

## MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2010

### **Who and what is the Parish Council?**

The Parish Council has 9 Councillors who serve for terms of 4 years and represent an electorate of 1277.

The Council meets on the first Thursday of each month (except August) in the Green Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm The agenda is displayed on the Parish notice board at Bell Close and on the website: [www.meldreth-pc.org.uk](http://www.meldreth-pc.org.uk). Additional Planning Committee meetings are held as required.

The Parish Council has representatives on other bodies outside the Parish Council and Councillors attend meetings on the Council's behalf. Each member of the Council either serves on a Committee or Working Group or has an area of responsibility.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

All meetings of the Parish Council and its Planning Committee are open to the public and residents may speak to the Council. During the main meeting however members of the public may listen to but not take part in the discussion of the Council's business. Planning Committee meetings are held at 6.30pm or at 7.00pm prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Anyone wishing to raise a matter for consideration by the Council should write to the Clerk. Any letter received by the day before a Parish Council meeting will be reported at that meeting. If information is readily available, the Council may decide on action right away. If not, then the item will be dealt with at the next meeting.

### **Parish Office:**

Meldreth Community Room, Elin Way.

Normal opening hours (subject to holidays etc) Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to midday. Please call to check availability at other times.

t. 01763 269928

e.parishclerk@meldreth-pc.org.uk

[www.meldreth-pc.org.uk](http://www.meldreth-pc.org.uk)

### **What does the Parish Council do?**

The Council has many powers to act and spend money for the benefit of its Parish. Some of these require the support of the District or County to facilitate them - and all are subject to normal procedures of planning and proper use of public funds.

### **What do elected representatives do for me?**

Parish Councillors represent the people living in their local area at the closest level to the community. When issues are being considered, they are there to put your views across.

### **What issues can the Parish Council discuss?**

It may discuss anything that affects all or part of the community, directly or indirectly. As the democratic representative body for the parish, it may influence decisions made by others too.

### **How do I get the Parish Council to do something for me?**

If you are passionate about something which will benefit the local community then the best person to lead that idea to fruition will probably be you. If the Parish Council believes that your idea will benefit a significant number of residents without disadvantaging a significant number of others, then they will support you and help find necessary resources. Like the

important work done by many other people in our community, Meldreth Parish Council consists of volunteers who receive no financial reward for their time or effort.

To introduce a problem or idea to the Council you can ask one of the Councillors to put forward your views or come along and talk during the open session held at the start of every Parish Council meeting. You will find that you are more likely to get help or support if you present your ideas constructively. It is then best to proceed by writing a letter to the Parish Clerk summarising your topic of interest, views and any suggestions you may have, and ask that this item be included on the next agenda. By introducing the topic and your ideas at the previous meeting in this way, the Councillors will, hopefully, have time to think about the situation, perhaps visit the site and gather any information they may need to understand the pros and cons of the idea. Any topic to be discussed must be on the agenda and any motion passed must be agreed to by the majority of Councillors. If the Councillors believe that more information is needed, then this may delay any decision until another meeting.

Large expenditures, unless emergencies, must be precepted (budgeted) for. This means that to spend public money on significant projects, expenditure must be agreed by the Parish Council before the end of the preceding financial year. The money the Parish Council spends comes from Meldreth residents from your Council Tax. For example, when repairs are needed on play equipment etc., due to vandalism, then that money comes out of all the pockets of Meldreth residents who pay Council Tax. Funding and grants for new projects can also be sought from a number of funding bodies.

### **Report from the Chairman of Meldreth Parish Council - Mr C A Land**

#### **Attendance at meetings: out of 11**

Mr C A Land (11), Mr G Borgonon (10), Mr J Chamberlain (10), Mrs J Fallon (10), Mr S Hawkins (10), Mr P Ray (10), Mrs J Montague-Fuller (8), Mr R Searles (8), Mr A Burlton (7).

#### **Planning:**

There were 28 planning applications during the year. The Parish Council recommended approval of 20, with No Recommendations for 8 and there were no recommendations for refusal.

#### **Village Precept:**

There has been an increase of £1,660. This represents only a 2.7% increase from last year for the average Band D property and only 1% more than 2 years ago. This has been kept as low as possible but the Parish is having to pay for items normally covered by SCDC and CCC and costs are increasing.

#### **Railway Station:**

Parking has become a problem following the introduction of parking charges by First Capital Connects (FCC). At the moment there are people parking on the High Street and sooner or later there will be an accident. There has been a new Rail User Group set up recently who may be able to add extra weight to efforts to resolve this issue with FCC. Efforts to get disabled access to trains heading to Cambridge have finally paid off as there is now provision for wheelchair access to trains, however for trains to Royston and London this still causes problems. The idea to change the name of the station back to Meldreth & Melbourn was not agreed.

#### **Speedwatch:**

Speed checks are carried out on a regular basis by the Speedwatch team throughout the village and is slowing traffic. However, there is still a need for more volunteers, so that more areas can be covered and more frequently.

#### **Affordable Housing:**

Cambridgeshire ACRE carried out a survey on the need for affordable housing in the village. There was only 28% response to the questionnaire and the Parish Council was not convinced that there was a proven need for further affordable housing for Meldreth

residents.

**Planning Matters:**

For several years SCDC have been conducting a consultation on where to put additional pitches to meet Gypsy and Travellers' housing needs. The closed travellers' site on Mettle Hill was evaluated against various criteria (closeness to schools, public transport, doctors etc.) and rejected and no sites in Meldreth were proposed. Following publication of proposed sites, further sites in South Cambridgeshire were proposed and are being evaluated against the same criteria. Again none of these sites were in Meldreth.

**School Crossing:**

There has been concern raised for children crossing the road near the school with the speed of some of the traffic along the High Street and cars are not always being parked appropriately. Requests for a crossing patrol were not successful.

**Pavilion:**

The pavilion, which is mainly used by the Football Club, is undergoing some changes. A changed internal layout and much needed work is required in order to make a better facility for all users but this will not happen without support from the users.

**Bus Stop:**

Due to improper parking along the High Street, near the railway station entrance, it has been necessary to implement bus stop markings to ensure that buses are able to have a safe place to stop. A new bus stop sign will also be erected. This is something which the village may have to pay for.

**Twinning:**

A town in France 'La Roche-chalais' has shown an interest in twinning with Meldreth. The school is keen on the idea and are taking their own steps towards this. Some residents have also shown an interest in the idea. It is hoped that interested residents will be able to start a group to carry this forward.

**Yellow Lines at Melbourn & Meldreth:**

As a result of the parking in Station Road, Melbourn it has been decided to extend existing yellow lines towards the bypass and away from the junction towards the bridge over Station Road.

Once again it has been a year full of business for the Council, I would like to thank on behalf of the village all members of the council for the work they have done on the various sub committees throughout the year.

**Matter raised by parishioners at the Annual Meeting 2010:**

**Land on Mettle Hill:**

The question of what is to happen to the old gypsy site land situated on Mettle Hill was raised. SCDC are presently in consultation for new gypsy sites and traveller sites to meet proven needs, but the closed Mettle Hill site does not meet the criteria and is not being considered as a site in these consultations. The land is presently under the ownership of CCC who is not looking at selling at the moment. The land is likely to be priced for industrial or business use but planning permission for change of use would be difficult to obtain. Allotments were mentioned, but as the price for the land is very high it is not an option that the Parish Council can consider at present.

**Meldreth Primary School:**

Congratulations was also expressed for Meldreth Primary School as it reaches its Centenary this year, and to a very well organised display which was held in celebration of the event and it was suggested that the Parish Council write to congratulate the school.

**Telephone Box:**

The Parish Council had originally proposed that the telephone box would not be adopted as there had been little support from the village, however since then there has been some support and ideas have been put forward. These are presently being looked into with British

Telecom.

**Clerk to Meldreth Parish Council - Judy Damant**

The accounts for 08-09 have been audited satisfactorily by both internal and external auditors. The draft accounts for 09-10 will soon be available for inspection, showing a breakdown of expenditure and income. (The figures below have not yet been audited). It is recommended that general reserves should allow the Council to operate for a year without any income.

**SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2010**

Year ending 31st March 2009		Year ending 31st March 2010
£	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	£
36750	Precept	36750
910	Burials & Memorials	785
1240	Grants & Donations	1069
1062	Office	933
0	CAP	8
540	Bank Interest	25
0	Misc	35
723	CWC sewage repayment	0
<u>215</u>	Mary Course Memorial Fund	<u>0</u>
3055	VAT repayment	0
<b>44495</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>39605</b>
	VAT repayment still to be received	359
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
17550	Gen Admin, insurances, staff	16725
3615	Donations S137	2443
10818	Village Maintenance	8695
1719	Churchyard	0
12644	Recreation/Pavilion	2522
1421	Burial Ground	1471
185	Parish Paths Partnership	173
<b>47952</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>32029</b>
	<b>MARY COURSE MEMORIAL FUND</b>	
60	Donation to school	
1565	Transferred to Community account	
	<b>Community Account</b>	
	Transfer to Fixed Rate Account	1400
	Interest	6
	Donation to school	60
	Tax	<u>1</u>
	Balance	110
	<b>Fixed Rate Account</b>	

Deposit	1400
Interest	82
Tax	<u>16</u>
Balance	1466
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>1576</b>

Balance as at 1st April 2009	39436
Add receipts	<u>39605</u>
	79041
Less payments	<u>32030</u>
	<b>47011</b>

<b>Current account</b>	<b>3280</b>
<b>Deposit account</b>	<b>43731 = 47011</b>

For reports from the following organisations please contact the Clerk or the organisation directly:

Melbourn Local Access Point, Football Club, Mobile Warden Scheme, Village Association, Melwood Conservation, Community Access Point, Good Companions, Self Help Group, Tree Warden, Parish Paths Partnership, Royston & District Community Transport (RDCT), River Mel Restoration Group (RMRG)