

Medbourne Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016

Councillors present: Pilkington (Chair), Gidley-Wright, Cory, Easton, and Shaen-Carter.

Also present: District Cllr. Rickman, 15 members of the public, and Graham Thomson (Clerk to the Council).

133.0 **TO ACCEPT, OR OTHERWISE, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED**

No apologies for absence were received.

134.0 **TO NOTE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED**

No declarations of interests were made.

135.0 **TO NOTE ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION GRANTED**

The Clerk reported that no requests had been granted.

136.0 **PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

The Chair suspended the meeting at this point and invited comment from members of the community present.

136.1 **Footpath**

A member of the public reported that some footpaths in the village were covered with leaf debris and were slippery. It was noted that some people cleared the paths near their homes.

136.2 **Bridge**

District Cllr. Mike Rickman stated that he had been in touch with Highways about the Bridge and had learned that it was likely that the road and bridge would be closed at the end of February to March during which time the road would be resurfaced, repairing the potholes.

136.3 **Medbourne Bowls Club**

A member of the public explained that the late Mr Walker had allowed the club to use his shed but that Mrs Walker might seek its return. He questioned whether the shed or parking was the real problem. It was also noted that there were boulders in the verge near the White House to prevent parking.

136.4 **Resumption of the meeting**

The Chair thanked speakers for their comments and resumed the meeting.

137.0 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2015**

Cllr. Gidley-Wright MOVED, Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

138.0 **TO RECEIVE FACTUAL UPDATES OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES NOT MENTIONED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

138.1 **War Memorial Wardens**

The Chair reported that the Mr and Mrs Nance had agreed to become War Memorial Wardens jointly for which she thanked them. Cllr. Cory MOVED, Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that Mr and Mrs Nance be appointed as War Memorial Wardens jointly.

138.2 **Noticeboard**

The Clerk reported that the noticeboard did not appear to be on the Council's asset register or insurance schedule. Cllr. Easton stated that the noticeboard outside the shop belonged to the Parish Council and that Cllr. Gidley-Wright had prices for replacement.

139.0 **TO CONSIDER AGAIN THE REQUEST OF THE BOWLING CLUB FOR PERMISSION TO ERECT A SHED.**

The Chair reminded the Council that consideration of the request for landlord's consent had been deferred for further information. Cllr. Shaen-Carter reported that the Planning Authority had not yet made a decision on the retrospective application for the erection of the shed, and that she had not heard of any compromise. It was noted that the application was expected to be determined by 5 February 2016. Following a discussion on the merits of determining the request for landlord's permission after the Planning Authority's decision, Cllr. Shaen-Carter MOVED and Cllr. Gidley-Wright SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that:-

further consideration be deferred until after the Planning Authority's determination.

140.0 **TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET FOR THE 2016-17 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

The Council is RECOMMENDED to determine the programme for the forthcoming year and the budget it wishes to set. Details have been circulated separately to Councillors.

The Clerk itemised the draft budget and answered questions on the various provisions. He drew specific attention to the proposal for a one year suspension of the election contribution; the provision for mowing equipment; neighbourhood planning; and training. Following full consideration of the draft budget Cllr. Cory MOVED, Cllr. Gidley-Wright SECONDED, and it was RESOLVED that the budget of £8,719 be approved.

141.0 **TO DETERMINE THE PARISH PRECEPT FOR THE 2016-17 FINANCIAL YEAR NECESSARY TO FUND THE COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

Once the Council has determined the programme for the year and the budget it wishes to set, the Clerk will advise on the money needed to fund it and how much needs to be levied as a precept. In December, the DCLG confirmed that they would NOT apply referendum principles (capping) to the parish sector in 2016-17. In its statement, the Department said that: "the Secretary of State does not plan to extend the principles in 2016-17. However, we are aware that many people continue to be concerned about parish spending, so we expect town and parish councils to behave responsibly and protect their taxpayers from excessive precept increases; if they fail to do so, government has the option of making them subject to the referendum principles in future"

The Clerk outlined the effect of the approved budget on a band D property as an increase on Council tax of £4.83 (13.5%). Cllr. Shaen-Carter MOVED, Cllr. Gidley-Wright SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that: the parish precept for the 2016-17 financial year be set at £8,719.

142.0 **TO CONSIDER STARTING A COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH SCHEME**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

Details are contained in the Clerk's report at Appendix A

The Chair reported that District Cllr. Rickman had suggested seeking public support for a community speedwatch scheme. The Clerk reported that the scheme had been tried in the parish in 2003 with apparently mixed results. It was noted that there was no automatic legal enforcement connected with such a scheme. Cllr. Cory MOVED and Cllr. Gidley-Wright SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that:-

- i) details of the scheme be publicized in the village; and,
- ii) the matter be considered again if sufficient public support was forthcoming.

143.0 **PROPOSED BENCH AND PLAQUE FOR THE ANCIENT ROAD**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

The Council will be asked to consider any new information relating to the proposal from District Councillor Rickman fund a bench and plaque for the Ancient Road to mark its place in Medbourne's history.

Cllr. Shaen-Carter reported that she thought she had been asked to look at the position and design of the proposed bench near the stream and stated that it had been a misunderstanding. The Chair reported that she had emailed Mr Wright, the owner of the property at the end of the Ancient Road, who had objected to any bench being placed on land in his ownership. The Chair noted that any bench would not be owned by the Council or on Council land. The suggestion that a plaque might be displayed on a wall near the Church yard highlighting the right of way.

The Chair explained that the landowner had invited the Council for a meeting with him on site to discuss the issues. The Clerk cautioned that the rôle of the Council was not clear and that the direct involvement of the Council in this was pre-emptory. The Chair undertook to inform Mr Wright that the Council would not meet on site at this stage and to invite him to speak at a forthcoming Council meeting in the public participation section. The Chair asked Cllr. Shaen-Carter to try to find out exactly what was being proposed and what exactly the Council was being asked to do.

144.0 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS INCLUDING ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:-**

144.1 **Broadband**

Mr Tuffs stated that it had been reported that non-superfast broadband speeds had increased, and that Gigaclear had not given definite dates for its services.

144.2 **Parish Council and Village Websites**

Mr Tuffs reported that the students from DeMontfort University had handed over the work for the website before Christmas and it contained some good design ideas. He added that the technical specification had not been followed completely and had not provided Dream Weaver templates which he was taking this up with the University. He added that he didn't anticipate much further progress until March 2016.

- 144.3 **Lighting**
It was noted that there was nothing to be reported.
- 144.4 **Sports Club (including the Mower Fund)**
Cllr. Cory reported that the sports club was to consider suspending payments into the Mower Fund.
- 144.5 **Village Hall**
Cllr. Easton reported it was hoped to use a cherry-picker to remove the Christmas lights and repair the village hall roof.
- 144.6 **Medbourne Educational Foundation Trust (MEFT)**
Cllr. Pilkington stated that she had nothing to report.
- 145.0 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
- 145.1 **To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 18 November 2015**
The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee held on 18 November 2015 having been circulated were accepted.
RESOLVED that:-
the minutes be accepted.
- 145.2 **To receive a report on meeting of the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee held on 16 December 2015.**
Cllr. Gidley-Wright reported that the Advisory Committee was continuing to work on foundation issues such as stakeholders: land, property and business owners; and on the need for external support to carry out routine tasks and to secure grant funding.
RESOLVED that:-
the report be accepted.
- 145.3 **Neighbourhood Planning external support**
Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-
To consider the Advisory Committee's RECOMMENDATION to secure external consultancy and support for the neighbourhood planning process using the specification circulated separately to Councillors and to authorize the Clerk to obtain suitable quotations.
Mr David Nance outlined the background to the proposal and explained that the intention was for the consultant appointed to raise funding. He stressed that the intention was to secure support for the process not to do it all. Cllr. Gidley-Wright MOVED and Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that:-
quotations for external consultancy and support for the neighbourhood planning process be obtained by the Clerk.
- 146.0 **TO CONSIDER AND MAKE COMMENT ON PLANNING MATTERS**
- 146.1 **15/01951/LBC – Erection of rear porch, Brook Cottage Drayton Road Medbourne**
Cllr. Shaen-Carter MOVED, Cllr. Cory SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that the Council comment in the following terms:-
"Medbourne Parish Council supports the proposal."
- 147.0 **TO NOTE SIGNIFICANT CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**
The Clerk reported that no significant correspondence had been received.
- 148.0 **QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR**
No questions were asked of the Chair.
- 149.0 **TO NOTE ANY ITEMS OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE IN THE PARISH IN NEED OF ATTENTION**
Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-
Councillors will be asked to notify the Chair of any items of which they are aware.
No new items were raised.
- 150.0 **COUNCIL TRAINING AND RESOURCES**
- 150.1 **Section 106 Training**
Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-
The Council is REQUESTED to consider approving the attendance of Councillor Shaen-Carter at the S106 Community Infrastructure Levy training on 14 January 2016 at a cost of £35
Cllr. Cory MOVED, Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that:-
the attendance of Cllr. Shaen-Carter be approved.

151.0 **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PAYMENTS**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the payments listed in the Clerk's report at Appendix A
Cllr. Cory MOVED, Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved.

| <u>Recipient</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------|
| Councillor Gidley-Wright | Edited Electoral Register | Neighbourhood Planning | £15.00 |
| HMRC | Income Tax | Administration | £130.80 |
| G Thomson | Clerk's salary (January 2015) | Administration | £117.01 |
| G Thomson | Clerk's salary Neighbourhood Planning (January 2015) | Neighbourhood Planning | £34.41 |
| Society of Local Council Clerks | Registration for Clerk's Certificate in Local Council Administration | Administration | £250.00 |
| Autella Payroll Services | Auto enrolment planning | Administration | £20.00 |
| e.on | Quarterly maintenance street lighting (Sep – Dec 2015) | Street Lighting | £126.43 |

152.0 **OPTIONS FOR GRASS CUTTING IN 2016**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

To receive a report on the possible options to retain the number of cuts in the village.

Cllr. Easton reported that she had raised the matter and had been asked for a detailed specification. She stated that she would follow up the matter. She added that the possibility of more volunteering would be worth pursuing.

153.0 **MEDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS POLICY**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

The Council is REQUESTED to consider and if so resolved to adopt a Grants Policy. Details are contained in the Clerk's report at Appendix A

Cllr. Cory MOVED, Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that:-
the policy be accepted and adopted.

154.0 **PAYROLL AND PENSION PROVISION**

Extracted from the report of the Clerk:-

The Council is RECOMMENDED to formally appoint Autela Payroll Services to administer the workplace pension requirements as set out in the report of the Clerk at Appendix A.

The Clerk outlined the background to the Council's responsibilities. Cllr. Cory MOVED, Cllr. Easton SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that:-

Autela Payroll Services be formally appointed to administer the workplace pension requirements.

The meeting closed at 9:29 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

NOTE:

The following meetings will be held in the Village Hall:

| | January | February | March | April |
|---|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Parish Council | 11 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee | 20 | 17 | 16 | 20 |