

MEDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2018

Present: Tim Gidley-Wright, Louise Pilkington, Lyn Easton, Sheila Shaen-Carter, David Tufts, Declan Woods, Bernadette Lee, Tom Price, Ann Price, Laurie Smith and Martin Field

MIN. NO.	ITEM
	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Bernadette Caffrey [Also received from HDC Cllr Rickman.]
1.0	<u>Chair's Review of the Year 2017-18</u> “This last year has been another busy one for the Parish Council and as we grow in experience hopefully as a body we grow in confidence. After a challenging beginning to the year in terms of administration, with the departure of the outgoing clerk and the consequent recruitment and appointment of the new clerk, we are pleased to welcome Martin Field as our new clerk and wish him well for his time with us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for pulling together and working well as a team in the last year. It is easy to forget that each councillor gives up of his or her own free time as a volunteer to help in the administration of our community. This commitment to the parish and the village does not go unnoticed and is truly, greatly appreciated. The highlight of the Council's year this year, has been the confirmation of the Neighbourhood Plan by Harborough District Council, and that confirmation that the plan has been accepted to go to referendum on the 28 th June this year. Whilst this is a small sentence on the written page, this represents an enormous step in terms of the devolution of power to the community. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is made, it will give the community the ability to shape the future of our village. This will not only be in terms of planning, but in the appearance and locations of the future built environment of Medbourne as it grows over the next 15 years. All of this progress is almost entirely down to the tireless work of the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee. The committee, ably chaired by Bernadette Lee, and vice chair David Nance, have over the last two years given up generously of their time and energy in order to compile a vision, and translate that vision into a mature and comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan. We owe an enormous vote of thanks to the whole committee, but in particular, to Bernadette and David, without whom, I am sure this plan would never have got off the ground. The next couple of months will see the disbanding of the committee, so this will be one of the last opportunities the P.C. will have of

	<p>expressing their gratitude and appreciation for all of your hard work, and this we gladly do, without caveat or qualification.</p> <p>We continue to see and use our new look website for the Parish Council, the Village, and the Village Hall, After the mammoth task of setting up these websites, we must not forget the ongoing work done by David Tufts, who we also thank for the generous gift of his time, in keeping this website up to date, especially all the changes that the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan has meant for him.</p> <p>The Scouts still continue to be a thriving part of a community and a focus for the young. The Scouts played a part in the Remembrance service again this year, and we look forward to some creative focus from the Scouts, as we look forward to the centenary of the end of the 1st World war this coming November.</p> <p>The Sports Club continues to play a significant role in our community. The club and its facilities seem to go from strength to strength, offering activities and support to all levels of our community. The Luncheon Club continues to offer a focus for the more senior members of our community, and we must not forget that this happens by more tireless and extremely hard work of a small number of volunteers who continue to make this happen, month in and month out.</p> <p>Whilst I would like to round off by thanking the many wardens and advisors who, help the P.C. in a myriad of different ways, and amongst these there are so many people who deserve our gratitude but too many to mention by name. I would also like to say thank you to all of you quiet volunteers who help keep our village clean and tidy, and the cogs of our village turning. Whether it is mowing, cleaning up other's litter, running our village hall, the Hollow, or our children's playground or running the many village charities, Medbourne could not continue without the terrific sense of community that so many of our villagers show year after year, all of this, without any thought of the cost of their efforts to their own free time."</p>
2.0	<u>Parish Reports</u>
2.1	<p>The following reports were received at the meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Medbourne Educational Foundation Trust (Louise P) 2.2. Village Hall (Lyn E) 2.3. Information Resource Advisor (David T) 2.4. War Memorial (Mim & David N) 2.5. Tree Warden (Bryan S) 2.6. Sports Club (Declan.../ David N) 2.7. Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (Bernadette L) 2.8 Planning (Sheila S-C) 2.9 Bench Warden (Paul P) <p>A copy of each report is provided within the Appendix below.</p>

2.2	<p>It was noted that the Bench Warden's report did not cover the two benches at the Hollow, and the bench opposite the entrance to Nutbush on Manor Road.</p> <p>A request would be passed to Paul P consider the condition of these items and inform the Parish Council accordingly.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Questions to the Chair</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Public Question Time</u></p> <p>No questions were raised, but a note of appreciation was given on the time and energy spent by the Parish Councillors on PC and community affairs.</p>
	<p><u>Date of next Annual Parish Meeting</u></p> <p><i>May 2019 (date to be confirmed)</i></p>

Signed _____ Date _____

APPENDIX : Reports delivered at Annual Parish Meeting 14 May 2018

From point 2.1	<p>Report from Medbourne Educational Foundation Trust (Louise P)</p> <p>2017/18 has been a fairly quiet year for the playground with no major works or fundraising events.</p> <p>The MEFT is the charity which owns and is responsible for the children's playground in the village – plus it owns half of the playing field, currently used most regularly by the sports club.</p> <p>It is looked after by a small committee comprising of the Chair – Stephen Bishop, a treasurer/secretary, Sean Reid, Margaret Tuffs and Martin Van Open, Karl Jenkins, and Louise Pilkington.</p> <p>We do not have a big support network and we do not have the ability to raise funds other than through the charity of the community. 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.</p> <p>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</p>
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	<p>months, spend a considerable amount of their time keeping it neat, tidy and safe from nettles.</p> <p>A big thank you to those families who have volunteered to do the mowing each month – and to Sean Reid for preparing the mowing roster. Without these volunteers the playground would not be able to exist.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We were extremely fortunate in that the WI had a fund raising Bridge Drive this year and determined that one of the charities it would support this year was the children's playground and we were delighted to receive a donation from them of £200.00. A huge thank you to the WI.</p> <p>It is anticipated that further fundraising will occur later in the year to help meet that the rest of the annual expenses.</p> <p>Whilst there have been lots of positives in terms of the playground, it is disappointing that lease negotiations between the MEFT and the Sports Club have not progressed at all in the last 12 months. The Sports Club currently pays no rent and uses the land for free. Any lease monies from the Sports Club would be used by the MEFT to cover the mandatory insurance and safety inspection costs. The MEFT would still need to fund raise each year to cover maintenance and capital works.</p> <p>We are ever hopeful that 2018/2019 will see progress made in this regard, noting that both parties have stated that they wish to see a lease in place.</p> <p>Thank you again to everyone who has supported the playground during the course of the year – it is very much appreciated... and if anyone would like to provide further support in terms of fundraising, maintenance, being on the committee etc, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other members of the MEFT directly.</p> <p><i>Louise Pilkington</i></p>
From point 2.2	<p>Report from Village Hall (Lyn E)</p> <p>There has been some changes to the outside of the VH - a tree was removed and a fence erected to mark out the new boundary along with a new grassed area; there is to be a memorial bench added at a later date.</p> <p>As the building is of an age the maintenance is on-going.</p> <p>Plans for an extension were put forward and have been approved. A grant has been applied for (Heritage lottery) to build the extension and upgrade</p>

	<p>the rest of the building ,but to date has been unsuccessful. A Grant Officer has been assigned to review the grant application. It is hoped this will be ready for reapplication by June.</p> <p>In order to gain the grant the VH has to find 5% of the money. There have been various fundraising events : Christmas tree lighting; Meet the Neighbours; Coffee morning; Plant sale; and the Cuppa and Catch up on Mondays.</p> <p>The funds held by the VH are £56,435.19.</p> <p>There has been a new member appointed. The pre-school representative has stood down, but remains 100% in support of the village hall, along with the reapplication of the grant. The Secretary is also standing down in July.</p> <p>The VH have at last found a Caretaker (2) Merrill and Brian have been kind enough to take on the role. The Pre-school is waiting to hear from the DRET to confirm when they will be moving. January 2019 is the expected date.</p> <p>It is felt that the community needs to be made more aware of the importance of such a lovely building and its usage. The committee thank the Parish Council for their continued support.</p> <p><i>Lyn Easton</i></p>
From point 2.3	<p>Report from Information Resource Advisor (David T)</p> <p>“BROADBAND AND MOBILE SERVICES</p> <p>There is very little to report regarding broadband this year with both BT (and its derivatives) and Gigaclear providing a relatively stable service.</p> <p>During the year there were problems with mobile coverage from O2 following storm “Doris”. Over 30 residents responded to an email saying they had noticed a significant deterioration in service. David Nance took up the complaint on behalf of the village and was fobbed off in the same manner as many of the individual complainants. Then, as if by magic, the service materially improved with no communication back from O2 as to what they had done. Had the service not improved we were about to invoke the Communications Ombudsman. Many thanks go to David Nance for his efforts (as I don’t have an O2 contract).</p> <p>VILLAGE WEB SITE</p> <p>Village web site: http://www.medbourne.org.uk</p> <p>Parish Council Web Site: http://www.medbourneparishcouncil.co.uk</p> <p>Medbourne’s web site, launched in June 2016, is now relatively stable. Ongoing maintenance is straightforward and more people are providing postings as a matter of routine. However, it has still not been possible to add the domain “medbournevillagehall.co.uk” to the site as originally planned.</p>

Usage of the site has continued to grow. For example, in the 31 days from 1st April to 1st May 2018 there were 1276 visitors making 2560 page impressions; this equates to 41.2 visits per day and 2.01 pages per visit. The following table shows the pattern of usage compared to the same period a year ago:

2017	807 visitors	2805 pages	26.9 visits / day	3.48 pages / visit
2018	1276 visitors	2560 pages	41.2 visits / day	2.01 pages / visit

This can be summarised as increased but more focused usage. An analysis of the pages visited shows that other than the Home Page, the Diary is the most visited page, as would be expected, with more visits immediately after the monthly email goes out. There were an exceptional number of visits to the Bottle Kicking page around Easter Monday, demonstrating that the rest of the site is useful when needed.

EMAIL AND TWITTER

The Medbourne Village email list has continued to grow with the list now at 152 names, up from 146 last year. It's gratifying that newcomers to the Village seem to catch on quite quickly and sign up. To date, the only people to leave the list are those that have moved away.

Followers of the Twitter feed (@Medbourne565) have risen to 343 from 278 last year, a percentage increase of 23%. However, the true measure of success of a Twitter feed is "engagements", that is "likes", "follows", "clicks", etc. There were some high performing posts during the year, with one of the bottle kicking posts achieving 231 engagements, the Brogan's Fish and Chips post had 54 likes and the snow update (Beast of the East) had 76 posts.

Thanks are again due to Amy Hayward-Paine for administering Twitter."

David Tuffs

From
point 2.4

Report from War Memorial (Mim & David N)

"It has given us much pleasure to continue tending the war memorial during the past year and to know from comments how important it is to so many who live in the village and indeed those who pass through.

It always looks its best during the spring and summer months and perhaps it is appropriate that it appears to be resting as we approach Remembrance Sunday each year. If there is a negative it does still suffer from occasional damage from a heavy vehicle failing to keep to the road!

Many of the plants that we have added to those planted previously by Keith Sandars have now matured and hopefully are pleasing to the eye.

	<p>We look forward to continuing in the role.”</p> <p><i>Mim & David Nance</i></p>
From point 2.5	<p>Report from Brook and Tree Warden (Bryan S)</p> <p>“BROOK AND MEDBOURNE HOLLOW After the heavy rain this winter the water has remained high in the Hollow and in the brook. Unfortunately, many frogs died due to a fungal disease but there are some tadpoles so hopefully they will recover. A few mallards and moorhen are nesting in the Hollow and along the brook so hopefully some of the chicks will survive. The snowdrops and bluebells were beautiful this spring and we continue to split and reset in more places. One of the trees has been removed under the electric cables at the bottom of the Hollow to prevent further problems and the electric board have been informed about a tree at the bottom of the children’s playground on MEFT land which will grow too near the cables unless trimmed.</p> <p>A big thank you to the bird feeders braving the weather during the winter – the different bird songs this spring are inspiring. The environment agency took advice on trimming the growth in and around the brook to allow cover to remain for the waterfowl and fish without causing any flooding problems. Kingfishers have been seen regularly fishing along the tow path and in the Hollow.</p> <p>TREES The cherry trees, donated by Beaty’s farm, planted along the tow path are flowering beautifully and our thanks are also due to Ed Sanderson for mowing by his cottage and for Paul Polito and his band for their maintenance of the tow path grass. The trees in Leviathan Wood are still surviving but there are gaps if anyone wishes to plant native trees. Many trees have been planted in the village area this last year – 8,000 by Beatys and 18,000 by Blaston Estates. These create wildlife corridors essential for birds.</p> <p>A few people have asked where the dovecot from outside the Nevill has gone. As it was rotten, and the doves had died, I removed and rebuilt it as a barn owl box. This has been placed down the brook on private land and is now being used by a barn owl, hopefully it will have young to add to the population from other boxes in the valley.</p>
From point 2.6	<p>Reports from Sports Club Declan W / David N)</p> <p>(a) A report delivered at the meeting (Declan....) noted that :</p> <p>The mainly amount of activity had been involving sport for young people.</p> <p>There had been some changes undertaken by the football team, which had needed to find a new manager and new members of the team. This had</p>

	<p>brought about a change in league status to a more suitable level of competition.</p> <p>The lunches in the sports club had remained well-attended. The club's AGM was due to be held on 21 May.</p> <p>(b) A written report had also been submitted from David N :</p> <p>"This winter there has been less football activity as there has only been one adult team. The Junior section continues to thrive.</p> <p>This does mean that the pitch has had less wear but the club will continue to invest in annual fertilising and seeding by a specialist company</p> <p>The Sports Club awaits the details promised regards the Mower Account that includes access to the existing balance and that which is solely for the Sports Club since the PC stopped their annual payments.</p> <p>The cricket season is now upon us and the same number of Junior and Senior teams will continue</p> <p>The Tennis Club will also have a similar number of teams as last season</p> <p>Within the Clubhouse itself there have been a number of necessary repairs and maintenance will be a key topic of conversation at the forthcoming AGM on 21 May 2018</p> <p>One major change is that the long-standing Bar Manager, Ian Stevens has recently stood down as he indicated at the last AGM. With no volunteer coming forward the bar which is the main source of income will be run by a select group of trusted volunteers</p> <p>Finally with no Church Fete this year it has been agreed to run a joint event in July and this will soon be widely advertised."</p>						
From point 2.7	<p>Report from Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (Bernadette L)</p> <p>The Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (MNPAC) has worked over the last year, supported by YourLocale, to complete the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).</p> <p>The NP was drafted over the summer, based on the evidence gathered by the three Theme Groups. The process for approval was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>13th May 2018</td><td>Open event (Public Consultation) attended by 50 village residents</td></tr> <tr> <td>July 2018</td><td>Healthcheck by Locality</td></tr> <tr> <td>August – September 2018</td><td>Regulation 14 Public Consultation (6 weeks). Letters to all Statutory Stakeholders, landowners, and the Local List of stakeholders.</td></tr> </table>	13 th May 2018	Open event (Public Consultation) attended by 50 village residents	July 2018	Healthcheck by Locality	August – September 2018	Regulation 14 Public Consultation (6 weeks). Letters to all Statutory Stakeholders, landowners, and the Local List of stakeholders.
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	<p>Leaflet delivered to every household (in the Parish Magazine) and posters displayed around the village including on the Parish Noticeboard. Electronic notification via the village email distribution list and Twitter. An on-line feedback form was available on the Parish website. Hard copies were available for reference in the Village Shop and Post Office and from the MNPAC Chair and Vice Chair.</p>
	<p>8th Dec 2017 NP approved by PC and submitted to HDC</p>
	<p>13th March 2018 SEA Screening and Determination by HDC</p>
	<p>7th Feb to 22nd March 2018 Regulation 16 Public Consultation by HDC (6 weeks).</p>
	<p>5th April 2018 Examination passed</p>
	<p>17th April 2018 Examiner's recommendations accepted by PC</p>
	<p>14th May 2018 HDC Executive Committee – decision re referendum</p>
	<p>18th May 2018 Decision Notice for Referendum (6 weeks)</p>
	<p>Subject to agreement at today's Executive Committee meeting at HDC, the NP will go forward for referendum on Thursday 28th June 2018.</p> <p>The NP and associated documentation are all on the NP pages of the Parish website.</p> <p>All invoices, including the final invoice from YourLocale have all been paid from the funding provided by Locality and Awards for All.</p> <p>The MNPAC has now delivered the NP in accordance with the Terms of Reference. Therefore, it is expected that the committee be formally closed on June 29th</p> <p>Thanks to members of the MNPAC for contributing their time, energy and diverse skills. The committee, PC and all members of the community who have been involved should be proud of what has been achieved.</p> <p><i>Bernadette Lee,</i> <i>Chair – Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee</i></p>
From point 2.8	<p>Report on Planning issues (Sheila S-C)</p> <p>This year like last, seemed like a year of battling with developers & Harborough, in trying to get the conditions upheld, and resisting what appears to be the normal behaviour by the developers of increasing the sizes of dwellings once permission has been granted. This remained true of the development on Drayton Rd.</p> <p>On Riverside House, we tried to be fair regarding Mr Wright's alleged security issue, and now the right of way has been fenced, which is exactly what we didn't want.</p>

	<p>We objected to the change of use in the camping on road safety, but permission was granted. The parking is still bad but no worse, and the camp site is thriving.</p> <p>The conversion of Reading Room was controversial and we ended up with 3 dwellings and no parking.</p> <p>The new housing scheme for 41a Main Street has been approved with 2 2bed, 2 3bed, 1 4 bed 1 6 bed. We originally wanted to see a more organic development. But at least there are several smaller houses.....at the moment.</p> <p>There was discussion involving Rights of Way on Brook Terrace and a Certificate of Lawfulness application was withdrawn.</p> <p>An application for a house outside the village boundary was applied for on Drayton Rd. We objected and it refused.</p> <p>We had a minor success in objecting and speaking in the Planning Committee concerning the new bollards at Nevill Holt, along with several other articulate objectors. The councillors refused the application. However this decision is likely to be appealed.</p> <p>The most important thing this year was the completion of the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan, which once ratified by the village, will be a great help in justifying our planning comments.</p> <p><i>Sheila Shaen-Carter</i></p>
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From point 2.9	Report from Bench Warden (Paul P)			
	<u>Location</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Condition</u>
	Main Street	Metal frame with wooden slats	Repainted in 2017	Good
	Cross Roads - acceptable	RHS – metal frame with wooden slats	1 slat replaced and repainted 2017	Broken metal strut
	Cross Roads	LHS – metal frame with wooden slats	Repainted 2106 – needs touching up this year	Good
	Drayton Road	Concrete frame with wooden slats	Repainted 2017	Good
	Archie Inchley Bench			
	‘ T ‘ Junction	Aluminium	Needs vert de gris removing this year	Good
	Towpath	Mainly oak	Varnish virtually disappeared – better left bare	Poor
	Robert Blood Bench			
	Paynes Lane	Solid wooden - unpainted	Replaced in 2014	Good
	This excludes any benches on the Sports Field.			
	<i>I would be happy to continue for 2018.</i>			
	<i>Paul Polito</i>			