

Meldreth Parish Council

UNAPPROVED MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 7th June 2007** in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall

Present: Mr C A Land – Chairman (CAL), Mr R A Searles – Vice Chairman (RAS), Mr G V Borgonon (GVB), Mrs J C Fallon (JF), Mr S J Hawkins (SH), Mrs J Montague-Fuller (JMF), Mr P A Ray (PAR), Mrs J Damant (Clerk), Dr S van de Ven (District Councillor), Mr D McCraith (County Councillor)

Action

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Mr S W J Chamberlain and Mr A P Burlton

2. **Sign and approve Minutes of meeting 3rd May 2007**

Minor amendments were carried out; the minutes were then agreed by all and signed as a true representation. Proposed by Mr R Searles, seconded by Mr Hawkins

- Mr Borgonon is not a member of the River Mel Restoration Group.
- Cllr McCraith (CCC) had given his apologies prior to the meeting.
- Mr Land is the representative for the Cemetery Committee and not Mr Chamberlain.

3. **Members of the Public and Press are invited to address the Council:**

5 members of the public were present.

Meeting closed for public representation at 7:32pm

Mrs K Taylor addressed the council with concerns for Station Road.

1. Speeding traffic and the amount of HGVs, which appear to be using Meldreth as a rat run to join the A10. Is there anyway this can be monitored and traffic made to reduce speed.

It was explained that Meldreth is looking into this problem with the issue of Speed Watch, for many areas of Meldreth. Station Road will now be included in this project.

2. Flooding – there appears to be blocked drains /ditches which are contributing to the flooding problem in Station Road.

Cllr van de Van, Mrs Montague-Fuller, and Cllr McCraith will do a site visit along with Mike Cooper (CCC) and report back at the next parish council meeting.

JMF
SCDC
CCC

Amanda Barnyard, Youth Worker

Miss Barnyard is the Youth Worker in the area and is trying to locate areas whereby youths can demonstrate their street art. Her request was concerned with the underpass near Melbourn on the extension part of FP6, behind the playing field. They are self-financing and will also be responsible for maintenance. The underpass on FP9/10 has proven successful. Mr Searles and Mr Borgonon will carry out a site visit, and report back at next month's meeting.

RAS
GVB

4. **Members' declaration of interests for items on the agenda:**

Mrs Montague-Fuller declared a personal interest in matters concerning flooding in Chiswick End.

5. **Report from District Councillor:**

The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the East of England: Issues and Options: Dr van de Ven attended the consultation event at Robinson College a couple of weeks ago. The exercise involves finding a way of increasing the number of authorised sites across the East of England in order to solve the problem of unauthorised encampments, which has resulted from a severe shortage of Traveller sites in the region. The figure listed in Option 1 for South Cambs (120 new pitches) is based on the Traveller Needs Survey conducted last year. But, South Cambs is already the most generous provider of sites in the East of England, and among other things has taken the lead in preparing its Local Development Framework Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document - establishing criteria for the site identification process. There is a strong feeling at SCDC that other authorities in the region should be doing a lot more in terms of site provision. Some do very little or none at all. EERA recognises the disparity and has offered Option 2, in which distribution of new sites is shared more equitably around the region. South Cambs' obligation for site provision under Option 2 is 72 pitches.

There is no third option, however the consultation questionnaire asks respondents to list other possible alternatives if they are unhappy with Options 1 and 2. A possible official response from SCDC to the consultation could be, in effect, an option 3, in which distribution of sites across the region is more equitable still. The response will be agreed at a special council meeting in late July.

The consultation period ends July 31 and Dr van de Ven urged the parish council to respond. She agreed personally that provision needs to be greatly augmented in neighbouring authorities. All local authorities should make Traveller site provision and now is the time to establish that principle. Travellers themselves have indicated that they would welcome provision across the region, not just in South Cambridgeshire. EERA directs anyone interested in responding to the consultation to their website www.eera.gov.uk.

It should be stated that once EERA decides which option to go for, that decision will be binding on the Council and it will be obliged to identify the required number of sites within its boundaries.

Dr van de Ven knew some people will feel cynical about another consultation exercise. It is clear that EERA is leaving the hard work of site identification to local authorities, and this will be a very contentious matter when it happens. However, it is also true that South Cambs has done an impressive amount of work in the broad area of Traveller issues. It seemed to her that EERA's flexibility in offering the second option, which lists very different numbers to Option 1, is in large part due to South Cambs' lead, and to this authority's insistence that others need to make substantial progress on Traveller site provision. EERA is listening to South Cambs right now and we need to provide a strong response in this consultation period.

Mr Searles proposed that he study the EERA report and that he would circulate, via the clerk, a draft response to EERA for agreement at the July meeting.

RAS

A sycamore tree is damaging the footpath in Howard End. SCDC have visited the site and are in the process of having the path widened thus being able to save the tree.

Flooding in the High Street near the One Stop convenience store is occurring and it is not know whether the water is foul backwater. Cllr van de Ven will investigate.

Cllr
van de
Ven

There are still investigations ongoing in Chiswick End concerning the flooding issue. A report should be ready for next months meeting.

6. Agenda items:

6.1 Audit

Clerk circulated copies of the form, which was then read out. Chairman signed, all agreed. Proposed by Mr Ray, seconded by Mr Borgonon.

6.2 Speeding 'Speedwatch' monitoring speed

Mr Borgonon will be contacting Clair O'Neil, Speedwatch, to inform her that Meldreth would be interested in 'Speedwatch' and 'Safer Routes to School'. Mr Borgonon was proposed by Mr Searles and seconded by Mr Land to oversee this project. A local working party will need to be set up, made up of local residents and parish councillors. Mr Borgonon will report back to the council next month.

GVB

6.3 Village Hall Car Park:

Mr Burlton to contact Clerk with companies for quotations.

AB

6.4 Melbourn Library Access Point:

Clerk has received the forms duly completed; however it does not clarify if other organisations have been approached for funds. Clerk to contact the Library for projected sources of income and expenditure.

Clerk

6.5 Mr J Chalkley-insurance claim:

Mr Chalkley has withdrawn his recent claim. Allianz and Cornhill conducted a site visit with Mrs Penfold and Mrs Damant in attendance. Risk assessments need to be carried out on all property owned by the parish council. Clerk to get advice from CALC

Clerk

6.6 Alliance Cornhill Policy: group study

RAS agreed to measure the pavilion drawing to be provided by Mrs Fallon in order to work out its rebuilding cost.

**JF,
RAS**

PAR and Clerk to conduct a survey on all Parish Council owned items ie furniture.

**Clerk,
PAR**

6.7 Standing Orders:

No changes, Proposed by Mr Searles, seconded by Mr Hawkins

6.7a ROSPA – Play equipment inspection

Inspection has been carried out with minor repairs. Report circulated

6.8 Parish Paths Partnership (P.P.P)

Mr Ray read out Mr Chamberlain's report.

1. The village's second walk was held on 20th May and was well attended.

Resulting from the walk, a working party was held on 26th May to clear overhanging hedges and weeds from path 9a, and was attended by ten volunteers and councillors. A further party is planned for late June/early July to finish the laying of chippings on centre sections of FP6.

2. New Permissive Path – a possible new permissive path between FP9 and Melbourn Recreation Ground near FP6, which has been reported in Meldreth Matters. The initial response has all been in favour. At present after a meeting with CCC and the Landowner, Mr Chamberlain is awaiting feedback from Cambs CC regarding possibility of their financial support for a permissive path. He was afraid that their initial comments are not favourable; they would prefer the Landowner to donate the proposed pathway on a permanent basis.

3. The next committee meeting is planned for Monday 23rd July in the Green Room of the Village Hall at 7:30pm

4. CCC grant of £250 has been received.

5. The group of volunteers has made progress. It has been a pleasure to see a group of happy people working together and achieving our planned tasks. It is hoped that we will be joined the other residents in maintaining our path network.

6.9 Parish Path Implementation Team (P.P.I.T)

The report was written and circulated in April 2007. There will be outstanding issues that will be ongoing but on the whole the report is now finished. The Plan is a working document and has to be reviewed yearly.

**GVB
Clerk**

A table of committees and responsibilities to be drawn up. Mr Borgonon and Clerk to draft.

7. **Planning:**

S/0907/07/F, 62 High Street, Extension

Mr & Mrs I McCaig

Decision: Recommend Approval

S/0988/07/F, Land R/O 79 High Street, Dwelling and Garage

Mr & Mrs Bedlow

Decision: Recommend Refusal

It would be a back land development within a conservation area.

It is not in character with the linear development of the village.

West Way Footpath

Cllr van de Ven (SCDC) has been in contact with the site manager of the Housing Association who agreed to reroute the footpath so that the footpath would now end in a much clearer section of West Way. Cllr van de Ven is now trying to arrange for SCDC to fence off the corner.

**Cllr van
de Ven**

Mr Iain Clark, Trees and Landscape Assistant (SCDC) has visited Mr Hodder and recommends that the best action would be to remove the poor leaning lawson on the front, and remove a lawson at the end of the group of trees. Mr Borgonon will pass on information concerning tree surgery companies to Mr Hodder.

GVB

The SCDC Planning Committee now invite applicants or their Parish Council to speak for 3 minutes, these committees are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

8. **Correspondence:**

Clerk read out correspondence received by residents.

Blocking of drain at the corner of Bell Close and High Street. – This has recently been reported by Cllr van de Ven to Mr Mike Cooper, and is awaiting a reply.

Cllr van de Ven

The rowan tree situated at the corner of Bell Close and Gables Close appears to be dead. Cllr van de Ven will enquire on having it removed and replacing it with another.

Cllr van de Ven

Letter passed onto the Turkey Farm Management, concerning excessive muck and mud on roads. The issue of speeding is an ongoing concern.

Clerk

Clerk has received a phone call concerning the vandalised telephone box on Elin Way. It was then reported to British Telecommunications. Is this telephone box required, if not have it removed. Clerk to make enquires.

Clerk

9. **Bills and Payments:**

| Payable | Cheque No. | Gross £ | V.A.T. £ | Total £ | Details | Power |
|--------------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|--|------------------------------|
| Mrs M Reynolds | 001568 | 15.00 | 0 | 15.00 | Reimbursement of Grave Space 114 | Open Spaces Act 1906, s 9/10 |
| Allianz & Cornhill | 001569 | 1638.80 | 0 | 1638.80 | Insurance | LGA 1972 s 126 |
| Playsafety Ltd | 001572 | 148.50 | 25.99 | 174.49 | Play equipment inspections | LGA 1976 s 19 (misc) |
| Mr G B Goodwin | 001573 | 500.00 | 0 | 500.00 | Grass cutting | OSA 1906 ss 9/10 |
| CALC | 001574 | 82.50 | 0 | 82.50 | Councillor Training | LGA 1972 s 143 |
| Powergen | 001575 | 47.71 | 2.39 | 50.10 | Recreation/pavilion electricity | LGA 1976 s 19 |
| Mrs J Damant | 001577 | 56.19 | 0 | 56.19 | Clerk expenses | LGA 1972 s. 9/10 |
| PAYE | 001578 | 205.54 | 0 | 205.54 | Inland revenue | LGA 1972 s.112 |
| Mrs P Penfold | 001579 | 30.25 | 0 | 30.25 | Clerk expenses – computer antivirus software | LGA 1972 s. 9/10 |
| British Telecom | 001580 | 89.10 | 13.84 | 102.94 | Telephone | LGA 1976 s 19 |

Closing balance: £1,104.96

The above payments were approved. Proposed Mr Borgonon, seconded by Mrs Fallon

It was also agreed for Mrs P Penfold to assist the new clerk for 2hrs per week for the next six weeks. All agreed.

10. **Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for the next meeting:****Mr Searles**

Visibility at junction of Whitecroft Road and Mettle Hill is very poor. Clerk reported that this has already been reported to Mike Cooper (CCC).

The foliage is obscuring the visibility of the speed sign on North End. Mr Ray will prune the hedge. Many of the hedges and trees are obscuring footpaths and signs throughout the village, all residents to please look at their properties.

PAR

Part of the footpath on Elin Way, near the village hall, is disintegrating. Clerk to contact Mike Cooper.

Clerk

Mr Borgonon

The post box for the office has been ordered.

The lease has still not been received.

Mr Borgonon will look at the BT bill.

Pat Matthews has replaced three new culverts along the ditch in Whitecroft Road.

Fenny Lane now needs cutting and the ragwort needs to be completely removed. Clerk to arrange. **Clerk**

Mrs Fallon

The pavilion has been vandalised. Mrs Fallon has cleared up the broken glass. Clerk to enquire if this is covered on the insurance. There has also been an incident, which has been reported to the police, of spray painting residents garages. **Clerk**

The flat roof appears to be leaking though repairs were carried out at the end of 2006. Clerk to contact builder. **Clerk**

Look at getting grants for pavilion. Clerk to make enquiries from Orwell PC who has just carried out improvements to their pavilion. **Clerk**

Mrs Montague-Fuller

Drainage and Flooding Report to be forwarded for next month's meeting.

Clerk to circulate a copy of the article concerning vandalism in Sawston. **Clerk**

Mr Borgonon will raise the issue of vandalism at the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting. **GVB**

Mr Hawkins

The seat at Melwood – Mr Searles has contacted Mr Dave Thomas who is looking into it. Mr

Borgonon suggested a tree trunk.

Flambards Residence Association

The land is leased from the Council, and any changes to the committee need to be forwarded to the Clerk.

Will the extra 'give way' sign at the War Memorial be removed? Clerk to contact Highways. **Clerk**

The meeting finished at 10:50pm

The next meeting is 5th July at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall

Agenda Items

Code of Conduct

Drainage Report

Speedwatch

Streetart-underpass

EERA Report – Mr Searles

Pavilion – roof, insurance, grants

Telephone box on Elin Way

August meeting

Mary Course memorial

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