

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2009

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

Parishioners: Gerald Garfield, Rennie Barbour, Keith Sandars, Peter Jackson & David Tyler.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Tweddle & Cllr Beaty.

Before commencement of official business PC Andy Cooper kindly attended the meeting to provide details about SmartWater, a fluid used for security marking that shows up under ultraviolet light. It contains a unique chemical signature, similar to DNA, which can be linked to an individual property. This means if police find an offender with valuable items, it is much easier to prove the goods are stolen, prosecute the offender, and then return the valuables to their rightful owners. It is therefore proving to be an effective deterrent as it is virtually impossible to remove, making it difficult to sell-on stolen property.

PC Cooper went on to say he is aware of residents concerns within the village following recent incidents of burglary and reassured those at the meeting that combating burglary remains one of their top priorities. He advised that a number of plain clothed officers are on duty in the vicinity and asked that anyone noticing suspicious vehicles contact him on his mobile tel. no. 07834 601561.

Supplies of SmartWater are being made available to Parish Councils who in turn can sell it to householders within the villages at a subsidized cost of £15. It comes in a small “tippex” sized bottle together with stickers for display in windows warning that the property is protected by SmartWater.

Councillors asked if leaflets were available for distribution throughout the village. PC Cooper advised that information packs came with the supplies of SmartWater which he could arrange to be delivered if the Parish Council were interested. All councillors considered it a good idea for residents to be offered the facility and asked PC Cooper to arrange for a supply to be delivered to the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman thanked PC Cooper for taking the time to come along and address the meeting.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2009:

Item 10.4 should read “Cllr Caldwell advised that the sign for the right-hand turn for the bridleway.....”.

Subject to this amendment the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Caldwell.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.10.11.1 Sports Club Banking Arrangements: Cllr Clarke advised that Andy Holyoak is making progress with the new banking arrangements. A cheque for £250 had been received from Andy for payment into the Mower Fund Account. The Parish Council’s Standing Order had been set up from 1st November 2009 for a similar payment into the Mower Fund.

3.4.0 Right of Access – The Shieling: Cllr Polito had received a letter from Richard Hammond, sent by the purchasers solicitors, advising that the Land Registry has advised that not all the land in question is registered as parish land. This can be overcome however if the Parish Council is able to sign a Declaration indicating that it has always been understood to be owned by the parish.

Cllr Polito will contact Stan Snow, who was Chairman at the time Roger Lee, the previous owner of The Shieling, attended a Parish Council meeting asking for a legal right of access to be given. This resulted with a deed being drawn up for which Roger Lee has since been making an annual payment of £1 for the Right of Access.

3.7.1 Street Lighting: Cllr Polito had spoken to Bryan Tyler, Chairman of Great Easton Parish Council but it appears that only three of their street lights are owned and maintained by HDC. The remainder are owned and maintained by the Parish Council.

Cllr Caldwell had spoken to the Highways Dept at LCC who advised that the Parish Council would need to write indicating that we are considering asking the Local Authority to take over ownership and maintenance of our street lighting. Initially they would undertake a survey to establish whether the lights are suitable for adoption. He did confirm however that the Parish Council would lose control over the intensity of the lighting. This would mean we would be unable to continue with lower level lighting as it is a requirement that they are at a certain level in order to meet Health & Safety requirements.

Cllr Clarke asked about the cost implications should the Parish Council need to replace any street lights if we continue with our present arrangement. Fortunately the majority of our street lights are erected on telegraph poles which are the responsibility of BT. It was decided however that Cllr Clarke undertakes an inspection of all the street lights in the village to ascertain their condition and how many of the posts would be the Parish Council's responsibility to replace.

3.10.1 Telephone Kiosk: Cllr Smith advised that the telephone kiosk is in need of re-painting and some of the glass replaced. The Clerk will have a look and contact BT.

3.10.2 Rails by Irish Bridge: These have now been taped into position.

3.10.4 Bridleway Sign – Blaston Track: This has been put on the list for replacement by the Local Authority.

3.10.6 Overgrown Hedges: Cllr Polito has spoken to Chris Brady of the Highways Dept who will arrange for them to be cut back when a 'gang' is working in the area.

3.11.0 Village Hall Lease: Cllr Polito will forward a letter of the Parish Council's objections and requirements to Fisher German who act as Managing Agents for the Old School Charity.

3.15.1 Litter Bins: The replacement litter bins are now available for installation but the workman responsible for undertaking the work is unfortunately on long term sick. Replacement will be carried out when he returns.

3.15.2 'Grips' for water drainage: The piles of earth scooped out to facilitate drainage have still not been levelled.

3.15.3 Water Leak – Manor Road: It has come to light that the pipe concerned is probably a private water supply from The Moors feeding the four houses at the top of Manor Road. Cllr Polito will make further enquiries.

4.0 **PLANNING:**

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

- **R Beaty & Miss C Gittins – Erection of replacement dwelling at Home Farm, Holt Road:**
- Councillors had a little concern regarding the extent of visibility from the Uppingham Road, although it was considered that the house itself to be in the old tradition of a country house.
- **Miss J Swaine & Mrs R Day – Erection of dwelling (access and siting to be considered) land adjacent to Dale Farm, Manor Road (Revised Scheme 09/00637/OUT:** Councillors saw no reason to make any comment on this application.

4.2 The appeal by Mr & Mrs Jones against the refusal for erection of a garage at Bridgedale Barn, Brook Terrace has been dismissed.

4.3 Listed Building Consent has been given to J P Polito for internal alterations at the Old Queen House, Springbank.

4.4 Planning Permission has been given to Mr & Mrs Hulme for erection of two storey rear extension and single storey conservatory to rear of Medbourne Lodge Cottage, Drayton Road..

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

5.0 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

- Letter of acknowledgement from Alan Duncan MP. This followed a letter sent by the Parish Council to the Planning Officer for Rutland County Council regarding the travellers site on the A47 between Allextion & Wardley, a copy of which had been sent to Alan Duncan.
- Notification from HDC of a copy of the Parish Planning Handbook which is available on their website. A hard copy has since been collected from the Council Offices.
- October edition of the Newsletter published by L&RALC.
- Invitation by HDC to comment on their Draft Gambling Act Statement of Principles.
- Notice of adoption of the Leics Minerals Development Framework Core Strategy & Development Control Policies document by LCC. Also the Leics & Leicester Waste Development Framework Core Strategy & Development Control Policies document.
- Information from LCC regarding licences for the installation, operation and removal of seasonal decorations.
- Confirmation from Voluntary Action Leics that their District Development Team is now operational in Harborough District.

- Information about ‘Filmscene’ – a mobile big screen cinema available for hire by Village Halls & Community Centres.
- Notification of the campaign being run by LCC to raise awareness of energy consumption and encourage households, community groups etc on how to become more energy efficient.
- Autumn 2009 edition of Branchline published by LCC.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:

No questions raised.

7.0 REPORTS:

7.1 Cllr Clarke reported that a decision regarding Planning Permission for the Sports Club should be given shortly by the Development Control Team.

7.2 Cllr Caldwell advised that the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee takes place on Monday 9th November 2009.

8.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:

The Clerk advised that the scheme continues to run well with eight people using it at present.

9.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

9.1 **Willow Tree in Children’s Playground:** David Tyler advised that Central Networks are coming on 2nd December 2009 to establish if the tree is endangering the electricity supply.

9.2 **Parish Mower:** Gerald Garfield will arrange for the annual service to be carried out.

9.3 **Temporary Repair to Packhorse Bridge:** Cllr Polito will ask for an update on when we can expect the replacement oak post to be put ‘in situ’.

9.4 **Litter Bin Children’s Playground:** Cllr Polito is waiting for a response from Matthew Bills, the Grounds Maintenance Manager regarding regular emptying of the litter bin.

9.5 **Diseased Horse Chestnut Tree:** Cllr Smith advised that the small tree on land owned by the MEFT by the sports ground is showing signs of disease. Bryan Smith will keep an eye on it.

10.0 ACCOUNTS – Including Precept:

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

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|-------------------------|---------|
| Greenbarnes Ltd | £ 51.95 |
| Repair to notice board | |
| V Simkin | £ 30.00 |
| Redeemed Taxi Vouchers | |
| Eon | £178.83 |
| Street Lighting Charges | |

10.2 It was put to councillors that the annual donation to the Royal British Legion be increased to £40 as even the cost of producing and distributing the wreaths is now £20 each. All councillors agreed and payment authorized.

10.3 **Precept:** An analysis of the variances in expenditure in the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009 against anticipated expenditure, which formed the basis of the Precept Calculation for the year 2010/2011 had been distributed to councillors by the Clerk. This, together with a draft of the Precept Calculation for the year 2010/2011 was discussed at the meeting.

- A donation of £400 to the Youth Club has been included in the precept for next year, although it is possible that this can be reduced to £200 if LCC continues with their funding support.
- A sum of £215 has been included for grass cutting of Parish Land within the village that we are now responsible for meeting the costs of.
- £250 had been included following reinstatement of a Standing Order for replacement of the gang mowers when this becomes necessary.
- An allowance of a 10% increase in energy costs for street lighting and a small increase for maintenance and repairs has been included.

This would increase the precept to £5,487, an increase of £110 (2.04%) on last year. All councillors were in agreement. The final calculation will be submitted to councillors at the next meeting.

It was put to councillors however that the Parish Council needs to consider how the legal costs for the new Village Hall lease are to be funded and asked whether any contribution from the funds held by the Village Hall Management Committee.

A suggestion was made that the money set aside in the Contingency Funds for replacement of the parish mower is now more than sufficient and a proportion of that could be used.

11.0 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th December 2009 and the following meeting will be Monday 4th January 2010.

12.0 **COUNCILLOR'S HOLIDAYS:** No dates had been put forward.

13.0 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

13.1 **Bench opposite 'Nutbush' Manor Road:** Rennie Barbour asked about it's replacement. Cllr Polito advised that this is ongoing and would be replaced in good time for the better weather next year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.