

Meldreth Parish Council

UNAPPROVED MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 5th July 2007** in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall

Present: Mr C A Land – Chairman (CAL), Mr R A Searles – Vice Chairman (RAS), Mr A P Burlton (AB), Mr G V Borgonon (GVB), Mr S W J Chamberlain (JC), 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:**
All councillors were present

2. **Sign and approve Minutes of meeting 7th June 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

3. **Members of the Public and Press are invited to address the Council:**
There was one member of the public present.
Meeting closed for public representation at 7:32pm
The flooding issue in Chiswick End was raised. Mrs Montague-Fuller explained that at the moment the parish council are in the process of investigating this issue and a report has been done in conjunction with SCDC and CCC. (see item 6.7)
Cllr McCraith (CCC) reported that a site meeting had taken place on Station Road and that the ditch belonging to Valley Farm needed to be cleared before Mike Cooper (CCC Highways Dept) was able to carry out any further investigations. Mr Burlton agreed to do this, though he stated that it might not help the situation, as the water needs to be able to flow towards the railway bridge. AP

4. **Members' declaration of interests for items on the agenda:**
Mrs Montague-Fuller declared a personal interest in matters concerning flooding in Chiswick End.
Mr Burlton has a personal and prejudicial interest in planning item 5.1

5. **Report from District Councillor:**
 - Cllr van de Ven, Mrs Montague-Fuller and Mr McCraith (CCC) have been investigating the drains on Station Road and the High Street, the depth of the system is very shallow, which is not helping the situation, though it appears that the drains have now been cleared. Cllr van de Ven had received two phone calls from concerned residents in both these areas.
 - The tree, which was blocking the street lamp outside 43 Elin Way, has had its foliage lifted.
 - The housing at Burtons are waiting to be transferred to the housing association this will take approximately six weeks.
 - The footpath between Howard Road and the High Street, FP8 is breaking up near the Bell Close Bungalows, this is due to a large sycamore tree. The footpath comes under the jurisdiction of CCC. It is unlikely that SCDC would favour the removal of the tree, but they suggest that widening the footpath would be appropriate.
 - The provision for planning application applicants, agents and objectors speaking at Planning Committee has been delayed until August 2007.
 - Cllr van de Ven would like to pursue the issue of trying to find funds for establishing footpaths/pavements with the parish council's approval, to benefit residents at the Showmens' sites in Kneesworth Road, West Way, and Burtons. The parish council did propose a footpath at the Burtons housing complex along the Whaddon Road, but was met with objections from the developer who said the cost would make the scheme financially unviable. Councillor van de Ven is looking at possible funding sources for a footpath along Kneesworth Road between West Way and the Showmen's sites.
 - The other concern is that neither Kneesworth Road or Whaddon Road has a 30mph speed limit. Would it be possible to move the speed signs to the other side of the cross roads of Whitecroft and Fenny Lane? The parish council, in the past, have even offered to fund the cost of the traffic speed survey themselves. Cllr McCraith suggested setting up a petition for creating a 30 mph restriction. Cllr van de Ven will pursue the footpath and traffic issues and report back to the next parish council meeting.

- The possibility of a bicycle wheeling channel for the Meldreth Station bridge is making favourable progress. Neighbourhood Policing Panel is to take place at Melbourn Village College on 24th July. This is your chance to voice your concerns to the police. There is to be another meeting on 23rd October 2007.

6. Agenda items:

6.1 Speedwatch

Mr Borgonon has received the information package from Speedwatch, which is a nationally run scheme, however it appears that Cambridgeshire have decided to opt out. Cllr McCraith suggested that this might be due to finances, which have been affected by the capping. Clerk to write to Andrew Lansley MP to enquire why Cambridgeshire have decided not to pursue this scheme; the parish council are extremely frustrated as they saw this as a very good project. Mr Borgonon will circulate the pack and investigate further and will report back at the next meeting.

**Clerk
GVB**

6.2 Village Hall Car Park

The parish council have received two quotes, with varying specifications. Mr Burlton will contact John Henry to get a quote, which has the same specifications as John Cobb. However, one other quote is still required.

AB

6.3 Melbourn Library Access Point – funding request

The Clerk had received the relevant documentation requested and it was proposed by Mr Searles, seconded by PR to contribute £300.00, all agreed

6.4 Allianz Cornhill Policy: group to study policy

Deferred to next meeting.

The office furniture has now been added to the policy.

6.5 ROSPA

The Recreation Committee have met and discussed the RoSPA report. There are still areas of work to be carried out, but the main area of concern is the litterbins, which need to be fixed more securely. Mr Burlton will draw up a specification and give to the Clerk. To get a quote from Keith Taylor

AP

6.6 Code of Conduct

The councillors have looked at all the documentation concerning this issue of 12 (ii) of the new Code of Conduct, which states that councillors, who declare a prejudicial interest in an item on the agenda, will no longer have to leave the room. The councillor will be a member of the public and will be able to make their representation, however they will not be able to contribute to any decision-making. As a member of the public they will abide by the rules and if the meeting is closed to the public they will also need to leave the room. To amend the Standing Orders.

Clerk

It was agreed by all that CALC should do the advertising of the Code of Conduct on behalf of Meldreth at a cost of £25.00.

To adopt the new Code of Conduct with paragraph 12 (ii) included was Proposed by AL, Seconded by RAS, all agreed.

6.7 Drainage Report

Mrs Montague-Fuller and Cllr ven de Van have produced a report on their findings, this will be circulated. Meldreth is just above sea level, so it is very important that ditches are cleared. Ditches and ponds are being filled in, these act as a natural soak away and slow down the water. This in conjunction with new housing developments is putting pressure on the drainage system. SCDC will keep the parish council informed of any housing proposals. Report will be put on the notice board and in Meldreth Matters.

JMF

6.8 Street Art

The street art on the Melbourn cricket pavilion, which has already been done, has been looked at and is quite striking. Suggestions are to combine this project with Melbourn youth as the underpass is only just in Meldreth. There were concerns that it may make the area too urbanised. Clerk had received a reply from Mr Paul Verbinnen (CCC) who believes that it would be a good idea and that the youths would therefore look after it.

Proposed by Mr Searles, seconded by Mr Burlton, 8 in favour, 1 abstention. Clerk to contact Amanda Barnard and invite her to the next meeting. Needs to be confirmed if this is to be a free wall, and what will be painted.

Clerk

6.9 EERA Report

There are two options

1. Requires SCDC to provide 120 pitches (up to 3 vans or mobile homes per pitch). This is based on the needs assessment, by asking travellers, so areas with large numbers of travellers come out with a high need.
2. They have allocated all districts 1 site; this is 15 pitches at the maximum recommended size. This allows the 4 areas with the maximum number of allocated sites to be reduced by 40%. So SCDC goes down to 72.

SCDC are expected to argue that they already provide a lot of sites and the burden should be shifted more to those doing little. It is proposed that Meldreth Parish Council should support this.

Decision: Proposed by Mr Borgonon, seconded by Mr Ray, all in favour. Clerk to email

6.10 Pavilion

The window still needs to be repaired. Clerk to contact Keith Taylor. The roof has been looked at and is now all right. Funding is still ongoing.

6.11 Telephone Box – Elin Way

Clerk had received some replies, which were in favour of removing the telephone box. BT will be informed of the decision. Meanwhile, Councillor van de Ven had received notice from BT that the telephone box is to be removed. It was decided to have a preservation order put on the red telephone box at North End. Mr Borgonon will take the required photographs and give to the Clerk.

GVB
Clerk

6.12 August Meeting

There will be no August meeting. Planning meetings will be carried out if required.

6.13 Mary Course Memorial

There have been a few ideas one of these is the Mary Course Community Award. Mr Searles will talk to the Headmistress of the primary school. To be discussed at the next meeting.

RAS

6.14 Parish Paths Partnership (P.P.P)

Footpaths have been damaged due to the heavy rain. A working party is being set up, FP6 is now overgrown and will be on the agenda for the working party. Mr Chamberlain has been in correspondence with Mr John Cooper (CCC) who reported that there are no plans to make further grass cuts this year. The situation concerning the footpath between the Meads and the River has been halted; this is due to the CCC insisting in having the footpath a Definitive footpath. Email from resident concerning the Meads footpath given to Mr Chamberlain. Mr Chamberlain reported that the volunteers have been walking the footpaths and clearing areas where they can. Clerk had received some concerns from a resident about the state of the footpaths, in general, around the village. Clerk will forward their details to Mr Chamberlain. There is also concern about cyclists using footpaths.

Clerk

7. Planning:

Ref: S/1135/07/F

External alterations, addition of internal first floor for office use and temporary portacabin for office use.

College Farm Business Park

William Skinner & Son

Response: Recommend approval of the modified design which minimises the light pollution of the previous design subject to:

- **Illuminated high level sign and the signs to the left of the entrance being a separate planning application.**
- **Please check the boundary as other landowners are believed to have ownership or access rights over land at the entrance to the College Farm Business Park.**

Ref: None

Elin Way Garages

Alterations to the roof

Response: Drawing does not show the correct height of the existing fence or the land on which it is erected at the back, which are 0.2m lower than shown on the drawing. The gutter line has not been reduced in height. The Parish Council welcomes the changes but is concerned over the impact of the building on the neighbour in The Grange. Clerk to write to the Martin Williams

Ref: S/0927/07/F
62 High Street
Mr & Mrs McCaig
Extension

Response: Information Only

Ref: C/11/17/071/04
27 High Street
Mr Anscombe
Tree work

Sycamore – crown reduce overall height by approx 20%. Shorten side branches so as to leave a well-shaped tree. Crown thin by approx 15%. Remove 3 longest low limbs over parking area back to main trunk.

Response: No objections, all agreed.

Ref: S/0988/07/F
Land R/0 79 High Street
Mr & Mrs Bedlow
Dwelling & Garage

Response: Has gone to Planning Committee, SCDC did not agree with Parish Council comments.

Ref: S/0782/07/F
105 Whitecroft Road
Mr & Mrs Rawson
Extension

Has been refused by SCDC

Ref: C/11/17/071/02
2 North End
Mr Gravatt
Tree work

Ash tree crown reduction by 10-15%, to eliminate deadwood and sparse foliage.

Response: No objections, all agreed.

8. Correspondence:

Reducing antisocial behaviour – Tuesday 25th September, details to Mr Borgonon
Email from a resident about lack of shading in the recreation area. There are some possibilities to discuss at next meeting.

Consultation with the Travelling and Settled Communities, Thursday 19th July – Mr Searles will attend. (Now cancelled)

9. Bills and Payments:

Payable	Cheque No.	Gross £	V.A.T. £	Total £	Details	Power
Revd O'Brien	001581	30.00	0	30.00	Officiant: funeral Jack Farnham (reissue of cheq. 001498)	Section 2 E.F.M. 1962
Meldreth & Melbourn Self Help Group	001582	250.00	0	250.00	Contribution	Section 137
Meldreth Village Hall Trust	001583	75.00	0	75.00	Rental of village hall	LGA 1972 s 134
Mr G B Goodwin	001584	775.00	0	775.00	Grass cutting/hedge	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
Mr K Taylor	001585	185.80	0	185.00	Parish Office/pavilion	
Mr M Taylor	001586	136.14	0	136.14	Litter collector	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Mrs P Penfold	001587	116.28	0	116.28	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Mrs J Damant	001588	9.23	0	9.23	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Mrs J Damant	001589	372.90	0	372.90	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s. 112
PAYE	001590	183.62	0	183.62	Inland revenue	LGA 1972 s.112

Additional payments: Melbourn Library Access Point - £300.00 (001591) and CALC - £25.00(001592)

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

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

Mr Chamberlain

Has received correspondence asking if an oak tree could be planted in the corner of the burial ground. May not be a good idea to be planting extra trees, as space may become an issue in the future. Mr Land, Mrs Fallon and Clerk to set up a working party to look into the burial ground.

AL
JF
Clerk

Mrs Fallon

Reported that the leg on the notice board is loose.

The meeting finished at 11:15pm.

The next meeting is 6th September at 7:30pm, in the Village Hall

Agenda Items

Speedwatch – update from GVB

Streetart-underpass –plans from Amanda Barnard

Pavilion – roof, insurance, grants

Mary Course memorial

Recreation Area – lack of shade

Public speaking – time allocated

Freedom of Information Act – Data Protection Act

Any other agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk one week before the next meeting.

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