

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 17th APRIL 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting was called by the Chairman and was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th April 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Deborah Jackson (Chairman)	EHDC District Councillor Ingrid Thomas
Cllr Roy Pullen	HCC Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee
Cllr Peter Buckland	PCSO Dean Mohammed
Cllr Ken Kercher	Mrs Tracy Vear (EHDC)
Cllr Georgy Fuzzard	Mr Chester Whapshare (Co-opted Footpath Officer)
Cllr Mike Smith	Mr Errol O'Farrell (Mulcock Charity)
Cllr Peter Fenwick	Mr Nick Stenning (M&FM NP)
Mr Peter Baston (Clerk Medstead PC)	Plus 13 members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman thanked and welcomed everyone for attending the Medstead Annual Parish Meeting. It was proposed that the order of the set agenda be changed slightly to allow the Hampshire Police representative and the HCC Councillor to depart due to their other commitments.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Medstead Parish Councillors Ken Kercher and Jean Penny.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 18th April 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2017 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. There were no matters arising from the minutes from the floor.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM UPDATE

PCSO Dean Mohammed reported that overall crime is relatively low in the Parish. He reported the 2017/18 statistics for the Parish. These are as follows:

- i. 266 reports on system in Medstead. 98 reports came from the Benjamin UK care home in Boyneswood Road so 168 other reports of which:
- ii. Burglary (all types) 22 – arrested and charged 1 person receiving a 6 years prison sentence;
- iii. Suspicious calls 31
- iv. Firearm occurrences (people that have applied for a firearm) 40
- v. Total 999 calls in Hampshire (received in 12 month period) 239,229
- vi. Total 101 calls in Hampshire (received in 12 month period) – 648,864
- vii. Crimes in Hampshire 159,920 (Alton and surrounding villages 1,840)
- viii. 319 crimes in Four Marks / Medstead (including other nearby small villages).

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee presented his County Councillor report.

- i. He had been re-elected to HCC in May 2017, receiving over 70% of those voting, some 40% - very high for a local election.
- ii. He had been reappointed as Chairman of the Hampshire Pension Fund (including all district councils in Hampshire) valued at £7 billion.
- iii. Reappointed as Chairman of the Members Code of Conduct Panel.

County Matters:

- iv. Council Tax has gone up by 5.4% for those in East Hampshire – but Hampshire has the lowest Council Tax of all English Counties except Somerset.
- v. Central Government Grant to help pay for all County Services is less than half what it was in 2010 and by 2020 it will be eliminated and replaced by allowing us to keep some of our business rates but not ALL our business rates unfortunately!
- vi. HCC are now spending over £500 million alone in adult social care a year and keenly await the Government White Paper to be produced this summer to learn how we are to cope with this overwhelming problem and the inter-action with the NHS going forward.
- vii. County is once more attempting to put together a Combined Strategic and Economic Authority without an elected mayor, including Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight for greater (in size) Hampshire whilst continuing its opposition to try and split Hampshire into two local authorities and consign East Hampshire to Solent City!

Medstead Matters:

- viii. Much activity in bring significant improvements to safety on A31 including the extension of speed limits and improving the road junctions onto the A31.
- ix. Homestead Road. – Been working with residents of Homestead Rd. to reduce the route being us as a “rat run”.
- x. Footways.
- xi. CoE School parking.
- xii. Constant battle to repair pot holes and drainage maintenance.
- xiii. Post Office. The post office in its new location is flourishing and has received a £7k grant from HCC.
- xiv. Possibility of Community Traffic Calming Initiative / 20mph limit. The previous traffic calming in Medstead had been an experiment and is being reviewed by HCC. Cllr Jackson commented that this had possibly been a major consideration for the nearby development being approved by EHDC. The Community Traffic Calming Initiative will be highlighted at the Parish Council stand at the forthcoming Medstead Fete.
- xv. The Lymington Bottom junction with the A31 was to be reviewed by HCC with the possibility of a pelican crossing or normal traffic lights being considered.

Questions raised at meeting:

- xvi. The issue of a no right turn from Boyneswood Road was raised and Cllr Kemp-Gee confirmed that this is being firmly opposed;
- xvii. Is the A31 to be re-surfaced? Cllr Kemp-Gee confirmed that this was not planned and that only pot holes and those areas which are a safety concern would be addressed at present. He highlighted the recent improvements to the section of the A31 between The Shrave and the Chawton roundabout where in recent years several fatalities have occurred;
- xviii. It was asked whether under HCC strategic planning, consideration had been given to bypassing For Marks and Ropley being the only non by-passed settlements on the entire A31 route from Guildford to Winchester.
- xix. Traffic calming in Lymington Bottom Road. Cllr Kemp-Gee mentioned that this could be a community initiative with non-financial assistance from HCC. He mentioned that discussions with Beech were already underway.
- xx. It was mentioned that there were large sums of funds allocated from S106 developers' contributions for transport improvements which could be used for such schemes. Cllr Fenwick mentioned that Medstead Parish Council are actively considering three major “people related” safety schemes, including a separate crossing on Boyneswood Rd bridge, the footway along Roe Downs Road and traffic lights with built in pedestrian phasing on A31/LBR Junction. The Clerk agreed to let Cllr Kemp-Gee have a list of the schemes where

the S106 transport improvement funding received from Medstead developers by EHDC which it is assumed have already been passed on to HCC. Cllr Kemp-Gee agreed to follow up to ascertain where these funds were.

- xxi. It was asked whether the bus service from Medstead to Basingstoke was to be re-instated. Cllr Kemp-Gee confirmed that it was not planned.

6. EHDC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (NEW HOUSING)

Tracy Vear outlined her role as the EHDC Community Development Officer for new housing district wide which supports the community and the parish with the emerging new developments of over 20 units. Her post is externally funded by S106 developer contributions.

Working with developers and EHDC colleagues, it was reported that she attends developer / resident liaison meetings and to ensure that all facilities are fit for purpose.

She is actively working with Cala Homes and Medstead Parish Council to ensure that the planned allotments are delivered as per the agreed specification. She reported that the allotments will be owned by Medstead Parish Council but will be managed by an as yet to be established, allotment association. It was reported that Cala Homes are addressing all issues raised in this respect.

She mentioned that she is also working with the developers with regard to the affordable housing allocated to the sites.

One question raised by a member of the public asked whether there would be any community facilities on the Friars Oak (Bellway) site. Ms. Vear reported that apart from a small play area and open green space, nothing is planned on this development.

A further question was raised regarding any possible next phase at the Friars Oak (Bellway) site and was advised that following changes to government legislation EHDC is now undertaking a full review of the Local Plan for those parts of the district outside of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The new Local Plan will cover the period 2017 to 2036. To understand what land is potentially available for development in the District outside of the SDNPA, EHDC are currently undertaking a 'call for sites'. The closing date for site applications is 5pm on Friday 4 May 2018.

7. 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.

Three questions were raised by members of the public.

- i. **Who is responsible for the sweeping of the pavements?** Any issues with pavements should be logged on to the HCC Highways "Report a problem" web portal.
- ii. **Falling water level at Medstead Pond.** Cllr Pullen explained that he had met with an expert who has identified what the problem is with the falling water level and is awaiting a quotation for the work.
- iii. **A finger post sign identifying the bridleway at Stoney Lane needs replacing.** This should be reported to the Hampshire Countryside Team.

8. EHDC - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

Cllr Thomas: -

- i. Under the recently announced Boundary Commission Review, Medstead and Four Marks will also incorporate Chawton which will mean that an additional EHDC councillor will be elected in May 2019 increasing the number from two to three councillors.
- ii. The allocation for district council grants had been fully utilised in 2017/18 with further funds being made available from unspent amounts from other area of EHDC with two grant applications of £500 each from local charities also being approved. An additional £4,500 is now available for 2018/19 from each District Councillor.
- iii. The Local Plan Review is currently underway, this is a government requirement every five years. A call for sites is currently underway, any sites that come forward would need to be considered in detail before any selection was made for the Local Plan Review, covering the period 2017 to 2036 the first draft should be published by EHDC in October 2018. This may have an impact on the existing Medstead & Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted by referendum and should be in line with the Local Plan.
- iv. A “Garden Village” is an option being considered rather than just adding new developments to existing villages to achieve the housing number requirement. A garden village has the advantage of infrastructure being built at the same time as the homes.
- v. Cllr Thomas reported that she has been elected on to the EHDC Cabinet with the portfolio for Neighbourhood Planning and Affordable Housing.
- vi. She is working on compliance issues and an officer is spending one day each week in Medstead & Four Marks covering such matters.
- vii. It was reported that a consultation is on-going regarding the proposed replacement of the existing Esso pipeline which runs from Fawley to Gatwick / Heathrow.
- viii. With Simon Jenkins from EHDC, Cllr Thomas reported that she has put pressure on to HCC to try to achieve a safer crossing for pedestrians at the bridge on Boyneswood Road. Dialogue with Mid Hants Railway will soon be underway in an attempt to get an agreement for a separate pedestrian bridge.

The following questions were raised by members of the public:

- i. Will the pig farm at Soldridge Rd. be included in the Local Plan call for sites? This was a matter for the landowner to log the land on the call for sites under the Local Plan.
- ii. Can the white lines be painted on the Boyneswood Rd Bridge? This was a matter for HCC Highways and should be logged on to the HCC “Report a problem” web portal.
- iii. Will Cala Homes be extending towards Five Ash Pond? This was a matter for the landowner to log the land on the call for sites, but it should be recognised that sites do not have to be on the local plan to apply for planning.

District Councillor Report for Medstead AMP – Deborah Jackson

A relatively quiet year in terms of planning, although far from so in terms of mud on the roads, builders' lorries and road closures, particularly to the north of the A31.

All of the developers are now holding regular resident liaison meetings, and although attendance is somewhat sporadic, I am pleased to be able to say that those I have chaired have been both amicable and productive. Whether the next one will be quite so following a recent incident involving a parked van advertising the site of a new pig farm in an adjacent field remains to be seen, but it is good to see that the residents of Medstead can still have a sense of humour!

With a number of new planning ideas on the horizon, such as the building of "garden villages", complete with proper infrastructure and transport links, I can only feel that the public chaos that the residents of the Four Marks and Medstead ward have had to put up with over the last four years has at least helped to benefit someone!

Towards the middle of last year the strength of the Neighbourhood Plan was put to the test in Four Marks, where together with strong representation by local residents, Four Marks Parish Council and EHDC, a speculative application for a large housing development on a green field site was warded off.

Work on the Green Infrastructure route identified within the Neighbourhood Plan has continued and should provide a valuable link between the villages of Medstead and Four Marks. Competition within local organisations has given the route its name, the "Medstead Village Link" and whilst environmentalists at the school designed the way-markers. Together with Hampshire Highways, County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee and the Parish Council, I have been looking at options for completing the last part of the "link", the section along Roe Downs Road. Narrow roadside verges and the current unavailability of land at the edge of adjacent fields to make a pedestrian walkway, mean that this is proving to be the most challenging part of this project. Whilst we had all hoped that the green infrastructure route would be completed this year, this is currently not looking likely.

The reserved matters planning application for the new Alton Sports Centre has now finally been approved and I am pleased to note that representatives from both Four Marks and Medstead Parish Councils have been invited to sit on the project development panel. Whilst many still remain unhappy with aspects of the design, planning and commercial process, this is a great opportunity for local people to have a say and try and influence the layout and facilities provided within the new sports centre.

Once again, my full Community Grant allocation was spent, with grants being awarded towards:

- purchase of additional equipment for Four Marks Speedwatch
- repair the notice board at Oak Green Parade
- refreshments for the Medstead community carols and Christmas tree festival
- support the work of Mansfield Park PPG
- automation of St Andrew's clock
- new kissing gates to replace broken style
- additional Christmas lights for Medstead village green

Further grants of £100-£1000 are available for the coming year, with application forms available from the EHDC website. Unfortunately grants cannot be awarded retrospectively and need to be spent within 6 months, but still, plenty of scope to get your thinking caps on!

9. FOOTPATH OFFICER REPORT

Cllr Jackson thanked Mr Chester Whapshare for becoming the footpath officer for Medstead. Mr Whapshare reported that he had walked the majority of the paths and bridleways in the parish and will continue to do so in the future. He mentioned that any problems which are found can be reported on to the HCC Highways “Report a problem” web portal or to the Hampshire Countryside Team. Land owners are responsible for stiles & gates on their land.

The Lengthsman visits Medstead quarterly and undertakes work as directed by the Parish. Medstead parish Council also have a contract with a day work contractor who carries out essential work.

With the Ramblers Club, Mr Whapshare reported that they have assisted HCC by undertaking path clearance. In 2025, a new rights of way map is to be produced which will hopefully identify lost paths for example a path from Foul Lane to Down Copse.

Cllr Jackson asked Mr Whapshare for sites where kissing gate could be installed (with land owner permission) and he will contact the Parish Clerk with this information. A question was raised regarding additional dog waste bins and this will be considered by the Parish Council Maintenance Committee.

10. MEDSTEAD & FOUR MARKS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Mr Nick Stenning provided an update on the Medstead & Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan. He reported that at the Referendum, there was a 41% turnout with 93% voting in favour. The Plan was ‘adopted’ by EHDC in May 2016.

Benefits

- i. **Planning Appeals**
- ii. **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** where 25% goes directly to the Parish Council (as opposed to just 15% for councils without an adopted Plan). As a result, around £31,000 is due to be paid shortly to Medstead Parish Council.

Recent Challenges

- The NPPF : *Draft text for Consultation* published by MHCLG in March 2018 - “Where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan (including any neighbourhood plans...) permission should not usually be granted”
- “Once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan for that neighbourhood.....; unless they are superseded by strategic or local policies that are adopted subsequently.”
- The 5 year review of the EHDC Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan
- The Local Plan (EHDC) will be reviewed in May 2019
- M&FM Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed in May 2021
- The revisions to the ‘Objectively Assessed Housing Need’ (OAHN)
- The housing target numbers
- The ‘affordability factor’

Impact

It was thought that with a Plan in place from 2015 to 2028 adopted under Referendum, that a secure position had been found.

What 'weight' will be given to our NP after May 2019 and what do we need to do to 'Review' it by May 2021?

11. MULCOCK CHARITY REPORT

The report for year ended 31st Jan 2017 has been prepared as required. The Charity Return for the previous year was submitted.

The Trust Deed, set up in the 1870's, states the aim is 'to provide to the poor good and sufficient meat and other goods at Christmas and then to subscribe to any objects relating to the Parish, as they might think desirable, from income'. Around the 1900's this became 4 cwt of coal and a ham at Christmas.

In 1942, 81 cwt of coal cost £12.10.6 and 25 recipients were in receipt of 2 to 4 cwt each. Since the start of the Trust there have been amazing changes in Medstead and worldwide. Many classified as 'poor' worked on the land or as domestics. We have seen the introduction of Social Services, the N.H.S., Social Housing and pensions to name some of them.

The Trustees are mindful of the risk of being ultra vires and would like to see the Trust Deed updated to reflect those changes. The use of the word 'poor' should be amended to 'those showing to be in need'.

The use and inclusion of 'good and sufficient meat and other goods at Christmas' should be amended to eliminate 'Christmas' as it implies to many enquiring for help or accessing some electrical modern information points. A possible replacement wording should be 'The aim of the Trust is to provide help and assistance to those in need in the Parish of Medstead. The Trustees will be responsible for determining such need is acceptable to them and that no precedent will assume a similar application for assistance will automatically be approved'.

The matter of how much can be permitted was also discussed. Currently the Deed states that only interest earned may be distributed and this is held to include previously earned interest not distributed. If £100 a year is earned this does restrict help that could be higher. We feel it should state that funding of up to £500 should be the criteria and no more than £1000 in any one year considered. We further feel that if we are to assist long term the current capital should not reduce below £2000 as this now inhibits earned income which could be to a point where the sum available goes back to the original £500 and the income from such a sum would make the benefit almost worthless.

With interest earned increasing with money in the Charity Commission 'trust fund' and the restricted ability for us Trustees to pay out without being ultra vires the funds have increased to the current position of

Money in bank	£ 1145.22
Money with Charity Commission	£ 3241.11
Total held	£ 4386.33

With no outgoings last year and income by way of interest of £107.60 funds have greatly increased from the original £500.00 held but it is not the intention to simply increase funds.

If anyone has any further points to assist the Trustees we should be pleased to consider including them in our proposals to the Charity Commission.

The current trustees are Cllr Jean Penny, Rev Ed Pruen and myself. Cllr Penny and myself should be due to stand down or be re-elected and both are happy to continue if so requested.

It was proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Smith that Cllr Jean Penny and Mr Errol O'Farrell be re-elected and this was agreed unanimously by the Assembly.

12. PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE REPORT

The year ended 31st March 2018 has been relatively quiet as most of the actions have been completed.

However, Committee Members and volunteers have continued to support the unstinting efforts and commitment of Roy Pullen who has been toiling to resolve the technical issues of the village pond. On the positive side, the restored soakaway has been functioning well and there have been no incidents of flooding reported. (Parish Plan Action 5.6)

For the coming year the Committee will be supporting efforts by the Editor of the Medstead Times to introduce the publication to the many new residents of the parish. The Medstead Times now includes a comprehensive listing of clubs, societies and classes available to everyone. New residents will receive a complimentary copy together with a welcome message from the Chairman of the Parish Council. (Parish Plan Action 1.2, 1.6, 4.1)

The Committee has offered to fund the purchase of a tree and plaque to commemorate the end of WW1 and the sacrifice made by local residents. (Parish Plan Action 1.6)

The Committee will open discussions with the Parish Council regarding schemes to create traffic calming measures. (Parish Plan Action 3.5)

The Committee is looking to support the Village Fete Committee through the purchase of additional capital equipment. (Parish Plan Action 1.6)

Finance

Summary Receipts & Payment Account			
Year Ended 31 March 2018			
Previous Year			
£		£	£
2548.46	<u>Bank Balance as at 31 March 2017</u>	3247.15	
2742.80	Income	0.00	
2044.11	Expenditure	0.00	
<u>3247.15</u>	<u>Bank Balance as at 31 March 2018</u>	<u>3247.15</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 but would welcome new members.

The Report was proposed for approval by Cllr Jackson and seconded by a member of the public and duly.

13. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No additional questions were received

There were no further questions the meeting was closed at 10.20pm.