



Medstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting –22nd April 2025, 5:00pm

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

Also in attendance: Julie Russell (Parish Clerk)

	ACTION
25.024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Councillors noted the situation in Jenny Green Lane and the response by EHDC. A Stop Notice is imminent later the same day or tomorrow. The land has allegedly been sold and the persons concerned are claiming ownership.b. Cllr Smith noted that the French drain had been installed, but he had needed to retrospectively remove some earth as it was too high and above the level of the shed base and also should not have been there. He has plugged a gap in the top of the shed with mesh. The fete committee expect to move their stuff within a couple of weeks and are going to place their brackets on the brick wall.c. The Sports Club container is empty and ready to be removed.d. Cllr Smith has proposed to replace the broken drain cover at a cost of £60 and councillors agreed.	
25.025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE <p>Gordon Mitchell was absent</p>	
25.026 DECLARATION OF INTEREST <p>Cllr Kercher declared an interest in agenda item 4.</p>	
Cllr kercher left the room for the agenda item 25.027 REQUEST FOR A JUDICIAL REVIEW FOR PLANNING APPLICATION 55318/001 – LAND WEST OF BEECHLANDS <p>The Planning Consultant has completed his report, which has been circulated to Councillors. He concludes that we have no legal case for a judicial review. The Barrister has not yet considered the documents as he was waiting for the Planning Decision Notice. This has not been issued yet and could still take a few weeks whilst the legal agreement over developer contributions is completed by EHDC.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the consultant's report seemed thorough and conclusive and therefore resolved that the council takes no further action on this matter. It was agreed that there was no benefit in waiting for the Barrister to look at this case, given what we now know and the delays in waiting for the decision notice.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the Planning Consultant is happy for his report to be published on our Parish Council website and the councillors gave their agreement to this.</p>	
25.028 2024/2025 AUDIT <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Councillors noted changes in audit requirements for an intermediate-sized council, as circulated in advance by the Clerk.b. Councillors considered and completed the Annual Governance Review for 2024/25	
25.029 FINANCIAL MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Councillors approved the Income and Expenditure report for March 2025b. Councillors approved the council's payments for March / April since the last full council meeting	

<p>c. Council received and noted the year end summary of spend against the budget</p> <p>d. EHDC has agreed that the council can use the remaining funds on Project 271 (Medstead Village Green Wildlife Corridor) to pay for the landscaping work behind the pavilion. Councillors resolved that they are happy to fund the work in this way. It was agreed that the area behind the pavilion will be levelled, top soil added and seeded with grass seed. It was considered that turf would be more costly and would need considerable watering in if weather turned hot and the proposal for a wildflower area would be too much maintenance.</p>	
<p>25.030 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY</p> <p>Council agreed to keep council meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, and therefore the APA will be on 21st May. Cllr Hughes will include the date for the APA in the What's On posters.</p> <p>The Clerk will aim to get bank reconciliations out as quickly as possible, although they will still mostly need to go out after the initial set of papers. Councillors will reconsider at a later stage whether we can make this work, or whether we need to have the bank reconciliations a month in arrears or whether we need to reconsider changing the date of council meetings by a week. Councillors agreed that they are happy if we have the reports a month in arrears as it is allowed by our Financial Regulations.</p> <p>Cllr Maloney suggested an award for people who have done worthy things in the village, and councillors suggested this be considered the following year as it is too late for this year, and there would be also be issues to be considered.</p> <p>The APA will include a review of the year with what has gone well / not so well and cover what is coming in the next year and will answer questions over the precept, planning and the pavilion.</p>	
<p>25.031 VE DAY 80th COMMEMORATION</p> <p>The Village Hall Committee has decided to do a VE Day picnic 1-5pm on the village green, or in the hall if weather is not good. Councillors decided their proposals for a last post and flag ceremony should tie in with that. Cllr Maloney is going to check if the bugler can do the last post at 5pm instead of 6pm. There has been no response from the Scouts so far, and so we must assume they are not part of the plans. The council agreed to make £100 available for this event.</p>	
<p>25.032 NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 14th May.</p>	

There were no further matters to discuss and the meeting was closed at 6pm.

Signed Chairman

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