

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held **Thursday 2nd February 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
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, Councillors and Clerk were very sad to hear of the recent death of Mrs Pat Elbourn who had served the village over many years both as a Parish Councillor, a member of the Meldreth Self Help Group, the Triggs Trust and the Village Hall Committee. Meldreth will miss her.

1. Apologies for absence:

Mr J. Hanson

2. To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5th January 2006.

Item 7.8 Parish Path Partnership (P.P.P.) amendment in bold type to read: With surveys now **being** completed, Mr Chamberlain is preparing

Item 6 Report from County Councillor, reference Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme – 2006/2007 Bidding Round. Addition in bold type to read: **Mr McCraith said the A10 assessment had to be carried out as instructed by C.C.C. It is proposed to alter the criteria for these assessments to encourage parents of those children who attend Melbourn Village College to ask for 'free to schools transport' where another assessment is carried out and considered by a panel of 3 who decide whether it is safe and viable. Mr McCraith urged the Parish Council to pursue this with Meldreth Primary School and Melbourn Village College.**

Clerk

Alex Fox: reference her letter to the Chairman. Mr Land said he would respond as soon as possible. **A.L.**

Mr Parker: said he had resigned from Flambards Residents Association. Mr Parker enquired as to the ownership of land opposite Nos. 38 and 44 Flambards Close. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council is currently in discussion with Mr M. Cooper, Highway Supervisor on this matter. **G.V.B.**

3. The Minutes were then signed as a true record. Proposed Mrs Fallon, seconded Mr Chamberlain.

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

7 members were present.

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

There were no declarations.

6. Report from District Councillor

Biddall landscaping: Trees have been purchased and Mr J. Hellingsworth, Trees and Landscape Officer, S.C.D.C. will be visiting the site. Dr van de Ven to report to next meeting.

Hawthorn Park: Mr Tony Marks, Enforcement Officer, S.C.D.C. is aware that the number of permitted caravans has increased.

Whaddon Road: Approval has been given for the development. Flagship Housing Association would not be willing to provide a play area but could offer financial help initially if the Parish Council was willing to accept ownership.

6. Agenda Items

6.1 Proposed CEMEX development, Barrington – update

Dr van de Ven said that the Liaison Group in their dialogue with CEMEX revealed that much higher standards were in place than those required by the Environment Agency. Mr Searles said that press reports were that CEMEX plan to reduce the height of the pre-heater tower and chimney from ca 130 metres to ca 90 metres and are studying the impact of these before submitting their planning application and environmental statement to C.C.C.

6.2 Russell's Meats - consideration to letter received from the Proprietor

Whilst the Parish Council has no objection to the erection of a sign, providing it is the same size as the one

displayed by Eternit, the Clerk was asked to seek clarification from C.C.C. Clerk to inform Pippa Brown, Proprietor of Russell's Meats, that the Parish Council will respond following the next meeting. **Clerk**

6.3 Whitecroft Road traffic speeding

Dr van de Ven was asked by Mr & Mrs Ingrey of 53 Whitecroft Road if the flashing 30 m.p.h. sign could be moved closer to the speed limit sign. Mr Searles was advised by Mr David Lines, Divisional Traffic Engineer, C.C.C. that the sensors have a long focus range. However, the Clerk was asked to contact Mr David Lines, Divisional Traffic Engineer, C.C.C. to check the 3 flashing signs in the village for sensory accuracy and sensitivity. **Clerk**

6.4 Recycling at Fieldgate Nurseries

Mr Land said he would speak with Mr Ward on a number of points raised at the meeting. **A.L.**

6.5 Flambards Land - update

The following statement was given by Mr Borgonon:

Three councillors were tasked with dealing with this matter in sub-committee and reporting to full Council: Mrs Course, Mr Elbourn and Mr Borgonon. Mrs Course and Mr Borgonon duly met with 3 committee members of the Flambards Close Residents Association (FCRA). Because of key figures being unavailable over a busy period, we were only able to meet late on Thursday 26th January 2006.

Resulting from our meeting with the FCRA the sub-committee wants to make the following points:

We believe the FCRA representative for that area of the estate who approached Mr Diamond to ask for the annual contribution of £20 to support the work of the FCRA, thought he was acting in the best interest of the residents. However, any mention of 'clamping' or other comments of similar nature, as is claimed by Mr Diamond, and now his neighbour, was inappropriate and the FCRA representatives supported this view.

We certainly do not agree with Mr Diamond's claim in his correspondence, that it is FCRA's policy to use 'coercive or intimidating tactics' and we believe that the 79% of households who supported the FCRA in this year's round, could hardly have been coerced.

We understand that every resident was advised of the Extraordinary Meeting which constituted the FCRA in 2004 of which 17 residents took the trouble to attend. 10 residents had the courtesy to send apologies, and clearly other people made their free choice not to attend or to send apologies. We understand no one lodged objection with the FCRA. We believe the FCRA was properly constituted.

FCRA is responsible to the residents of the estate and works voluntarily for all the residents to keep a neat, tidy and well maintained amenity area - it is not the place of the Parish Council to interfere in its normal management and it has, and should have, no say in it.

Like thousands of similar organisations up and down the country, the FCRA is a voluntary organisation running an amenity area on behalf of residents. It knows this, it knows it has no powers to demand money from residents. It knows that if residents do not wish to donate to the aims of the Association, that is their choice.

On Flambards, due to poor drafting of legal documents when the estate was developed, it is known that some houses have membership written to deeds and some do not. Mr Diamond, along with some other residents, may indeed, have no obligation in his deeds. He has stated publicly that the FCRA does not speak for him and he does not make any contribution. That is his free choice.

We hope however, all residents will support their Residents Association who volunteer to work on their behalf – and if the FCRA are found wanting in any way – then it is up to residents to approach them properly and engage with them to find solutions.

Finally, with the benefit of hindsight, we believe the Council was wrong to agree to assist in investigating Mr Diamond's complaints without first establishing clearly, that a proper complaint had been filed directly with the management of the FCRA and that such an approach had broken down to the extent that a 3rd party needed to be involved. This is exactly the practice used by courts and mediation agencies.

We hope full Council will support this view.

We understand the FCRA is meeting on this very day (2nd February 2006) to decide their action over this very regrettable situation.

We propose to full Council that it does not respond to Mr Diamond, as has been said before to him, until it receives a written statement of action from the FCRA.

Mr Searles said that the FRCA had maintained the area to a high standard and that all Flambards

residents should pay their fair share of the costs.

6.6 Mettle Hill - update

For commercial and political reasons Mr Searles was unable to make detailed comment but said that good progress is being made on the plan for the Gocold/Hollands relocation to Mettle Hill.

6.7 Footway Lighting - update

The Clerk to write to S.C.D.C. stating that the Parish Council is considering its position regarding lighting and looks forward to hearing results of the negotiations with C.C.C. regarding number of footway lights that can be taken over by the County which meet their criteria.

Clerk

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

Mr Searles had studied the draft Local Development Framework, January 2006 and said there were no significant changes from the Local Plan of February 2004. Meldreth remains a group village allowing housing developments of 8 houses (15 in exceptional cases). The Holland's site was still designated for 29 houses. Mr Searles is of the opinion that there are no significant changes to the Proposals Map with the exception of the Conservation boundary which has moved slightly away from the village envelope to the rear of house Nos. 90 – 110 – 116 in the High Street. The Map also highlights areas deemed by the Environment Agency to be areas of high or medium risk of flooding by the year 2055.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should ask for the restoration of the Important Countryside Frontage in North End that has been obscured by a high conifer hedge.

Clerk

6.9 Declaration of Local Nature Reserve status for Melwood

Mr Borgonon reported that Melwood was declared a Local Nature Reserve on 6th January 2006.

6.10 River Mel Restoration Group (grant request)

The Parish Council requires further information. Next meeting of the Group takes place on 13th February.

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

Nothing to report. Next meeting is on 15th February 2006.

6.12 Community Facilities Building:

6.12.1 Parish Office – update: Building work is progressing and handover is scheduled for March/April.

6.12.2 Community Access Point (C.A.P.) – update: Mr Borgonon reported that there would be greater facility access in the new building. The Monday evening 'drop in' centre is temporarily suspended, due to the unavailability of one of the tutors.

6.13 24 dwellings, Whaddon Road: Street Naming and update

Clerk to respond with the name 'Burtons', a one-time owner of the land.

Clerk

6.14 To confirm dates of Meetings for the year April – March 2006/2007

Dates were approved.

7. Planning

Request for the following:

Extension
102 High Street
Mr & Mrs Tobin
Planning Minutes: 19.01.2006 Ref: S/2441/05/F

Garage/Garden Machinery Store
Mellowmeads
107 North End
Sir David & Lady Wright
Planning Minutes: 19.01.2006 Ref: S/2421/05/F

Dwelling and Garage
101 North End
David Reed Homes Ltd.
Planning Minutes: 16.02.2006 Ref: S/0112/06/F

Extensions, alterations to outbuildings/erection garage
The Old Bell
51 High Street
Mr & Mrs Jeffreys Ref: S/2004/04/F

Planning Minutes: 16.02.2006

Extension
81 High Street
P.A. Harmer

Ref: S/0149/06/F

Planning Minutes: 16.02.2006

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

Extension
87 North End
Mr & Mrs Holder

Ref: S/2055/05/F

Planning Minutes: 19.01.2006

Dwelling
Adj. Chiswick House
Chiswick End
(for Mr J. Webb)

Ref: S/1905/05/F

Planning Minutes: 02.02.2006

Extensions
17 High Street
(for Mr & Mrs Remnant)

Ref: S/2224/05/F

Planning Minutes: 02.02.2006

Extension
21 Flambards Close
(for T. Sell)

Ref: S/2326/05/F

Planning Minutes: 02.02.2006

The following has been refused by S.C.D.C.:

House and Garage
Land Adj. 79 North End
(Mr J. Inman)

Ref: S/2028/05/F

Planning Minutes: 19.01.2006

8. Correspondence

Flambards Close ✓ (C)
Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum (meetings and activities) ✓ (C)
Clerk's & Councils Direct (January 2006) ✓ (C)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority (Precept 2006/07) ✓ (C)
S.C.D.C. (Community Access Point Meeting: 09.02.2006) ✓ (C)
Cambridgeshire ACRE (Village of the Year 2006) ✓ (C)
Andrew Lansley MP (Re: CEMEX Cement Works at Barrington) ✓ (C)
C.A.L.C. (Affiliation Fee: 2006/2007) ✓ (C)
Pippa Brown, Proprietor Russell's meats (various matters) (C) ✓
Melwood Conservation Group (A.G.M.: 01.02.2006) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (New mobile library routes) (C) ✓ - Clerk circulated to Meldreth Matters
Mr & Mrs Lowe (recycling vessels) ✓ (C)
Melbourn & Meldreth Self Help Group (request for grant) ✓ (C)
S.C.D.C. (South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework – updated errata) ✓ (C)
The Standards Board for England (Bulletin 27) ✓ (C)
C.A.L.C. (Area Meeting 2nd March 2006 – Cambourne) ✓ (C)
C.C.C. (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan – consultation) ✓ (C)
S.C.D.C. (Recycling Credit Payment received: £379.97)
P.A. Hibble (Memorial Application and fee £35 for Alex Lawton) – Clerk has approved
Jephson Housing Association Group (reference land 15 – 17 Whitecroft Road) ✓ (C) **all Parish Councillors**
Newlings of Royston (Received £50.00 Cemetery fees: M. Burling)
Matthews Winter & Bullock, Solicitors (receipt of documentation: Flambards Close amenity land)

9. Bills and Payments

It was agreed that Meldreth Parish Council give a donation of £50 to Camsight in Memory of Pat Elbourn. Proposed Mr Searles, seconded Mrs Course. All were in agreement with the proposal.

Payable	Cheque No.	Net £	V.A.T. £	Total £	Details	Power
Laserprint Solutions Ltd.	001352	45.95	8.04	53.99	Photocopier cartridge	LGA 1972 s. 112

Camsight	001353			50.00	Donation in memory of Pat Elbourn	
Meldreth Croquet Club	001354			150.00	Donation for playing area to help prevent erosion from rabbits	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10
Glasdon U.K. Ltd.	001355	32.30	5.65	37.95	Recreation Group: metal liner for waste bin	+Litter Act 1983 ss 5,6
Press Start Ltd.	001356	157.50	27.56	185.06	Clerk's computer – repairs	LGA 1972 s. 112
Meldreth V/H Trust	001357			32.50	Room hire for P.P.P., P.P.I.T. and P.C.	LGA 1972 s. 134
C.A.L.C.	001358			1.00	Local Council Review subscription	LGA 1972 s. 143
C.A.L.C.	001359			386.03	Affiliation fee 2006-2007	++LGA 1972 s. 143
Mr G.B. Goodwin	001360			446.67	Grass Cutting	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10
*Melbourn & Meldreth Self Help Group	001361			250.00	Annual Donation	S 137
Mrs P.G. Penfold	001362			656.61	Clerk's net salary	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mrs P.G. Penfold	001363			59.12	Clerk's expenses	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mr H. Foggo	001364			226.83	Litter Collector	LGA 1972 s. 112
Inland Revenue	001365			118.26	Clerk's NIC/Tax+Littercollector's Tax	LGA 1972 s. 112
C.A.L.C.	001366			55.50	Association of Burial Authorities subscription	LGA 1972 s. 143
Mrs M. Long	001367			30.00	Officiant: Funeral May Burling	Section 2 E.F.M. 1962
**Melbourn Library Access Point	001368			300.00	Annual Donation	S 137

The above payments were agreed. Proposed Mr Borgonon, seconded Mrs Jones-Barrie.

9a. Section 137 Payments

*Melbourn & Meldreth Self Help Group – Annual Donation: £250.00

**Melbourn Library Access Point – Annual Donation: £300.00

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

Parish Path Partnership: Mr Chamberlain reported that last year's work schedule is now complete and the proposed footpath application for 2006/2007 is being prepared for presentation to the Parish Council and C.C.C. It is anticipated that a grant of £250, which is £50 less than the current year, be applied for. The next Working Party will take place on Saturday 18th February, meeting at the layby in Station Road at 9.30 a.m. to work on Path 9a and Path 12. Could volunteers bring barrows, shovels, rakes, hedge cutters and a broom. A village walk starting from the Village Hall is planned for Sunday 7th May at 2.30 p.m. and will be led by Mr Graham Ward.

It was suggested that a refuse bin might be useful along the Meads footpath, near the underpass.

Recreation Ground hedging: The Chairman thanked Mr & Mrs Gane, Mrs Fallon and Mr Borgonon, for their help with planting.

Mrs Jones-Barrie advised Councillors that she would not be standing at the next election. Clerk to include a write-up for Meldreth Matters explaining the role of a Councillor with a request for nominations from residents in Flambards, The Grange and Oakrits.

Pavilion door needs replacing: Mrs Course to action.

M.P.C.

Future Agenda items to date:

Proposed CEMEX Development, Barrington - update
Flambards Land - update
Footway Lighting
Mettle Hill – update
Parish Paths Partnership - update
P.P.I.T. - update
Community Access Point - update
Community Facilities Building - update

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

+Litter Act 1983 ss 5,6

++Local Government Act 1972 s. 143