

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of Parish Council Meeting held on **6th November 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 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]) and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

Action**1. To receive any apologies for absence:**

Mr A.P. Burlton (APB) and Cllr D McCraith (Cambridge County Councillor [CCC])

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda

Mr S J Hawkins declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 10 (Flambards Residents Association)
Mr S W J Chamberlain declared a personal interest in item 5 (poppy wreath).

3. To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 4th September 2008:

It was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr S W J Chamberlain that the minutes of the 2nd October be approved as a true record after the following amendments:

Pg 732 item19 – Change 10 Stocks Lane to 10 The High Street
The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

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

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Item discussed - concern over the access route at Fieldgates. The land at the front of Fieldgates, including the area near the bottle banks, belongs to Public Highways and parking of cars can cause an obstruction to nearby properties. The police have been requested, by Highways Department, to address any offenders who cause obstructions. This item will be discussed further. Cllr van de Ven will investigate how often the bottle banks are used and if there is another area within the parish where they could be installed.

Cllr vdeV**5. To consider any matters arising not already on the agenda:**

Mr S W J Chamberlain proposed that a payment of £70.00 should be paid for the poppy wreath; this was seconded by Mr P A Ray, all agreed.

6. To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee:

Conservatory

57 Station Road

Mr N Burge

S/1754/08/F

Parish Council recommends - Approval

Planning minutes 06.11.08

Extension

Southfield Farm, Waddon Road

S/1717/08/F

Parish Council recommends - Approval

Planning minutes 06.11.08

Tree Work - Reduction of crown on Mulberry Tree

C/11/40/071

118 High Street

Mrs O'Malley

Parish Council recommends - Approval

Planning minutes 16.10.08

SCDC Decision:

65 Whitecroft Road S/1365/08/F

Permission has been granted for a conservatory

Planning minutes 16.10.08

7. Report from District Councillor:

- Student rail passes to Cambridge have more than doubled in cost since last year, following First Capital Connect's (FCC) alignment of rates across its area – it now costs £538 from Meldreth. County Council Education Transport will not subsidize because 'Meldreth has a bus to Cambridge'.
- Library Access Point in Melbourn will be forced to shut at the end of December unless new premises are found. Please make contact if you have any helpful ideas to offer.
- Barrington Cement plant closure: Announcement was sudden for employees, many of whom live locally. Grant funding from Cemex Community Fund will now be unavailable for local village projects.
- Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer SCDC, has been out to look at Mr and Mrs Price's historic drainage ditch at 110 High Street and to advise on planting up the banks. Mr Price had organized a working party to clear out the ditch and it is looking very good.
- Melbourn Parish Council is working hard to find land for a BMX track or trails, which would benefit young people in the wider community.

Clerk

Station car park:

- A letter has been sent by FCC to SCDC Planning indicating changes to the car park, but no response from SCDC.

- Noting that the car park is now almost empty in the mornings, FCC have been asked if they would consider doing a six-month review in the event that the pay and display facility is not profitable.
- FCC representative said that they would be happy to attend a Parish Council meeting to answer any questions.

8. Station Car Park:

It was suggested that the clerk write to Clare Buckingham, Education Transport Division (CCC) emphasising that one fixed bus is not adequate to accommodate the students travelling from Meldreth to institutions of further study in Cambridge. Students are also penalised with higher costs, which are not subsidised, if they are unable to afford to purchase a season ticket as the times they travel are classified as peak times.

Clerk

It was suggested that the clerk write to Elaine Holt, FCC to enquire about the following:

Will the cycle racks be reinstalled?

When will the drop kerbs be done?

Clerk to write to Cllr McCraith stating that Meldreth PC were not informed about the car parking charges even though CCC had been informed of the proposal since June 2008.

Clerk

9. Village Furniture –repairs to the notice board at the Station and confirmation on ownership

The bench for Melwood has been installed.

The bench near the Stocks has been installed and a plaque has been attached dedicating it to the memory of Anne Saunders.

10. Funding Requests: –

Flambards Residents Association - the working party (GVB, RAS and PAR) have investigated the legal requirements of the parish council by reference to the lease.

The responsibility for any work in the designated amenity area is with the Flambards Residents Association as tenant to the landowner, the Parish Council, under the terms of the lease dated 4th April 2005.

If Meldreth Parish Council were to contribute to tree work, it could raise precedent for other designated amenity land in Meldreth owned by private individuals. Any match funding arrangement, however caveated, would also create a precedent. The whole basis, on which the council agreed, at the request of Flambards Residents Association, to take this land into ownership, was based on there being no cost to the taxpayers of the parish. It was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon and seconded by Mrs J Montague-Fuller that funding be refused. A vote was taken: 6 agreed with refusal, 1 abstained, 1 did not agree with refusal and 1 was absent. Motion carried to refuse application.

With regard to the footways, the Parish Council holds documentation from the Transport Department of CCC showing their responsibility extending to all footways and highways on Flambards (13th December 1990). The amenity area designated 'Demised premises', in the lease, excludes all footways and highways on Flambards in accordance with the schedule to the lease. The Parish Council will send documentation to Highways for clarification.

It was also a stipulation of the lease that the Residents Association has public liability insurance. It was confirmed by Mr S Hawkins that there is public liability insurance with Zurich for £5million. It was proposed that the clerk be sent a copy of this for the records.

Clerk

Clerk

11. Pavilion:

The roof has now been completed. Mr C A Land and Mrs J Fallon have inspected the roof and confirm that all is looking well. It was suggested that the pavilion committee look at requirements for next year so that it can be looked at in accordance with the precept.

12. Burial Ground:

Quotes for the work to the cemetery path are still being obtained.

Mrs J Fallon and the clerk inspected the burial ground in accessing a suitable position for a new bench; there is room, but this should be the last bench. Will need to look at other areas in the village for future requests.

The ferrets have not yet been used for rabbit control yet - but will be during the next few weeks.

Mr A P Burlton sent a report about the cost of rabbit proofing the area. To fence the burial ground would cost approximately £850, though Mr A P Burlton believed that using pest control would be a better option. It was agreed to try the ferrets and if this option did not work to re-look at the fencing option.

The tree in the centre needs pruning – Clerk to contact family

The two dead trees have been removed.

The hole on the grass verge outside the gate has been filled in.

Clerk

13. Playground:

All maintenance work has been carried out and the hedge has been cut. The dog bin has been emptied but a liner was not inserted. The Recreation Committee will look at brochures for a tree to be planted in the play area of the recreation ground. Both netball hoops have now been located; we only need to purchase one net.

Clerk/JF

14. Mary Course Award Society bank account:

It was proposed that a two-year fixed rate bond at 5.1% be opened with the Cambridge Building Society. It was proposed by Mr S Hawkins and seconded by Mr S W J Chamberlain, all agreed

RAS/CAL

15. 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 Highways Minor Improvement application has been sent off, it was agreed to ask for a realigned crossing at the northerly College Farm bend.

APB

16. Parish Path Partnership Report:

On 11th October Fp 1 (Kingswood) was cleared by councillors and volunteers, also the leaves from the Chestnut tree were cleared from the stocks area. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Elbourn for allowing the leaves to be burnt on his land. Another working party is planned for a later date to clear up the remaining leaves.

Mr D Indaco repaired and replaced the damaged planks on the bridge over Mr Course's ditch on fp4.

Mr and Mrs Ward tidied up fp11 after it was mechanically cleared.

Outstanding

Repairs to footbridge on fp2
 Stiles on fp7 near the A10
 Small bridge near Melwood on fp6
 Wood chippings required for fp2 – awaiting response from Mr D Thomas

17. Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Cambridgeshire Together – engaging parish councils (19th November at Cambourne). Mr R A Searles to attend.

Footway at Flambards – see item 10

White lines to be repainted at Fenny Lane cross roads – will be done when the tarmac re-patching has been completed.
 Junction of Whitecroft Road and Chiswick End – this is a police matter; parking within 20 metres of a junction is an offence.

Mobile Warden Scheme – the amount of £2,000 was requested, as they had not submitted a request for the previous year.

The Happy Plaice – the fish & chip van is now operating and they will make sure that no litter is left. They are visiting Elin Way and parking in the car park at the pub.

Letter sent to Pat Matthews – ditch clearing quote has been accepted for CCC to clear the ditches.

Cemetery bench – A letter from Mr and Mrs Ward has been received, the Parish Council will maintain the bench.

Clerk's report:

- Contacted SCDC concerning litterbin on A10; have emailed a letter - still awaiting response from Mr Stuart Harwood Clark.
- Ongoing process about getting money back from Pipex for BT bills – did not switch over to free phone calls when they should have. Still proceeding.
- Ongoing process about getting money back from Anglia for sewage charges – the pavilion has a cesspit. Have now requested that Anglian Water contact Cambridge Water for information concerning the account.
- Bus Shelter – Have requested 'No Smoking' signs - not received yet.
- Collection of litter picker's litter at 10 High Street and behind the pavilion – still experiencing some problems with SCDC collecting the litter
- Invitation for a councillor to attend the Christmas lunch at the Self Help Group. – Mrs J Fallon will attend
- Meldreth Pre School Committee request to put signs up for the Christmas Bazaar on the 15th. Clerk to inform them that they can display signs a week before, but they must be taken down as soon as the event is over.
- Telephone Box – response from English Heritage - as there are no listed building near by the box in North End will not be put forward for protection but the village can opt to do other things (adopt or sponsor the telephone box). At the moment there are no plans to remove this red box, but the telephone box in Elin Way is due for removal.
- Affordable housing update – at Burtons, eight of the eleven shared ownership properties are now occupied. Sales are slow and there was little interest from people within the village. Three units remain for sale, 2 two-bedroom apartments and a three-bedroom house. Clerk to enquire how many dwellings are rented by village people.

20. Councillors' Reports:**Mr P Ray**

Clerk to include the bench at Melwood onto the insurance and to increase the value of the bench now at the Stocks.

Mr R A Searles

Meldreth Matters – it appears that the new format is agreeable. Three of the parish councillors will take it in turns to edit the minutes (Mr G V Borgonon, Mr R A Searles and Mr P A Ray).

Cllr McCraith (CCC)

Clerk read out Cllr McCraith's report

- Highways Budget – The County Council will shortly be starting the budget process for next year and any budget freeze is premature. Cllr McCraith will be asking for a greater priority to be put on Highways.
- Proposed Bus – Cllr McCraith asked the Parish Council if they would support a new bus service which will start at the Mordens, come via Litlington, Bassingbourn and Whaddon, then at the crossroads, turns back towards Bassingbourn and continue to Ashwell with plans for it to go to Letchworth and Hitchin. However, this is not being financed by County Council but by the Parish Councils that it goes through and stops at, if Meldreth is interested it might be possible to route the bus to go via the High Street and Whitecroft Road.

The Parish Council suggested that an article be put into Meldreth Matters, Clerk to contact Cllr McCraith.

Clerk

21. 22. 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
**Meldreth & District Mobile Warden Scheme	001756	2000.00	0	2000.00	Donation	S137
Mrs J Damant	001757	498.54	0	498.54	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Mrs J Damant	001758	17.17	0	17.17	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
PAYE & NI	001759	76.06	0	76.06	Inland revenue & NI J Damant	LGA 1972 s.112
Mr M Taylor	001760	214.00	0	214.00	Litter collector	LGA 1972 s 9/10
PAYE	001761	108.00	0	108.00	Inland revenue & NI M Taylor	LGA 1972 s.112
Britannic Garden Equipment	001762	790.00	117.77	673.00	Bench for Stocks Area	OSA 1906 ss. 9/10
P Chilvers	001763	120.00	0	120.00	Internal audit	LGA 1972 s 226
K & C Roofing	001764	10,408.15	1,550.15	8,858.00	Pavilion roof	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
Mr G B Goodwin	001765	775.00	0	775.00	Grass cutting/hedge	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
Pipex	Dd	9.99		9.99	Broadband	Telecom Act 1984
K Taylor	001766	77.00	0	77.00	Maintenance at Recreation ground	OSA 1906 ss 9/10

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Payments including additional payments proposed by Mr G V Borgonon, seconded by Mr J Fallon, all agreed.

Additional payments (shaded)

LGA – Local Government Act

OSA – Open Space Act

Telecom - Telecommunications Act

Total amount of cheques awaiting approval **£15,084.69**

**Cheque 001756 Meldreth & District Mobile Warden Scheme approved at 2nd October 2008 meeting.

Total amount in Current Account	£16,597.00
Minus payments awaiting approval	<u>£15,084.69</u>
True balance	£ 1,512.31
Plus total amount in Deposit Account	£42,574.62
Total funds available incl reserves	£44,086.93

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
Precept
Railway Station – parking fees and other issues.

24. Action Points: (if not already covered)

All action points covered

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Next meeting will be on 4th December 2008, at 7:30 pm in the Green Room, of the Village Hall.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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