

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2019

The Annual Parish Meeting was called by the Chairman and was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.

**Present:**

Cllr Deborah Jackson (Chairman)	Mr Nick Stenning (M&FM NP)
Cllr Roy Pullen (Medstead Parish Council)	Sgt. Neil Johnson (Hampshire Police)
Cllr Ken Kercher (Medstead Parish Council)	Mr John Geoghegan (EHDC)
Cllr Charles Clark (Medstead Parish Council)	Mr Chester Whapshare (Co-opted Footpath Officer)
Cllr Michael (Jo) Smith (Medstead Parish Council)	District Cllr. Jonathan May (part)
Cllr Jean Penny (Medstead Parish Council)	3 members of the public
Mr Peter Baston (Clerk Medstead PC)	

**1. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman thanked and welcomed everyone for attending the Medstead Annual Parish Meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

HCC Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, District Councillor(s) Diana Tennyson and Ingrid Thomas, Medstead Parish Councillors Andrew Jackson and Michael (Ja) Smith and Mr Errol O’Farrell (Mulcock Charity).

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 which were previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Pullen that the minutes were adopted by this meeting, seconded by Councillor Kercher. There were no matters arising from the minutes from the floor.

**4. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM UPDATE**

Sgt Neil Johnson reported that overall crime is relatively low in the Parish. He reported the 2018/19 statistics for the Parish.

The figures where for the year to date as of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 are:

263 matters reported to police for Medstead, A lot of these where for the children’s homes which are now closed. Of the 263 matters reported, the following breakdown gives:

- 2 - Fraud matters, telephone scams;
- 7 - Criminal damages;
- 10 - Burglaries (2 houses, 2 businesses and the other 6 where outbuildings);
- 2 - Theft of motor vehicle (1 person arrested and charged with one of these offences);
- 2 - Theft from motor vehicles;
- 2 -Theft of pedal cycles;
- 13 - Other theft matters;
- 1 - Drink driver arrested.

The other matters where made up of firearms licences, road traffic collisions, domestic incidents and anti-social behaviour.

## 5. EHDC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) / S106

Mr John Geoghegan Community Officer (Alton and surrounding villages) from East Hampshire District Council provided some background on CIL contributions where a flat rate is paid by developers to offset the impact on the local community of having new developments. He explained that 25% of CIL contributions collected by EHDC goes directly to Parish Councils. For those with an agreed neighbourhood plan. For those without an agreed plan, just 15% of CIL funds are received by parish councils.

For S106, being the forerunner of CIL, there is a time restriction on which the funds held by EHDC can be spent and it is proposed that commencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 for an eight week period, the collected S106 funds not already earmarked for projects, will be open to local non-profit making organisations to bid for funds for projects. This exercise will be repeated later in the year until the funds are fully utilised. The details and an application form will be shortly on the EHDC web site.

Mr Geoghegan explained that due to a lack of national guidance on CIL, there is not an EHDC spending protocol at present until it is clear what the national position is.

He further explained that the “transport” element of S106 funds are split between specific and generic programmes with the S106 funds for specific project going directly to HCC.

## 6. 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.

One question was raised by a member of the public regarding Speedwatch and Cllr Michael (Jo) Smith gave a quick report on the programme and invited the member of the public to become part of the Speedwatch team.

It was also felt that Speedwatch ought to have more publicity and an article would be prepared for the Medstead Times and in addition, information would be made available at the forthcoming Medstead Fete Parish Council stand. **Action Cllr Michael (Jo) Smith to prepare an article.**

## 7. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

In the absence of Cllr Kemp-Gee, Cllr Deborah Jackson read the prepared statement:

*“This time last year I talked briefly about finance. As we now know County Council Tax is up 3% for the municipal year, EHDC’s share is unchanged but the police share has gone up by 13%, making 20% over the last 2 years and we are promised 130 more front line police!*

*As we know, 2019/20 marks the end of Hampshire’s RSG from central government – it was some £400 million in 2010. So apart from odd specific grants engendered to do the government’s bidding or help where we are most severely stretched like adult and children’s social care and roads, of course, Hampshire is becoming mostly self-financing. Approximately 5% of our total tax is raised and spent locally compared to 50% in the USA, Canada and France. So we send 95% of taxes up to London and get virtually nothing back except from the annual £1 billion Schools Budget which we administer and manage on behalf of central government. No wonder, with Central Government in a state of total sclerosis on all matters apart from, or should I say, including Brexit, the demand for massively*

*increased devolution for Hampshire becomes stronger by the day. Our GDP is greater than Wales, which is now collecting all central and local taxes from this April onwards, like Scotland. Also, interestingly, IHT collected from the GU postcode is now greater than Wales and Northern Ireland combined! As it is, our schools are some of the best in England, with 92% of school children getting first choice placements despite numbers going up by around 8% per annum. Meanwhile we have the second lowest council tax in England. Our mantra at County is originality, technical advance, efficiency and pragmatism and I think without being complacent, we continue in that vein despite immense financial pressures.*

*Also we are substantial investors in infrastructure such as new roads, broadband and new and expanded schools in particular. We are now taking responsibility for certain substantial housebuilding projects such as Manydown in Basingstoke. Our capital projects programme currently stands at over £800 million.*

**Medstead Matters:**

*It's been quite a busy year as far as my inter-relationship with the village is concerned.*

*The main area of engagement has been drainage, Highways and Traffic Calming including the perennial battle over potholes. Earlier in the municipal year, I was also involved in the fantastic community effort as we dealt with the problems thrown up by Benjamin UK.*

*In conjunction with Four Marks, we continue to press on the possibility of a Boyneswood Road footbridge over the railway cutting. The expansion of the village's population and school numbers means that we must continue to revisit the need for a safe footway between south Medstead and the school. I will continue to monitor any significant housing developments in the village and their likely impact on the local roads.*

*Lastly, may I thank the Parish Councillors and Clerk for all the help they have given me during the last four years of their office. I wish them well in the future."*

**8. EHDC - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)**

In the absence of all East Hampshire District Councillors, who were attending a training session, the Medstead Parish Clerk read the prepared statement from Cllr Thomas:

*"Thank you for voting us to be your representatives at the District Council, we will work as a team to ensure that issues in our villages are resolved in the best way possible. Our contact details are available so if you have a problem that we may be able to help with please get in touch.*

*Tuesday 14th May was induction day so our team all went to do the training, introductions and a tour of the building showed new district councillors all the department and what they do at Penns Place. Jonathan and Diana both discovered all sorts of things they hadn't realised the district council did. We all now have EHDC email addresses - [ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:ingrid.thomas@easthants.gov.uk), [jonathan.may@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.may@easthants.gov.uk) and [diana.tennyson@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:diana.tennyson@easthants.gov.uk) please feel free to contact us on any district council matter. In Jonathan's words 'an exciting challenge lies ahead for our dynamic team'*

*In the meantime the residents who live near building sites continue to be subjected to unwanted and unnecessary noise. Whilst construction noise could be expected unwanted loud radios are unacceptable, site managers are repeatedly asked to get the radios turned off, let's hope the message gets through soon! The next Bellway resident's liaison meeting is on Monday 3rd June at 6pm in Four Marks Village Hall, if you have any points to make please come along.*

*The appeal by WYG and WLG against the refusal of their application to build 58 more homes behind Friars Oak by EHDC will be for three days from Tuesday 9th July. This will be held in the assembly rooms in Alton as the local halls were not available. EHDC will vigorously defend their REFUSAL decision and officers and legal team have been working on the details of the appeal for some time. We are all invited and encouraged to attend the appeal even if you can't make more than a few hours. When it starts at 10am on Tuesday 9th July the inspector will ask who would like to speak during the appeal, it is important that if you want to speak you register to do so at this point, you may not be able to speak if you fail to register. Even if you don't want to speak please come along and sign the attendance sheet because this will show the strength of local feeling against this application. This will be quite a formal enquiry with both sides bringing barristers to present their case. We do have a five year housing land supply and both a current Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan so this appeal should be dismissed by the inspector but we do need to ensure that the inspector realises we have had enough big sites built here for a few years and need time for the infrastructure to catch up. Please put the date in your diary and come along.*

*As ever if we can be of assistance to you please contact one of us."*

District Councillor Jonathan May joined the meeting at this point.

Cllr Pullen commented that with regard to the Friars Oak appeal, he wondered why EHDC had withdrawn their objection to the traffic related issues, given the HCC survey which had been undertaken had showed that the Boyneswood Rd traffic flows were excessive for an additional development of 58 houses. EHDC ward councillor May promised to raise this issue with EHDC.

**Action Parish Council to follow up with EHDC Cllr May.**

## **9. FOOTPATH OFFICER REPORT**

Cllr Jackson thanked Mr Chester Whapshare for continuing to be the footpath officer for Medstead. Mr Whapshare reported that he continued to walk the majority of the paths and bridleways in the parish and will continue to do so in the future. He mentioned that HCC Highways had recently undertaken a survey and all paths in Medstead were found to comply with regulations.

Mr Whapshare said that kissing gates had been installed with the land owner's permission by the Parish council in two locations (FP8 near Common Hill and also on FP12 near Greenstile). HCC consider that kissing gates should only be installed where stock are present and indeed had removed a couple of stiles in the locality in recent times.

He said that bikes being ridden on paths were an issue and also horses as both were eroding paths in some places. On FP12, it has been agreed that scalping be laid in the autumn to improve the surface and prevent rutting. It was noted that the British Horse Society are trying to get certain paths in the UK upgraded from footpath status to bridleway which would increase the width.

Mr Whapshare asked if the Clerk could accompany him to view path 701 which is in need of some attention. **Action Parish Clerk / Footpath Officer.**

Wheelchair friendly routes were being considered and this would be contemplated further by the footpath officer as to where this could be possible. At present there is a scheme to identify lost footpaths which if not identified and logged by 2025 would be lost forever and Mr Whapshare is looking at this further in the Medstead area.

Finally, Mr Whapshare said that the local ramblers would like to install a bench near to Hattingley at a local view point and would be approaching the land owner to get permission.

## 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 £55,000 has been paid to Medstead Parish Council in 2018/19.

It was thought that with a Plan in place from 2015 to 2028 adopted under Referendum, that a secure position had been found. However, challenges from central government mean that Plans may now need to be reviewed every five years, being in line with the Local Plan which are also reviewed every five years

The draft Local Plan whose consultation has just concluded, outlined that there would not be any new development in Medstead as the emphasis would now be on a new "village" near Bentley where 800 houses are being considered.

In the Local Plan however, EHDC have undertaken a review of the Settlement Policy Boundary and this particularly affects parts of Medstead where there appears to be no clear reason why this should be the case. EHDC Cllr May agreed to take on board the comments made and would take this up with EHDC. **Action Parish Council to follow up with EHDC Cllr May.**

## 11. MULCOCK CHARITY REPORT

Cllr Penny read a prepared statement from Mr Errol O'Farrell regarding the Mulcock Charity:

*"For those not aware of the Charity or its aims it is a Charity set up as the result of a bequest by Henry J Mulcock a resident of Ropley who on his death in 1874 left various sums to vicars and churches in the area. He also left £500 to each of the parishes of Ropley and Medstead and that it 'provide good and sufficient meat and other goods at Christmas and then to subscribe to any objects relating to that Parish as they might think desirable from income'.*

*In 1874 this was a considerable sum of money and was then used to buy up to 24 hams or the like and also 2 tons of coal. This was distributed around Christmas.*

*The Trustees, appointed through the Parish Council, but otherwise independent of the PC, have felt that the objective is now out of date and we have been trying to alter the objective to something along the lines of '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 the precedent will assume a similar application for assistance will not automatically be approved.' Initially the Charity Commission were not keen on this change as they felt that the current objective gave the Trustees this ability. We felt that the wording to anyone asking or researching our aims were not being given a clear enough picture of what could be done. It implied we were only likely to distribute around Christmas so Christmas should be removed. 'From income' could also limit how much could be used.*

*We are now at a point where we are considering this alternative: to 'The aim of the Trust is to provide help and assistance to those in need in the Parish of Medstead as the Trustees think fit.' This wording, in consultation with the Charity Commission, appears to be the likely outcome. It is however a protracted business which I hope will soon be concluded.*

*We feel this is a more upto date phrase of objective which would allow more flexibility. I have also suggested that the fund could also make larger grants if required than the annual income of currently around £100 per year. It was felt by us that having accumulated a much bigger sum than the original £500 the fund should now not dip below £2000 thus maintaining a more realistic annual income. The CC are of the opinion that it is not necessary to include such wording but we could use the principal as a consideration for guidance by future Trustees.*

*All of the above has been felt necessary to protect the Trustees who have an obligation to adhere to the aims and objectives of the Trust and any deviation could be considered 'ultra vires' and trustees could be held personally liable for any misuse of funds.*

*Some of the money has been placed in a Charity Commission Fund which acts much like a unit trust. This pays virtually all of our interest earned and the sum invested has more than doubled during that time. We currently hold 220 units currently each worth £14.33 (rounded up) or £3151.76."*

**Year end position at 31st January 2019.**

<i>Bal Bt Fwd at bank</i>	<i>1145.22</i>
<i>Interest earned</i>	<i>110.64</i>
	<i>1255.86</i>
<i>Grant money paid out</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>Bank account at year end</i>	<i>1155.86</i>

*Value of Charity Commn Fund as above £ 3159.38*

*Total Value of Trust £4315.24*

The current trustees are Cllr Jean Penny, Rev Canon Ed Pruen and Mr Errol O'Farrell. It was proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Smith that all were duly re-elected and this was agreed unanimously by the Assembly.

**12. PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE REPORT**

A report had been received from Mr Peter Fenwick which Cllr Jackson read out as follows:

*"The year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 has been, once again, relatively quiet as most of the actions have been completed. However, disbursements were made to cover the following:*

*To the Medstead Times to cover the cost of printing additional copies for delivery, free of charge, to new residents of Medstead together with a letter of welcome from the Chairman, Medstead Parish Council.*

*The purchase of an elm tree and plaque to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War.*

*To Medstead Fete Committee to contribute to the purchase of a new marquee.*

## Finance

### **Parish Plan Summary Receipts & Payment Account Year Ended 31 March 2019.**

<b>Previous Year</b>			
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>3,247.15</b>	<b><u>Bank Balance as at 31 March 2018</u></b>		<b>3,247.15</b>
0.00	<b>Income</b>	0.00	
0.00	<b>Expenditure</b>		
	Donation to Medstead Times	165.00	
	Commemorative Tree & Plaque	450.00	
	Medstead Fete Committee	555.60	1,170.60
<b><u>3,247.15</u></b>	<b><u>Bank Balance as at 31 March 2019</u></b>		<b><u>2,076.55</u></b>

## The Future

*The committee has been in existence since 2006 and following a huge amount of community involvement, produced The Medstead Parish Plan which was published in July 2008. Since that date the committee has served as a catalyst to ensure the delivery of the objectives proposed.*

*Key achievements have been:*

- i. The building of a significant number of “affordable” homes;*
- ii. The installation of footways on Roe Downs Road, Lymington Bottom Road, Boyneswood Road and a pedestrian refuge on Hussell Lane;*
- iii. The alleviation of flooding on Hussell Lane;*
- iv. The reinstatement of the Village Pond;*
- v. Installation of 30mph and 20mph speed limits;*
- vi. Provision of two new children’s play areas.*

*The Committee are always keen to learn of projects that fulfil the key objectives of the Parish Plan and lend support whenever possible. To that end the committee will be supporting the relaunch of the Medstead Times which provides an important method of communication throughout the wider Medstead community.*

*The current committee of Martin Gillie, Hans Taylor, Roy Pullen, Andrew Jackson and Peter Fenwick together with a nominee from the Parish Council are happy to continue in post. However, there is always room for new volunteers. If agreed, it is recommended that the remaining funds be passed to the Parish Council, to be held in trust and distributed to support future projects which are in accordance with the Parish Plan objectives.*

*In accordance with the constitution, officers of the committee are required to act as trustees to ensure an orderly winding up and transfer of funds."*

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

### **13. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No additional questions were received.

There were no further questions the meeting was closed at 09.45pm.