

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2010

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

Parishioners: Peter Jackson & Keith Sandars

1.0 APOLOGIES: Rennie Barbour & Gerald Garfield

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2010:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.10.1 Drain cover adjacent to brook: Although the drain cover has not been locked as such, Anglian Water have been able to manoeuvre it into a more secure position. Hopefully this will resolve the problem.

3.10.2 Water Leak – Main Street: We seem to be going round in circles on this one as although we have taken it up with the Highways for a second time, they have yet again referred it back to Severn Trent. We will await the outcome but if nothing is resolved and the road surface deteriorates significantly we will need to put pressure on Highways to get repair work carried out.

3.4.1 Brudenell Estates: Planning Consent for Conversion of barns to create two dwellings, demolition of outbuildings and erection of detached garage block at Pagets Farm, Main Street: The Parish Council has now written to the Highways Dept at Leicestershire County Council questioning the basis of their approval in relation to the access for this development and requesting that our concerns be placed on record, but it appears we have done all we can with regard to this application,

3.10.1 Street Light opposite 31 Hallaton Road: The vegetation along the bank has now been cut back which has resolved the problem of the street light being obscured.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 Since the last meeting details of the following applications submitted to the Development Control Team had been received and circulated to councillors:

Mr R Lee – Work to and felling of trees, The Gables, 6 Drayton Road: Although some support was given by councillors for the cedar tree being retained, it was felled before end of the consultation period. After speaking to Development Control it appears that although the tree is within the Conservation Area, it was not subject to a Tree Preservation Order. They had studied photographs of the tree in question however, which had suffered some storm damage, and whilst appreciating our concerns, as permission would have been given they would not be requesting a replacement tree be planted.

Mr Philip Bromwich – Erection of an agricultural building Mill Farm, Slawston Road:
Councillors objected to the proposed based on:

- The size of the proposed building dominating the landscape due to its elevated position which would have a detrimental effect on the area.
- As there are already two large barns on the site the development is becoming an unattractive ‘factory type’ business.
- Although councillors are aware of the positioning of the new barn, a clearly defined ground plan had not been provided.

If the proposal goes ahead it was felt that screening with deciduous trees should be required, to lessen the visual impact from the Slawston Road. These comments have therefore been forwarded to the Planning Control Team.

OCA (UK)Ltd - Felling of trees at 11 Old Holt Road: No comment was made by councillors in view of removal of the trees being proposed as a remedy to subsidence damage to the property and to ensure long-term stability.

4.2 Since the last meeting details of applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District had been circulated to councillors.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- Letter from HDC regarding the appointment of Planning Representatives by Parishes.
- Notification of a special event being organized by HDC to give an insight into becoming a councillor.
- Notification of an event being organized by HDC to give more information about the Local Development Framework – Core Strategy.
- Notification of the candidates standing for election to the RCC Board of Trustees.
- Agenda relating to the Rural East Community Forum meeting being held at the Tugby Centre on 21st September 2010.
- New guidance on Assessing Land for Designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park.
- Induction Course arranged by the Society of Local Council Clerks about ‘Working With Your Council’ being held at Chilwell, Nottingham on 5th October 2010 and 9th November 2010.
- Letter seeking the views of Parish Councils on the Harborough District Core Strategy being published by HDC for public consultation between 15th October and 23rd December 2010.

- Consultation on a Review of Licensing Policy by HDC.
- A request for views about the 'Future of Transport in Leicestershire'.
- Notification of the next Standards Committee for HDC on Tuesday 28th September 2010.
- Legal Briefing issued by the National Association for Local Councils about the future of the Standards Framework for Members of Local Authorities in England.
- Letter from SLCC summarizing the benefits of membership
- Notification of the next meeting of the HDC on Monday 27th September 2010.
- Notice of Annual General Meeting for SLCC on 16th October 2010.
- Annual Report 2010 published by the Leics Rural Partnership.
- Information about the Vibrant Villages grants scheme.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: No questions raised.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL:

7.1 The next meeting of the Management Committee is being held on Monday 8th November 2010. A Committee Member has been lost following the recent sad death of Margaret Garfield. The appointment of a Treasurer is also being sought to replace Tim Smith who may be moving from the area.

7.2 A 'Schedule of Dilapidation' is to be drawn up showing the current state of the building which will form the basis for which it needs to be maintained. This will include a full survey with photographic evidence and will be discussed at the Management Committee meeting. The schedule is needed not only as an obligation to both the Parish Council and the Village but also in conjunction with the new lease.

8.0 REPORTS: No reports given.

9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME:

The scheme continues to tick over at a slower rate due to the fewer people needing to make use of it at present.

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

10.1 Packhorse bridge: Weeds and moss are growing around the base of the wooden struts which need clearing.

10.2 Telephone kiosk: After months of persuasion BT have given the kiosk some TLC and the missing panes of glass have been replaced. It also been repainted and now has a very smart red jacket!!

10.3 High kerbs and parking near Village Shop: A complaint has been received about damage to a car by the high kerb surrounding the triangle near the village shop and this has been reported to the Highways Dept. Their response is that as the kerbs are set at the average height of 170mm no remedial action is required. Additionally to excavate and relay to new levels would prove costly and unjustified, particularly at a time of reduced budgets.

Highways also considered that a certain amount of responsibility must lie with drivers when negotiating kerbed areas as they form part of the ‘street furniture’ designed to stop drivers mounting the verge and paved areas. An offer was made by them to erect a bollard at the tip of the triangle to discourage drivers from straddling the kerb and damaging the underside of vehicles but councillors did not consider this to be appropriate. Conversely, it was noted that a more prominent kerb immediately outside the shop may be a good idea to prevent drivers parking on the pavement and making it difficult for pedestrians!

10.4 The number of vehicles parking on Main Street near the shop are making it difficult to see oncoming traffic when turning right out of Springbank.

10.5 **Parking in gateway to Village Hall:** Access through the five bar gate into the grounds of the Village Hall is being obstructed by parked vehicles, which could be a particular problem if access is required by emergency vehicles.

11.0 **ACCOUNTS – including Precept:**

11.1 A cheque for £3,700 had been received from the Village Hall Management Committee to cover legal costs incurred for drawing up of the new lease. The Parish Council has paid the invoice totalling £4,347.50 in full, and will apply for a refund of the VAT charges of £647.50.

11.2 Since the last meeting the following invoices had been received and submitted to councillors for payment:

Tim Alden	£ 450.00
Work to tree	

R Murphy	£ 10.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

E.on UK Energy	£ 119.00
Street Lighting Maintenance	

Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds	£ 34.87
The Hollow	

Phillip J Hammond	£ 50.00
Legal Fees for Registration of Village Hall Lease	

11.3 At the meeting the following invoices were submitted to councillors for payment:

Royal British Legion	£ 40.00
Poppy Wreath	

Murphy’s Taxis	£ 15.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

V Simkin	£ 15.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

E.on	£ 178.83
Street Lighting Charges	

Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Tweddle

11.4 An analysis of the variances in estimated expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2011 against anticipated expenditure, which formed the basis of the Precept Calculations for the year 2010/2011, had been distributed to councillors by the Clerk. This, together with a draft of the Precept Calculations for the year 2011/2012 was discussed at the meeting.

Included in the Precept for 2011/2012 is:

1. An allowance for a 3% increase in respect of:
 - Energy costs for street lighting together with a similar one for repairs and maintenance.
 - Emptying the dog bins.
 - Parish Council Insurance Premium
2. An allowance for an increase of 5% in mowing costs for Parish Land.
3. Next year we will incur costs for the Parish Council election and although this will be taken from the Contingency Fund a sum of £50 has been included in the Precept to start building up funds again.
4. £50 added to the Parish Maintenance Contingency to help with the future costs or work to trees on Parish Land.

This would increase the precept to £5,583, an increase of £126 (2.3%) on last year. All councillors were in agreement of the proposed figure. The final calculation will be submitted to councillors at the next meeting in December.

11.5 As yet no invoice has been received for mowing of Parish Land since FOSCA took over the contract for HDC in April 2009. We would normally receive an invoice every six months so it is important that we set aside the amount owing based on the quotation given of £205pa. We have a similar situation with emptying of the litter bins for which a quotation of £65pa had been given.

12.0 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th December 2010 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. The following meeting will be Monday 10th January 2011.

13.0 **COUNCILLOR'S HOLIDAYS:** None given.

14.0 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

14.1 **Dog Fouling along towpath:** This is getting particularly bad towards the Waterfall Way end of the towpath. Despite provision of a dog bin along here and requests made through the Parish Magazine it seems there are a few within the village who continue to act irresponsibly and make it unpleasant for people walking along here. Consideration was given at the meeting as to what further steps could be taken to persuade those concerned to clean up after their dogs. Initially Cllr Smith will look into availability of acrylic 'spikes' containing an appropriate message that can be placed in the ground where a dog has been allowed to foul.

14.2 Cllr Beaty spoke of alarmed padlocks, available from the Community Police, to help prevent theft from diesel tanks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.