

MEDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held in Village Hall on Monday 4 April 2022

In attendance: Cllrs Kendall; Oakes; Easton; Shaen-Carter; Wooten.

Also present : M Field (Parish Clerk), 3 members of the public

ITEM. NO.

904.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Rickman (HDC)

905.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

906.0 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

907.0 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (held 7 March 2022)

The following amendments to the draft minutes were accepted:

907.1 Amend item 889.1 : “The meeting was informed that the previous survey and stability report was based on a very different and more gradual site section, and therefore did not consider the amount of land that has now been cut away and the proximity of the trees to new positions of the retaining walls.”

907.2 Amend end of item 890.2 : “.... so it could be timely to consider an initial desk-based exercise to take a view of what level of renewal or review could be appropriate actions to take under points 1-3 above.”

907.3 Amend item 893.1.1 : “The sycamore crown was to be reduced by 25%” (i.e. *the crown is not to be removed*)

907.4 Amend item 897.3 : “The painting of village gateways has been included within the £2640 cost.”

907.5 It was noted that Cllr E had agreed to look at who could undertake small grass mowing duties in the future.

907.6 Amend item 892.1.3 : Some of the Hall’s tables have been resurfaced.

908.0 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

908.1 The footpath from the end of Rectory Lane was noted to be extremely waterlogged. Local consideration is that the course of local springs

needs investigation. In the meanwhile, material is being placed on the field surface to aid walkers over the mud in this area.

- 908.2 The left-hand footpath of Ashley Rd was noted to increasingly overgrown and will be referred to Highways. **ACTION : Cllr O**
- 908.3 Problems were noted with the drain at the end of the road by the corner outside the public house.
- 908.4 A pothole and disruption to the granite sets was noted in Brook Terrace and will be referred to Highways. **ACTION : Cllr O**

909.0 CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS

909.1 Traffic activated 'speed signs'

All the preferred four locations have been notified to Highways. The final licence agreement is now being awaited.

The order for the first two signs has been placed, but payment will await the poles being in position. Quotations for the poles are now needed for their supply and erection - first on Uppingham Road and on Drayton Road.

909.2 Update on Packhorse Bridge

The consideration of appropriate repairs has been passed to the 'Specialist Timber Team' – Councillors noted that parts of the bridge appear looser than ever.

909.3 Jubilee Year commemorations (incl. Village Hall)

Fireworks and a beacon are planned for the Friday evening.

A leaflet on the weekend's events is to be available soon.

Discussion was had on who could be asked to plant the commemorative tree.

909.4 Other action points from 7 March:

41 Main St. : It was noted that the PC has requested a halt to works until new investigations and calculations can demonstrate that the current proposed works will not have negative impacts on the surrounding land (other gardens have already appeared to become more water-logged). No response had been received from HDC to date, so Cllr K had written again to officers and to the Planning Portfolio-holder. A meeting is due to be held on 26 April in HDC offices to follow all things up.

Roadside sign Uppingham Road : this was reported and has been resited.

Mirror on roadside : It was agreed to order the 500ml. size and mount this on the pole by Cllr K's garden. **ACTION: MF/Cllr O**

909.5 Other points raise by Councillors

Future ideas on parish improvements Some suggestions were aired on future canvassing of parish ideas for parish and village improvements (e.g. via 'drop-in' sessions , or surveys, etc.) Cllr W agreed to collate some ideas for further consideration. **ACTION: Cllr W**

Environmental work Councillors noted that new volunteers are likely to be required to help look after the future of the Hollow, and that a new 'Tree Warden' is still required for the parish. Cllr E agreed to check which local trees are the responsibility of the PC. **ACTION: Cllr E**

Neighbourhood Plan Cllr E agreed to prepare some first ideas for how a small group could review the existing N P and its relationship with the HDC Local Plan. The meeting confirmed that MF obtain 3 printed copies of the N P for ease of discussion. **ACTION: MF / Cllr E**

910.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

910.1 Village Hall

Prices will be rising 2022-23 for hire of the Hall's premises.

Grant applications are being submitted for replacement windows, etc.

A new 'Squirrels' meeting will start early on Mondays by the Scouts.

A discussion was had on potential funds to renew the defibrillator pads for the equipment stored at the Sports Club.

910.2 MEFT

No regular meeting schedule has been to date. The proposed 'strategic' meeting has yet to be arranged.

An 'Easter Egg raffle' will be arranged for fund-raising.

Cllr E asked if general funds held by Medbourne Charities could be made available for use by MEFT.

910.3 Sports Club

The Club's AGM will be held in May.

General information was shared of a draft proposal to consider building a new dwarf wall by the entrance to the sports club.

911.0 **TO CONSIDER AND COMMENT ON PLANNING MATTERS**

911.1 Applications to HDC: No new applications to discuss

911.2 Other planning matters: Nothing to discuss

912.0 **MPC WEBSITE AND ACCESSIBILITY**

912.1 Confirmation of the arrangements to commence the new stand-alone PC website were given to the meeting. It is anticipated by 2Commune that their current workstream will permit work on the new site to start in 3-4 weeks, and it was hoped that a new site can be operational by the Annual Meeting on 16 May.

912.2 It was agreed to renew the PC's 'domain name' : the new website address will be 'medbourneparishcouncil.co.uk'.

913.0 **TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

913.1 A copy of the latest 'North Northants Housing Strategy' had been received for general information– no action was required at this stage. [MF was asked to indicate in emails to Councillors if any correspondence requires specific responses or not.]

914.0 **2022-23 BUDGET AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

914.1 MF noted the revised account mandate for the bank accounts had finally been confirmed by the bank. All outstanding payments will now be addressed.

914.2 **Outstanding payments agreed to pay from March 2022 :**

HDC (Bins) : **£162.93 + £190.08 = £353.01**

Westcotec (Speed Signs) : **£8060 + VAT (= £9672.00 tbc)**

Autela Payroll (payroll services) : **£52.20**

2Commune (website set-up costs) : **£1050 + VAT = £1260.00**

Replacement cheque to Sports Club (more costs): **£5519.00**

Replacement funds to Cllr Shaen-Carter (gates/fencing) : **£2640.00**

Revised cheque to H M Rev & Customs : **£259.20 not £290.20**

Medbourne Village Hall (Queen's Jubilee) : **£500.00 (to hold by PC)**

914.3 **Payments agreed to pay in April 2022 :**

M Field (salary for April + backdated 2021-22 award) : **£130.48**

M Field (post/stamp expenses) : **£14.50**

LRALC / NALC (membership fees) : **£226.90**

2Commune (website domain) : **£75.00**

914.4 **Bank reconciliation:**

The reconciliation to end-February was circulated prior to the meeting.

915.0 2021-22 BUDGET

915.1 An indicative summary statement of 2021-22 income and expenditure had been circulated and will be confirmed as soon as bank statement details for the final period have been received.

915.2 MF offered a rationale for the rate of current and expected expenditure the next year, noting the intention to use further reserves for more traffic-activated speed signs above 2022-23 precept expenditure.

916.0 EXTERNAL AUDIT

916.1 To note Parish Council external audit arrangements now received

917.0 GRANT APPLICATIONS

917.1 Confirmation of the proposed 2022-23 grant procedure had been circulated: it was agreed that 2022-23 guidance by worded to invite applications between £0-£500.

917.2 An application had been received by Medbourne Bowls Club and Councillors noted the historic position of the Bowls Club and its assets in the village.

It was agreed to match contributions from the club of up to £300 in the current year, and to invite a further application in the coming year.

917.3

918.0 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR

None raised.

919.0 ITEMS OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

919.1 It was noted that the road sign is being obscured on Uppingham Road – Cllr K agreed to investigate. **ACTION Cllr K**

920.0 **COUNCIL TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

Nothing discussed at this meeting.

921.0 **ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARISH MEETINGS IN MAY**

921.1 Apologies were received in advance from Cllr E.

921.2 It was noted that the Village Hall is already booked for the evening of 16 May. The offer of holding the meetings in the Church was accepted and MF will advertise accordingly.

921.2 MF will circulate details to all Councillors of the procedures to undertake on the 16th.

922.0 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: *16th May 2022 – Annual Parish Meetings*