

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2010

Present: Cllr Polito (Chair), Smith, Tweddle & Caldwell.
Cllr Beaty
Parishioners: Peter Jackson.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Cllr Clarke, Gerald Garfield, Keith Sandars & Rennie Barbour.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 6TH APRIL 2009:

Resolved: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
Proposed: Peter Jackson. Seconded: Cllr Tweddle.

**3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Incorporating
CHAIRMAN’S REVIEW OF THE YEAR – Cllr Polito:**

Legal: During the year we have ‘regularised’ ownership of the land between The Sheiling and the Pack Horse Bridge. This has now been registered with the Land Registry.

The long running saga of the renewal of the Village Hall Lease has finally drawn to a close and the lease has now been agreed. I would like to thank Richard Hammond for his guidance on both of these matters.

Parish Maintenance: This year we agreed a contract with HDC for the mowing of the towpath along the brook, which has greatly enhanced this sensitive area.

It is sad to report that the rails and posts on the Pack Horse Bridge are already rotting. We are awaiting a report from LCC who appear to be dragging their feet on this issue.

The brickwork on the Nevill Arms bridge is beginning to come loose in places, after the very hard winter and we are awaiting a response from LCC Structures Department.

We now have an inventory of all the village benches, which are now insured. A new bench has been sited on the Nevill Holt hill, opposite Nutbush, which I am sure will be enjoyed by the many walkers who take this road.

The War Memorial surround has been revamped during the year and has not met with universal approval. We have enlisted the advice of Bernard Hanraads, who has made some proposals to make the surround more in keeping with the area.

We have decided not to adopt the telephone Kiosk, which is listed. It therefore has to be maintained by BT, who have inspected it and will repaint and replace the broken glass panels, albeit on a low priority basis.

Policing: There has been much greater emphasis on local policing and PC Andy Cooper now has a space in the Village Shop which he can use as an office.

In addition the Parish Council, together with other local villages, has contributed £250 towards a fully enabled police laptop. This will permit more time to be spent in the area, rather than commuting continually between the police station and the local area.

The police have been promoting the sale of SmartWater kits at a discounted price of £15. The sales have so far been rather disappointing. If approached directly, there is genuine interest, but only a very small number of people have applied off their own bat.

Councillors Duties:

During the year Councillors duties were as follows:

Paul Polito	Chairman LAPLAC Representative
Laurie Smith	Vice Chairman Medbourne Charities Representative
Pat Tweddle	Taxi Voucher Scheme Administrator Bowls Club Representative
Allan Caldwell	Chairman of the Village Hall Committee Heritage Warden MEFT Representative Planning Representative
Ian Clarke	Sports Club Representative Footway Lighting Warden

During the year the Parish Council was assisted by a number of volunteers:

Keith Sandars	War Memorial Warden
Bryan Smith	Keeper of the Hollow Tree/Brook and Flood Warden
Peter Jackson	Village Website Organiser
Peter O'Donnell	Keeper of the Village Benches
Carolyn Frostwick	Internal Auditor
Richard Hammond	Legal Advisor

All Councillors carried out their duties without claiming any expenses.

I would like to personally thank the councillors, the assistants and the many volunteers, who help to make this village such a wonderful place in which to live.

My special thanks go to Jenny, our Clerk, who works tirelessly to keep on top of an ever increasing mountain of paperwork.

5.0 PARISH PROJECTS FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There are no projects which require special funding at the moment.

6.0 PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS – Jenny Sandars (Clerk):

A copy of the draft accounts produced as at 8th March 2010 giving the projected position for the year ending 31st March 2010 were circulated at the meeting. When the bank statements covering the year end transactions have been received the final accounts will be presented to councillors for approval at the June meeting.

Projected Statement of Assets: Shows a total of £12,495 held in the Parish Council accounts, of which £798 is designated to “The Hollow” and represents monies raised within the village for continued maintenance and enhancement of the area.

The sum of £1,914 is also designated to the Taxi Voucher Scheme and represents the balance of monies received in donations from Medbourne Charities, monies raised from the appeal for donations by the village to help sustain the scheme.

This leaves a balance of £9,782 in the General Funds of which £5,457 is set aside for running the Parish and £3,928 for provision of contingencies the Parish Council needs to finance from time to time as shown on the Statement of Assets.

The balance in the separate Mower Fund Account held at Barclays presently stands at £5,169.05.

Projected Receipts & Payments Summary: There was little change in the overall budget for the year other than the cost of purchasing the SmartWater kits, for which the Parish Council would be reimbursed once more have been sold, and contribution towards purchase of the laptop for PC Andy Cooper that have been paid from monies held in the General Funds in the Community Account with Barclays Bank.

Carolyn Frostwick kindly undertook an Internal Audit of our accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009 following which the official Statement of Accounts was submitted to the External Auditors and the certificate issued. Carolyn has again kindly agreed to act as Internal Auditor for the forthcoming year.

7.0 PRECEPT:

The additional cost for mowing Parish Land together with emptying of litter bins on Parish Land and the Children’s Playground has been helped by savings in the cost of mowing the sports field and emptying of dog bins. We have therefore been able to keep the increase in the overall precept requirement for the forthcoming year to 1.49% ie £80.

8.0 PARISH LIGHTING – Cllr Clarke:

Normal street lighting repairs and maintenance were undertaken during the year. The only major works have been on Manor Road where cables have been put underground and the telegraph pole for light No13 is now adopted by the Parish Council.

A Street Light Survey was carried out this year to ascertain the general condition and type of supports for the lamps. Overall they are in good condition with no major concerns regarding the supports.

9.0 LOCAL CHARITIES – Cllr Smith:

The Medbourne Charities exist to apply the income of the Charity in relieving, either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parish of Medbourne or Nevill Holt, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

Apart from the usual payments for winter fuel, which are re-assessed annually, only one other payment was made during the year for assistance with funeral costs. Due to the successful Taxi Voucher Scheme ran by the Parish Council no individual requests were received for transport costs but provision has been made to help the Taxi Voucher Scheme should it be required.

If anyone knows of any parishioner who requires help with food, cooking or heating facilities, transport, medical costs, or other services such as wheelchair or disabled aids, please contact a Trustee. Our remit is fairly wide and we also assist young people with the costs of tools for their chosen trade or book requirements when taking further education. We have to ensure that all other avenues have been explored but we do wish the funds to be used for the purpose intended.

The Trustees for the Charity are: Mr A R H Pocock, Mrs L Smith, Mrs D Burrows and Rev. S Bishop.

10.0 MEFT – Cllr Caldwell:

Activity over the past year has been limited to regular meetings on ongoing matters mainly concerning the sports field and the playground. With regard to our ownership of part of the sports field we have agreed to lease this to the Sports Club on identical terms to that agreed with them by the Parish Council for the portion they own and, as ever, the legal activity to bring it all about is dictating the progress to achieving the agreed end.

The playground has been maintained well with the help of MEFT Committee members and voluntary help from villagers and, as most people are aware, the threat once offered by the large willow tree on the brook embankment is now no more.

Financially, I understand that the Trust is viable, but only just, and it's continuance into the years ahead must, in my opinion, be very limited. We are due to hold an AGM very shortly although the date has not yet been set.

11.0 VILLAGE HALL – Cllr Caldwell:

It has been an interesting year on all fronts as follows:

Structure of the Village Hall: In the last year we have installed a new boiler for the hot water system. We have decorated internally the main areas of activity and, recently, we have re-roofed the porch, re-pointed brick and stonework and replaced all the lead valleys and flashing in this area. We have also installed a new cooker for the benefit of people using the premises. Routine maintenance work has also been carried out throughout the year on the hedges, the grass and modest pruning of one or two trees and I am grateful for all the voluntary help and assistance that we have received from people in the village in connection with these and other tasks such as cleaning out gutters and general tidying up throughout the year.

Finance: Generally, give or take a few pounds, the day to day running of the Hall has been self sufficient in terms of income and expenditure. Capital costs have been met from existing Deposit Accounts.

Lease: I am assured we should have a new 48 year lease up and running in the next few weeks. the final draft has recently been approved and we await confirmation from the lawyers of the official inception date. After a three year struggle however seeing will be believing. The Management Committee AGM is due to take place on Monday 26th April 2010 here in the Village Hall.

12.0 HERITAGE WARDEN'S REPORT – Cllr Caldwell:

Reduced levels of funding from Leics CC have resulted in cutbacks to the service and further reductions are expected over the next year or so. The majority of my reporting and field survey reports were carried out in the Spring and Autumn last year and I have attended a number of lectures on a wide range of subjects from bats to butterflies. I intend to visit the centre in Holly Hayes, Birstall, shortly to get an update on planned activities for the rest of the year and busy myself accordingly on these matters.

13.0 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT – Incorporating 'The Hollow' – Cllr Smith:

The Hollow: Some of the goat willows have been cut down to open up the islands and more trees and shrubs have been planted on the bank from the tennis courts to replace the gorse, including crab apple donated by the WI and honeysuckle. More snowdrops and bluebells have been planted among the trees plus further alders at the lower end near the cricket field. All the bird food is purchased from Eye Brook Bird Feeds at Great Easton and the costs are now in the region of £600 per annum. We are holding two Sunday Teas on August Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday this year to assist with buying the food. The success of all year feeding is shown by the number of birds using the feeders, with a water rail spotted this year in the corner near the brook plus a snipe in the reeds. The swans appear to have decided to stay and nest this year so we await further news! All feeding costs are met by the 'Hollow Fund' which is not funded from the Parish Precept but entirely separate – our grateful thanks go to all the dedicated bird feeders.

Village: The trees planted on the approaches to the village on Drayton Road, Ashley Road and Hallaton Road are thriving and further trees have been planted in the hedgerows where there are gaps, with the permission of the farmers concerned. A number of small nest boxes and owl boxes have also been sited. The willow tree next to the children's playground has now been felled but provision must be made for maintenance of trees on parish land in the next few years.

14.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME – Cllr Tweddle:

At present four people regularly use the scheme, and we have a balance of £1,914.60 in the fund as at 5th March 2010.

If any parishioners would like to use the scheme who do not have access to a car, please contact Pat Tweddle Tel: 565770 for details.

15.0 SPORTS CLUB – Cllr Clarke:

The Club is very prosperous at the moment across all Sports and the Social side as well. The extension fund currently stands at £76,000. As you will see from the following we are now in need of a larger building:

Extension to Clubhouse: Planning Permission has been granted for the proposed extension and effort is being put in to source additional funding to get these works undertaken as soon as possible in the near future.

Cricket Club: We now have seven Junior Teams and two Senior Teams. Junior Cricket and coaching of juniors is very well supported. The Cricket Club gained Clubmark Accreditation during last season and we are now looking at getting Focus Club Status, which should enable further development and the possibility of grants. The 1st Team reached Division 1 of the Rutland League, which was a great achievement. The Club would like to have new practice nets and the size and position is to be agreed.

Football Club: We have four Junior Teams and two Senior Teams. Junior Football and coaching of juniors is available and very well supported. All Junior Teams are playing at a reasonable standard. The Junior Teams will move from seven-aside to nine-aside rather than going straight to a full sized pitch. The Senior 1st Team on Saturdays is now playing at a high standard. Home games are very well supported by locals and parents. A huge amount of time and effort is being put into maintaining and improving the standard of the playing surfaces.

Tennis Club: We have five Senior Teams. Coaching is available to all ages.

Skittles Team: This is well supported and there is a good social side to the club.

Bowls Team: The facilities are used by the Bowls Team on a regular basis and are a very welcome addition to the social side of the club.

The social side is increasing year by year and the facilities are proving very popular. The Club House is open more often and becoming a focal point for an increasing number of villagers to meet and socialise. Other regular users include the Whist Team and the British Legion.

There has been no major expense on mowers this year. Some repairs to one gang mower was undertaken by Sanderson Transport, which could have been quite costly if they hadn't done the work.

Diesel for mowing is now generously donated by a parishioner, which is very much appreciated.

Special thanks to quite a few individuals, but in particular Colin Lawson, John Burrows and Ian Stevens who do a huge amount of un-paid work keeping the whole sports ground looking immaculate which is a credit to Medbourne as a village.

16.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

17.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No questions raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.