



Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Wednesday 11th January 2023.

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

Also in attendance: Three members of the public & Peter Baston (Parish Clerk).

ACTION

23.001 OPEN SESSION

- i. One member of the public raised the possibility of rejuvenating the Village Green pond's appearance, to see if it could once again hold and retain water. With a group of volunteers, he proposed to formulate a plan of what is required and will then come back to the Parish Council to provide the groups ideas and potential cost of the work involved.
Cllr Quinlan asked about the insurance requirements and also the health and safety aspects. The Clerk advised that a risk assessment would be required before any work is commenced and the member of the public agreed that this would be undertaken to would be agreed by Council.
A report had been undertaken in the past advising on what work would be required and the Clerk would retrieve this and forward on to the member of the public
Clerk
- ii. It was reported that work continues at the plot of land known as "Greendrift" on Homestead Rd and there is much local concern of the intentions of the new owner.
- iii. Cllr Mike (Jo) Smith enquired about the festive lights on the Green and given that the existing lights keep tripping the fuse, it was agreed that the Clerk would source quotations for new lighting to be supplied and installed on a contract basis.
Clerk
- iv. Cllr Mike (Jo) Smith asked what actions are planned now that the badgers have returned to the Green. Cllr Kercher stated that whilst the Green is due for fertilisation and aeration in the spring, it appeared that further nematode implantation was required and through the Cricket Club, he would contact the Swansea University about a further supply to be implanted.
Cllr Kercher
- v. Cllr Bennell asked for a detailed explanation as to what the £232,760 related to in regard to the approved planning application at "*Land to the rear of Brackenbury Gardens and, Boyneswood Close, Medstead*". Cllr Clark stated Hampshire County Council currently holds Section 106 funds designated towards improvements in the Four Marks area, including the option of improvements to the A31/Boyneswood Road junction. Hampshire County Council's Transport Planning team are beginning to undertake a study to identify where these funds should be spent to provide improvements within Four Marks and Medstead, particularly focusing on the option of improved walking and cycle facilities. The funding for the delivery of these schemes will come from the existing Section 106 funds secured from recent developments in the area, along with the above £232,760 secured from the current Land East of Boyneswood Road planning application. It was agreed that a Freedom of Information (FOI) be submitted to EHDC requesting further details on the payment to be made.
Clerk

Chair Initial

- vi. Cllr Fuzzard reminded the Clerk about the tree on Knapp Lane which is overhanging and preventing access by high vehicles to the property on the Lane. The Clerk would contact a tree surgeon and arrange for the branch to be removed. **Clerk**
- vii. Cllr Fuzzard asked if the local directional finger post sign could be touched up with paint. The Clerk will ask the day work contractor to do the work. **Clerk**

23.002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Andrew Jackson & Deborah Jackson - Approved.

23.003 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

23.004 COUNCIL MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **14th December 2022** were proposed as a true record by Councillor Ken Kercher seconded by Councillor Mike (Jo) Smith and was signed by the Chairman.

ii. Matters Arising:

Minute #	Full Council Meeting Date	Action	Assigned to	Status	Comments
21.142 (iii)	Nov-21	All councillors to consider being a Trustee for the Mulcock Charity	All councillors	Outstanding	Cllr Deborah Jackson reminded Councillors to give further thought about becoming a Trustee.
22.116 (iii)	Sep-22	F&GP Committee to consider flag purchase	F&GP Committee	Outstanding	On next F&GP agenda
22.145 (i)		Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith to draft a response to EHDC regarding the sale small plots and the perceived unequal treatment between SDNP and non SDNP areas	Cllr Mike (Ja) Smith	Completed	To be sent to EHDC
22.145 (ii)	Dec-22	F&GP Committee to consider Coronation celebrations in 2023	F&GP Committee	Outstanding	On next F&GP agenda
22.149 (ii) a (iii)		Maintenance Committee to consider future use of Cemetery extension	Maintenance Committee	Outstanding	On next Mtce Committee agenda
22.149 (ii) a (iv)		Maintenance Committee to consider bulb planting to utilise the S106 funding available for the Wildlife Corridor at MVH	Maintenance Committee	Outstanding	
22.149 (iii) b		Clerk to process approved RDA Grant payment	Clerk	Completed	
22.149 (iii) c		Cllr Deborah Jackson to provide a draft for a leaflet in respect of the 2023 PC elections	Cllr Deborah Jackson	Outstanding	
22.149 (iii) d		Clerk to respond to FMPC regarding possible CIL fund release	Clerk	Completed	
22.151		Clerk to contact the Summer Fete and Summer Ball organisers to ensure a request to use the Green form is completed	Clerk	Completed	
22.153		F&GP Committee to further review the Communications & Social Media Policy	F&GP Committee	Outstanding	On next F&GP agenda
22.154		Clerk to contact FM News regarding articles etc	Clerk	Completed	
22.155 (i)		Full Council to approve November expenditure report	Full Council	Completed	
22.155 (ii)		Full Council to approve November bank reconciliation report	Full Council	Completed	

23.005 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

i. Planning Committee.

a. **Chairman's Report.**

Regrettably there is not much Christmas cheer in this report, and as for the New Year, well it's not look into too good on the local planning issues. On Friday 16th December I attended as an observer, the EHDC Planning Committee site visit to proposed development 25256/049, Land to the rear of Brackenbury Gdns and Boyneswood Close. Unfortunately the gates to the site were locked and the agent for the applicant did not know the combination to the padlock! By use of a nearby bottle crate those Councillors who wished could at least peer over the fence. Following this visit, I attended Penns Place on the evening of 21st December in respect of the EHDC Planning Committee meeting. I spoke for my allocated 3 minutes and then listened to the arguments for and against approval. The application was granted with a vote of I believe 5 to 4.

The reversal of previous objections by HCC Highways was certainly a blow and did not help our case. However, the main reason that the Planning

Chair Initial

Officer was obliged to recommend approval was the loss of the 5 Year Land Supply. This in effect brought into play the National Planning Policy Framework, which effectively overrides any others planning regulations, unless substantial harm would be caused by approval. This harm could not be proved. It was evident that a number of Councillors were unhappy in being backed into this situation, but the Planning Officer made it very plain that any appeal would be lost. This ruling will undoubtedly have a major effect within the EHDC area in respect of future planning applications.

You will have received the documents in respect of the response to EHDC in respect of Reg 18 and the Hierarchy issues from the Clerk, to be discussed and hopefully approved at the meeting of Full Council on 11th January.

Finally, there is also to be discussed, the issues at Stoney Lane. Again a matter for the 11th..

b. Enforcement Notice – Stoney Lane

- i. Cllr Clark would draft a response regarding this Appeal which would be circulated to Councillors for agreement.

Cllr Clark

ii. Maintenance Committee

- a. **Chairman's Report.** No meeting in December but report of some damage to out-field of cricket pitch.
- b. **Cllr Mike (Jo) Smith** outlined the detail regarding the running of a water pipe from the existing tap in the Cemetery to the rear boundary where an additional tap could be located. The Clerk reminded Council that a Diocese faculty may be required as the path would need to be disturbed to lay the new pipe and he would ask the Diocese for advice on this matter.

Clerk

iii. Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee

- a. **Chairmans Report.**
No meeting held since last full council. The next meeting will include consideration of the purchase of new flags for the village flagpole together with a further review of the Council's Communication and Social Media policy.

23.006 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Council's Christmas tree survived the mixed weather of December and is currently residing with myself until required again next year. Decorations and lights have been returned to the Pavilion store.

Recent news about the EHDC decision to permit further housing behind Brackenbury Gardens and Boyneswood Close was extremely disappointing, and as the Chair of Planning has already outlined to councillors, the removal of objections by HCC Highways was a major blow to our cause. I think that the split decision of the EHDC planning committee highlights the difficulty that some of these councillors' face and I fear that there will always be a consideration of any decision taken being overturned at appeal and the associated legal costs.

Chair Initial

As a reminder, this year is an election year and as agreed at our last meeting, I am preparing a leaflet publicising the work of Parish Councillors and hopefully encouraging others to stand for election. As there are likely to be vacancies, I would ask that other councillors spread the word and help demystify the role.

23.007 MEDSTEAD PARISH CLERK REPORT

Tree work is due to commence in week commencing 9th January 2023.

Following meeting with Consultant Ecologist regarding the positioning of the bat boxes in Medstead, these are due to be fitted imminently.

Liaised with EHDC, Hants FA & Hants Cricket regarding specification for the Pavilion. changing facilities when improvements are carried out.

Additional sign for play area ordered and to be installed shortly.

Submitted the 2023/24 precept requirement form to EHDC.

Cemetery Activity

Burial x 1

Transfer of Burial Rights x 1

Memorial x 1

Village Green Booking(s)

Medstead Village Fete 8th July 2023

Medstead Summer Ball June 2023

23.008 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

From Cllr Jonathan May:

I attended Planning Committee which was a very disappointing outcome to the planning application for the land to the rear of Thornybush Gardens which was approved at Planning Committee even though I and others gave a case for it to be refused, the only saving grace within the application being the 19 affordable homes which are being included as part of the development. Plus, due to highways U-turning on the decision on Boyneswood Road/A31 junction, there will now be over £200k available to the village for road improvements, to help make travelling to school safer for children. I also attended the tree planting at Chawton Woods copse, which was great to see being planted including the involvement from Chawton School children and the WI and Chawton House. I also attended the community building consultation which received some positive feedback from clubs hoping to use the facility.

The District Council local elections are only in a few short months away in May 2023, where you can select your 3 New Councillors to work on your behalf on local issues.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the representation for the ward with Ingrid Thomas and Diana Tennyson so thank you on behalf of the three of us for the opportunity to serve you. Stay safe
District Councillor Jonathan May.

23.009 CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III.

It was suggested that a large screen tv could be used to show the Coronation on the day where families could enjoy a picnic and relax watching the event. Some funds retained from the Platinum Jubilee celebrations which would be put towards the possible event. Cllr **Cllr Bennell** Bennell would ascertain the level of funds held by that Committee. Whilst there was a clashing cricket fixture on that day, it was felt that the football side of the Green could be used for the event.

23.010 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. The **income and expenditure account** for **November & December 2022** were reviewed by Council and approved.
- ii. The **bank reconciliation(s)** as at **30th November & 31st December 2022** having been checked by a non-signatory councillor were reviewed by Council and approved.
- iii. **2023/24 Precept.** A draft wording was approved by Council explaining the increase in the precept for the forthcoming financial year. This would be posted on to the Parish Council web site by the Clerk.

Clerk

23.011 S106/CIL FUNDED PROJECTS

- i. **Medstead Parish Office / Pavilion Expansion** Whilst the Council are awaiting details from the architects, the Clerk and those Councillors directly involved had a very useful Microsoft Teams meeting with EHDC Planning representatives and I am pleased to say that they have raised no objections to our plans and agreed that the finance is in place, subject to Building Regs and the tendering process.

With regard to the improvements to the changing rooms etc., they suggested that perhaps we might seek assistance from Hampshire Cricket and the Hampshire FA, so that what we had in mind would fall into line with what those organisations like to see. Two that end the Clerk has arranged a face get face meeting with representatives from the above organisations on Tuesday 21st February. Although I fully support this idea, I would not like to see any unnecessary delays to the timescale Council have in mind. We are after all, not building a new facility, merely upgrading and improving.

It was agreed that there would be a working group pre meeting which the Clerk was asked to set up.

Clerk /
Working
Group

- ii. **Play Area Resurfacing.** Nothing further to report
- iii. **Footpath Link to Medstead School.** No further update but Cllr Clark is attending an HCC meeting and would ask for a start date.
- iv. **Five Ash Pond.** Whilst the work has been completed, the contractor still has not submitted their invoice and as a result, the claim to HCC for S106 is still on hold until this is received.

Cllr Clark

23.012 MEDSTEAD VILLAGE PONDS

- i. **Five Ash Pond.** No further update.
- ii. **Medstead Village Pond.** An email had been received by the Clerk from a local resident who was concerned over the general appearance and lack of water in the Pond and has asked for the actions proposed by the Parish Council with timescales to refill the pond and bring it back into use as a vibrant, picturesque part of village life and the education of local children. See item 22.159 (i) above for the planned action going forward and the Clerk was asked to contact the sender of the email regarding the Pond.
- iii. **Soldridge Pond.** No further update.

Chair Initial

23.013 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- i. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Cllr. Charles Clark)**
On Friday 16th December Steering Group met to discuss the response required to the EHDC in respect of their Issues and Priorities document. Various items were talked through and it was agreed that the chairman, would take the lead on this with the help and input of the other members. This has culminated in the document recently sent to you by the Clerk and will be dealt with at Full Council on 11th January.
- ii. Medstead Sports Club. (Cllr. Kercher)**
No further update.
- iii. Speedwatch (Cllr. Mike (Jo) Smith)**
No further update.
- iv. Medstead Village Hall (MVH) Cllr Bennell** reported that a new Chair had been appointed for the Village Hall and that the Committee had been working on revisions to the lease. It was also reported that there was still a vacancy for the caretaker role.

There were no further matters to discuss and the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

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