

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2011

Present: Cllrs Polito (Chair), Clarke & Pilkington

Parishioners: Rennie Barbour, Keith Sandars, David Tuffs, Mark Paine, Laurie Smith & PC Andy Cooper.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Pat Tweddle, Stuart Palmer & David Beaty.

Cllr Polito spoke of David Beaty's appointment as Chairman of Harborough District Council and gave his congratulations on behalf of the Parish Council.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING HELD MONDAY 9TH MAY 2011:

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

3.0 MATTERS ARISING:

22.3 Speeding along Main Street: Although no response had yet been received from the Highways Dept, PC Andy Cooper had contacted Cllr Polito regarding purchase of a speed gun to be shared between a number of interested villages costing approximately £2,000, which would mean a contribution of £250 from each village. Andy Cooper would be attending the meeting this evening to talk through how the initiative operates.

4.0 PLANNING:

4.1 Amended Plans for erection of an attached single bay garage, Bridgedale Barn, Brook Terrace: Following a site visit by councillors a letter had been sent to the Head of Built Environment Services detailing the Parish Council's objections to the proposal. This application has since been withdrawn.

4.2 J Beaty & Sons – Installation of a steel lattice radio mast and creation of associated compound at Home Farm, Holt Road: This proposal for a GPS system to advance the main farming business through the use of technology, had been the subject of a Planning Committee meeting on 25th May 2011 and has since been approved.

4.3 During the month details of Planning Applications submitted to the Development Control Team for the Harborough District 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:

- Request for financial support for publication and distribution of booklets detailing the support for older people in the district by the Communities in Partnership
- Notification of a road closure from the junction with Broadgate at Great Easton.
- Information from Leicestershire Police about 'Policing for the Future'

- Information about an initiative in Cotesbach to identify residents considered as potentially vulnerable to crime i.e burglary so that they could be visited by local police officers and given help to improve their security.
- Copy of the Diary of Village Events and Guided Walks published by the RCC.
- Details of the formal submission of Harborough's Core Strategy to the Secretary of State.

6.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN:

- 6.1** Cllr Clarke advised that the Sports Club are sending a letter to the Parish Council asking for clarification of what the Mower Fund can be used to help pay for, and whether it could be amended to accommodate ground maintenance in view of the recent agreement for purchase of a mega splitter. Cllr Polito indicated that use of the funds should only be used for capital expenditure and not for undertaking maintenance of the sports field.

7.0 VILLAGE HALL:

Cllr Clarke had attended a recent meeting which had been quite positive and well chaired, and had produced a number of ideas for funding events.

Over the week-end rain had got into the front porch despite the repair works recently undertaken.

8.0 REPORTS:

- 8.1** Louise Pilkington had recently attended a seminar relating to the Code of Practice for Councillors which had been quite informative.

- 8.2 Parish Website:** David Tuffs attended the meeting to expand on his kind offer to enhance the content for Medbourne on the leicestershirevillages website.

David had recently developed a site for the church sixsaintscircaholt.org that offers links into other features in the village which had received a good response and stirred up interest in the village website. The Six Saints website had been developed specifically for church related matters and the Rector would wish it to continue rather than it be expanded upon to include what could potentially be a vast amount of other information, causing it to lose its focus on church related matters. This had prompted David to log into the leicestershirevillages website, the framework of which is provided by Leics County Council for every village. The data base is enormous and has the potential for a vast amount of information to be linked into the sites for individual villages, and he therefore felt it would make no sense to try and develop a free standing site for Medbourne. Another reason for this is that if Medbourne is put into 'google' the leicestershirevillages site comes up high on the list in 3rd place.

As the leicestershirevillages site was advertising for volunteer Site Administrators to come forward from villages, it had prompted David to contact them. It is intended that the Administrator would develop the site for their own village and train other people to be able to add information to the site i.e a representative from the Sports Club.

David advised that initial structuring of the data was important and it was agreed that it would be a good idea for him to speak to the various organisations who are interested in having a page set up to identify the extent of information they have in mind and the most appropriate format for it to be shown. He could then train an appointed person from each organisation to put

information on the site. David suggested he set up a stand at the Church Fete on 2nd July 2011 alongside the one he is already arranging for their website, with possibly a questionnaire asking people what information they would most like access to. He thought the history of the village was likely to be the most popular, and that together with the Village Hall would probably be the two to prioritise initially.

As the Parish Council website set up by Leics County Council appears to operate on a similar basis, David also offered to help the Clerk get this established.

Cllr Polito thanked David for volunteering to take on the project and for coming along to explain the benefits of using the leicestershirevillages website and how it could be developed.

Cllr Polito then expressed the Parish Council's sincere thanks to Peter Jackson for the many years during which he had administered the village website.

9.0 SPORTS CLUB – Purchase of Mega Slitter: Following a request received from the Sports Club the Parish Council had approved the purchase of a Mega Slitter, from funds held in the Mower Fund Account, to assist with ground drainage that had become available for bidding on E-Bay. Invoices for both purchase of the slitter together with the cost of delivery had been received and the Clerk will arrange for the cheques for £1,140 and £144 respectively to be issued.

10.0 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME: This continues to run well for those in the village without access to a car who need assistance with transport arrangements.

11.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE: Nothing to report.

12.0 ACCOUNTS:

12.1 Accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2011: The final accounts were presented for approval by the Clerk and accepted by councillors. Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Pilkington.

12.2 Annual Return for Year ending 31st March 2011: The Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return relating to the conduct of Parish Council business was considered and approved by councillors together with:

- Assessment of risks faced by the Parish Council including internal controls.
- Review of the system of internal audit for the Parish Council's accounting records and its effectiveness.

The Governance Statement was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The books and documents relevant to the annual accounts will now be passed to Carolyn Frostwick together with the Annual Return for completion of the Section by the Internal Auditor.

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

Broker Network Ltd	£525.89
Insurance Renewal Premium	

Murphy's Taxis	£ 15.00
Redeemed Taxi Vouchers	

Eyebrook Bird Feeds £ 37.72

The Hollow

At the meeting the following invoices were presented for payment:

E.on £121.53

Street Lighting Maintenance

Kwikcabs £ 35.00

Redeemed Taxi Vouchers

HDC £231.59

Servicing Dog Bins/Litter Bins

Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Pilkington.

12.4 Bank Mandate: The Clerk asked whether all councillors had now taken their completed Personal Details form into Barclays Bank together with ID and evidence of current address.

12.5 The Clerk advised that it has become apparent that both the Parish Council and the Sports Club are paying an annual subscription to Leicestershire Playing Fields Association. Cllr Clarke confirmed that a subscription is paid by the Cricket Club. The Parish Council has already paid the subscription for this year but it was proposed that in future this be paid by the Sports Club for the benefit of the various teams. Cllr Clarke will take this proposal back to the Sports Club.

13.0 PURCHASE OF SPEED GUN: Following an approach by PC Andy Cooper Cllr Polito had circulated all councillors with details of an initiative to help overcome the problem of speeding in the village by purchase of a speed gun. Andy Cooper who was in attendance at the meeting then gave an explanation of how the initiative would operate.

- The speed gun would be a shared resource for the villages making the contribution towards its purchase and not used in other areas.
- It would be maintained and calibrated by the police. It would be issued to Andy Cooper and should he be moved on it would be re-issued to his replacement.
- Andy would be able to deploy use of the speed gun where he assessed it was needed and at a time to suit i.e when 'bikers' are coming through the village. He would be issuing tickets to offenders for which the penalty is 3 points on their license and an on-the-spot fine of £60, although he would be using discretion and common sense in this regard.
- Each village taking part in the initiative would have a similar number of visits irrespective of their size.
- He would come to the village with the speed gun once a month as a minimum. He would also be able to attend at specific problem times advised of by the parish.
- A monthly report will be published which is sent to him identifying use of the speed gun, and a copy made available to the Parish Council.

Cllr Polito proposed that the Parish Council support this initiative. Seconded: Cllrs Clarke & Pilkington. The Clerk will issue a cheque payable to Leics Policy Authority for the sum of £243.75. PC Andy Cooper thanked the Parish Council and asked to be advised of when and

where we would like the speed gun used. He will also arrange for the monthly report to be emailed to Cllr Polito.

14.0 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The date for the next meeting would be Monday 4th July 2011, followed by Monday 1st August 2011 and 5th September 2011.

15.00 **COUNCILLORS' HOLIDAYS:** Details of when councillors would be away during the forthcoming month were given.

16.0 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

16.1 Rennie Barbour questioned the apparent cost of £2,000 for purchase of the speed gun as this seemed excessive. Cllr Polito advised that equipment for monitoring the speed of traffic is expensive and compares favourably with other devices ie flashing signs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.