

Annual Meeting of the Parish of Medbourne

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN MEDBOURNE VILLAGE HALL AT 19:45 ON MONDAY 9 MAY 2016

Councillors present: Pilkington (Chair), Caffrey, Easton, Gidley-Wright, and Shaen-Carter.
Also present: District Cllr. Rickman, 10 members of the public, and Graham Thomson (Clerk to the Council).
Welcome and Introductions: The Chair thanked members of the public for attending the meeting and welcomed Councillor Caffrey to her first meeting.

1.0 D CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Chairman reported that *"the year has seen perhaps the biggest change in recent years of people making up the Medbourne Parish Council, with new councillors, a new chairman, new vice chairman and a new clerk.*

"The minuses were that we lost a lot of experience and local knowledge, and we have made some mistakes along the way, but on the plus side (let's focus on the positives) we have a lot of enthusiasm, we've worked hard to increase our understanding of our obligations as councillors and we've been very fortunate that there are lots of people within the village who are ready to assist us with local knowledge and history - and in terms of general support and encouragement. Thank you to those people.

"It did seem like quite a daunting prospect at the start of the year but the past year has seen us get to know one another a bit better and see where each councillors strengths lie and I think we have managed to work well together as a team.

"Whilst we go into the 2016 Parish Council year without Jo Cory – I am sure that all councillors will join me in thanking Jo for her work on the council – we are very fortunate to welcome Bernadette Caffrey as our new councillor. I'm sure she will be an extremely positive addition to the council.

"The past year has been a positive year for Medbourne as a community.

"Of great significance and importance has been the creation of the Medbourne Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee – chaired by Bernadette Lee – and made up of an amazing group of parishioners who have taken on the mammoth task of devising a Neighbourhood Plan for Medbourne. It is a long and difficult process, with countless hoops to jump through, but they are making good progress and we can't thank them enough for what they have done to date and what I am sure they will achieve in the future.

"In terms of information technology, the promise of fibre optic broadband to individual premises is that bit closer – with most houses in the village now having the infrastructure in place for Gigaclear to be connected and it is anticipated that the network should be up and running in the not too distant future.

"We are also extremely lucky to have a member of the community prepared to give up a considerable amount of time and effort to create a new Parish Council website – and at the same time to develop one for the village and the Village Hall. I express the Council's sincere thanks to David Tuffs for his efforts in both of these areas – particularly in terms of the development of a new village and Parish Council website.

"This year has also seen a further planting of trees by volunteers in the Loviathan Wood – over 5,000 trees have now been planted – co-ordinated by Bryan and Laurie Smith. A huge thank you to them, to David Ross for providing the land, and to all those who have planted trees over the past 16 years. What an amazing legacy – a whole wood!

"Sadly the year has seen the cessation of operation of the Youth Club but the arrival of the 1st Welland Valley Scout group has been fantastic for a large number of children and adults within Medbourne and its surrounds.

"The Sports Club continues to play a significant role and in particular one of its newer ventures, the Luncheon Club, is going from strength to strength providing not only good food but also a facility for older people within the community to get together and have a great catch up each month.

"It is great to see and hear about such community spirit.

"It is that community spirit which drives people to become volunteers and I would like to express our gratitude to all those volunteers from the Parish who, over the past year have assisted both the Parish Council and the village as a whole through their efforts.

"I am unable to thank everyone, as I am sure you will appreciate that we are very fortunate to have a lot of community minded people in Medbourne.

"There are a few people, however, I would like to thank...

"Keith Sandars – who after 13 years retired from his position as War Memorial Warden. During his

service the War memorial was immaculately maintained and restored. Thank you Keith. Thank you also to David and Mim Nance who have taken on the role.

"I'd like to thank those people who have been involved in co-ordinating activities for the Queen's 90th Birthday

- *those who assisted in the "Clean for the Queen" tidy up – co-ordinated by John Biggin*
- *the bell ringers who rang the bells on April 21st;*
- *the Beaty's who created a fantastic bonfire beacon and invited the village to attend it's lighting on April 21st*
- *Lyn Easton for co-ordinating the events of the 21st.*

"In terms of the general maintenance of the village – our thanks to those who regularly mow the Tow path – Paul Polito, David Baugh, Ian Dunckley and Graham Doe, Patrick Christenson – who had tidied the footpath on Manor Road, Jenny Sandars who cleaned the footpath along the Ashley Road, to those who look after and maintain the Hollow... and the many others whom I don't know about but am fortunate enough to see the benefits of their efforts throughout the village – thank you.

"Another thanks to David and Val Tyler, Rebekah Budenberg and Jo Millington and other members of the Defibrillator committee for their work in raising funds to enable the purchase of 2 defibrillators and training for the village.

"Thanks also to those people who have offered their services to the Parish Council by being wardens or advisors to the council – your assistance is vital and much appreciated.

"Thank you everyone and we look forward to the next year in the life of the Parish Council."

2.0 D **PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

The Chair reported that owing to ongoing issues with the Council's bankers, Barclay's Bank, it had not been possible to reconcile the accounts which she said would be reported to the June Council meeting.

3.0 D **TO RECEIVE REPORTS INCLUDING ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:-**

3.1 D **Medbourne Educational Foundation Trust (MEFT)**

Cllr. Pilkington reported as follows:-

"2015/16 has been a busy year in terms of planning and fund raising for the MEFT - and whilst not a lot can be seen yet in terms of the playground, all of that is hopefully about to change!

"For those of you who don't know, the MEFT is the charity which owns and is responsible for the children's playground in the village. The MEFT does not have a source of income and relies totally on fundraising and good will to keep the village playground insured, maintained and operating.

"The day to day maintenance of the playground – mowing and strimming of the area, is all done by volunteer villagers who, particularly in the summer months, spend a considerable amount of their time keeping it neat, tidy and safe from nettles!

"A big thank you to Sean Reid for preparing the mowing roster and for those families who have volunteered to do the mowing each month. Without these volunteers the playground would not be able to exist.

"The playground currently has annual expenses of approx. £500 per year to cover the cost of insurance, a mandatory safety inspection and basic maintenance. Any significant works are paid for totally by fundraising, grants and donations.

"In terms of our annual costs, the MEFT Easter Raffle was again extremely well supported by the village, with enough money being raised via the raffle to pay for the annual insurance and safety inspection. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets.

"We were extremely fortunate in that the Church committee determined that its Parish Project for 2015 would be to raise funds to support the children's facilities in the parish – the playgrounds in Great Easton and Medbourne.

"This was fabulous for the MEFT with the Church providing over £1,200 – money which was put straight into the fundraising pot for the resurfacing of the playground.

"Added to this money the MEFT was again very fortunate to be successful in receiving a grant from HDC for the sum of £2,500.00 for the resurfacing project.

"Together with monies raised over the past 5 years, the MEFT now is in a position to engage a local contractor to do the resurfacing work. It is hoped that it will start in May/June.

"In addition to the playground, the MEFT also owns half of the playing field currently used by the Sports Club free of charge. Although the parties have been attempting to agree a lease for the past few years, this has not yet eventuated but we are ever hopeful that 2016/2017 will see progress made in this regard.

"Thank you again to everyone who has supported the playground during the course of the year – it is very

much appreciated.”

3.2 D **Village Hall**

Cllr. Easton reported that the Hall was being better used and that finances were steady. She reported on repairs and improvements made to the building including the ramp and the door. She reported that the Christmas Tree was a welcome addition. She said that works to improve the appearance of the frontage were planned. She thanked the Scouts for helping to tidy the sheds, and Mark for caretaking. She added that the Queen’s Party was to take place on 12 June 2016.

3.3 D **Information Resources**

Mr Tuffs reported that BT fibres had been installed to provide broadband but that there were significant delays with Gigaclear. Mr Tuffs reported that the existing website would be discontinued by the County Council during August 2016 and he explained the work undertaken to provide a replacement service. He explained that the sites of the Village Hall, the village, and the Parish Council would be co-located in an integrated site and he thanked the students from DeMontfort University, and the members of the community who had helped

3.4 D **War Memorial**

The Chair reported that Dsvind and Mim Nance had undertaken significant planting (in red, white and blue), and that the Memorial was looking good.

3.5 D **Tree Warden / The Hollow**

Councillor Easton reported that whips had been planted at The Hollow and that the year-round feeding cost about £600 for which direct fundraising took place.

3.6 D **Sports Club**

Mr Wood reported that it had been a successful year. He thanked:-

- Mike and Gail for their help with the luncheon club;
 - the anonymous benefactor for funding the defibrillator;
 - the Parish Council for allowing use of the Mower Fund;
 - Mr Tom Price for help with negotiations with MEFT which he said he hoped would conclude soon;
- He reported that the Ball would take place on 26 November 2016 and encouraged everyone to take part. He stated that the car park was to be resurfaced.

3.7 D **Planning**

Councillor Shaen-Carter reported that during the year the Council had commented on over 35 planning applications some of which had resulted in positive changes to plans.

3.8 D **Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee**

Councillor Gidley-Wright reported that it had been a busy year and that a great deal of work had been undertaken behind the scenes. He added that the Advisory Committee had met every month, had developed a web presence, a logo, a document archive, had procured external consultants, and had raised £5,000 to fund the activity. He stated that an initial community consultation meeting was scheduled for 18 June 2016 in the Village Hall. He concluded by stating that the Advisory Committee was looking for volunteers as members or to work alongside the Advisory Committee.

4.0 D **QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR**

No questions were asked of the Chair.

5.0 D **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public expressed appreciation for the hard work of the Parish Councillors in the last year.

The meeting closed at 20:25

Signed: _____

Date: _____