

# Medbourne Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009

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

Parishioners: Gerald Garfield, Keith Sandars, Peter Jackson, Declan Woods & John Burrows.

**1.0 APOLOGIES:** Cllr David Beaty & Rennie Barbour.

**2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2009:**

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

Proposed: Cllr Smith. Seconded: Cllr Caldwell.

**3.0 MATTERS ARISING:**

**3.3.4 Right of Access – The Shieling:** A matter has arisen with the Land Registry regarding the parcel of land for which Roger Lee signed a Deed of Right of Way with the Parish Council not apparently showing as belonging to anyone. Richard Hammond has been advised by the Land Registry that an affidavit stating that the land in question has always been known as Parish Council land would be accepted. This has now been signed by Paul Polito and Stan Snow, Chairman of the Parish Council at the time the Right of Way was given, in front of a Commissioner for Oaths and hopefully it will now be accepted by the Land Registry.

**3.3.7.1 Street Lighting:** Cllr Clarke reported that the vast majority of street lights are mounted on timber telegraph poles which appear to be in good condition. On this basis councillors saw no reason to change the present arrangement of street lighting being adopted by the Parish Council and that any problems arising from lamps being mounted on telegraph poles would be dealt with at the time.

**3.3.11.0 Village Hall Lease:** The letter outlining the Parish Council's requirements was sent to Fisher German, the Managing Agents for the Medbourne Old School Charity, on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009. There are still outstanding problems relating to paperwork associated with the Village Hall. A signature is therefore being given by David Tyler as Trustee for the Charity in relation to the documents.

**3.3.15.3 Water Leak – Manor Road:** An excavation has been carried out by Leics CC and the faulty pipe replaced.

**3.3.15.2 'Grips' for water drainage:** Unfortunately it seems that the Highways Dept will not be taking any action to level the piles of earth.

**3.9.1 Willow Tree in Children's Playground:** As a large part of the tree has recently split away and fallen the playground has been closed until Central Networks can arrange for it to be removed.

**3.9.3 Temporary Repair to Packhorse Bridge:** Cllr Polito is still waiting for a response from the Structures Dept at Leics CC.

**3.9.4 Litter Bin Children's Playground:** This has now been placed on the same rota as the dog bins and will now be emptied on a regular basis throughout the year at a cost of £65.

#### **4.0 PLANNING:**

**4.1** During the month Planning Permission for the following applications had been given by the Development Control Team:

**Medbourne Sports & Social Club:** Erection of extension to sports pavilion, Hallaton Road.

**Mr & Mrs E Jones:** Erection of two storey & single storey rear extension (revised scheme of 08/01501/FUL) Bridgedale Barn, Brook Terrace.

**4.2** An appeal has been made by Mr & Mrs E Jones to the Secretary of State against HDC's decision to refuse planning permission for erection of a double garage (revised scheme of 09/00491/FUL) at Bridgedale Barn, Brook Terrace.

**4.3** Planning Permission has been refused by HDC for erection of a replacement dwelling, Home Farm, Holt Road by Mr R Beaty & Miss C Gittins. It was considered that when compared to the existing dwelling on site the replacement was not on a 'like for like' basis. The proposed dwelling, due to its position and height, was considered to result in a prominent visual form of development that would be significantly more harmful to the character and appearance of the open countryside, designated as an Area of Particularly Attractive Open Countryside.

**4.4** During the month lists of Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District in November 2009 had been received and circulated to councillors.

#### **5.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

- Copy of the Alternative Options document published by HDC relating to the Core Spatial Strategy which will be subject to a formal six week consultation in January and February 2010. Cllr Polito asked if any councillor wished to make a specific comment now they had had the opportunity of reading the document, particularly in relation to the options considered for provision of Gypsy and Traveller Needs that had been raised. Queries are able to be raised by contacting the Planning Policy Team.
- Details about the SHIRE Community Climate Change grants available through LCC.
- Invitation to submit details of events /walks within the village for the 2010 Diary of Village Events and Guided Walks published by the RCC.
- Copy of the 2009/2010 Annual Report published by the South Leics Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Invitation to the Second Older People's Forum for Harborough District organized by Voluntary Action South Leics.
- Information from the Dept of Highways, Transport & Waste Management, LCC for Parish Clerks in Harborough.
- Copies of the Winter Salting Routes Leaflet for 2009/2010.
- Notification of an event arranged by the Local Involvement Network on 'The Future of Adult Social Care and how it affects YOU!'

- Notification of the next Standards Committee Meeting for HDC on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:** No questions raised.

**7.0 VILLAGE HALL:**

Cllr Caldwell reported that the Committee had received a letter advising that the rent for the Village Hall had not been paid, as no invoice had been received from the managing agents. This has now been dealt with.

The question of adequate insurance arrangements for the Village Hall being maintained at all times had been raised and whether the Officials Indemnity Section of the Parish Council's insurance policy would cover such an event. The matter had been discussed with the insurer's who advised that providing all reasonable precautions had been taken, cover up to the limit of £250,000 is given by the policy. It would therefore be prudent for the Parish Council to arrange for their interest as Custodian Trustees to be endorsed on the policy to overcome the possibility of cover not being maintained without the Parish Council being informed. It was agreed that the Clerk speak to the Treasurer for the Village Hall Committee so that arrangements can be made.

**8.0**

**REPORTS:**

**8.1**

**Sports Club:** Cllr Clarke reported that Planning Permission had been given for the extension to the Sports Club with very few conditions being attached. The Sports Club now intends to obtain professional assistance with applications for grant funding as it can be a very complicated process.

Cllr Clarke also advised that SKY is now provided at the Sports Club so that members can watch the various sports programmes.

John Burrows advised that a huge amount of work is being undertaken to aerate the ground and improve drainage of the sub soil which has already made a significant difference. John then raised the question of dog fouling and what further action can be taken to prevent this continuing problem and ensure people keep their dogs to the designated areas, particularly in view of the large number of children now playing.

Cllr Tweddle advised that the Dog Warden at HDC can be contacted if specific times can be given when there is a problem, as it is necessary to see an offence taking place if they are to take further action. A visit could then be arranged at the appropriate time. Cllr Clarke will contact the Dog Warden. Cllr Polito will check out the legal position and place an article in the Parish Magazine but if this is not effective it was suggested that flyers be circulated to all dog owners, although it is appreciated that the vast majority of owners do act responsibly.

The Cricket Club is arranging a full survey of the sports field, principally to move the nets as they are required to face north.

The question was raised as to whether the use of the Mower Fund could be changed to include maintenance and re-seeding of the grass. Cllr Polito stated however that the account had been set up specifically for replacement of the gang mowers and such a request would need to be put to the village, possibly at an Extra Ordinary meeting. He felt it important however that the Sports Club is seen to be supporting itself and the matter of adequate funding should be looked at, as it would seem appropriate that those using the facilities should contribute an adequate sum to cover the costs of running the Sports Club and maintaining the ground.

## 8.2

**‘SmartWater’:** Supplies of ‘SmartWater’, together with notices for the Parish Notice Board, have now been delivered for sale at a subsidized cost of £15 to householders. The registration form supplied with the ‘SmartWater’ packs should be completed and returned to the Parish Council so that they can be collated and returned to the relevant department.

## 9.0

**TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:** Cllr Tweddle reported that the scheme continues to run well with sufficient funds being available for the foreseeable future.

## 10.00 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

**10.1** Complaints have been received about ivy growing along a front boundary wall at Spring Terrace that needs cutting back.

**10.2** A complaint has been received regarding the state of the access road to Station House. Cllr Polito has emailed Seven Locks Housing who are responsible for its maintenance and repair.

**10.3** A replacement bench for the hill to Nevill Holt, opposite ‘Nutbush,’ has been donated by Bringhurst School. A thank you letter will be sent to Mrs Williams, the Headmistress, by the Clerk.

**10.4** Central Networks are arranging to place cables on Manor Road underground.

## 11.0 ACCOUNTS – Including Precept:

**11.0** **Precept:** The Clerk had circulated the final draft of the Precept for 2010/2011 to councillors. A sum of £65 has now been included in the Precept for emptying the litter bin in the children’s playground. After speaking to David Gibley regarding the donation for the Youth Club next year a reduced sum of £200 has been included.

The Clerk suggested that an amount be included to help towards legal costs expected for drawing up of the new lease for the Village Hall.

A precept request of £5,457, representing an increase of 1.49%, on last year’s precept was approved by all councillors and will now be submitted to HDC.

Proposed: Cllr Smith. Seconded: Cllr Tweddle.

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

Eyebrook Bird Feeds The Hollow	£ 42.30
Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Donation	£ 50.00
Simkin & Son Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 90.00

**11.2** At the meeting the following invoices were presented to councillors for payment:

SLCC Annual Subscription	£ 44.00
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J P Polito - reimbursement for payment to Commissioner of Oaths re The Shieling £ 14.00

J P Polito – reimbursement for payment to Stephen Bishop for donation towards trumpeter at Remembrance Service £ 20.00

Proposed: Cllr Tweddle. Seconded: Cllr Smith.

**12.0 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and the following meeting will be Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010.

**13.0 COUNCILLOR’S HOLIDAYS:** No dates put forward.

**14.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** No questions raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.