

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of Parish Council Meeting held **Thursday 4th October 2007**, 7.30 p.m. in The Green Room,
Meldreth Village Hall

Present: Mr C.A. Land – Chairman (CAL), Mr G.V. Borgonon (GVB), Mr S.W.J. Chamberlain (JC), Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), Mr R.A. Searles (RAS), Mr P Ray (PAR), Dr S. van de Ven (Councillor, South Cambridgeshire District Council [S.C.D.C.]), Cllr D McCraith (Councillor, Cambridge County Council [CCC])

Action

1. Apologies for absence:

Mr A.P. Burlton (APB), Mr S.J. Hawkins (SH), Mrs J Montague-Fuller (JM-F),

2. To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6th September 2007:

The next meeting for the Neighbourhood Panel is 23rd October at Bassingbourn Village College.
The Minutes were signed as a true record. Proposed Mr R A Searles, Seconded Mr C A Land, all agreed

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

Items discussed

There is concern about the butchers moving to the Fieldgate Nursery site. Concerns are mainly to do with vehicle access as both residents and Fieldgate's use the same access point. Also on this site are the recycling banks. The proposed increase in business will have an affect on the amount of vehicles using the site and may obstruct residents' ability to use their access point.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Guest Speaker – Amanda Barnard (Street Art)

Ms Barnard presented, along with two of the youths involved, some artwork they would like to be able to carry out on the Freewall. The wall is situated on the underpass between Meldreth and Melbourn. The project will be available to youths of both Meldreth and Melbourn parishes. The proposal is to have the two far end walls as a piece of project work, this artwork will not change and to have the centre as a Free Wall, this is where art work is able to be changed continuously. Youth workers monitor the wall and are in contact with the children, it was felt that the project has worked extremely well in other areas with very little trouble and that the children themselves monitor the project well. There are no costs involved as all paint is supplied and as long as these paints last the project can continue, which should be a few years. The paints however are not solvent free and health & safety rules apply these are overseen by the youth workers and all risk assessments are carried out by them. The only main concern was that when the project finishes the wall would need to be painted and who would cover this cost, this was not known.

6. Report from District Councillor:

Crime and Disorder Partnership seminar, September 25.

I attended this event at the request of the parish council. It consisted of a series of presentations by senior officers, who spoke mostly about the failure to meet crime reduction targets, and various government initiatives. Most useful was workshops with youth workers. They reckon 50% of ASB comes from youth, and 50% from older people – there is a strong misperception that most ASB is youth related. For young people, sponsored, structured activities, communication and community involvement are key. Young people say they feel safer in groups, and need well lit, warm places to meet. Press does not report positive stories of achievements in work with youth. The Street Art project in Melbourn has been a huge success and nuisance 'graffiti' drastically reduced. Earlier this week I went to speak with Amanda Barnard, Youth Worker at MVC, to talk generally about these issues.

Bicycle Wheeling Channel: I met Patrick Joyce on site. Dreaded health and safety determines placement of the channel. The really good one that inspired me, at Lamas Land in Cambridge, was removed for health and safety reasons. However, I have now written back to Patrick asking him to look again at ways in which our wheeling channel could be improved.

Ideas for road improvements: Meldreth Primary school has written to me to express support of our endeavours to reduce speed limits in the Whitecroft Rd, Whaddon Rd, and Kneesworth Road area of the village

Parish Council Standards Training – I attended this event as a member of Standards Committee.

Woodland Trust: The requirements for establishing a covenant are bureaucratic and expensive, and potential assistance from the Woodland Trust in assisting with woods in our ward not as straightforward as I'd thought

Making good at Burtons: The Ecology Officer and I met on site at Burtons in the summer and noted a variety of concerns. We have now had a response from McCann Homes but will monitor closely because no works yet carried out.

20 Houses Whitecroft Road – anticipation of drainage details : I have chased up this matter with Planning to ensure we are consulted before drainage details are established.

Housing Futures: It is vital that council tenants in Meldreth are informed about the possibility that they will be asked to vote on whether or not they would like to see South Cambs' housing stock transferred to a housing society. The Government takes half of all rent from council properties, making South Cambs' responsibilities as a landlord very difficult to fulfill.

7. Agenda items:

7.1 Street Art

It was felt that this was a good project, which would include the youths of both Meldreth and Melbourn. Ms Barnard will go to Melbourn Village College and Bassingbourn Village College to see how many children would be interested in the project. The matter of cost for repainting the wall when the project finishes was felt to be small. Proposed by Mr Searles, seconded by Mr Borgonon all agreed.

Pg 689

7.2 Speedwatch

Clerk has written to Andrew Lansley MP, who has replied and is looking into the matter as to why Cambridgeshire is not part of the scheme. Mr Land informed the meeting that Whadden PC were also looking into Speedwatch. Clerk to contact Shepreth, Whadden, Bassingbourn and Melbourn parish councils to enquire what their agenda is for this. Cllr McCraith (CCC) also mentioned that at a recent Crime & Disorder meeting, speeding is not really mentioned, however he brought this to their attention and will now be part of the agenda at all meetings. Inspector Vicky Steels appears to be in favour of the scheme along with Mrs Linda Oliver (CCC).

A site meeting was held on the 4th October with Mr R Searles (PC), Mr G Borgonon (PC), Mr J Chamberlain (PC), Mr David Lines (CCC) and Mr Mike Cooper (CCC). The parish council would have the finance the installation of speed signs in North End. The Highways Department would advise on the amount needed and where best to position them. The parish council will need to measure the distances, Mr Searles will undertake this project and then Highways need to be informed.

RAS

The spacing of the streetlights at Fenny Lane and Burltons indicate this to be a 30mph speed limit (street lights need to be within 55m spacing). This area is also a listed black spot (crossroads). At the present moment the black spot list is in the process of being prioritised and it is not known where Meldreth sits within this list. Highways will carry out a survey and then will make the decision if 30mph signs will be installed.

Mr Borgonon has received a listing from CCC, which indicates all accidents that were reported in personal injuries. Over the past three years there have been 14 reported cases. Damage only accidents are not listed with CCC but with the police, this list at the moment is not available.

Hedge at College Farm bend – This is not an ancient hedge and as it is now does not causing any concern, though it has recently been cut back by a Parish councillor to keep the path clear. Highways do not recommend cutting it back in height, as in their experience, it would actually speed up traffic through this area. However the opposite hedge could be opened up in areas to improve sight lines.

Drop curbs are expensive but the parish council would need to prioritise those curbs for disability access pushchairs, and mobility vehicles. Mr Ray will carry out a survey with Mr Patten.

PAR

Elin Way

Highways will repair the pavement to the side of the village hall, the pavement near the new housing development will be repaired by the contractors.

Footpath 8 at the recreation ground is owned by CCC and is in need of repairing, Clerk will inform Mike Cooper.

Clerk

7.3 Village Hall Car Park – update

Mr Burlton has passed onto the clerk a quote from Tarmac Limited this will be circulated along with the other two quotes from John Henry and John Cobb. To be discussed at the next meeting.

All Cllrs

7.4 Christmas Tree

To be discussed at next meeting.

All Cllrs

7.5 Pavilion

Mrs Fallon has emailed Mrs Griffen, still to be pursued. Mrs Fallon attended the recent Funding Fair and Meldreth are not entitled to apply to WREN for funding as they are situated too far from the neared landfill site. Still looking for grants.

7.6 PCSO Melbourn

Cllr McCraith informed the meeting that this item had been discussed at Melbourn parish council's last meeting but that no decisions have been made. Clerk has not yet heard from Melbourn parish council.

7.7 Freedom of Information Act – Data Protection

The matter was discussed, and it was felt that as the parish council do not hold any confidential personal data on their computer systems they do not need to subscribe. A vote was taken: 4 in favour of not joining, 1 against. Mr Chamberlain would like it minuted that he was not in favour of not subscribing. Proposed by Mr Searles and seconded by Mr Borgonon.

7.8 Mary Course Memorial

Still ongoing

Clerk

7.9 Flooding/Drainage

The ditch run off from the Stocks area near 106/108 and 110 High Street is being dealt with by connecting it to the drain in the High Street.

A Residents Association is to be created for the residents in Chiswick End

7.10 Burial Ground

Report by Mr Land

Both gateposts are rotting at the base and are in need of attention. Clerk to get three estimates for new oak posts

Clerk

and to re-hang the gates.

Rabbits are causing damage to graves by undermining the memorial stones. One grave, situated near the top left hand corner, is in need of immediate attention. More information needs to be found and what can be done, there is a possibility that there is also a badger set present. Clerk to get advice
Mr Land will fill in all the potholes.

Clerk
CAL

7.11 Parish Paths Partnership (P.P.P) Footpaths and bridleways

Pg 688

- a) Verges on path 9 have been cut
- b) Mr J Cooper (CCC) has been contacted with concerns over the bridge at Flambards, which is in need of repairing.
- c) Path 9 and 9a have been cleared by the working party.
- d) Path 1 (Kingswood near the Golf Course) is to be cleared by the working party on 20th September
- e) There will be another working party to tidy up and litter pick in November, date to be announced.

Committee meeting on 1st October was not well attended.

It was decided to leave the discussion on Footpath 6 (between the railway and bypass), until the next meeting, along with the discussion with the landowner and River Mel group about their plans for this stretch of path 6.

Possible application to Cambridgeshire ACRE for a grant was discussed.

Path 4 between the Mr Course's field and Malton Lane - it was reported that the bridge over the ditch needs a plank replacing, brambles and hedge have been trimmed.

Next meeting: 10th December 2007

8. Planning

Request for the following:

Four Garages
Elin Way
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Ref: S/1758/07/F

Response: Response is the same as previously. No objections

Recommend Approval

Extension
62 High Street
Mr & Mrs McCaig

Ref: S/1735/07/F

Response: No objections (there had been no objections from neighbours).

Recommend Approval

Extension
105 Whitecroft Road
Mr & Mrs Rawson

Ref: S/1797/07/F

Response: The Footprint appears to be identical except that there is a bathroom, instead of a staircase. The application form is incorrect in that it states a 2-storey side extension but appears to be single storey. The proposed extension is still the same volume as the previous application, though design, which improved is still not integrated into the existing house. Vehicle access is still a concern, as stated in the previous application.

Recommend Refusal

SCDC Decisions:

There were no SCDC decisions.

There have been concerns raised about the relocation of Russell's butchers to Fieldgate Nursery. This is mainly due to vehicle access and the possible obstructing of resident's access routes. Will be passed onto the relevant parties at SCDC.

Clerk

Correspondence:

The church footpath needs cutting back and resurfacing
Street name – land is for sale so cannot comment. Clerk to enquire

Clerk
Clerk

9. Bills and Payments:

Payable	Cheque No.	Gross £	V.A.T. £	Total £	Details	Power
Mrs J Damant	001611	374.22	0	374.22	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Mrs J Damant expenses	001612	13.52	0	13.52	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
PAYE	001613	6.66	0	6.66	MPC National Insurance contribution for J Damant	LGA 1974 s. 112
PAYE	001614	156.11	0	156.11	Inland revenue J Damant & M Taylor	LGA 1972 s. 112
Mrs P Penfold	001615	50.90	0	50.90	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Mr M Taylor	001616	236.75	0	236.75	Litter collector	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Mr G B Goodwin	001617	500.00	0	500.00	Grass cutting/hedge	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
Meldreth Village Hall Trust	001618	69.50	0	69.50	Village Hall Rent for PC meetings	LGA 1972 s. 134

Pg 687

The above payments were: Proposed by Mr Borgonon, Seconded by Mrs Fallon.
Clerk to check the bank interest, appears quite low.

Clerk

There were no additional payments.

10. Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for next meeting: 4th October 2007 in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall.

Mrs C J Fallon

Wicksteed has not repaired the tarmac under the swings, Clerk to chase
Parts have now arrived for the roundabout will be repaired within the next few days.

Clerk

Mr G Borgonon

Suggested councillors look at Orwell and Arrington's minutes and agendas.
Transport Innovation Fund (CCC) There is a bid happening in October, which will improve services, and roads in the county; at the moment Manchester's bid was in with Cambridgeshire being next. Services need to be improved before congestion charges can be brought in.

Clerk

CCC Report

The County Council is bidding to access a package of transport improvements worth around £500 million to tackle congestion in the Cambridge area. The package includes proposals for a congestion charge and substantial improvements to public transport; with a proposed drop in traffic levels of 10%.

If implemented the congestion charge would operate in Cambridge from Monday to Friday during the morning rush hour. It would be a one-off charge for people driving into or within the Cambridge area during the peak period in the morning. The Council expects the charge to be between £3 and £5 per day. The charge would not be introduced

until the public transport improvements had been put in place.

The £500 million package of proposals currently includes:

- * A peak period congestion charge in and around Cambridge
- * Express routes for buses traveling from Park & Ride sites into city centre
- * Subsidized bus fares
- * Extra train services from Ely to Cambridge
- * Dedicated lanes for cars to access Park & Ride sites
- * Extensive priority for buses on Hills Road
- * Continuous bus lanes on Newmarket Road
- * A new Railway Station at Chesterton
- * An extensive network of cycle paths

Mr Searles asked if this package could include an improved bus service for Meldreth and Cllr McCraith confirmed that this would be included.

Mr R A Searles

The leaves of the Chestnut Tree at the Stocks need to be burned to control the insect that is causing early leaf browning. Mr Searles and Mr Chamberlain will arrange a working party.

RAS, JC

Mr P A Ray

Mr Ray along with Mr Patten carried out a pavement survey in the village. A number of issues were identified which will be pursued with Highways and (in the case of overhanging vegetation) with individual residents.

PAR
Clerk

Agenda items to date:

Streetart
Christmas tree
Speedwatch
Carpark
Burial Ground
PCSO Melbourn

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.00 p.m. Next meeting Thursday 1st November at 7:30pm

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