

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 2nd November 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 R.A. Searles

Mr D. McCraith (Councillor, Cambridgeshire County Council [C.C.C.]

1. Apologies for absence:

Mr P.A. Ray
Dr S. van de Ven (Councillor, South Cambridgeshire District Council [S.C.D.C.]

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

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

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

8 members were present.

Mrs J. Greaves and Mr A. Florence: Speed of traffic along (i) Whitecroft Road and (ii) North End, which has caused damage to garden walls.

Mr Borgonon said he had written to the Police asking for speed and enforcement checks and this pressure has to be kept up. A number of suggestions were put forward including humps; where applicable 'concealed exit' notices; 30 m.p.h. signs; speed related traffic lights; the realignment of the road from the railway bridge into Whitecroft Road, making it a left hand turn. Mr Land asked if residents would be prepared to report registration numbers to the Police when drivers were exceeding the speed limit.

The Clerk to write a letter to Mr David Lines, Head of Traffic Management, C.C.C., with copy to Mr McCraith and Andrew Lansley highlighting the increased level of concern to traffic problems in Meldreth. The Parish Council would like the 30 m.p.h. sign moved further along Whitecroft Road to the other side on the Fenny Lane crossroads. This request was made to Mr Lines when he visited Meldreth and he undertook to monitor speeds to assess the feasibility, but nothing has happened. Mr McCraith is to pursue with Highways Department. **D.McC./Clerk**

Miss M. Hunter: enquired if the Parish Council was aware that S.C.D.C. has commissioned Savills, a firm of Surveyors to undertake a Stock Condition Survey of a sample of its housing to assist the council with assessing future repairs and maintenance requirements. The Parish Council was unaware of this and asked the Clerk to write to S.C.D.C. for further clarification and to be kept informed of any future consultations within Meldreth. **Clerk**

Mr R. Burns: condition of pavements along Elin Way. The Parish Council is of the opinion that repairs will be carried out on completion of building work.

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

On behalf of Dr van de Ven, the Clerk read the following report:

Flooding issues: permission has been given to attend a meeting in Melbourn on 15th November devoted to addressing the serious flooding suffered in several parts of the village in late July. With Meldreth facing some of the same issues - drainage systems overburdened by excessive house building over the decades, increased likelihood of severe weather, and lack of any single authority to tackle the issues, Dr van de Ven is grateful for the opportunity to listen and learn.

Mr McCraith supports Dr van de Ven in her efforts to pursue the drainage problem and attending the Melbourn Open Meeting on 15th November. The Portfolio Holder for C.C.C. will be at the meeting and the proposed updates for the drainage system in Melbourn will be outlined.

Communal Room update: current users are pleased that the Parish Office will be situated within the Meldreth Sheltered Housing Community building and available for evening meetings. They also welcome the availability of the Community Access Point, with many taking tuition. A meeting with representatives from S.C.D.C., Mr Borgonon, Dr van de Ven and the Clerk will take place on 9th November at Cambourne.

Elin Way: the retrospective planning application for the 4 garages at the new Sheltered Housing Community Room went to Planning Committee on 1st November. Dr van de Ven argued against officer recommendation to

approve, due to the unnecessary height of the building and its proximity to 7 The Grange, to the point where it is not possible for S.C.D.C. to provide landscape screening on its own land. Dr van de Ven also stated in strong terms that it was very unfortunate for the planning authority itself to be engaged in a retrospective application and also, that Meldreth Parish Council had approved the earlier application, which was unknowingly based on the wrong drawings.

The Parish Council and the resident of 7 The Grange should at the very least be given a clear explanation of what happened, because nobody seems to know.

There was a long debate and strong concern about the retrospective nature of the application with much discussion on the height of the building and the need for landscaping. The vote was 8-7 for refusal of the application, with 4 abstentions.

6. Agenda items

6.1 Grass Cutting – contract for the next 3 years (deferred from previous meeting)

Proposed Mrs Course, seconded Mrs Fallon, with all in agreement, that the Parish Council accepts the quotation from Mr Goodwin for the period March 2007 – October 2009. Clerk to inform Mr Goodwin that the Fenny Lane area should not be cut from mid April until requested.

Clerk

6.2 Highway matters - correspondence from Lady Wright and Mr Florence

The Council discussed the two suggestions from Lady Wright to assist pedestrians near College Farm bend and Fieldgate Nurseries junction. The Clerk to write to Mr Steven Thulborn, standing in for Mr David Lines, Head of Traffic Management, C.C.C., who is on extended sick leave for further advice.

The Clerk to write to Mr Thulborn for advice on what can be done to reduce speed of traffic along Whitecroft Road and North End. See *Item 3 above*.

6.3 Precept: 2007 – 2008

The first draft was discussed. Amendments will be reviewed at the December meeting.

Clerk

6.4 P.P.P. – Update

(i) Melbourn by-pass (lay-by): request for an additional refuse container

The Clerk to enquire from S.C.D.C. if a larger container would be possible. December Agenda item.

Clerk

Mr Chamberlain asked for volunteers to assist Mr Searles with preparing and re-painting footpath signs.

Possible link between Meads Footpath (No. 6) and Melbourn Recreation Ground. Mr Stephen Marshall, P.P.P. Committee Member, to contact Melbourn and Meldreth residents via the parish magazines to ascertain support.

At the Committee Meeting held 16th October, a review of this year's workload was discussed with intended work for 2007, which included a request to C.C.C. to erect a bridge on the Whaddon side of Kingswood Golf Course.

The next meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership Committee will take place on 11th December in The Green Room of the Village Hall.

6.5 (i) Report from R.A. Searles on the S.C.D.C. Travellers Liaison Forum at Cambourne on 5th October 2006

The written report had been circulated to Councillors and a copy sent to the Meldreth Residents Association.

(ii) To consider the Council's response to the consultation on the draft S.C.D.C. 'Issues and Options Report 1' on their proposed method for selecting further Gypsy and Traveller (including Showmen) sites in the district.

Proposed Mr Borgonon, seconded Mr Hawkins that Meldreth Parish Council accepts the responses drafted by Mr Searles and circulated to Councillors. This was accepted unanimously and Mr Searles agreed to submit the responses on-line to S.C.D.C. by 24th November.

R.A.S.

6.6 R.A. Searles to report on C.A.L.C. AGM and EGM. held 14th October 2006

Two items of interest: one was a presentation by John Findlay, Chief Executive Officer of N.A.L.C. who spoke on the Government White Paper – the reorganising of Local Government, including the enhanced role of Parish Councils. A 'Power of Well-Being' would replace Section 137. Parish Councils could cluster and share facilities with contractors carrying out work, which would particularly benefit small villages.

The second item discussed the Strategic Review of C.A.L.C. and a new Constitution, which will become the Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (C.P.A.L.C.), which would be made up of a two-tier structure with 6 members from each of the district associations to meet 4 times per year

and comprising an Executive Board involving 9 members.

Mr Land to attend the C.A.L.C. District Association Meeting on 22nd November.

A.L.

6.7 R.A. Searles to report on C.P.R.E. Workshop on Local Development Frameworks held 5th October 2006.

This meeting was useful in understanding the way that L.D.F.s replace Local Plans. S.C.D.C. are unique in producing their L.D.F. as a single thick set of documents because they had only just completed their Local Plan and the G.T.P.D. that will arise from the process being followed under 6.5 (ii) above will become part of the Local Development Framework as will other plans in future as L.D.F.s are 'living documents'.

7. Planning

Amendment:

Erection of House to Replace Existing Dwelling and Outbuildings to be Demolished on Completion. Proposed landscaping and boundary treatment

Ref: S/1711/06/F

1 Stone Lane

Mr & Mrs R.A. Searles

Planning Minutes: 02.11.2006

Tree work (Tree Preservation Order status)

118 High Street

Ref: C/11/40/71

Mrs T. O'Malley

Planning Minutes: 02.11.2006

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

Change of Use of Land to Garden Land and Conversion of Stables into Additional Bedroom Accommodation at Land Adj. Cornwell House

Ref: S/03335/05/F

Stone Lane

(for N. Davis)

Planning Minutes: 02.11.2006

Appeals:

Change of use of land from agricultural to storage and display of external paving materials and erection of 2 buildings for use as showroom and studio

Ref: S/0689/05/F

Land at Bury Lane Fruit Farm

For E.W. Pepper Ltd.

Planning Minutes: 02.11.2006

Change of use from repair and maintenance of motor vehicles to B1 & B8 use

Ref: S/0673/06/F

College Farm Business Park

For Cunningham Holdings Ltd.

Planning Minutes: 02.11.2006

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

8. Correspondence ✓ = circulated within the Parish Council

C.C.C. (Contact Centre Review) ✓

Association of Burial Authorities Newsletter, No. 35 ✓

C.C.C. (South Cambs. Local Development Framework – Gypsy and Traveller Dev. Plan Doc.) ✓

C.C.C. (Cambs. and Peter'b Minerals and Waste Plan documents: Consultation) ✓

South Cambridgeshire (Police) Sector Newsletter ✓

Mr A. Florence (traffic calming required) ✓

Grass Cutting quotations x 3 ✓

C.C.C. (Registration Service in Cambridgeshire) ✓

InspireEast (regeneration activity in the region) ✓

The Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service ✓

Local Works (Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill) ✓

N.A.L.C. Journal (November 2006) ✓

Globe Watch (advertising for CCTV) ✓

C.C.C. (booklet on current structure of senior management and positions) ✓

War Memorials Trust Bulletin (Autumn 2006) ✓

C.C.C. (Street Lighting Maintenance and energy 2006/2007) ✓

C.C.C. (congestion in Cambridgeshire) + (listening to views) ✓

S.C.D.C. (Biodiversity Strategy) ✓

Clerks & Councils Direct, November 2006 ✓

Countryside Alliance – Post Offices ✓

Community Access Point (consumables revenue: £5.00)
R. Skeates Funeral Directors (Cemetery fees for the late Teresa Yaxley: £160.00)
Ivett & Reed (Memorial application for the late Susan Woods – Clerk approved)
N.H.W. (closure of account, balance to Parish Council: £58.31)

9. Bills and Payments

Payable	Cheque No.	Net £	V.A.T. £	Total £	Details	Power
P.J. Deards	001469			10.00	Pavilion: plumbing	Misc. (Prov. Act) 1976 s.19
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.	001470	874.00	152.95	1026.95	Rec.Grmd. Whirling Platform parts/installation costs	Misc. (Prov. Act) 1976 s. 19
Revd. A. O'Brien	001471			30.00	Officiant: Funeral Teresa Yaxley	Section 2 E.F.M. 1962
C.P.R.E.	001472			25.00	Local Dev. Frameworks – R.A.S. attended 5.10.06	LGA 1972 s. 143
Mr G.B. Goodwin	001473			446.67	Grass Cutting	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9/10
Mr G.B. Goodwin	001474			200.00	Cemetery: hedge cutting	LGA 1972 s 214 (6)
Mr R.A. Searles	001479	28.99	6.15	35.14	Footpath signs: repainting	LGA 1972 s. 144

LGA = Local Government Act

The above payments were approved. Proposed Mr Chamberlain, seconded Mr Borgonon.

9a. Section 137 Payments

There were no payments.

10. Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for next meeting: 7th December 2006 in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall.

War Memorial: Mr Chamberlain to clean in preparation for the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November at 9.30 a.m.

Overhanging hedge obscuring speed sign near to No. 19 Whitecroft Road and the pavement near No. 33 Whitecroft Road.

Agenda items to date:

Precept: 2007 – 2008

Pavilion: (i) repairs to roof
(ii) options for improvement/replacement of existing building
(iii) payment for hire of Village Hall for meetings

Neighbourhood Watch: payment for hire of Village Hall for meetings

Melbourn by-pass (lay-by): request for an additional refuse container

C.A.L.C. District Association Meeting – 22nd November 2006 – update Mr Land

P.P.P. - update

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.