to the complexities of VAT at a cost of £95.
- Information relating to an amendment to the Sustainable Communities Act to enable Local Councils to have more say over how public money is spent in their area.
- Notification of the next 'Have Your Say' meeting being held at the Coplow Centre, Billesdon on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- Copy of the 2009 Annual Report published by the Leics Rural Partnership.
- Notification of the first event for carers organized by Leics LINK, which is a partnership organisation committed to ensuring people get the best service possible from local Health & Social Care Services.
- Notification of an event being arranged by Leics CC Library Services to promote the launch of new Market Harborough Mobile Library.
- Notification of the 'Vision for Rural Harborough Event' arranged by the Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership being held at The Three Swans on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
- Notification of the Annual General Meeting of the Leics & Rutland branch of the Rural Community Council.
- Notification of the Leics & Rutland NHS Trust Annual General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- Notification of the next Standards Committee Meeting being held at HDC Offices on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- Information from HDC about the New Policy Procedure for Street Naming & Numbering.
- Notification of a Special Meeting of HDC on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 together with a copy of the Agenda.
- Notification of the next meeting of HDC on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- Invitation to the 'First Older People's Forum for Harborough District arranged by Voluntary Action South Leics.
- Information from Turf Solutions about the services provided for the construction and maintenance of turf for sports grounds.
- September 2009 edition of Clerks & Councils Direct.
- Copy of HDC Annual Report 2008/2009.

- Autumn 2009 edition of Village Voice published by the RCC.

## **7.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:**

- 7.1 Street Lighting:** Cllr Caldwell mentioned an article he had read about the option of street lighting being taken over by the County Council that is being considered by Billesdon Parish Council and whether it is something the Parish Council should look into.

Cllr Polito advised that a number of years ago the Parish Council had opted to take on responsibility for maintenance, repair and payment of street lighting charges itself in order to have control over the type of lamp preferred for the village. It was agreed however to obtain further information from either Billesdon or Great Easton Parish Council about the standard of street lighting provided when it is adopted by the County Council.

- 7.2 Village Design Statement:** The Clerk asked if there had been any progress in this respect. Cllr Polito advised that although he had contacted Diana Cook on a number of occasions no progress had been made. It is understood however that this initiative implemented by the Planning Team at HDC had been superseded by current planning legislation.

## **8.0 REPORTS:**

- 8.1 Parish Magazine Sub Committee Meeting:** Cllr Polito reported that representatives from each village had attended this meeting.

Cllr Caldwell commented about the limited contribution made by Medbourne in the last magazine.

- 8.2 MEFT Meeting:** Cllr Caldwell reported that he had attended this meeting when the lease to the Sports Club for that portion of the sports field owned by the MEFT had been discussed. The terms are to be similar to lease between the Sports Club and the Parish Council.

- 8.3 'Vision for Rural Harborough' Event:** Cllr Caldwell spoke of this event being held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and advised that he will be attending.

## **9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:**

The scheme continues to run well for those having need of the scheme.

## **10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:**

- 10.1 Telephone Kiosk:** HDC has advised that as our telephone kiosk is a Listed Building if BT chose to remove the equipment and no longer provide a service due to insufficient usage, they would be unable to remove the telephone box itself without Listed Building Consent and it is unlikely such a proposal would be granted. As BT would continue to be responsible for preservation of the box, unless it was 'adopted' by the village for a nominal fee of £1, it was decided to leave it in their ownership.

- 10.2** One of the railings by the Irish bridge has collapsed and will be reported to the Highways Dept.

- 10.3 War Memorial:** Keith Sandars brought along a sample of slate 'chips' that he thought would be suitable for the outside edge of the war memorial. Agreement was given to the proposal and for the grass to be removed so that the soil can be improved ready for planting. Stepping stones will be laid for easy access to lay wreaths on the base of the memorial at the Remembrance Day Service.

- 10.4 Bridleway sign – Blaston Track:** Rennie Barbour advised that the sign for the right-hand turn for the bridleway at the top of the Blaston track needs replacing. Cllr Polito will speak to Henry Bartlett from HDC.
- 10.5 Bench opposite ‘Nutbush’ Manor Road:** Rennie Barbour advised that this bench seems to have disappeared and asked if it could be replaced. As it was a very old relatively simple structure that had most likely disintegrated Cllr Polito will look at what needs doing to replace it.
- 10.6 Overgrown hedges:** Peter Jackson mentioned that the hedge along the footpath on Ashley Road needs cutting back.

The hedge on the left hand side of the disused railway bridge on Drayton Road also needs cutting back.

- 11.0 VILLAGE HALL LEASE:** Cllr Caldwell advised that the draft form of the new lease recently made available had incorrectly shown a term of 35 years whereas the period agreed with the Charity is 49 years. He has since checked through the remainder of the lease with Cllr Polito and it has now been returned to Richard Hammond with their comments for him to go through. Richard will be arranging for the necessary revisions and the lease to be forwarded to Fisher German, the agents acting for the Old School Charity. As the lease is 22 pages long and has been completely re-written the costs involved will be quite substantial, possibly in the region of £1,200. It is something that needed to be undertaken however as the Village Hall Management Committee is unable to obtain grants in view of the limited number of years left on the current lease.

**12.0 ACCOUNTS:**

- 12.1** Since the last meeting the following invoices had been submitted to councillors for payment:

V Simkin & Son Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 50.00
Kwik Cabs Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 45.00
Clement Keys Audit Fee	£138.00
Came & Company Addition Premium to cover benches & orientation table	£ 25.00
Eon Street Lighting Maintenance	£114.82

- 12.2** The following invoices were presented to councillors at the meeting for payment:

V Simkin Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 45.00
Kwik-Cabs Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 65.00

J Sandars

Clerk salary - 6 months to 30 September 2009

£433.68

Proposed: Cllr Caldwell. Seconded Cllr Tweddle.

- 12.3** Completion of the annual audit of accounts has been carried out by Clement Keys, External Auditors and the certificate received indicating that all information provided meets the Audit Commission's requirements. The notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed on the Parish Council notice board.
- 13.0** **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 and the following meeting will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009.
- 14.0** **COUNCILLORS HOLIDAYS:** Dates were given by two councillors.
- 15.0** **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**
- 15.1** Rennie Barbour asked about replacement of the litter bin opposite the Post Office. Cllr Polito advised that it will be replaced shortly, along with the remaining litter bins in the village once HDC have refurbished the bins they have available. The litter bin by the new footbridge has now been replaced.
- 15.2** Cllr Beaty mentioned the piles of earth that had been left on the verges when it had been scooped out to allow water to drain from the road.
- 15.3** Cllr Beaty also spoke of the water running down the road opposite Medbourne Manor on Manor Road that needs investigating otherwise it will become dangerous in the winter. Cllr Polito advised that blue markings have been placed around the affected area and asked David if he would take this up with the Highways Dept.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.