



Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Wednesday 9th March 2022.

Present: Cllrs. Deborah Jackson (Chair), Graham Bennell, Charles Clark, Georgy Fuzzard, Ken Kercher, Phil Quinlan & Mike (Ja) Smith.

Also in attendance: One member of the public & Peter Baston (Parish Clerk).

ACTION

22.018 OPEN SESSION

- i. The member of the public questioned the position of the Platinum Jubilee bench, which he felt was too close to another vacant bench position. He was assured that the position had been carefully considered and that it would not interfere with the as yet to be sited other bench position.

22.019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Andrew Jackson & Mike (Jo) Smith EHDC District Councillors Diana Tennyson & Ingrid Thomas. Approved.

22.020 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

22.021 COUNCIL MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **16th February 2022** were proposed as a true record by Councillor Ken Kercher seconded by Councillor Mike (Ja) Smith and was signed by the Chairman.

ii. Matters Arising:

Minute #	Full Council Meeting Date	Action	Assigned to	Status	Comments
20.098(iii)	Sep-20	Signage at wildflower meadow.	Maintenance Committee	On Hold	To be considered further once Wildflower Meadow restoration work has been undertaken
21.082(iii) c		Clerk to set up a Facebook account as an information tool	Clerk	On Hold	
21.089(i)	Jul-21	Clerk to source quotes for shed plinth extension	Clerk	On Hold	Waiting for Allotment Association to provide further information
21.089(ii)		Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith to source local plumber to address water supply issues to allotment tap	Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith	On Hold	
21.100(iii)a	Aug-21	F&GP to review Clerk role & responsibilities	F&GP Committee	Outstanding	For March 2022 F&GP Committee meeting
21.142 (iii)		All councillors to consider being a Trustee for the Mulcock Charity	All councillors	On Hold	
21.151(i)	Nov-21	M'tce Committee to consider plinth options as detailed by Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith who would report back at next Council meeting	M'tce Committee / Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith	Outstanding	Allotment Association to provide MPC with details of materials required.
21.156(iii)		F&GP to consider budget allocation for dragons teeth	F&GP Committee	Outstanding	F&GP to consider at the March 23rd meeting
21.168(i)	Dec-21	M'tce Committee to consider future Green maintenance requirements	M'tce Committee	Outstanding	Mr N Cooper (Medstead CC) to be invited to the M'tce. meeting on 23rd March
21.168(iii)		Cllr Mike(Jo) Smith to contact HCC about flashing speed sign	Cllr Mike (Jo) Smith	Outstanding	Cllrs M (Jo) & (Ja) Smith to follow up with school pta for supporting statements of need to assist with justification to HCC.
22.001(i)	Feb-22	F&GP to further review the hiring regulations iro MCC use	F&GP Committee	Outstanding	To be reviewed at 23rd March meeting
22.011(iv)		M'tce. Committee to consider possible additional fencing / hedging at Five Ash Pond boundary	M'tce Committee	Outstanding	To be reviewed at 23rd March meeting

22.022 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

a. Planning Committee

i. Chairman's Report

It has been a very busy time since the last Committee Meeting on the 16th February, with lots of things going on. The completed EHDC questionnaires have been forwarded following a "workshop" at the MVH on the morning of 25th February. There was unfortunately some miscommunication between ourselves and FMPC Planning Comm in that we did not send a joint response. However,

copies have been sent to FMPC Planning Comm so that both Parishes are like minded in their replies.

Following the recent planning applications received from EHDC, the Clerk has replied in connection with what I will refer to as the “pig farm”, 39009/008, strongly objecting to this application. With regard to the applications in respect of Lymington Barns 23291/029 and the land west of Longbourn Way 58788, these applications will be heard tonight. In view of the complexity of these applications, MPC Planning members held a “workshop” on 2nd March at my home to allow Comm members to assemble their thoughts. That evening I attended the FMPC Planning meeting as an observer to listen to their ideas on all three of the above applications, accompanied by Cllr Quinlan. Very interesting! Comm members may have seen one of the 700 flyers posted through your letter box. No further comment is needed.

The following evening I attended the Platinum Jubilee Comm public meeting at the MVH, again as an observer, to listen to their proposals. The all day celebrations are to be held on the village green, starting at 1200 on Sunday 5th June. Cllr Kercher was also in attendance. They seem very organised and I am sure they will make a great success of the day. Their Chair gratefully acknowledged the financial support given by the MPC and the Wake Trust.

At this time I have heard nothing further concerning the possible planning breach in Homestead Road, nor the ongoing issues in Wield Road.

- ii. **Site Allocations Questionnaire.** These were noted by Council and had been submitted to EHDC.

b. **Maintenance Committee**

- i. **Chairman’s Report.** There has been no meeting of Maintenance Committee since the previous Council meeting.

Following the decision of Council at that meeting, the Clerk approached P J Grace regarding the prices tendered for the mowing and maintenance contracts for the Cemetery and Churchyard, the Wildflower Meadow and the Village Green. Agreement was reached that the overall price of the three tenders should be reduced from £17,995.00 to £17,300.00 + VAT, with the cost of an extra summer cut of the Wildflower Meadow, if required, remaining at £300.00 + VAT. The contracts have now been let on that basis.

The storm of 18th February resulted in two fallen trees on the Green, and the action taken is referred to in the Clerk’s Report.

- ii. **Medstead Village Hall Defibrillator.** Subject to the London Hearts defibrillator fitting inside the existing box, it was agreed to purchase the machine which included a £300 grant from London Hearts. The Clerk was asked to contact London Hearts for the dimensions of the machine and to then ask the Hall caretaker to confirm that it would fit.

Clerk

c. **Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee**

Chairman's report.

An Extraordinary meeting was held on 8th March 2022 to consider the application process for making a bid to EHDC for Strategic CIL funding to support the Council's proposed development and refurbishment of the Pavilion. It is hoped that the anticipated cost of £200k will be met by £50k funding from the Parish Council or S106 funding with £150k CIL funding from EHDC. F&GP sought confirmation from Full Council regarding the proposed use of Parish Council funds and this was agreed. As a result, a completed draft had been circulated to all Councillors for their comments to the Clerk. Once any amendments had been incorporated, then an Extraordinary Full Council meeting would be held on 15th March to allow the form to be agreed and submitted to EHDC.

All Councillors

20.023 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN REPORT

Clear up activities following the recent storms is now mainly completed, only to have been followed by the chaos of road closures. Lymington Bottom Road was closed by Five Ash Pond to enable repair of the water main. As a result, the flooding has been alleviated and the water level in the pond dropped. Further closures for works in Soldridge Road and the High Street has resulted in confusing diversions around the village and concerns from affected residents.

The Council's planning application for refurbishment and extension of the pavilion is ongoing and a bid for EHDC Strategic CIL funding to contribute towards the project underway.

Applications for development within the south Medstead area have come to the fore and were considered at the last couple of Planning Committee meetings. There is clearly a lot of local interest and opposition to the proposals and a review of the EHDC planning portal indicates that residents are making their views known.

22.024 MEDSTEAD PARISH CLERK REPORT

Dredging work at Five Ash Pond completed. Fencing still to be completed.

Contractor has been chased.

Contacted Environment Agency regarding a potential bore hole at Five Ash Pond to alleviate flooding. They are reviewing the documents supplied and will respond idc.

Have sought advice from HALC Legal team on the Five Ash Pond boundary issue. A response awaited.

Attended Large Sites workshop with FMPC & M&FMNP Working Group.

Contacted EHDC regarding the EHDC / Medstead Planning Consultation.

Sourced defibrillator for MVH but to be further discussed at Full Council.

Invited attendees to the Annual Parish Assembly. Confirmation still needed from several individuals.

Contracts now let to P J Grace for the Medstead Green mowing, Cemetery / Churchyard and Wildflower Meadow.

Fallen trees have been an issue during the recent storms. One to be removed is across the school fence a with a further one by the Roe Downs Rd lay by.

Hampshire Woodlands have been instructed to remove but due to their back log, won't be completed until the end of the month.

An issue arose with Visionict SSL Cert provider not sending them a full list of the expiring SSL Certificates thereby leaving the Parish Council website open to potential hacking. They have apologised and this has now been addressed.

Cemetery Activity

One Grant of Burial Rights.

Village Green Booking(s)

Under 12 Football - Wednesday evenings 6 pm to 8 pm (March 30, April 6, 13, 20 & 27).

Medstead Cricket Club. Between 23rd April and 11th September inclusive.

Under 12 Football - Saturday Morning (May 7, 14, 21, 28 & June 4, 11, 18 & 25)

Medstead Gardeners Club – 7th May

Medstead Summer Ball 18th June.

Medstead Village Fete 9th July.

22.025 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

It's been good to see that we were not too affected by flooding in the last bout of storms which some of our roads can suffer badly with and many of our mature trees survived the beating too.

So, this year's District Councillor grants have now come to an end. Diana, Ingrid, and I have spent all the allocation totalling over £16,000 and we have managed to support some very worthwhile community benefits. This includes new signs at Swelling Hill Pond to help educate local children on wildlife and welcome to Four Marks signs around the access roads to the village. Support with Jubilee celebrations in June within the ward. Plentiful tree planting around the ward within Medstead, Four Marks & Chawton and encouraging the parishes to plant more trees and concentrate on environmental projects around the ward. Support with the Community food cupboard. Joint ventures for the children at Four Marks school.

The new crossing at Lymington Bottom is working well and proving a safe crossing for school children and residents too. It will shortly be time for our next round of District Councillor grants for 2022/23 so if you have a community project that you would like support with, please reach out to Diana, Ingrid, or myself for assistance.

22.026 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Clerk confirmed that invitations had been sent to all Ward EHDC Councillors, HCC Councillor and Hampshire Police. IN addition, the Platinum Jubilee Committee have agreed to attend to give an update on the plans for the celebrations in June 2022.

22.027 CORRESPONDENCE

- i. **Boundary Commission Consultation.** This was noted by Council.
- ii. **East Hampshire Dementia Festival.** This was noted by Council.
- iii. **EHDC Green Corporate Strategy.** This was noted by Council.
- iv. **Great British Spring Clean.** Consideration was given to undertake a spring clean especially before the Platinum Jubilee celebrations but should not just be around the Green but instead should also focus on south Medstead area, particularly the Lymington Bottom Road and Boyneswood Road

areas. The Great British Spring Clean survey would be completed by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to contact Four Marks PC to see if they had any plans to do a litter pick.

Clerk

- v. **Safety, Rural Speed Limit & Frontage Erosion.** Following correspondence from a resident, who is seeking Parish Council support for a speed limit reduction across Medstead. The Clerk has contacted HCC Cllr Kemp-Gee for his views and a response is awaited. It was further suggested that the local Speedwatch team undertook different 30mph routes in the area. Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith to seek views

Cllr. Mike
(Ja) Smith

22.028 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. The **income and expenditure account** for February 2022 was reviewed by Council and were approved.
- ii. The **bank reconciliation(s)** as at 28th February 2022 having been signed off by Cllr Phil Quinlan was reviewed by Council, proposed by Cllr Deborah Jackson and seconded by Cllr Clark and approved.
- iii. **Local Government 2021/22 Pay Award.** This was noted by Council with the Clerk's pay arrears being paid in March 2022.

Clerk

22.029 MEDSTEAD ALLOTMENTS MAINTENANCE

Shed Plinth Protection. Cllr Mike(Ja) Smith reported that the Allotment AGM is to be held on 12th March and it is hoped that three quotations will have been received for the wire to stop rodent access into the building. These will be passed on to the Clerk who will purchase the necessary items subject to Council approval of the costs. Four work days on the allotment are planned for early April.

Cllr Mike
(Ja) Smith

Rats are entering the building and the Clerk commented that the pest contract which the Council has may be able to cover this with traps being set. The Clerk would contact the company accordingly.

Clerk

22.030 S106/CIL FUNDED PROJECTS

- i. **Medstead Village Green.** Nick Cooper has previously given advice on the steps needed to reinstate the Green following the damage in Autumn 2018. He has been invited to attend the meeting of Maintenance Committee on 23rd March to recommend what further action should be taken to maintain the improved condition of the Green. His advice will be reported to Council at the 13th April meeting.
- ii. **Medstead Parish Office / Pavilion Expansion.** The planning application has been submitted to EHDC and is now being considered by EHDC as part of the due process.
- iii. **Footpath Link to Medstead School.** No further update at present.

22.031 MEDSTEAD VILLAGE PONDS

- i. **Five Ash Pond.** The planned dredging work has now been completed. Flooding has occurred following the recent heavy rain but exacerbated by a burst water main (which has now been mended) where the water was running into the Pond area. It was felt by Council that HCC should contribute to the dredging costs of the Pond given that the run off came mainly from the adjoining road network. The Clerk would contact HCC accordingly. In addition, the Clerk highlighted that there may be some S106 funds available for pond maintenance, which had been previously agreed by EHDC but not fully utilised.

Clerk

The Clerk had also been in contact with the Environment Agency (EA) who have commented that dredging of Five Ash Pond will increase its capacity to hold water. However, they have said that due to the nature of the underlying clay, it will retain water and surface water run-off from the farmland will increase the sediment load in the stored water. As a result, the pond may silt up relatively quickly and dredging should be factored into budget costs on a regular basis.

EA also commented that a borehole may not be the best alternative option due to the high sediment yield in the water as it is likely to clog up a soak-away borehole relatively quickly which is likely to render the borehole ineffective which will result in added costs being incurred in cleaning the borehole intermittently. It was felt that this may not be the best option therefore but all options would be considered further by Maintenance Committee at their next meeting.

**Maintenance
Committee**

- ii. **Medstead Village Pond.** The Working Group will convene on 12th March regarding the work required. Upon his next visit, the Parish Lengthsman will be asked to clear the ditches which allow water into the Pond area.

Clerk

22.032 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Medstead Sports Club Cllr Kercher reported that the Cricket Club has taken delivery of its new mobile practice net which will be used at the Junior Section coaching evenings on Fridays, and for senior practice sessions. A grant of £500.00 from the Wake Trust gave very welcome assistance in its purchase.

Medstead Village Hall.

No report as the next meeting of the Hall Committee had not taken place. Cllr Quinlan mentioned that there is a quiz night on 28th March at the Village Hall.

There were no further matters to discuss and the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Signed Chairman **Date.....**