

MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 18th APRIL 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting was called by the Chairman and was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th April 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Deborah Jackson (Chairman)	District Councillor Ingrid Thomas
Cllr Jean Penny	HCC Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee
Cllr Peter Buckland	PCSO Dean Mohammed
Cllr Ken Kercher	PCSO Matt Barnes
Cllr Stan Whitcher	Mrs G Fuzzard
Cllr Mike Smith	Mr C Coles
Cllr Peter Fenwick	Mrs P Constantine
Mr Peter Baston (Clerk Medstead PC)	

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Medstead Annual Parish Meeting and welcomed Hampshire County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, District Councillor Ingrid Thomas, and PCSO Dean Mohammed.

It was proposed that the order of the set agenda be changed to allow the Hampshire Police representatives to depart.

2. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM UPDATE

PCSO Dean Mohammed reported that overall crime is relatively low in the Parish. He reported the 2016/17 statistics for the Parish. These were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour - 11 cases
- Domestic Assault - 7 cases
- Burglary (dwelling) - 1 case
- Burglary (other) - 9 cases
- Criminal Damage - 3 cases
- Drugs – zero
- Public Order Offences - 3 cases
- Theft - 9 cases
- Theft of cycle - 1 case
- Theft of motor vehicle - 2 cases

Speedwatch was highlighted and the speed of vehicles was causing concern. Cllr Jackson mentioned the recent issues regarding horse riders and inconsiderate motorists on the public highway. PCSO Mohammed mentioned that the only mounted policeman in Hampshire had been in contact with a local stables and was monitoring the situation. Parking at the local school was highlighted as an issue but PCSO Mohammed said that unless there was dangerous parking involved, this was not a police issue.

Finally he mentioned that the main police station in Alton has closed and would be re-located in Mill Lane Alton but would not have a front desk. He said that if issues exist, the 101 non-emergency number should be used.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Roy Pullen.

4. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19th APRIL 2016 AND TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2016 which were previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Buckland that the minutes were adopted by this meeting, seconded by Councillor Fenwick and were duly signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from the minutes from the floor.

5. MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman and Clerk of the Parish Council presented an overview of the Council's activities during the year, covering the Council's Standing Committees and their respective work programmes and finance.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee presented his County Councillor report. He prefaced by stating that due to the forthcoming HCC elections he was in purdah and could only speak about the past not the future plans.

- i. Adult Social Care (ASC) – By 2024, 25% of the population will be of pensionable age. HCC has 1.2 million population with 20,000 ASC clients and costs £460m out of a total HCC spend of £1bn.
The national living wage will also add £10m to ASC annual costs.
The 2017/18 HC council tax element has increased by 4.99% of which 3% is ASC levy. It should be noted that a 1% increase generates £5m of income so the importance of central government giving £37m over the next three years is just a short term fix.
- ii. Challenges –
 - a. Rate Support grant cut by £128m over next three years;
 - b. Pay & price inflation of £80m
 - c. Extra ASC cost of £60m
- iii. HCC need to find therefore £221m over the next three years to maintain services at today's level but can only increase council tax by 2% per annum without a referendum, so savings have to be found
- iv. Highways – 5,000 miles of roads in Hampshire, mostly rural. 10,000 pot holes been repaired in 2016/17 and road maintenance costs £60m per annum. There is a capital programme of £220m for new roads
- v. Schools - £300m needed for school, building programme to meet new housing needs.
- vi. 800 extra care beds in assisted living accommodation and also 600 cottage style hospital beds to provide a bridge between patients leaving hospital and returning home.
- vii. Local issues include drainage at Greenstile and Lymington Bottom Road coupled with the construction issues.

7. EHDC - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Thomas: - This year has been very varied, the opening of the village pond followed by the village fete was a lovely day. The amount of work done by a small group of volunteers was amazing and I'm sure all the little hiccups will soon be solved.

One of the highlights of every year is being able to help groups and organisations around the villages with small grants. This year both Deborah and myself were given £4500 to use for projects of community benefit. My grant fund this year was spent on and helped towards - The Queen's

birthday celebrations which so many enjoyed, The older persons holiday club, Adding a name to Four Marks war memorial, a new gate for the children play area, a new picnic bench, an information board for Medstead pond, and a donation towards the new cooker for the village hall kitchen.

The new year's funding is now available so if you have a project which will benefit our community please download an application form from East Hampshire District Ward Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead website and hand it to me or Deborah for signature.

I have as ever spent the largest % of my time dealing with planning issues. Looking to the future Officers are working hard on part 3 of the local plan which involves allocating land for affordable homes, older person's homes, gypsies and traveller sites and updating the SPB. There will also be a call for sites - possible shlaa sites - but just because a site is listed as a shlaa site does not mean it would get planning permission. The recent Government white paper means changes may have to be made to local plans and East Hampshire's will certainly need to be updated on a regular basis to ensure we do not have a period with no current plan as we had a few years ago.

We have seen the building begin on two of our large sites and a third about to start, we got the mud we expected! Things seem to have calmed down along Lymington Bottom but Friars Oak will begin in the next month or so, not being built by WLG but by Bellway Homes who have just bought the site, they attended their first resident's liaison meeting on Monday evening. I feel these meetings are very important because they offer the opportunity for residents to talk directly to the developers. Sadly both Cala and Miller Homes are missing this opportunity by insisting that their meetings are held in the mornings.

Recently we have seen the Neighbourhood Plan policies used to good effect to prevent the overdevelopment of a site in Lymington Bottom which did not respect the character of the street scene.

We have also seen permissions given for four gypsy pitches in Willis Lane which many people feel is too many in one place, once the five year housing land supply for such pitches is secured and part 3 of the local plan is made we will be able to have proper planning for such sites in future.

Both Parish Councillors and myself have spent many hours dealing with amendments to plans once a site has commenced - one particular site even managed to change the numbers of rooms in each house, this trend has been noted by the planning officers and letters sent to developers pointing out that they should build what they applied for, let us hope for better next year.

TPO trees have been inspected by the tree officer Stewart Garside who has surveyed the trees in the villages, the penalties can be very large if permission is not given for works needing to be done. For example if a TPO tree is removed to enable access to a site the fine can be the whole amount of the profit that would be made.

During this year I have become a member of East Hampshire cabinet with responsibility for Welfare and Healthier Lifestyles. One of the projects that is being undertaken will be Festiwell to be held on Sunday July 9th at Four Marks recreation ground. Festiwell will offer ideas on how small changes to lifestyle can bring big health benefits, there will be a run, walks, demos and have a go sessions for many sports. Not all of us want to partake of vigorous exercise but most gentle activity can be very beneficial so gardening, and hobby clubs will be showing what they have to offer, there is also an area for mindful activity. Of course food is always a big issue so we hope to have new options and ideas on show. Health providers are coming to offer help and ideas too so something to inspire us all, please put the date in your diary.

A health issue that I have spent time recently working on is the stroke service provided by Royal Surrey County Hospital. At the moment we are in a consultation period but it seems very likely that

the stroke unit will close. Most people who have need of expert stroke services in Four Marks and Medstead will be taken by ambulance to Winchester or Basingstoke. From what I have learned whilst investigating this subject it is essential that an ambulance is called rather than taking the person by car to the hospital, this is because ambulances take patients directly to the stroke units whereas patients taken by car are admitted through A&E which will take far longer.

Since Mark Kemp Gee and his highways team have finally dug new drainage areas flooding has been far less in Lymington Bottom Road.

Parking at the schools remains a serious problem but it has been included on the work plan for this year and I have been checking regularly to ensure the problems are looked at as soon as possible. In the meantime I would urge all parents to just take a little longer to think about where they park and how their actions affect others. Never easy to leave enough time for the school run but better to be late than cause danger to others.

Cllr Jackson: – The year started well, with the successful referendum result and subsequent adoption by EHDC of the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan. For a while it seemed that a local landowner might put in a legal challenge, but nothing materialised, so we now our community's own legal document sitting alongside the District Councils Local Plan. My heartfelt thanks go out once again to all those involved in producing this outstanding document.

Whilst work at Charles Church comes to a close we have seen development commence with a vengeance at the Miller/ Beechcroft/ Carla sites. Despite the experience and lessons learned at the sites in Four Marks it has proved incredibly difficult to get these new developers to not only meet with residents but actually comply with the conditions of their planning permissions. As many of you know, trying to get something as simple as a wheel wash facility installed, let alone actually being used, has been an uphill struggle.

Just imagine the frustration to be told; at the first liaison meeting in December, that there was no way that such equipment could be installed on the Miller site before the end of January, as there was no space for it on site! Whilst I fully support the hard work of the District Council's stretched Enforcement team, it was extremely disappointing that they appeared a totally unable to help us by enforcing this simple requirement. And so we had to wait. After six months of mud (and all the rest) on Lymington Bottom Road, filth that extended over the pavements under the railway bridge and even on to the A31, we are now seeing improvements in this respect, including weekly sweeping of the pavements.

The next battle is on my agenda will be the unauthorised early starts, lack of consideration in parking, and the state of the roads (that one is close to my heart, having lost a tyre to a giant pothole). The next Miller/ Beechcroft/ Carla resident liaison meeting is on Friday 28 April at t11:45 in Medstead Village Hall, all are welcome.

In my life at Penns Place, I have made representation on the behalf of the ward against applications at four meetings of EHDCs Planning Committee, with mixed success. These were for "Highfield" in Lymington Bottom, Station Approach Medstead, reserved matters for the land north of Boyneswood Lane and the extended traveller site in Willis Lane. The one appeal I attended, against the proposed housing at Mansfield Business Park was a particularly unpleasant experience but part and parcel of the job.

Joint environmental services with Winchester City Council have seen improvements in the services provided by Biffa. Uptake of green waste licences remains good and is almost at capacity. The committee has agreed to fund additional litter picking on the major roads in the district, together with a campaign to discourage motorists and major trunk road users from littering.

Following the introduction of charges for certain types of waste, fly tipping has inevitably increased-it would be interesting to see whether the additional income balances the cost of clearance.

There has been some recent concern amongst residents about a rumour to close the waste site in Alton. Despite pressure to sign online petitions and the like, I can confirm that it is just a rumour, and although opening times have been reduced, there are currently no plans to close the facility

The District Councillor Community Grants scheme once again proved popular, with the majority of my money benefiting the area south of the railway line. Projects supported this year have included:

- Medstead Parish Council, for the purchase of a community BBQ and picnic seating to be installed on the village green
- Medstead Parish Plan Committee, for the purchase and installation of information boards at the village pond
- Upgraded cooking facilities in Four Marks village hall
- Clothing and equipment for the Medstead speed watch team
- The Four Marks & Medstead Rotary Club, to support both their Christmas Lunch event and a project for improvements within the Visually Impaired Unit and Medstead School
- The Mansfield Park Patient Group, to help them kick-start their new programme of health awareness talks.

I am pleased to be able to advise that the scheme is running again for 2017, with Ingrid and I each having £4500 of funding available.

Finally I would just like to add that, as ever, I am only too happy to make myself available to discuss further any District Council related matters with residents of the parish.

8. MULCOCK CHARITY REPORT

The Mulcock Charity is a Charity was set up in the 1800s for the benefit of the poor at Christmas. On behalf of the secretary Errol O'Farrell, Cllr Jean Penny provided an update of his role as Secretary. It was highlighted that there is a difficulty in distributing funds in line with the original intention due to modern data protection legislation. At present, there is around £1,037.62 in the Charity plus unit trusts held with a value of around £2973.50. However, only the interest generated from the unit trusts can be utilised.

The Trustees are at present, Cllr Penny, Mr E O'Farrell and Revd. Ed Pruen Vicar of Medstead and would remain in position.

Cllr Penny asked if anyone is aware of a need that could be deemed acceptable please inform Mr O'Farrell as if appropriate recipients are not identified, the Trust may have to be surrendered. This has been considered before but there was a reluctance to lose the total fund which could benefit the community.

9. PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE REPORT

2016/17 has seen considerable progress in the restoration of the Village Pond which was first requested in the Parish Plan of 2008.

The tireless work of Cllr Roy Pullen with the assistance of Cllrs Taylor, Smith and other volunteers has seen not only the pond reinstated but the overflow soakaway restored to efficiency. A footpath and

seating area have been installed and under guidance of Jaqui Stublely and her team of volunteers initial planting has taken place. Also, using illustrations by local artist, Jennifer Lines, Christine Wilkinson arranged for the first information boards to be installed.

(Parish Plan Action 5.6)

The Committee had noticed that on notable occasions, flags had not been flown from the St Andrew’s Church flag pole for some time. On enquiry, it was noted that this was due to their poor state of repair. Replacement flags have now been donated and we look forward to their presence brightening up special days in the nation’s calendar.

(Parish Plan Action 1.1)

Finance

Summary Receipts & Payment Account

Previous Year

Year Ended 31 March 2017

£		£	£
4,127.38		<u>Bank Balance as at 31 March 2016</u>	2,548.46
800.00	Income		
	Grants from: District Councillors	1,567.80	
	Donations:		
	Rotary Club	480.00	
	Personal	695.00	
			2,742.80
2,378.92	Expenditure		
	Parish Council re:		
	Benches	1,275.00	
	Information Boards	450.00	
	Plants	56.00	
	Flags	263.11	
			2,044.11
<u>2,548.46</u>		<u>Bank Balance as at 31 March 2017</u>	<u>3,247.15</u>

Committee

The current committee: Martin Gillie, Duncan Pate, Andrew Jackson, Roy Pullen, Hans Taylor and Peter Fenwick have offered to stand for a further year.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

As a result of type increase in fly tipping, Cllr Kercher asked about the charges being levied for deposits of waste by individuals and whether it was lawful. Cllr Kemp-Gee responded that HCC were able to charge small builders.

Cllr Whitcher asked how to get access to the Medstead Parish Council web site which the Clerk advised.

Cllr Fenwick stated that Medstead has the 36th lowest council tax increase of the 40 parishes in EHDC.

Cllr Witcher mentioned that the lights on the Green **had now been taken over by Medstead Parish Council from the Medstead fete committee**

There were no further questions the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.