

## MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006, 7.30 p.m. in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall

Present: Mr C.A. Land (Chairman)  
Mr G.V. Borgonon  
Mr A.P. Burlton  
Mr S.W.J. Chamberlain  
Mrs M.P. Course  
Mrs C.J. Fallon  
Mr S.J. Hawkins  
Mr P.A. Ray

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

**1. Apologies for absence:**

Mr R.A. Searles (attending Travellers Forum)

**2. To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

The Minutes were signed as a true record. Proposed Mr Borgonon, seconded Mr Burlton.

**To sign and approve Minutes of Extra Ordinary meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

The Minutes were signed as a true record. Proposed Mr Borgonon, seconded Mr Burlton.

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

3 members were present.

**Pavilion Project - Mrs Grimwood** had recently attended a fund raising fair on community buildings with presentations and representatives from Cambridge ACRE and officers of S.C.D.C. The Parish Council, as landowners, would have to apply for any lottery-funded application. In addition to Mrs Fallon, the Parish Council agreed that members rotate on the Pavilion Project Committee and Mrs Course agreed to attend the next follow up meeting which is due to be held in the last week of October. **J.F./M.P.C.**

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

There were no declarations.

**5. Report from District Councillor**

(i) Elin Way: Mr Tim West, Development Manager at Raglan Housing Association Ltd. has confirmed that commencement of building work should be in place by the middle of October.

(ii) West Way: a resident has complained about litter. The P.P.I.T. will include an article on Pavement Wardens in the

November edition of Meldreth Matters. At present a warden is required for West Way and Kneesworth Road.

(iii) Overgrown hedging: the Clerk has written to First Capital Connect on several occasions to ask for hedging to be cut

parallel to the railway bridge footpath and in the Station Car Park. The Parish Council is most grateful to the volunteer who is cutting back some of the foliage near the railway bridge footpath.

(iv) Local Elections System – public consultation: The motion has been withdrawn.

(v) Mettle Hill – abandoned caravans: Mr Marks, Enforcement Officer, S.C.D.C. has assured Dr van de Ven that he has

the matter in hand.

(vi) Gypsy and Traveller site provision in South Cambridgeshire – public consultation: for the annual travellers count,

Showmen sites need to be defined as 'Travellers Sites' to present a 3 site criteria for Meldreth.

(vii) Flooding:

Dr van de Ven thanked Mr Terry Dash, riparian owner in Chiswick End, for carrying out extensive investigative work on his network of drains. No major blockages found.

Mr Matthews has confirmed that the Elin Way affordable housing development will not be connected to the already over-burdened Whitecroft Road drainage system.

A preliminary enquiry on the Chiswick End problem was raised at S.C.D.C.'s Scrutiny Committee in September with questions to the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder and Services Director. The Portfolio Holder noted that northern areas of the district - Willingham, Swaffham and Waterbeach, have long had their own internal drainage

boards to address flooding issues.

Dr van de Ven and the Working Party have compiled a report outlining the immediate short term and the serious long term aspect whereby authorities responsible for water are not authorised to unite to solve the problem. Dr van de Ven reported on the overall responsibilities of S.C.D.C.'s Scrutiny Committee, which if it agrees, can then summon representatives from the Environment Agency and Anglia Water, together with District Council officers, to a special scrutiny. The District cannot scrutinise the County; it would be up to our County Councillor to pursue such an exercise. Dr van de Ven believes authorities have a moral obligation to the flooding problem.

Though the main focus has been in Chiswick End, the High Street also needs tackling. The County Council is responsible for a number of drains in the High Street and together with individual riparian owners, must work to prevent future problems – this again is a matter for the County Councillor.

## **6. Agenda items**

### **6.1 Land Registration progress**

The Clerk has submitted all documentation to The Land Registry.

*Reference Minutes 18.05.2006, Item 10.2 and Minutes 07.09.2006, Item 6.1*

### **6.2 Recreation Ground:**

#### **6.2.1 Clearing of ditch**

Mr Burlton had obtained an estimate from R.G.T. Groundworks for £623.00 to carry out this work and considers that with annual maintenance it could remain clear for up to 4 –5 years before another major clean. It was proposed by Mrs Fallon, seconded Mr Chamberlain, that the estimate from R.G.T. Groundworks be accepted. All were in agreement. Mr Burlton agreed to dispose of excess soil.

**A.P.B.**

### **6.3 Grass Cutting – contract for the next 3 years**

Deferred to November meeting.

### **6.4 P.P.I.T – update**

Six meetings, two public displays and surveys including the involvement of professionals for advice on the Disability Discrimination Act have enabled 18 of the original 34 actions from the Parish Plan to be achieved:

Follow up work experience opportunities with Melbourn and Bassingbourn Village Colleges.

Highways – Pavement Volunteers alerted Clerk to recent problems; footpaths – Parish Paths Partnership volunteers very active.

Improved signage – Pavement Volunteers continue to monitor.

Streams and meadows – in hand via the Melwood Conservation Group and the newly formed Meldreth River Restoration Group.

Litter reduction: Pavement Volunteers to assist Parish Council Litter Collector.

Seats: reviewed current provision of seats/benches in the village and prioritised improvements.

Neighbourhood Watch: improved liaison with Melbourn Police Station and Community Beat Manager.

Social Car Service: recruitment of 10 new drivers with 17 drivers willing to help Good Companions and Luncheon Club. (Mrs Course enquired if there was an age cut-off point for drivers belonging to the Royston & District Community Transport. Councillors were unsure).

Ensure SCOPE remains fully integrated in the village.

Affordable housing: increased provision of affordable and private housing.

Melbourn Surgery: some improvement to services in recent months.

Retention of Post Office: work done by the Team to lobby hard and consistently to retain the facility, valued by villagers and businesses alike.

The P.P.I.T. is not a permanent body and will be disbanded by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. The Parish Council

was asked to sign 18 items from the list. It was proposed by Mrs Course, seconded Mrs Fallon that the 18 items be signed off. All were in agreement. At the next P.P.I.T meeting focus will remain on the remaining 16:

A CB postcode; create a Pavement Warden Team to keep pavements clear of parked vehicles, litter and overhanging hedges and to check storm drains; more pavements at key danger spots and improve design of some existing pavements; review effectiveness of traffic calming measures, etc.; heavy lorries in village streets and country lanes; village streetscape – consider introducing stimulus of entry to Best Kept Village competition; improved Pavilion on Recreation Ground; improve communications throughout the village (website, noticeboards) on what is available, where and when; expand use of village facilities for wider range of activities; Pub as a major village focal point; facilities for youth; facilities for the very young; access for 100 disabled and 60 pushchair users; rail services – request for 8-car stops and southbound platform improved access.

Dr van de Ven said that Parish Plans had been invaluable in providing a basis for the Community Strategy.

#### **6.5 Parish Paths Partnership – update**

Painting of signposts: Mr Searles has made a start but would appreciate volunteer assistance. Footpath No. 1, Malton Golf Course and Whaddon. Mr Hart has paid a contractor to remove the fallen tree. Possible new link and bridge over River Mel: Mr Chamberlain and Mr Burlton have had discussions with Ms Tucker of C.C.C. the Environment Agency and Melbourn Parish Paths Committee to explain Meldreth's ideas on a possible link to their Recreation Ground. Mr Burlton and Mr Chamberlain will endeavour to make contact with Mr Berry of Melbourn Village College.

Meads Footpath: the post has been resited to the side of the footpath.

Footpath No. 6 behind Flambards Close. Clerk to report to Mr David Piggott that the sign needs to be set in place. **Clerk**

Hedging on footpath from Station Road leading to Meads footpath. Mr Burlton is disappointed at the standard of work carried out by contractors and will attempt to rectify the area. **A.P.B.**

#### **6.6 East of England Campaign to Protect Rural England – questionnaire**

Owing to the lack of transport, education and flooding issues in Meldreth, the Parish Council considers that all further redevelopment should cease until sufficient infrastructure issues have been addressed.

#### **6.7 Freedom of Information Act – M.P.C. and Clerk attended Workshop**

Very informative but Act is incredibly vast. The Clerk said that all recorded information, held by or on behalf of the Parish Council is available for public inspection. However, there may be exemptions where information is provided in confidence or if a request is considered to be vexatious. The Commissioner's Office states the following:

- the request would impose a significant burden and:
- clearly does not have any serious purpose or value
- is designed to cause disruption or annoyance
- has the effect of harassing the authority or
- can otherwise fairly be characterised as obsessive or manifestly unreasonable

#### **6.8 Overgrown hedging**

This item will be covered in the November edition of Meldreth Matters.

#### **6.9 Cemetery maintenance**

The Clerk to display a list of memorials in the Cemetery and Meldreth Matters that require maintenance.

<b>7. Planning</b> <b>Request for the following:</b> Erection of house to replace existing dwelling and outbuildings to be demolished on completion 1 Stone Lane Mr & Mrs R.A. Searles <i>Planning Minutes: 21.09.2006</i>	Ref: S/1711/06/F
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Alterations and extension for enlarged kitchen with lean-to roof incorporating 3 rooflights 55 High Street Mr & Mrs R.J. Phillips <i>Planning Minutes: 05.10.2006</i>	Ref: S/1769/06/LB
Extension 55 High Street Mr & Mrs R.J. Phillips <i>Planning Minutes: 05.10.2006</i>	Ref: S/1770/06/F
<b>Amendments:</b> Extensions 10 Howard Road Mr & Mrs Webb <i>Planning Minutes: 21.09.2006</i>	Ref: S/0354/05/F
4 new garages rear of Communal Room (Retrospective Application) Adj. 23 Elin Way South Cambridgeshire District Council <i>Planning Minutes: 05.10.2006</i>	Ref: S/0450/06/F
<b>The following have been approved by S.C.D.C.:</b> Extension(s) 55 and 56 North End Mr R. Winter <i>Planning Minutes: 05.10.2006</i>	Ref: S/1464/06/F and S/1465/06/F
<b>The following applications have been withdrawn:</b> House Land adj. 70North End Dr & Mrs K.W. Humphreys <i>Planning Minutes: 21.09.2006</i>	Ref: S/1466/06/F
Extension 102 High Street Mr & Mrs A. Tobin <i>Planning Minutes: 21.09.2006</i>	Ref: S/2441/05/F

**Unapproved Minutes of the recent Planning Committee are displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard.**

<p><b>8. Correspondence ✓ = circulated within the Parish Council</b></p> <p>Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Action, Autumn 2006 ✓</p> <p>“ “ Annual Review 2005 – 2006 ✓</p> <p>“ “ A Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire: 2006 – 2010 ✓</p> <p>Journal of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), September 2006 ✓</p> <p>Rural Services Review, 2006 ✓</p> <p>C.A.L.C. – various ✓</p> <p>Chiswick End flooding report from ✓</p> <p>First Capital Connect (station consultation at Letchworth: 27.09.2006) ✓</p> <p>P.P.I.T. (improvement to road crossings in Meldreth) ✓</p> <p>Cambridge City Council (consultation on the North West Camb. Area Action Plan Issue &amp; Options Report) ✓</p> <p>Cambridge City Council (errata to the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan Issues &amp; Options Report) ✓</p> <p>C.C.C. (Cams. Waste Private Finance Initiative Project) ✓</p> <p>Independent Examinations Local Dev. Framework, South Cambs. ✓</p> <p>WRVS (charitable request) ✓</p> <p>P.P.I.T. – letter from Sally Wright: (College Farm bend; Fieldgate Nurseries corner) ✓</p> <p>S.C.D.C. (precept: receipt of £17,500 for half year)</p> <p>S.C.D.C. (official opening of Elin Way Sheltered Housing Scheme – Clerk’s invitation)</p>
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## 9. Bills and Payments

Payable	Cheque No.	Net £	V.A.T. £	Total £	Details	Power
Mr G.V. Borgonon	001453			5.20	Meldreth Station First Capital Connect Cons. @ Letchworth	LGA 1972 s. 144
Warton & Clark	001454			90.00	Skip hire – Rec. Grnd.	Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9 & 10
The Land Registry	001455			30.00	For Parish Council owned land	LGA 1972 s. 226
John Cobb & Sons Ltd.	001456	500.00	87.50	587.50	Ramps – V/H Car Park	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.57 a & b
Mr A. Land	001457			6.99	Skateboard: paint to display equipment out of use	Open Spaces Act 1906 s.9 & 10
C.A.L.C.	001458			20.00	Freedom of Information Act Workshop	LGA 1972 s. 143
Mr H. Foggo	001459			232.11	Litterclearer	LGA 1972 s. 9/10
Mrs P.G. Penfold	001460			584.08	Clerk's net salary	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mrs P.G. Penfold	001461	136.82	4.26	141.08	Clerk's expenses	LGA 1972 s. 112
Inland Revenue	001462			105.69	Employees tax and Employers NIC	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mr G.B. Goodwin	001463			446.67	Grass Cutting	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10
Mr G.B. Goodwin	001464			75.00	Rec. Grnd. play area – hedge cutting	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10
Mr K.J. Taylor	001465			425.00	Rec. Grnd: remove sktb., Pavilion repairs	Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 9 & 10

The above payments were agreed. Proposed Mr Chamberlain, seconded Mr Hawkins.

**9a. Section 137 Payments**

There were no payments.

**10. Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for next meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall.**

Triggs Charity Representative, *Ref. Minutes 18.05.2006*: Mrs J. Rayment, Head Teacher, Meldreth Primary School, will attend the meetings, held twice yearly

Mr Borgonon had submitted a list of issues affecting Meldreth at the recent consultation by First Capital Connect, which included disability and cycle access, a request for 8 car stopping trains and the litter problem.

Concessionary fares: Mr McCraith confirmed that as from the beginning of October those over 60 years of age will be entitled to travel free of charge. C.C.C. had stepped in and provided extra finance for this service.

Mr Chamberlain asked if the Parish Council would like to provide a wreath. All Councillors were in agreement. Mr Hawkins to lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr Chamberlain: the Memorial will be due for a clean in 2007. Clerk to make enquiries.

**Clerk**

Arthur Rank Appeal: Mr Chamberlain asked if the Parish Council could make a donation. The Clerk explained the decision of CALC that donations to individual organisations, not for the benefit of the majority of the village, would not be appropriate.

Mrs Course reported that Royston Motorcycle Club had raised £8,000 of which £4,000 will be given to the Cambridgeshire Air Ambulance and £4,000 to SCOPE.

**Agenda items to date:**

Precept: 2007 – 2008

P.P.I.T. - Update

P.P.P. – Update

Grass Cutting (deferred from last meeting)

Registration of P.C. owned land?

Cemetery maintenance

Letter from Sally Wright

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.