



Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting – 12th March 2025, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Mike Smith (Chair), Mark Brayford, Ken Kercher, Frank Maloney, Phil Quinlan

Also in attendance: Julie Russell (Parish Clerk), EHDC Cllr Neal Day, 7 members of the public

	ACTION
<p>24.285 OPEN SESSION</p> <p>a. A representative from property development company Cavendish and Gloucester spoke about a proposed development for the seven-acre site at The Dell, Homestead Road.</p> <p>b. A resident raised a personal cemetery matter.</p> <p>c. A resident raised the issue of flooding and mud on the footpath adjacent to the village pond, and the council agreed to look into it.</p> <p>d. A resident raised a question regarding the percentage increase in the precept. Cllr Brayford outlined the main factors for the increase and stated that Medstead's precept is low compared to neighbouring councils. He indicated that this year's increase was expected to be exceptional.</p> <p>e. A resident raised points about the Northfield Stables planning application. In particular with regard to the fact the flooding issues appear resolved.</p>	
<p>24.286 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Councillors resolved to accept apologies of absence from Cllr Bennell, Cllr Hood, Cllr Hughes and Cllr Mitchell.</p>	
<p>24.287 DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>24.288 MEDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES</p> <p>Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 12th February 2025.</p>	
<p>24.289 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS</p> <p>a. PLANNING</p> <p>i. Chairman's report The chairman's report was circulated in advance and in appended to the minutes.</p> <p>ii. Late planning applications</p> <p>a. EHDC-25-0008-TPO, Little Copse, Medstead, GU34 5EF, Medstead, GU34 5PB Douglas Fir - Fell as overgrown - causing damage to neighbour's garage roof. Councillors agreed to defer this to the aboriculture officer.</p> <p>iii. Planning decisions Councillors reviewed and noted the five planning decisions in the last month (included in the Appendix). Of particular note was 25256/050 (Land to the rear of Brackenbury Gardens), which permitted an increase to 54 dwellings. MPC objected to this on grounds including traffic density and impact on the junction with the A31, but HCC Highways did not object. The council raised concerns that Highways do not appear to fully consider the cumulative effect of traffic from multiple new developments but look at each application individually.</p> <p>iv. Any other planning matters arising MPC discussed the appeal by Triple FFF against the rejection of its application for a lawful development certificate. This will be decided by EHDC using the fact-based,</p>	

<p>planning-related merits of the case so it is not appropriate for MPC to get involved. MPC will endeavour to support Triple FFF in their continued service to the public.</p> <p>b. MAINTENANCE</p> <p>i. Chairman's Report There was no meeting since the last full council and no chairman's report.</p> <p>c. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES</p> <p>i. Chairman's report There was no meeting since the last full council and no chairman's report.</p>	
<p>24.290 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT This was circulated in advance and is appended to the minutes.</p>	
<p>24.291 CLERK'S REPORT The clerk's report was circulated in advance and is appended to the minutes.</p>	
<p>24.292 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT The monthly report was circulated to councillors in advance and is appended to the minutes. The following additional points were made. EHDC is very busy with devolution due to the tight deadlines, and further information will be shared in due course. The DC grants have been doubled from £3.5k to £7k for 2025/26. The overall planning numbers for EHDC are 1142 per year for the next 4.5 years, but the distribution has yet to be finalised.</p>	
<p>24.293 FINANCIAL MATTERS</p> <p>a. Councillors resolved to approve the Income and Expenditure report for February 2025</p> <p>b. Councillors resolved to approve the Bank Reconciliations for February 2025, which had been checked and signed by Cllr Maloney.</p> <p>c. Councillors approved the council's payments for February / March since the last full council meeting.</p> <p>d. Councillors reviewed and noted spend against the budget to the end of February 2025 and the forecast for full year turnout. As discussed at previous budget reviews. some costs are higher for well-understood and agreed reasons (e.g. training, pension) and others are lower (e.g. open spaces etc), but overall the council is within budget.</p> <p>e. Any consideration of adjustments needed to 2025/26 budget allocations and earmarked reserves is premature before year end, and also not considered needed.</p> <p>f. Review of the fixed asset register was deferred to F&GP, as per committee ToR, to then be presented to full council in April.</p> <p>g. Councillors resolved to approve moving to direct debit for Scottish Power.</p> <p>h. Councillors resolved to approve £107 training expenditure for Cllr Hood for the 'Knowledge and Core Skills for Councillors' course.</p> <p>i. Councillors resolved to approve transfer of £20k (essentially from VAT income received) from the Nat West Business Reserve account to the current account to cover high expenditure at the end of Q4, including the Q4 mowing payment and Turnquay tranche 11 payment and other contractor payments.</p>	
<p>24.294 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Councillors agreed to defer the parish meeting from 9th April and set up a working group to consider the date and format of the annual parish meeting (Cllrs Bennell, Hughes, Brayford and Quinlan). It was agreed it will include a briefing on the precept (with content also to be put on the website), which will include a comparison of the precept with other parishes. Councillors proposed that it be held in the new pavilion. Other content is still to be agreed.</p>	
<p>24.295 VE DAY 80th COMMEMORATION It was proposed to have a picnic late afternoon / early evening on 5th May with a minute's silence at sunset. A name was suggested to Cllr Maloney for a bugler and the Scouts were</p>	

<p>suggested for a flag (with Cllr Hood as a possible link). Cllr Maloney offered a 1950's tablecloth-sized union flag. There was much discussion but plans are still be detailed and finalised.</p>	
<p>24.296 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP Given Cllr Hood s absence, as well as three other councillors, this will be deferred until the next full council meeting.</p>	
<p>24.297 SPORTS PAVILION AND PARISH OFFICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Councillors resolved to approve payment to Turnquay, as per their updated Invoice 11. b. Councillors resolved to approve payment of the architect's final invoice. c. The following updates on the pavilions were received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The shower repair was delayed because the plumber was ill, but is rescheduled for 25th March. He is replacing the thermostatic mixing heads and isolation valves, but the shower heads are not being replaced, as it is believed they will work fine with a higher-pressure system. ii. The electrical work is due to be done on 19th March iii. The carpet fitting on the parish office side will be completed by the end of March and the deposit has been paid. The sports pavilion side will be fitted in a second stage. iv. It has been hard to compare tariffs due to lack of information over the performance of the solar panels, but the clerk will complete a tariff comparison assuming no connection of the solar panels to the grid. v. (and vi and vii) Councillors reviewed three quotes for work to remove the bank of earth, dig a French drain and fit gutting to the shed, and resolved that the cheapest quote would be selected as the best option. Work will commence mid-April. viii. Cllr Kercher asked that the Sports Club water supply be moved to MPC, with the clerk to action it. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
<p>24.298 OPEN SPACES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Councillors deferred discussion on dragon's teeth to the Maintenance Committee meeting. b. Councillors approved expenditure for the village green aeration and fertilisation work, and as it was simply a deferral of work already agreed and for which grant money had been obtained, the contractor has already been scheduled, to take advantage of optimum soil conditions. 	
<p>24.299 MEDSTEAD PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There are no new updates on Five Ash Pond. The council has received an acknowledgement of its letter sent to HCC but no reply yet. b. The soakaway at the village pond appears to not be working properly. Cllr Brayford will send a letter to HCC with photos, and the clerk will contact the pond maintenance rep for any helpful information. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Brayford /Clerk</p>
<p>24.300 CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The council has been asked permission by the HCC Travel Planner to put 'Park and Stride' notices on the village green. The council resolved to agree this, but given the immediate proximity of the village hall and village green to the school, will question whether this is a good use of HCC money when writing back. b. The School Leavers picnic is agreed, there will be no charge as it is a community event, and the clerk will advise the school of the need for insurance and adequate supervision for the bouncy castle. c. The council is happy for Manor Colts U15 to use the football pitch again. They are not interested in also using the sports pavilion as it is just training sessions. d. Correspondence on HCC Community Rangers was noted. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>

<p>24.260 FOUR MARKS AND MEDSTEAD HIGHWAYS PRIORITIES Councillors received a short debriefing on this meeting. The footpath work by the school scheduled for Easter has been put on hold as HCC did not budget for a soakaway. The flooding at Lymington Bottom Road was flagged by attending councillors as a hazard.</p>	
<p>24.261 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>a. Speedwatch Cllr Smith questioned whether it is worth paying to renew licences for the Speedwatch cameras, as the resolution of the cameras is not good enough and there is a large amount of work involved processing data in relation to the outcomes achieved. He will go back to the supplier to see if resolution can be improved and the matter will be considered at the next council meeting.</p> <p>b. Village Hall Nothing to report.</p> <p>c. East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils (EHAPTC) Nothing to report.</p> <p>d. Medstead Sports Club The MSC chairman will resign in April. The club needs to sign a copy of the licence agreement.</p> <p>e. Medstead & Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group There were 201 responses to the recent consultation. We are about to get the first invoice from the consultant, to be split with Four Marks. We may need to return some unspent money in the grant up to the end of March. Our grant application for detailed technical support on the design code has been declined, and the Locality grant application window opens again in September.</p>	<p>Cllr Smith</p>
<p>24.261 NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on 9th April.</p>	

There were no further matters to discuss and the meeting was closed at 9.31pm.

Signed Chairman

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