

**Medbourne Parish Council**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL**  
**MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2014**

**Present:** Cllrs Polito (Chair), Clarke, Cory and Beaty

**1.0 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Pilkington, Gidley Wright

**2.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014:**

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

**3.0 MATTERS ARISING:**

**3.1** Reference 3.2 – A response was received from the Local Highway Authority following the Parish Council's request for clarification regarding the maintenance of highway verges. The Local Highway Authority advised that it is not the Highway Authority's policy to repair rural verges where it was deemed 'not a hazard to road users'.

**4.0 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

**4.1** Tom Price noted that there was no 'Truck Pull' item on the agenda, Cllr Polito advised that this would be covered under Item 7 reports, during the meeting.

**4.2** Jenny Sandars raised concern with the Highway Authority's response regarding verges, if Highway's don't do anything, who does? Several examples of potentially dangerous verges were outlined. Cllr Polito could only refer back to the Highway's response and that there was not much more the Parish Council could say as it was the Highway Authority's responsibility. Cllr Beaty could shed no further light on the issue.

**4.3** Keith Sandars voiced his concern with regard to the road surface on the 'Irish' bridge where the surface was breaking up again. He had reported this to the County Council and some white markings had appeared on the road. Mr Sandars also noted that the grassed triangular area at the end of Payne's Lane had not been mown and this was dangerous to road users as there was no visibility. Cllr Polito would report this, although Mr Sandars did say he was happy to cut this grass.

**5.0 PLANNING:**

During the month, no Planning Applications had been submitted to the Development Control Team and no applications had been determined.

**6.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

A number of items had been circulated amongst Councillors during the month, these included a Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, Empower Local Councils information, a Dog and Litter Bin survey, Parish Views on Local Housing survey. In addition the Councillors' Declaration of Interest forms had been returned by Harborough District Council.

## **7.0 REPORTS:**

- 7.1** Cllr Cory reported that she had attended the *Planning Nuts and Bolts* training session and it had been quite informative.
- 7.2** Cllr **Gidley Wright** had provided Councillors with an absentee report following the Village Hall Committee Meeting:
- 7.3** Recent funding activities organised by the committee have been met with mixed success, the recent village hall teas and separate film night has grossed almost £400, the results of the Antiques Night would be reported next month. The Committee is re-examining the viability of Sunday Teas as the last one met with disappointing results. Members were looking at how to improve the format.
- 7.4** The Committee has looked at the possibility of having broadband in the Village Hall, but at present, in the absence of any special ‘charity deals’ available from BT, the decision made was to hold back at least for the short term, likewise for the purchase of a P.A. system for the Hall. The outlay and overhead was considered too great when compared to the likely usage. The situation regarding both will be looked at again when the Hall is in a better rentable state to potential business users. This would be after repairs, redecoration and the planned relocation of the village pre-school.
- 7.5** The committee is still waiting for a start date on the urgent repair works to the roof and exterior, but this is planned for the summer.
- 7.6** Cllr **Clarke** reported that the Sports Club Committee had met to discuss the Truck Pull and that they had decided they would not host the event on their land. Gary (Truck Pull organiser) however had approached the MEFT who have said that they would allow the event to take place on their land. Cllr Clarke stated that as a result access would have to be granted over the sports club’s land; however conditions would have to be agreed and any setting up would have to be done outside of sports events so as not to conflict with existing activities. It was further reported that the W.I. would do teas at the sports club during the event.

## **8.0 BROADBAND SURVEY**

- 8.1** David Tuffs reported to the Parish Council the results of the Broadband survey undertaken within Medbourne. 22 residents responded with the average download speed recorded at 5.35 mega bits per second (mbps) and 0.39mbps upload speed. It was noted that it was not a scientific survey but more of a straw poll, however one respondent was kind enough to detail the times of day the speeds were taken which highlighted a variation of download speeds at different times with 6mbps achieved during the working day. It was considered that 6mbps during the daytime was acceptable for ‘home working’ needs. The results of the survey would be uploaded to the website.

- David Tuffs had been asked to deputise for Cllr Polito at the Welland Valley Broadband Group (WVBG) with Cllr Polito passing on all correspondence to date. It was reported that the WVBG had been looking at alternative suppliers to BT in the Welland Valley. David raised his concerns in an email to the WVBG and was subsequently ‘sacked’ from the group. David sent a considered email with his views, however he received a highly negative response with the WVBG unfortunately taking a confrontational approach which mirrored their approach to Leicester County Council and BT.

- 8.3** David went on to outline what appeared to be the aims of the WVBG, which was to achieve a

quality of broadband far in excess of the rest of the county, and as such was looking at other suppliers. David believes that they are taking the wrong approach as they haven't checked what constraints the Welland Valley may face in achieving their aims and haven't considered how much money it would take to accelerate the programme or where funding may be found for this and it was thought that any solution that may be found may be far more expensive than BT.

**8.4** Alternative suppliers, such as a wireless broadband company, are being looked into, however this appears to be a naïve approach as the infrastructure may have to include receivers on homes, tall buildings and pylons. It was considered that this may not even work in Medbourne as there is a distinct lack of mobile phone signal in the area. It was conveyed that there may be a worry that BT withdraw from its offer and that Medbourne would be restricted to a single company that can offer broadband, whilst multiple companies can offer broadband through BT's infrastructure. However, it appears in response to the WVBG, that BT had accelerated its roll out of superfast broadband in Medbourne with the upgrade being brought forward to 2014/15 rather than the initial estimate of 2018, however the fine planning of the project was still pending.

**8.5** Further updates will be reported, both from Leicestershire County Council and BT however as it stands, Medbourne does not currently have a representative on the WVBG.

## **9.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**9.1** Cllr Cory reported that Councillors had met on two occasions over the past month and it had been agreed that a questionnaire would be prepared to garner opinions and views on the future of Medbourne. It was likely that this would be distributed in the Autumn to ensure that it did not conflict with resident's holidays and so that the fullest response was received.

## **10.0 PARISH REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE:**

**10.1** There were no updates regarding Parish Repairs and Maintenance.

## **11.0 ACCOUNTS:**

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

Daniel Ray Clerk's Pay – June 2014	£ 114.71
Print on Demand Limited Display Stands - War Memorial	£ 1140.00
Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds The Hollow	£ 26.55
LRALC Planning Nuts and Bolts Training	£ 40.00
HMRC Tax on Clerk's Pay	£ 85.80
E.on Street Lighting Maintenance	£ 126.43

Daniel Ray Clerk's Pay – July 2014	£ 114.71
Treespace Village Maintenance	£ 450.00
E.on Street Lighting	£ 181.37

**11.2** The payments were a correct record.  
Proposed: Cllr Clarke. Seconded: Cllr Cory

**12.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held at 7.45pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The following meeting will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.