

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of Parish Council Meeting held on **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**, 7.30 p.m. 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); Mr A.P. Burlton (APB); Mr S.W.J. Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF); Mr S.J Hawkins (SJH); Mrs J Montague-Fuller (JMF); Mr P. A. Ray (PAR)

**In attendance:** Cllr Dr S. van de Ven (Councillor, South Cambridgeshire District Council [SCDC]); Cllr D McCraith (Cambridge County Councillor [CCC]) and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

**Action**

1. **To receive any apologies for absence:**  
All councillors were in attendance.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda**  
Mrs C J Fallon declared a prejudicial interest in item 10; Mr C A Land declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 11; Mr G V Borgonon and Mr S W J Chamberlain both declared a personal interest in item 9 (Meldreth & Melbourn Warden Scheme); Mr S J Hawkins declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 (Flambards Residents Association) and Mr P A Ray declared a personal interest in item 21.
3. **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008:**  
It was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr S W J Chamberlain that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> September be approved as a true record after the following amendments:  
Pg 727 item19 – Change The Mess and replace it with The Mash  
Pg 727 item 19 – change damaged bench to destroyed bench.  
The Chairman then signed the minutes.
4. **Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council:**  
There were two members of the public in attendance.  
Items discussed – trees on Flambards Close and concerns over the access route at Fieldgates.
5. **To consider any matters arising not already on the agenda:**  
The white line marking the boundary between Highways and Fieldgate's land appears to have been covered up. Cllr van de Ven (SCDC) showed concern that Highways (CCC) who have already attended a site visit, at the request of Cllr McGraith (CCC) do not appear to be concerned. There should be 'no parking' signs erected on the Highways' piece of land. Cllr van de Ven will write to Highways with her concerns. There is also growing concern about the following:
  - a) the number of cars parking and the lack of adequate, laid out parking places at Fieldgates.
  - b) access to the farm is, at times, blocked by parked cars
  - c) businesses are still operating, such as the equestrian business, after planning permission has been refused.
 Clerk to write to the Planning Department and Highways.  
Mr S W J Chamberlain asked permission to hold the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>. It was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr R A Searles that the Parish Council provides a wreath, which will be laid by Mrs J Montague-Fuller during the service, all agreed.
 

**Cllr v de V**  
**Clerk**  
**JMF**
6. **To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee:**

Extension 10 The Grange, Mr M Taylor Parish Council recommends Approval Planning minutes 02.10.08	S/1593/08/F
Meldreth Court, 120 High Street Permission has been granted for replacement gates Planning minutes 04.09.08	S/1377/08/F
The Old Mill Site Permission has been granted for a Dwelling (revised design) Planning minutes 21.08.08	S/1270/08/F
Development of agricultural buildings and operations Determination by the Local Planning Authority (LPA)	S/1450/08/PNA
7. **Report from District Councillor:**
  1. Pat Matthews and his SCDC drainage team responded quickly to a request to clear around the Recreation Ground ditch.
  2. Poison similar to Roundup to clear weeds is evident in several ditches around the village. Residents may not realise that a licence is required for such activity, and we appreciate that they may be trying to be helpful.
  3. The Independent Tenant advisor's visit at Elin Way Community Room, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, was well attended with lots of good questions and information. Apologies to residents on unclear start time for the session. Comments from audience were positive, specific remarks about cost of consultation exercise and excessive and repetitive material. Questions about implications of credit crunch on transfer scenario. A point not made clear in the presentation: if transfer goes ahead there is no going back.

**Cllr v de V**

4. Housing Shortfall report and consideration of Objection Sites in the LDF process: Inspector identified a housing shortfall of about 2200 in March 08, and asked the council to find potential sites on the on the fringes of Cambridge and rural centres, but not Melbourn, or any lower tier villages.
5. Cllr van de Ven has been in contact with First Capital Connect regarding the wheeling channel and disabled access at Meldreth Station. It was encouraging to have an instant reply from Mr Lee Millard, who is concerned about both issues.
6. FYI, the Area Joint Committee for Traffic Management had a petition from village of Over to prohibit entry of HGVs into the village other than for access purposes. It is useful to know that other villages are facing similar traffic problems to ours. Petitions may not be the most effective means of bringing about change, but they do serve to bring issues to attention.
7. Can County Councillor inform us about apparent Highways budget freeze and implications for annual check of drains, and repairs to potholes? Cllr McCraith will report back directly to Cllr van de Ven
- 8. Village Furniture –repairs to the notice board at the Station and confirmation on ownership**  
The bench for Melwood is due to be placed this week  
The bench to be placed near the Stocks has been ordered.
- 9. Funding Requests: –**  
**Meldreth & District Mobile Warden Scheme** - It was proposed by Mr R A Searles and seconded by Mr P A Ray that the funding request be accepted, all agreed. This facility is much appreciated by all those who use it, and a special thank you to Mrs Chamberlain and her volunteers for all their hard work in keeping this facility running.  
Clerk to write to enquire what their financial requirements will be for next year.  
Flambards Residents Asssocation – a request for funding has been received to help with tree surgery costs. It was proposed by Mr R A Searles and seconded by Mr G V Borgonon that a working party be set up to clarify the Council's legal responsibility for Flambards land. The Parish Council are the landowners but rent the land to the residents association at no cost to the "public purse". Working party will be Mr G V Borgonon, Mr P A Ray, Mr A P Burlton and the Clerk
- 10. Pavilion:**  
Work is due to start soon, the colour of the roof will be green which will be in keeping with the surrounding area.
- 11. Burial Ground:**  
The plaque has now been cleaned.  
Quotes for the work to the cemetery path are still being obtained.  
There has been a request for a new memorial bench to be placed in the cemetery. It was proposed by Me G V Borgonon and seconded by Mrs C J Fallon that, as long as there was sufficient space at the top of the cemetery, another bench would be acceptable, Clerk and Mrs C J Fallon to visit the cemetery to assess the situation. All agreed.  
This will probably by the last bench, which can be positioned in the cemetery. Will need to look at other areas in the village for future requests.  
Burial Report was circulated –
- 1) Rabbits are still an ongoing concern; it was proposed to use ferrets to see if they can help reduce the numbers. Mr A P Burlton will investigate the cost of rabbit proofing fencing for the area.
  - 2) Some of the graves need attention, Clerk to contact the relevant families
  - 3) The soil is steadily increasing in the left hand corner, though many of the gravediggers are now removing the soil. .
  - 4) There are further areas along the footpath around the cemetery, which is in need of attention.
  - 5) Any glass or inappropriate items left on the graves will be removed.
  - 6) The tree in the centre needs pruning – Clerk to contact family
  - 7) There are two trees which need removing as they have died – Clerk to arrange removal
  - 8) The hole on the grass verge outside the gate will be filled in
- 12. Playground:**  
A netball hoop and net has been found in the pavilion following the major clear up. Only need to purchase one other net. Clerk has contact Mr K Taylor who has agreed to fill in the holes near the swings and repair the roundabout.
- 13. Land at 22 Howard Road:**  
Clerk has had a request concerning an overhanging tree at the back of the property of 22 Howard Road and who was responsible. The reply from Jenny Clark (SCDC) is that the tree is on the boundary of 22 Howard Road and is therefore SCDC's responsibility. SCDC would like to offer this land for sale to the residents if the Parish Council has no objections. The parish council had no objections to this proposal. Clerk to contact Jenny Clerk.
- 14. Meldreth Matters: – new Parish Council format for the magazine**  
Meldreth Matters have had the results of their survey, which indicates the extracts of the minutes are too long. It was proposed by Mr R A Searles to try a new format; Mr P A Ray seconded this. It was felt that the parish council should still edit the minutes and it was agreed that councillors should take it in turns to do so. Mr R A Searles, Mr G V Borgonon and Mr P A Ray all volunteered to edit the minutes.
- 15. Mary Course bank account:**  
The funds have now been placed in a Community account with the Cambridge Building Society, which is giving a very modest interest rate. The plan is then to place most of the funds in a higher interest fixed rate bond - this will be done when the next issue becomes available. Mr R A Searles will progress.
- 16. Clerk Appraisal:**  
On proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is the council considering the Clerk's Annual Review the Clerk was temporarily excluded from the meeting and was instructed to withdraw. The clerk

Cllr  
McCraith

Clerk

RAS, GVB,  
PAR, Clerk

APB

CAL

Clerk  
Clerk

Clerk

RAS

left the meeting. At 9.53 the Chairman declared the meeting re-opened. Clerk was moved up to grade SC21.

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**17. Highways:**

Mr A P Burlton has been in contact with Mr Mike Cooper from the Highways Department (CCC), and they will carry out a site visit to look at the hedges on Kneesworth Road. The hedge opposite leading up the showman's site has been cut back. Thank you to Mr Dash for carrying out this work.

**APB**

The Highways Minor Improvement application papers have not been seen by all Councillors. Ideas are: the crossing at the northerly College Farm bend, or extension to the footpath past West Way, this latter idea would be too expensive as the total CCC budget for this year is only £15,000. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**18. Parish Path Partnership Report:**

Since the last Parish Council meeting the following actions have been completed:

Fp11 from Chiswick End towards Kneesworth Road has been cleared by one of Mr Burlton's staff, as it was too much work for the volunteers. The path was severely overgrown and was inaccessible for the first ¼ mile. Mr & Mrs Ward will be tidying up after the mechanical work.

There were plans to work on fp1 (Kingswood near Malton Golf Course), but due to lack of available volunteers, this has been postponed until Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

At the recent Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September, dog fouling along fp6 was raised.

Still waiting for chippings for fp2.

There has still be no further contact with Parish Paths (CCC) concerning the bridge repairs. Clerk to follow up.

**Clerk**

**19. Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

ACRE – rural housing

To be discussed further

Minor Highways Improvement Scheme

Already discussed in item 17

The Rural Housing Trust

To be discussed further

Footpath outside 15-26 Flambards Close

Clerk to contact Highways

**Clerk**

CCC Budget discussions

Notice has been put onto the notice board

Financial Funding for Meldreth Warden Scheme

Already discussed in item 9

Flambards Resident Association Email

Already discussed in item 9

All other items have been circulated and may be discussed at the next meeting.

Clerk's Report

Contacted SCDC concerning litter bin on A10 and have written to Mr Stuart Harwood Clark requesting an extra bin.

Getting reimbursement from Pipex for BT bills – they did not switch over to free phone calls when they should have. Ongoing

Getting reimbursement of sewage charges from Anglian Water – Mrs Fallon (as part of the Flood Avoidance Subcommittee work) had established that the pavilion is not connected to the Anglian Water sewer – it has its own cesspit. Ongoing

Bus Shelter – resident enquired about getting a no smoking sign in the bus shelter at the stocks – advice from the NHS is, if the bus shelter is ¾ enclosed (ie it has back and sides and touches the ground) then it is illegal to smoke in it and signs can be erected. It appears that staff at Scope may be using the bus shelter in bad weather as a smoking room. Clerk to write to Scope and explain that action is to be taken by the Parish Council concerning the bus shelter and that no smoking signs will be placed in all the bus shelters meeting the above criteria.

**Clerk**

The collection of our litter picker' full bags from 10 Stocks Lane and from behind the pavilion has not been happening recently – cause was new worker from SCDC – hopefully now resolved.

Notice up in Cemetery – residents putting gardening waste into the bins and filling them up.

**Clerk**

Fish & Chip van proposing to be parked in Elin Way on Friday afternoons 3.30 – 7.00pm – check with SCDC about relevant permission. Clerk to write to the company to see if they have canvassed residents. There could be concerns from some of the residents in Elin Way as there are ongoing problems with parking at school picking up times..

**20. Councillors' Reports:**

Mr G V Borgonon

The History Group has made a workable spreadsheet of the cemetery. This is assisting the Clerk; a lot of time has been put into this. Clerk to write with thanks.

**Clerk**

Mr C J Fallon

There have been concerns about the Horse Chestnut Tree and the early leaf death. It was noted that (as last year) a working party will be organised to clear up the leaves once they have finished shedding and burn them as this is the best way to combat insect damage. Mrs C J Fallon also asked that, if Pat Matthews's team were not going to clear the

other ditch at the recreation ground, a working party be organised to do this.

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Mrs J Montague-Fuller

What is happening with the parking situation on Whitecroft Road, there is concern from residents from Chiswick End? Clerk is currently looking into the situation.

Clerk

Mrs A P Burlton

Railtrack have cut back all the hedges near the railway line.

Clerk to write to John Cobb & Sons with thanks for the extra work they did, free of charge, on the resurfacing of the footpath at the church from the bend to the kissing gate. The Church and Parish Council are extremely grateful.

Clerk

Cllr McGraith

County Council are beginning to look into their budgets, there is concern over the rising costs of pay and pensions.

**To receive details of cheques to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payments:**

Name	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Description	Power
Royston & District community Transport	001743	400.00	0	400.00	Donation	
Mrs J Damant	001744	462.56	0	462.56	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Mrs J Damant	001745	16.76	0	16.76	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
D J Thomas	001746	300.00	0	300.00	Tree surgeon	OSA 1906 ss. 9/10
Warlton & Clark	001747	100.00	0	100.00	Skip hire	OSA 1906 s 9/10
John Cobb & Son	001748	1,220.00	213.50	1006.50	Church footpath	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
Earth Anchors	001749	531.45	79.15	452.30	Melwood bench	LGA 1972 s 226
P Ray	001750	14.40	2.14	12.26	Cllr expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Mr M Taylor	001751	191.60	0	191.60	Litter collector	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Mr M Taylor	001752	12.00	0	12.00	Expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Mr G B Goodwin	001753	500.00	0	500.00	Grass cutting/hedge	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
Pipex	Dd	9.99		9.99	Broadband	Telecom Act 1984
PAYE	001754	141.46	0	141.46	Inland revenue & NI J Damant & M Taylor	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk expenses	001755	38.62	0	38.42	Paper and ink	LGA 1972 s 9/10

Payments including additional payments proposed by Mr S W J Chamberlain, seconded by Chairman, all agreed. additional payments (shaded)

Additional payment – not on chart: Meldreth & District Mobile Warden Scheme £2,000.00, proposed by Mr R A Searles, seconded by Mr P A Ray, all agreed (see item 9)

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

Hedges – AB and Highways report  
Litter bin on A10  
Mary Course Award Society account  
PPP  
Memorial Bench in cemetery  
Rural Housing  
Fish & Chip Van  
Highways Minor Improvement Scheme  
Precept

**24. Action Points: (if not already covered)**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.  
Next meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008, at 7:30 pm in the Green Room, of the Village Hall.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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