

# Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
MONDAY 13 April 2015

Councillors present:	Cllrs, Polito (Chair), Pilkington (Vice Chair), Clarke, Cory, and Gidley-Wright														
Also present:	Dan Ray (retiring Clerk to the Council), Graham Thomson (Clerk to the Council), and 18 members of the public.														
1.0	<b>APOLOGIES:</b> District Councillor Beatty														
2.0	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2014</b> There were no matters arising from the minutes.														
3.0	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR</b></p> <p>The Chairman presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>Regrettably our clerk Dan Ray has decided that he can no longer continue in his post due to ill health. I am sure that all councillors will wish to join me in thanking Dan for his tremendous help during the past year and wish him a speedy return to full fitness. We are delighted to have gained the services of Graham Thomson to take over the clerk's role from Dan.</i></p> <p><i>Graham has a wealth of experience in Local Government and has previously served as clerk to Weldon Parish Council. We are delighted to welcome him to his first PC Meeting this evening and look forward to a long association with him.</i></p> <p><i>Ian Clarke and I have both decided not to stand for re-election on May 7th after many years as councillors and I would like to pay special tribute to Ian's contribution over the last 8 years during which he has been on the PC. Ian's lifelong association with this village has proved invaluable on many occasions during this time and his wise counsel and laconic sense of humour will be sadly missed.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to thank Sheelagh Shaen-Carter and Lyn Easton, for putting their names forward for the forthcoming PC elections. As there are 5 candidates for 5 places, the election will not be contested and we look forward to working with them in the future.</i></p> <p><i>The two most significant features of this year have been the decision of the village to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and the decision of Gigaclear to bring SFB to Medbourne despite our relatively poor take-up. I would particularly like to thank David Tuffs for his very considerable efforts in helping to bring this about. Both of these matters will be reported on in greater detail by those responsible, later in the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Policing.</i></p> <p><i>Our beat bobby – PC Andy Cooper has given us an update on local policing. In his words – the policing world has now gone full circle and they think the old neighbourhood policing policy was a good idea! In future, there will be more use of the speed gun, local crime reports and a more evident police presence.</i></p> <p><i>Parish Repairs &amp; Maintenance.</i></p> <p><i>The ash tree on the towpath has been reduced in height and generally made safe. We started on the village bench refurbishment programme this year and I would like to thank Peter O'Donnell for the excellent job he has made of repainting the two wooden benches at the cross roads.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to thank Keith Sandars for his immaculate tending of the War Memorial, in what has been a very busy year for him, on which he will report later.</i></p> <p><i>Our thanks also to Bryan Smith, for all the work he puts in as Tree Warden, Brook Warden and Keeper of The Hollow and for his continued planting of Leviathon Wood.</i></p> <p><i>Thanks also to Grahame Doe and Ian Dunckley who volunteered to mow the towpath along the brook.</i></p> <p><i>Councillors Duties.</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>Paul Polito</i></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>Chairman</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><i>LRALC representative</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><i>Parish Maintenance</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Louise Pilkington</i></td> <td><i>Vice Chairman</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><i>MEFT representative</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Ian Clarke</i></td> <td><i>Sports Club representative</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><i>Street Lighting Warden</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Paul Polito</i>	<i>Chairman</i>		<i>LRALC representative</i>		<i>Parish Maintenance</i>	<i>Louise Pilkington</i>	<i>Vice Chairman</i>		<i>MEFT representative</i>	<i>Ian Clarke</i>	<i>Sports Club representative</i>		<i>Street Lighting Warden</i>
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	<p><i>Taxi Voucher Scheme Administrator</i>  <i>Medbourne Charities representative</i>  <i>Planning representative</i>  <i>Village Hall representative</i></p> <p><i>Jo Cory</i>  <i>Tim Gidley-Wright</i></p> <p><i>During the year the PC was assisted by a number of volunteers</i>  <i>David Tuffs</i>                      <i>Information Resource Advisor</i>  <i>Keith Sandars</i>                <i>War Memorial Warden</i>  <i>Bryan Smith</i>                   <i>Tree &amp; Brook Warden</i>     <i>Keeper of the Hollow</i></p> <p><i>Peter O'Donnell</i>               <i>Keeper of the Village Benches</i>  <i>Roger Lee</i>                      <i>Internal Auditor</i>  <i>Richard Hammond</i>         <i>Legal Advisor</i></p> <p><i>All councillors carried out their duties without claiming any expenses.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to personally thank Dan, our retiring clerk, fellow councillors, assistants and all those volunteers, who help to make Medbourne such a special place in which to live.</i></p>
4.0	<p><b>PARISH PROJECTS FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>The Chairman stated that there were no projects requiring special funding but this situation might change when the Neighbourhood Planning begins.</p>
5.0	<p><b>PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS</b></p> <p>The retiring Clerk presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>A copy of the draft accounts detailing the projected position at 31st March 2014 has been handed to councillors however the final bank statement has yet to be received and such cannot be finalised until the meeting in May.</i></p> <p><i>The draft statement of assets presented shows a total of £12,340.24 in Parish Council accounts, of which £1,352 is designated funds for The Hollow. This is a fine figure for The Hollow who has seen an excellent year of donations.</i></p> <p><i>This leaves a balance of £10987.51 in the general funds of which £4061.00 is set aside for provision of contingencies the Parish Council needs to finance from time to time.</i></p> <p><i>The balance in the mower fund is currently £6255.65 however just over £1000 is yet to be cashed on the new mower.</i></p> <p><i>The only item of particular note for the year (notwithstanding the successful War Memorial work) was an increase of payment towards village maintenance of £562.72.</i></p> <p><i>For the second year in a row there has been no audit fee.</i></p>
6.0	<p><b>RATE PRECEPT</b></p> <p>The retiring Clerk presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>It was noted that the precept for 2015/16 was increased by £1386.03. This was to cover the increased costs associated with the duty of the Parish Council, potential election costs and also to help with the funding for getting the Neighbourhood Plan under way. This results in a precept requirement of £7641.68 or £3.25 per household.</i></p>
7.0	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p>Councillor Cory presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>Over the past year, Harborough District Council have informed us that Medbourne has been designated as a Selected Rural Village in the Core Strategy for Harborough. This means that Medbourne is deemed to be able to accommodate some development and is expected to contribute to HDC's housing stock by building approximately 50 houses between now and 2031.</i></p> <p><i>The final figure will be determined by the new Local Plan, which is scheduled to be adopted in 2017(?)</i></p> <p><i>In order to have more control over this development, MPC canvassed the community with a questionnaire to gauge interest in putting together a Neighbourhood plan. As the majority of the village was keen to have a NP, MPC made the decision to move forward with the process as a means of giving Medbourne a chance to have more control at a local level - to be proactive in identifying areas which the NP committee considered suitable for development and the type of housing required.</i></p> <p><i>The PC invited Matthew Bills (Neighbourhood Plan "Champion") from Harborough District Council to a parish council meeting to talk through the process involved. This was well attended by the village. When the boundaries of the area to be considered have been agreed by HDC, the next step will be to select a steering committee from amongst those who have volunteered.</i></p>

	<p><i>1 new dwelling has been built in Medbourne in the last year – the Old Slaughter house. Planning has also been granted for 6 new dwellings on Drayton road.</i></p>
8.0	<p><b>PARISH LIGHTING</b>  Councillor Clarke presented the following report which was accepted:-  <i>No issues of note.</i>  <i>The proposed adoption of the Street Light in Holt Yard is on-going. Other than that a year of standard charges with only normal street lighting repairs and maintenance required.</i>  <i>No major issues or expenses to report.</i></p>
9.0	<p><b>LOCAL CHARITIES</b>  Councillor Clarke presented a report which was accepted.</p>
10.0	<p><b>MEFT (Medbourne Educational Foundation Trust)</b>  Councillor Pilkington presented the following report which was accepted:-  <i>2014/15 has not seen much to report in terms of the MEFT and the playground but we are hopeful that 2015/2016 will see more changes and progress made in terms of adopting a new constitution and a lease with the Sports Club.</i>  <i>The issue of the Sports Club finalising a lease with the MEFT has been ongoing for several years with both parties purporting to want to have a lease in place but not being able to come to an agreement on the terms of that lease.</i>  <i>The MEFT does not have a source of income and relies totally on fundraising and good will to keep the village playground operating. It is proposed by the MEFT that the Sports Club should pay an annual lease to cover those costs.</i>  <i>To date the parties have not been able to come to an agreement on the issue but we are ever hopeful that this will be the year!</i>  <i>On a very happy and positive note for the playground, the church has determined that this year, as its parish project, it will raise money for the playgrounds in the parishes. This is amazing news for the Medbourne Playground and those of the other parishes. Thank you.</i>  <i>A very big thank you as well to Matt and Gilly Oliver, Andy Cairns and Sean Reid who spent several hours last month giving the playground a spring clean – cutting the grass, doing the edging and weeding and cleaning the surfaces so that the children of Medbourne can enjoy it in the warmer months to come.</i>  <i>Thanks also to Gilly for preparing the mowing roster and for those families who have volunteered to do the mowing each month. Without volunteers and the donation of funds, the playground would close.</i></p>
11.0	<p><b>VILLAGE HALL</b>  Councillor Gidley-Wright presented the following report which was accepted:-  <i>2104/15 has been a year that has seen Medbourne Village Hall making considerable investment in the infrastructure and grounds of the hall. In the Spring of 2014 the first improvement was made by building a disability ramp, a raised flower bed and maintenance work to the railings at the front of the hall. This work was done at a cost of £12,677.00, with the bulk of the cost being born by the hall. There were two grants/donations made by the J R Corah Foundation, and the R Daphne Blunkett Foundation.</i>  <i>The second major improvement has been the extensive repairs to the roof, both flat and pitched in order to make the hall watertight for the first time in many years, and to ensure that the tiles on the pitched roof are now all repaired and matching in colour. This was accomplished at a cost of £7,765.00.</i>  <i>The Village Hall has found fund raising challenging this year with the traditional income from Sunday teas losing much support from the Parish, and the Medbourne Pre-School rental income coming under threat from likely relocation to Brighthurst. Various new events have been launched this year which the committee hope will grow and become important annual events. The “Antiques Roadshow”, the “Meet the Neighbours”, and the Christmas tree lighting evening and children’s film nights among many others.</i>  <i>The Bookings for the village hall have also not been without their challenges this year, as the old system has proved un-wealthy and difficult to manage. Some potential ‘tenants’ have been disappointed, and as a result the VH committee has invested in a new software based system, which should allow tenants to see their possible bookings and an updated village hall calendar on line and through the village hall web site.</i>  <i>The Village Hall played host to a very successful and well attended commemoration service for the centenary of the beginning of the Great War. In particular, a very interesting visual display of the history of certain fallen soldiers from our community, was mounted on display stands within the hall during the day of the re-dedication service for the newly restored war memorial. All the results of some very in depth research and</i></p>

	<p><i>planning done by a very dedicated team from our village lead by Keith Sandars.</i></p> <p><i>The committee is saying a Goodbye to the caretaker of the hall Mick Garfield this year, as well as Ian Stevens as a volunteer grounds man, whilst they welcome new help in particular from Bill Barrie as a new addition to the committee in charge of all hall bookings. Thanks are due to all of those who have helped and continue to help with the running of the hall over the last year.</i></p>
12.0	<p><b>TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME</b></p> <p>Councillor Clarke reported that £50 remained in the fund which, he said, would close when the remaining vouchers were spent.</p>
13.0	<p><b>INFORMATION RESOURCE ADVISOR'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Mr David Tuffs presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>Broadband</i></p> <p><i>This year it has been superfast broad band that has consumed the most effort, both on my part and that of Paul Polito. In early 2014 I conducted a survey of current broadband speeds which revealed that Medbourne, at 6mbps average download speed, was much better off than surrounding villages. A Broadband page was set up on the Village Web Site.</i></p> <p><i>In April I took over from Paul Polito as the village representative on the Welland Valley Broadband Group. This group, whose overall aims we have always supported, was at that time conducting a very aggressive campaign against Leicestershire County Council (LCC) and BT. As BT was already committed to bring fibre optic broadband to Medbourne, (unlike many other villages), we felt somewhat at odds with the tenor of the WVBG campaign. Also, at that time, there was a strong suggestion that Gigaclear (who were being heavily promoted by WVBG) would only come to the Welland Valley if they had exclusive access to the market in Medbourne and Hallaton (to the exclusion of BT); we felt we had no choice but to resist this possibility with as much vigour as possible and left WVBG in the process. Our campaign, which included making representations to LCC on behalf of the village, was entirely successful.</i></p> <p><i>We hosted meetings in the Village Hall where both BT and Gigaclear presented their offerings, fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) in the case of BT, and fibre to the property (FTTP) in the case of Gigaclear. Both suppliers will shortly be bringing superfast fibre optic broadband to the village in competition with one another. This is the most favourable outcome we could have hoped for. Our relationship with the WVBG has been remediated.</i></p> <p><i>During the year I published five Broadband Newsletters plus other relevant information from WVBG, LCC, etc. These were sent to Village email list and Twitter followers and are also published online on the Broadband page.</i></p> <p><i>Village Web Site - <a href="http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/medbourne">http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/medbourne</a></i></p> <p><i>The most significant additions to the Village Web Site this year were the pages commemorating the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the World War I. As well as personal histories of all the men on the Medbourne War Memorial we published interesting information concerning those who came home. Huge thanks are due to Keith Sandars and Jim Royall who did all the research work behind these new pages.</i></p> <p><i>All our World War I information was reproduced for an exhibition in the Village Hall staged on August 3rd, the day when the newly-refurbished War Memorial was re-dedicated. Sue Hunt kindly took a photo diary of the day which was published online on August 4th; this achieved over 1000 page views during the first week! Our thanks are due to the Heritage Lottery fund for sponsorship of all the Village's World War I projects.</i></p> <p><i>The Medbourne Village email list and the Twitter feed (@Medbourne565) have continued to grow, the latter being administered by Amy Hayward-Paine. The email list now numbers 73 subscribers, up from 50 in 2014, and the Twitter feed has 179 followers, up from 115 in 2014; Amy also services the Village Hall Twitter feed which has 121 followers. The Village Web Site is currently achieving 98,000 page hits per year which is almost double the rate a year ago.</i></p> <p><i>The Village Web Site runs on infrastructure provided by Leicestershire County Council. LCC have now informed all site administrators that the infrastructure will not be supported from April 2015 and will eventually be turned off in August 2016. As a consequence, we will have to transfer our content to a new platform in the coming months. This is a good opportunity to reconsider what we want and how we want it presented – options that weren't available with the prescribed LCC infrastructure. Hence, there will be an opportunity for anyone who is interested to get involved in the design of the new site, and a call for volunteers will go out shortly. I have offered to undertake the development of the new site based on the collaboratively agreed design; the volunteer group will also get the opportunity to test early prototypes and provide feedback.</i></p> <p><i>Parish Council Web Site - <a href="http://medbourne.leicestershireparishcouncils.org">http://medbourne.leicestershireparishcouncils.org</a></i></p>

	<p><i>The Parish Council web site remains much the same as last year. It is fully up-to-date.</i></p> <p><i>However, this site uses the LCC infrastructure that is being decommissioned, so the content has to be re-hosted. However, in this case, the work is not optional as the Parish Council has a statutory duty to publish certain information and the internet is the most convenient channel.</i></p> <p><i>A proposal has been made to the Parish Council to merge the Village and Parish Council web sites both to simplify the user experience and to save on the amount of redevelopment work. Consequently, the volunteer group mentioned above will also have to consider the Parish Council's requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Church Web Site - <a href="http://www.sixsaintscircaholt.org">http://www.sixsaintscircaholt.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Whilst this site caters primarily for churchgoers, it also carries uploads of the monthly Parish Magazines. A link to the latest online Parish Magazine has been provided in every monthly email sent to the Village list.</i></p>
14.0	<p><b>WAR MEMORIAL REPORT</b></p> <p>Mr Keith Sandars presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>First of all I would like to mention the recent sad death of Gerald Garfield who for many years was my predecessor as War Memorial Warden and proved a hard act to follow. The tulips were planted by Gerald and will serve as a poignant reminder of his sterling efforts.</i></p> <p><i>The year 2014 marked the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of World War One and the Parish Council were fortunate to obtain a Grant of £4,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish the War Memorial. A condition of the Grant was that we carried out various Heritage Projects and these were 1) A presentation to Brighthurst School 2) An article on the Village Web Site 3) An exhibition in the Village Hall 4) A re-dedication ceremony at the Memorial.</i></p> <p><i>Sunday August 3rd 2014 will be a day long remembered in the village. We were blessed with fine weather and services were held in the Church and at the Memorial both organised and conducted by Stephen Bishop, to whom I am most grateful. Following the conclusion of the service at the Memorial everyone retired to the Village Hall to view the exhibition masterminded by David Tuffs who also played a large part in the article on the Web Site. Wonderful refreshments were provided at the Hall by Penny Polito and her team of ladies.</i></p> <p><i>Many other people and organisations contributed to make the day such a huge success and I would also mention Heritage Lottery Fund for the Grant, Philip Langmead of Barham Stone for arranging for the refurbishment of the Memorial, Sue Hunt for taking photographs on the day, The Parish Council for their support, James Royall for his research of Military Records. Many other people also gave their time and efforts, far too many to mention individually but nevertheless their contributions are deeply appreciated.</i></p> <p>Mr Sandars stated that the additional tulips were stunted owing to the accidental damage caused during the steam cleaning of the memorial but he hoped that they would recover next year.</p>
15.0	<p><b>TREE WARDEN'S REPORT – Incorporating 'The Hollow'</b></p> <p>The following report from Mr Bryan Smith was accepted:-</p> <p><i>With grants of trees from The Woodland Trust and the welcome help of the local community we have planted another 900+ trees in the Leviathan Wood this financial year! Another 420 have been applied for, with October/November delivery, so we hope to see many more people helping if we are successful again. There is space for about another 1000 trees, if we are successful with this application, to complete the wood.</i></p> <p><i>The limes along Hallaton Road by the Sports Club have had their lower limbs trimmed to gain more height plus the alders and hawthorn are to be trimmed on the borders of the brook by Western Power at the Hollow to prevent them growing into the overhead electric cables. Apart from maintenance of the existing trees in the village there appears to be no more space to plant more trees on the existing open land. After extra planting, the snowdrops in the village have been a picture this year.</i></p> <p><i>We hope that all dog walkers will respect the area by keeping to the path and not allowing their dogs to disturb the wildlife.</i></p> <p><i>There is a considerable flock of goldfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch and green finch feeding at the moment and Blue Tits, Great Tits, Red Kite, Kestrel and Buzzard are becoming a common sight, in the area.</i></p> <p><i>The birdfeeders have booked for the August Bank Holiday Sunday for teas this year at the Village Hall. It is the funds raised from the teas which enable the continuance of feeding to attract and increase the bird presence.</i></p>
16.0	<p><b>SPORTS CLUB</b></p> <p>Councillor Clarke presented the following report which was accepted:-</p> <p><i>The Club has major fit out to complete most of what is called phase 3 of the improvement works. Internally</i></p>

	<p><i>the facility looks very smart. Un-paid volunteers have worked hard again this year to give the village this fantastic sports facility.</i></p> <p><i>Fund-raising events have continued and will continue for the foreseeable future.</i></p> <p><b>Cricket Club:</b> <i>Thriving Adult and Junior sections. Tough some times raising teams but this is no different to most sports. Senior teams now playing in Leicestershire &amp; Rutland Leagues. Senior Saturday Team did not get promotion. The Sunday Team were promoted into the highest Rutland league which plays at a very high standard. Junior Cricket is very well supported even though nationally there is a drop off in numbers.. Most teams achieved a good standard. New volunteers are getting involved which should help give the club some continuity. Times have changed on getting funding and the idea of having a double practice net has been abandoned. .</i></p> <p><i>Coaching is available for all ages and abilities.</i></p> <p><b>Football Club:</b> <i>Thriving Adult and Junior sections. Junior football and coaching available for most age groups which is well supported.</i></p> <p><i>All junior teams are playing to a reasonable standard. Home games are very well supported by local residents and parents. Most areas of the sports field are now set out for and used as football pitches. There is a huge amount of un-paid volunteer time and effort put in maintaining and improving the standard of the playing surfaces.</i></p> <p><b>Tennis Club:</b> <i>Some major changes to the social area around the Tennis Courts. This has made lovely area now to sit, watch and enjoy Tennis. A well supported Club with a lot of members. Tennis available for all ages and abilities. Changes made again to the structure and committee. Junior and Senior Teams involved in competitive league matches.</i></p> <p><b>Skittles Team:</b> <i>Well supported team using the facilities during the winter. Gives the Sports Club vital income and are a good addition to the social side of the club.</i></p> <p><b>Bowls Team:</b> <i>Use the facilities on a regular basis now and are a very welcome addition to the social side and give income to the club.</i></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p><i>The Sports is open more often now. The kitchen facilities are fantastic now.</i></p> <p><i>Grants were obtained to enable meals to be cooked for retired people from around the area and these meal times have been well attended.</i></p> <p><i>The existing gang mowers were deemed uneconomical to repair and a PTO driven tractor mounted set were purchased using the mower fund for £1000.</i></p> <p><i>Special thanks to quite a few individuals, but in particular Colin Lawson, John Burrows, Ian Stevens and Dave Speller who do a huge amount of un-paid work keeping the whole sports ground looking immaculate and a credit to Medbourne as a village.</i></p>
17.0	<p><b>QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN</b></p> <p>Councillor Clarke drew attention to this being Councillor Polito’s final meeting as a Parish Councillor following 21 years of service. He paid tribute to Councillor Polito’s work much of which, he said, had been unseen by the public. Members of the Council and the public echoed the sentiments. It was also noted that Councillor Clarke was also retiring as a Councillor but had agreed to remain as Lighting Warden if requested.</p>
18.0	<p><b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b></p>
	<p>No questions were asked of the Chairman.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:24 p.m.</p>