

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held **Thursday 5th January 2006** at 7.30 p.m. in Meldreth Village Hall

Present: Mr A. Land (Chairman)
Mr G.V. Borgonon
Mr S.W.J. Chamberlain
Mrs M.P. Course
Mr R. Elbourn
Mrs J. Fallon
Mr J. Hanson
Mrs D. Jones-Barrie
Mr R.A. Searles

Dr S. van de Ven (Councillor, South Cambridgeshire District Council [S.C.D.C.])
Mr D. McCraith (Councillor, Cambridgeshire County Council [C.C.C.])

The Chairman began the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for absence:

All were present.

2. To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 1st December 2005.

Insert for Meldreth Matters. For future editions, the word 'Report' to be substituted for 'Extract of Parish Council Meeting held on general items of interest'. All were in agreement. **Clerk**

It was agreed that a copy of the Parish Council Minutes to be placed on the website and P.C. Noticeboard. This will not include employees' salaries. **Clerk**

Mr Diamond had asked Mr Hanson, with a copy of his request to the Clerk, to raise an issue relating to the December 2005 Minutes, Item 3 'that Mr Diamond would like the comments made by him to be more informative'.

Mrs Jones-Barrie: at the last meeting the Chairman suggested to Mr Diamond that he should endeavour to reach a mutual understanding with the Flambards Residents Association.

All Council members were of the opinion that the Minutes of December 2005, Item 3, relating to comments made by Mr Diamond, should remain unamended as they represented the Chairman's statement accurately.

Mr Davey, reference the Jephson housing proposal - amendment in bold type to read – 'Mr Davey: against the proposal and it is not what the village needs **at the moment. If low cost housing proves to be successful for the residents of Meldreth the Jephson proposal should be looked at again**'.

All Council members were in agreement with this amendment.

Councillor Liz Hezell: letter of apology for her error in missing the last meeting.

The Minutes were then signed as a true record. Proposed Mrs Course, seconded Mr Searles.

3. Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council

4 members were present.

Mr R. Davey:

- (i) would like it known that the temporary signs advertising the butchers shop at Christmas were authorised by the Highways Department, C.C.C.
- (ii) that traffic calming along Whitecroft Road takes place sooner rather than later.

Mr Goddin: said he was present for Item 7.5. On behalf of the Croquet Club Mr Goddin thanked the Landlord of The British Queen for all help and support given over the years and the excellent relationship the Club had with the Pub.

4. Members' declaration of interest for items on the agenda that may cause a conflict of interest

There were no declarations.

Report from District Councillor

Central Government is providing grants for refurbishment of existing Traveller sites and the provision of new ones run by councils or housing associations. S.C.D.C. is likely to make a provisional bid for two small sites of 8-10 pitches at Northstowe and possibly another site elsewhere in the district (still to be identified). No application is being made for

funding to refurbish the County Council site at Meldreth.

The District Councillor's view is that concentration of sites in South Cambridgeshire needs to be rejected at every level. This is a fluid and on-going issue and anyone interested can view minutes of the Council's Cabinet and Development and Conservation Control Committee on the Council website.

Biddall landscaping: the time for compliance has expired. The Legal Department at S.C.D.C. is aware.

Whaddon Road: a full planning application of 13 rental units and 11 shared ownerships has been submitted. The contact person is Christine Adlam, Development Officer, S.C.D.C. Mr Dean O'Regan, Flagship Housing Association to attend a special planning meeting on 18th January to discuss the application with the Planning Committee of the Parish Council.

Steel runner - Meldreth Station – awaiting news from Mr Patrick Joyce, Cycling Officer, C.C.C.

Mr Cameron Adams, S.C.D.C. Strategic Development Officer, will explain S.C.D.C.'s Climate Change Plan, together with useful information for householders. Dr van de Ven will arrange a joint meeting with Shepreth Parish Council, to take place in the Spring. **S.V.de.V**

Abandoned caravans, Mettle Hill, on the Kneesworth side of the Showmen's site. Legal Notice has been served and they will have to be removed by the end of March.

5. Report from County Councillor

Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme – 2006/2007 Bidding Round: Area Transport Committee has dismissed, on financial grounds, the Meldreth and Shepreth application for a footpath.

Council Tax: A consultation document will shortly be circulated. Mr McCraith recommends to taxpayers that they identify the 5% option.

Mr McCraith requested that future Agendas do not include a 'Report from County Councillor'. Instead Mr McCraith will comment on items during the course of a meeting. The Chairman agreed to this. **Clerk**

7. Agenda items

7.1 Proposed CEMEX development, Barrington

Mr Land reported on the recent meeting of the factory development plans which is to oppose most strongly the visual impact as well as the inevitable increase in road and rail traffic. As already stated in the December 2005 Minutes, Item 6.1, it is thought that only those living in North End would be affected by the visual impact. Mr McCraith had mentioned at the previous meeting that Meldreth might be affected by fluctuating water tables if the CEMEX development was approved.

7.2 Flambards Land

Mr Borgonon outlined the latest situation. Mr Cooper, Highway Supervisor, C.C.C. has confirmed that hard standings opposite house Nos. 38 and 44 Flambards Close appear to form part of the public highway and will thus be maintained at public expense.

The Clerk was asked to convene an urgent meeting with Flambards Residents Association Committee and the Parish Council. **Clerk**

7.3 Mettle Hill (update)

Mr Searles reported on a positive meeting which had taken place between Mr Alan Davison, Head of Facilities Management, C.C.C., Mr N. Davis of Gocold and himself. Mr Davison is pursuing the matter vigorously with C.C.C. but for commercial and politically sensitive reasons Mr Searles was not able to comment further. Mr Searles will monitor and report back in due course. **R.A.S.**

7.4 Footway Lighting

Due to Council Tax Capping S.C.D.C. will not pay for power and footway lighting in 2006/07. The cost, if taken over by the Parish Council, is £1,400 per annum. The following is a brief resumé issued by S.C.D.C.:

Q -What is footway lighting?

A - Footway lighting, which may be a single light or a system of lights, is lighting installed, mainly in rural areas, to assist pedestrian movement at night.

Q - How is a footway light different from street lighting?

A - Street lighting is a system of lights installed to assist the movement of road traffic and reduce night time road traffic accidents. If they are adopted by the Highways Authority, i.e. C.C.C. they are then maintained by them.

Q - How can you tell the difference between footway lights and street lights?

A - All 'footway lights' on the S.C.D.C. inventory have a plastic plate fixed to them displaying a unique number prefixed by 'SC'. 'Streetlights' that have been adopted by C.C.C. have a plastic plate fixed to them displaying a unique number prefixed by C.C.C.

Q - Does S.C.D.C. have a statutory duty to provide or maintain footway lights?

A - No. Although S.C.D.C. and Parish Councils are both lighting authorities, which means that they can both provide and maintain footway lights. There is no statutory duty on either of them to do so.

Q - Can S.C.D.C. stop the current arrangements for maintaining footway lights?

A - Yes. As a lighting authority S.C.D.C. can stop the current arrangements for maintaining footway lights and may even remove them. Parish Council's as lighting authorities, can choose to take over maintenance if they wish.

Q - Will C.C.C. be obliged to maintain them if the Parish Council chooses not to?

A - No. However, C.C.C. may consider adopting footway lights that meet their adoption criteria for street lighting.

Q - What happens if none of the footway lights meet the C.C.C. criteria and/or cannot be adopted by C.C.C.?

A - Parishes can enter into an individual agreement with C.C.C. for maintenance and/or power. This is exactly the same arrangement as S.C.D.C. currently has with C.C.C. The lights will then be maintained under C.C.C.'s street light contract but funded by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council awaits further advice from The Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils [C.A.L.C.] on this matter. *Agenda item for February meeting.*

7.5 Croquet Club – donation request

Proposed Mr Searles, seconded Mr Borgonon that the Parish Council make a donation of £150.00 to the Club. All were in agreement. **Clerk**

7.6 Precept – 2006/2007 – final review

At the December 2005 meeting the Parish Council had hoped to reduce the precept request for the year 2006/07. Unfortunately this will not now be possible in view of cost cutting imposed by Central Government to C.C.C. and S.C.D.C. resulting in a shortfall in grant for grass cutting and street lighting that will be levied on the Parish Council. With these constraints the Parish Council reluctantly agreed to apply for the same amount of precept as last year, i.e. £35,000. Proposed Mr Searles, seconded Mr Hanson. **Clerk**

7.7 Parish Plan Implementation Team (P.P.I.T.) - update

An Open Day has been arranged for Sunday 9th April and an Action Plan is now displayed on the website. Mr Borgonon reported on the following:

Mr Mike Crome from Meldreth Manor School has joined the Team.
13 volunteers have shown interest in the Pavement Warden Scheme
14 volunteers have been recruited for the social car service
A report has been prepared for refurbishment of the Pavilion
A letter of concern has been sent to the Police referring to the recent increase in postal raids.
Post Office furniture has been painted

The next meeting will take place on 15th February.

7.8 Parish Paths Partnership (P.P.P.) – update

With surveys now complete, Mr Chamberlain is preparing a request for grant funding from C.C.C. for the new financial year.

It was reported that Mr Graham Ward would be willing to arrange an organised walk around the village.

7.9 Community Access Point (C.A.P.) – update

Additional volunteers have joined and this will enable a Monday night 'drop in' session which will now include 5 sessions a week.

7.10 Community Facilities Building - update

Mr Searles, standing in for Mr Borgonon, Mr R. Comben, a C.A.P. volunteer and the Clerk had met with Mr Steve Annetts, S.C.D.C. (successor to Mr M. Sugden). The Parish Office has been resited to the rear of the building and power and telephone points have not been installed in the best position for the C.A.P.

Mr Borgonon, Mr Comben and the Clerk to meet with Mr Annetts on Friday 6th January for a further update.

7.11 Cemetery Matters

Mr Land gave an update which he is pursuing and this may include Councillors carrying out some of the work.

A.L.

8. Planning

Request for the following:

Extensions

Ref: S/2224/05/F

17 High Street
Mr & Mrs Remnant
Planning Minutes: 15.12.2005

Extension
21 Flambards Close
Mr T. Sell
Planning Minutes: 05.01.2006

Ref: S/2326/05/F

24 affordable dwellings
Land off Whaddon Road (Adj. West Way)
Flagship Housing Group
Planning Minutes: 05.01.2006

Ref: S/2365/05/F

Internal and External Alterations
The Old Bell
51 High Street
Mr & Mrs Jeffreys
Planning Minutes: 05.01.2006

Ref: S/2403/05/LB

The following have been approved by S.C.D.C.:

Certificate of Lawful Existing use or Development
Melda Farm
Bury Lane
Planning Minutes: 15.12.2005

Ref: S/1243/05/LDC

Carport
37 Whitecroft Road
(for Mr & Mrs Farmer)
Planning Minutes: 15.12.2005

Ref: S/1961/05/F

9. Correspondence

Parish Paths Partnership (November 2005 – update) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (grass cutting – reduction in grant) ✓ (C)
The Wildlife Trust (Shepreth L-Moor, acknowledgement of £300 donation) ✓ (C)
Melbourn, Meldreth and District Royal British Legion (acknowledgement of donation) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (grass cutting contracts) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (Parish Paths Partnership grant application 2006/07) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (Public Rights of Way) ✓ (C)
Parish Paths Partnership (News Bulletin 2005) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (changes to bus services) ✓ (C)
Meldreth Primary School (letter of thanks for donation of £300) ✓ (C)
East Anglian Air Ambulance (letter of thanks for donation of £100) ✓ (C)
The Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service (letter of thanks for donation of £25) ✓ (C)
Cambridgeshire Acre Community Action Magazine (Winter 2005) ✓ (C)
S.C.D.C. (Parish Precept 2006/2007) ✓ (C)
Holy Trinity Church (participation at Christmas Tree Festival – letter of thanks) ✓ (C)
The Bulletin (Edition 5, December 2005) ✓ (C)
MAGPAS (letter of thanks for donation of £75.00) ✓ (C)
O.D.P.M. (Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future) ✓ (C)
S.C.D.C. (street naming – 24 dwellings, Whaddon Road) ✓ (C)
Campaign to Protect Rural England (Workshop) ✓ (C)
Cambridgeshire Police Authority (Financial Year Budget 2006/07) ✓ (C)
S.C.D.C. (Local Development Framework – Public Consultation) ✓ (C) **to be returned to Clerk by 10th February**
Mr R. Diamond (Flambards Residents Association) x 3 ✓ (C) – **Clerk has acknowledged**
Flambards Residents Association (insurance details for Amenity Land, owned by M.P.C., managed by F.R.A.)

10. Bills and Payments

Payable	Cheque No.	Net £	V.A.T. £	Total £	Details	Power
C.A.L.C.	001342			13.00	Local Council Review subscription	LGA 1972 s. 143
P.J. Robinson	001343	140.00	24.50	164.50	Pavilion: electrical work	LGA 1972 s. 133
John Cobb & Sons Ltd.	001344	543.00	95.03	638.03	Village Hall Car Park: surface repairs	+Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 S.57 a &

						b
Mr G.B. Goodwin	001345			446.67	Grass Cutting	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10
Mr H. Foggo	001346			233.82	Litter Collector	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mrs P.G. Penfold	001347			470.61	Clerk's net salary	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mrs P.G. Penfold	001348	70.63	5.26	75.89	Clerk's expenses	LGA 1972 s. 112
Inland Revenue	001349			54.03	Clerk's NIC/Tax+Littercollector's Tax	LGA 1972 s. 112
Laserprint Solutions Ltd.	001350	49.90	8.73	58.63	Photocopier cartridge	LGA 1972 s. 112
D.J. Thomas	001351			40.00	Recreation Ground: clearing fallen trees	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10

+Minutes, 6th October 2005, Item 10

The above payments were agreed. Proposed Mrs Course, seconded Mr Chamberlain.

10a. Section 137 Payments

There were no payments.

Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for next meeting, 2nd February 2006 in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall.

Parish Council noticeboard. Sadolin to be applied. Mrs Course to action.

Pavilion door and window grill – vandalism. Mr McCraith said these crimes must be reported. Mr McCraith emphasised the need to report crimes to the police on 0845 456 4564 or call Mr McCraith.

Mr Land to action.

A.L.

Hedging for play area. Youth Club members to be asked to assist with planting. Mr Hanson to action.

Memorial tree for Mick Reid: Mr Elbourn has planted a Silver Birch.

West Way and College Farm: potholes. Clerk to report.

Clerk

Stone Lane: highway is in poor state. Clerk to report.

Clerk

Neighbourhood Watch: Adrian Stephens, Beat Manager will speak at the NHW meeting on 22nd February and

Councillors are invited to this meeting.

G.V.B., M.P.C., J.C., R.E., J.F., J.H., D.J-B., A.L.,

R.A.S.

No. 1 Flambards Close – Clerk to contact David Lines regarding the two lamp posts which can be hazardous.

Clerk

Future Agenda items to date:

Proposed CEMEX Development, Barrington - update

Flambards Land - update

Footway Lighting

Mettle Hill – update

S.C.D.C. (Local Development Framework – Public Consultation)

Parish Paths Partnership - update

P.P.I.T. - update

Community Access Point - update

Community Facilities Building - update

Cemetery Matters

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.