

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2010

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

Parishioners: Gerald Garfield, Peter Jackson & Keith Sandars..

1.0 APOLOGIES: Rennie Barbour.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2010.

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

Proposed: Cllr Smith. Seconded: Cllr Tweddle.,

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

3.10.1 Packhorse Bridge: The weeds and moss have now been cleared.

3.14.1 Dog Fouling along towpath: No further progress as yet on the availability of the acrylic 'spikes' containing an appropriate message put forward at the last meeting as an idea to help overcome the problem. It seems however that the situation has improved a little at present.

3.4.1 Tree Preservation Orders: Cllr Caldwell asked about the criteria for trees within the Conservation Area having a Tree Preservation Order placed on them and if we could be provided with a list of trees within the Conservation Area that are subject to a TPO. The Clerk will contact Andrew Shaw, the Landscape Officer for Trees & Woodlands at LCC asking for clarification and whether a list could be provided of trees within the Conservation Area that are subject to an individual TPO.

3.7.1 Treasurer for the Village Hall: Alan Tweddle has kindly offered to take on the role of Treasurer. An expression of thanks has been given to Suzie Garfield for taking over bookings for the Village Hall.

3.10.5 Parking in gateway to Village Hall: This continues to be a problem, particularly on the day of the Autumn Club Bazaar. A suggestion was put forward that a notice be provided by the gate to make it more obvious that access through the five-bar gate needs to be maintained at all times.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 During the month details of a planning application submitted by Mrs J Wilson was received, to fell a willow tree at Willowbrook House, Hallaton Road which is subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Councillors had raised objections on the basis that it seems a shame to lose such a magnificent tree to make additional room for parking on the driveway. It was appreciated by councillors however that this type of tree would require pollarding and roots could cause a problem to underground drains etc. These comments have been returned to the Landscape Officer (Trees & Woodlands) at LCC and it is understood the application will be considered by the Development Control and Regulatory Board on 16th December 2010.

4.2 During the month details of applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District had been received and circulated to councillors.

4.3 **Brudenell Estates - Redevelopment of Pagets Farm:** The right to include a condition on the Planning Permission relating to cutting back of the hedge in front of the farmhouse has been questioned by solicitors acting for the tenant. This has been acknowledged by HDC and the redevelopment scheme allowed to proceed without a requirement that the hedge be cut back in agreement with the Highways Dept.

5.0 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

- Letter from HDC giving details of the costs involved for the Parish Council Elections to be held on Thursday 5th May 2011. If not contested, ie there are only sufficient nominations to fill the number of vacancies, the fee for administration and processing the nomination forms would be £75. However, if contested although the cost would be shared with the District Ward elections being held on the same day, it would be £687. If the District Ward is not contested the Parish would be required to bear the full cost of £1043. Posters advertising the Election, together with booklets and material promoting the Elections will be provided next year.
- Details about insurance cover available for Charities & 'Not For Profit' organizations had been received from Came & Company who arrange the Parish Council insurances.
- Notification that the Playing Field Magazine will be replaced by an E-bulletin.
- Details about the 'Dial a Wheelchair' service provided by the British Red Cross.
- Notification of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 26th January 2011. This will be attended by Cllr Polito and the Clerk.
- Details about Government changes to the Planning Policy in respect of 'Green Wedges'
- Update on the Sustainable Communities Act from the National Co-ordinator for Unlock Democracy.
- Notification of the website together with a hard copy of the Core Strategy – Publication Version published by Harborough District Local Development Framework.
- Notification of the next Standards Committee meeting being held at the Council Offices on 9th November 2010.
- Notification of the next meeting of the Harborough District Council on 22nd November 2010.

6.0 **QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:**

6.1 **Parish Website:** Cllr Caldwell raised the lack of information being placed on the Parish Website. Peter Jackson spoke of the problems working with the Leicestershirevillages.com website since it had replaced the harborhonline.com site. It appears many villages are also experiencing difficulties and are now developing websites to meet their own needs. It was agreed that it would be useful to have an active informative website. Peter has the software which would enable him to develop our own site and offered to look at a format and the type of

information we could include.

Peter went on to say that the leicestershireparishcouncils.org website run by Tim Heeley at LCC is a separate issue, and is intended to provide information as required by the Freedom of Information Act and updated by Parish Clerks. It does however appear to be a difficult site to work with.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL:

7.1 Repairs: Following investigations into the cause of the leaking roof, it appears the ridge tiles have been set incorrectly. Some of the gulleys also require attention and estimates will be obtained for work to be undertaken in the spring.

8.0 REPORTS:

8.1 Youth Club Funding: Following the email from David Gibley regarding funding requirements for the forthcoming year, a sum of £400 has been included in the precept calculation for next year, instead of the original £200.

Although the Parish Council had agreed a sum of £400 when the problem with funding was raised, this had been subject to a review each year.

Whilst councillors supported the need for a Youth Club some concern was expressed by councillors about a donation of this amount being provided each year, especially when other organizations within the village put a lot of effort into raising their own funds in order to sustain activities and keep clubs running. It was felt therefore that the question needs to be asked as to what fundraising will be undertaken by the Youth Club to help with their funding situation.

The email recently sent by David Gibley outlining their financial position will be circulated to councillors and whilst agreement in principle was given for a donation of £400 for the forthcoming year, this should be subject to the Parish Council being satisfied about their own fundraising efforts.

9.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME: Nothing to report.

10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:

10.1 A resident has asked if a salt bin could be provided in Old Holt Road. This had been considered last year however and the problem was that no-one wanted it on their property. The nearest bin is at Marlow Court which has now been cleared of rubbish and filled with salt. Two more salt bins are located in the village – one by the packhorse bridge and another by the footbridge near the Nevill Arms. Any additional bins required would need to be financed by the Parish Council.

The salt provided by the Local Authority in the bins is for use on pavements public roads or other public areas, but not for private drives. Residents are asked to help clear snow and put salt down for the elderly, disabled or anyone incapacitated in any way.

10.2 The parish mower is due for it's annual service. Gerald Garfield asked if the Parish Council could arrange for it to be collected from his garage and taken in.

11.0 ACCOUNTS – Including Precept

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

CAB Annual Donation	£ 50
Eyebrook Bird Feeds The Hollow	£ 10.57
HDC Servicing Dog Bins & Grass Cutting	£498.64
V Simkin & Son Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 15.00
Murphy's Taxis Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 30.00
Bryan Smith The Hollow – Rat Pellets	£ 19.12

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

SLCC Annual Subscription	£ 44.00
Murphy's Taxis Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	£ 15.00
Bryan Smith Food for Swans	£ 10.00

Proposed: Cllr Caldwell. Seconded: Cllr Smith.

11.3 **Precept:** The Clerk presented the final draft of the Precept for 2011/2012 to councillors. To accommodate a funding of £400 for the Youth Club instead of the £200 included in the original draft, an amount has no longer been set aside for Legal Fees and should any costs be incurred in this direction it would be taken from reserves held in the Parish Council Accounts. This will enable the precept requirement of £5,583 agreed at the last meeting to stand. All councillors were in agreement and this will now be submitted to HDC.

Proposed: Cllr Smith. Seconded: Cllr Tweddle.

12.0 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th January 2011 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. The following meeting will be Monday 7th February 2011.

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

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

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

