

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of Parish Council Meeting held on **4th December 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 A.P. Burlton (APB); 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]); Cllr D McCraith (Cambridge County Councillor [CCC]) and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

Action

1. **To receive any apologies for absence:**
All councillors were present..
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda**
Mrs C J Fallon declared a personal interest in item 12.
3. **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6th November 2008:**
It was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr S W J Chamberlain that the minutes of the 6th November be approved as a true record after the following amendment:
Item 4 pg 738 'concern over the access route at Fieldgates. The land at the front of Fieldgates' front car park (until recently delineated by a white line), including the area near the bottle banks, belongs to Public Highways and parking of cars on it 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, whether there is a long term need for them (given more green box bottle collections) or, if there is another area within the parish where they could be installed'.
The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
4. **Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council:**
There was one member of the public in attendance.
5. **To consider any matters arising not already on the agenda:**
There were no matters arising.
6. **To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee:**

Dropped Kerb 13 North End Dropped Kerb, Parish Council recommends Approval (subject to conditions) Planning minutes 20.11.08	S/1711/08/F
Extensions 18 Howard Road Recommend Approval Planning minutes 20.11.08	S/1880/08/F
House and Garage (revised design) 79 North End No Recommendation Planning minutes 20.11.08	S/1920/08/F
Tree work 26 North End Recommend Approval Planning minutes 20.11.08	C/11/40/071
Tree work 55 High Street Recommend Approval subject to Tree Officer's recommendation Planning minutes 20.11.08	C/11/40/071
Erection of two Three Bedroom Dwellings The Old Mill Site, High Street Recommend Approval Planning minutes 04.12.08	S/1828/08/F
Extension (information only) Southfield Farm, Whaddon Road Planning minutes 06.11.08 & 04.12.08	S/1731/08/F
Extensions and Erection of Cart Lodge/Carport 8 Fenny Lane No Recommendation Comments – there are concerns about the adjacency to the conservation area and the possible damage to the roots of the hedge. The development appears too large for the plot given the rural setting. There are further concerns that vehicles would not be able to exit the site forwards and would have to back onto the highway. Planning minutes 04.06.08	S/2006/08/F

SCDC Decision:

S/1711/08/F, 13 North End, Dropped Kerb - has gone to Chairman's Delegation

C/11/40/071, 26 North End, permission has been granted for tree work

C/11/40/071, 55 High Street, permission has been granted for tree work

7. Report from District Councillor:

In response to concerns regarding traffic and parking problems near Fieldgate Nursery and St. John's Farm, Cllr van de Ven has:

1. Requested street signage for 'Bury Lane' to help clarify the lane and distinguish it from the car park. The sign has been approved in principle but there is a question as to its placement, which will be followed up. **Cllr vdv**
2. Composed a draft letter to Mike Cooper asking if Highways would be willing to properly mark out Bury Lane, for the same purpose. **Cllr vdv**
3. Written to Kylie Kavanagh at the District Council, regarding the recycling containers, to make her aware of the traffic situation and to ask what other locations might be suitable for the containers. In view of the discussion in Item 2 Cllr van de Ven will now contact SCDC to determine whether there is a long-term need for this type of recycling point in Meldreth. **Cllr vdv**

Melbourn Library Access Point: A two-year extension has been given to the portable cabin and a long-term solution is being sought for a permanent home for the library. Cllr van de Ven has joined the district-wide committee that will be working to resolve the matter

8. Station Car Park:

There is increasing concern about the number of cars parking on the High Street following the introduction of car parking charges at the railway station.

Clerk has asked CCC to have the bus stop sign reinstated at the stop near the station. At the moment cars are parking along this part of the High Street making it difficult for both the bus to stop safely and for the passengers. Clerk has also enquired about having road markings to highlight that there is a bus stop. Cars are now filling the Flambards Lay-by. It was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon and seconded by Mr P A Ray that the Clerk contact the PCSO and invite them along with a Parish Council representative to observe the parking problems. Cars are also parking illegally close to junctions and at the entrance to the footpath.

Cllr D McCraith suggested that residents should contact the Parish Council if they have concerns about parking and if yellow lines would be of benefit. **Clerk**

9. Freedom of Information:

Clerk has submitted a draft format. Mr P A Ray proposed that the clerk along with a parish council member finalise the document, which will then be put onto the website. **Clerk**

10. Audit:

The internal audit has been approved by Moore Stephens the External auditors.

11. Burial Ground:

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

Mrs J Fallon, Mr C A Land and the clerk inspected the burial ground to determine a suitable position for a memorial bench for the family of Mr Henry, clerk to inform the family. A position was also agreed for Mr Land's bench but the area needs to be tidied before the bench can be positioned. Clerk to inform the family. **Clerk**

The ferrets have now been used for rabbit control.

12. Playground:

The football club would like to put a pole on the side of the pavilion pitch side for a spotlight. The Parish Council did not see that this would cause any concerns.

The damaged window in the pavilion will be repaired soon.

13. Mary Course Award Society bank account:

Mr R A Searles reported that an account has been opened with Cambridge Building Society for a 2 year saving bond at 5.1%. There is enough money held in the other Cambridge Building Society Account for prize money for the next two years. Clerk to update the financial spreadsheet and circulate. **Clerk**

14. Highways:

Mr A P Burlton still to meet with Mr Mike Cooper from the Highways Department (CCC), to carry out a site visit to look at the hedges on Kneesworth Road. **APB**

The 'Give Way' sign has now been fully repaired.

15. Parish Path Partnership Report:

The annual paths survey forms are being issued for return by 31st January 2009. These will then be summarised for the preparation of annual workload schedules and the problems found can be a basis for the proposed work schedule for 2009/10. These documents support the application to CCC for 2009/10 grants.

There is a volunteer group meeting/Christmas social on Monday 15th December at 7.30 pm in the Green Room of the Village Hall.

Chippings have been delivered for fp2 and a working party will be arranged.

The Parish Council, on behalf of the village, would like to thank all the members who give up their time voluntarily in order to maintain Meldreth's footpaths. The group are all over fifty and would appreciate assistance from the younger members of the village to help maintain approximately eight miles of paths in Meldreth.

16. Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

All correspondence has been circulated.

Items discussed:

- Cambridge CAB – clerk to send them an application form for a Council grant.
- The MVA notice board near the station has now been repaired. **Clerk**

- Affordable housing update – an email has been received from Cambridgeshire ACRE requesting that their representative attends a parish council meeting. They would like to discuss if there is a need for further affordable housing in Meldreth. It was felt that, until the requested information from the developments already in the village has been obtained, it would not be possible to ascertain if there is still a need for this type of housing. The development at Burton's only has shared ownership properties left available. Clerk is still waiting for information from Raglan's about the Elin Way development. Once this information has been given, a decision can then be made.
- A letter was received from Melbourn Parish Council concerning the implementation of yellow lines along Station Road. Although Meldreth Parish Council are in support of installing yellow lines along Station Road, it felt that the Traffic Regulation Order should be funded by Melbourn as the problem is caused by a business in Melbourn. Meldreth would also like to know how much of the lining would be in Meldreth, before considering contributing to the cost of painting the lines. Clerk to contact Melbourn PC for a plan of the proposed lining.

Clerk

Clerk's report

- Ongoing process about getting money back from Pipex for BT bills – Pipex did not switch over to free phone calls when they should have. Still proceeding. Have received a further invoice from BT. Pipex have still not honoured their contract. If nothing is done, clerk will contact Andrew Lansley MP.
- Ongoing process about getting money back from Anglian Water for the football pavilion sewage charges – Still not resolved, Clerk to enquire.
- Flambards – an email has been received from a letting agency enquiring who is responsible for the drains in Flambards Close. There is no common land in Flambards and the responsibility lies with all householders who are between the blocked drain and the main sewer along the Highway. Clerk to inform the agency.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

20.

Councillors' Reports:**Mr R A Searles**

Mr R A Searles attended the recent 'Cambridgeshire Together' meeting held on 19th November, which is aimed at getting a better partnership between local organisations in order to improve the quality of life for those who live, study or work in Cambridgeshire. There are five main themes: Managing Growth; Economic Prosperity; Environmental Sustainability; Equality and Inclusion and Safer and Stronger Communities. One of the main documents being looked at is Parish Plans. Whilst Meldreth's Parish Plan has helped to focus improvement in the village, it was felt these documents are not looked at by the powers that be outside the village. Information to be circulated.

Parish Plans last for 5 years, Meldreth needs to start a new one in 2010; it is not clear who will fund this.

Mrs J Montague-Fuller

The Riparian group have composed a letter for residents on the north side of Chiswick End informing them that SCDC will soon be clearing the ditches.

Mr J Chamberlain

Reported that leaves had been deposited by SCDC into the ditches near the recreation ground. Cllr van de Ven was aware of this and had reported it. Mrs C J Fallon had recently looked at the ditch, which does now appear to be clear.

Mr S Hawkins

There has been a sewage spill near the sewage works during the past few days. The River Mel Group is investigating.

Cllr McCraith (CCC)

There have been some recent garden shed burglaries in the area.

CCC has been given a raise of 1.9% by the Government that is well below the countries average of 4.9%. The outcome of this will be further cuts to services, as they need to make a saving of £19 million.

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
Royal British Legion	001767	70.00	0	70.00	Donation	S137
Mrs J Damant	001768	607.85	0	607.85	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Mrs J Damant	001769	19.59	0	19.59	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
PAYE & NI (JD & MT)	001770	280.37	0	280.37	Inland revenue & NI J Damant	LGA 1972 s.112
Mr M Taylor	001771	180.20	0	180.20	Litter collector	LGA 1972 s 9/10
W Butler reimburse A Burlton has he has paid this	001772	150.00	0	150.00	Hedge cutting at Chiswick End	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
J Fallon	001773	2.30	0	2.30	Netball nets	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
P Ray	001774	39.00	0	39.00	Expenses – brass plaque for bench	S137
Eon – electric for pavilion	001775	47.03	2.24	44.79	Electricity for pavilion	LGA (Misc Prov) 1976 s19
Moore Stephens external audit	001776	346.63	51.63	295.00	External audit	LGA 1972 s 226
British Telecom	001777	166.07	22.57	143.50	Telephone	Telecom Act 1984
Pipex	Dd	9.99		9.99	Broadband	Telecom Act 1984

LGA – Local Government Act

OSA – Open Space Act

Telecom - Telecommunications Act

Total amount of cheques awaiting approval

£1,919.03

Shaded area – additional payments
Cheque 001767 was agreed under Item 5 in the minutes of November 2008.

Total amount in Current Account	£ 2,767.13
Minus payments awaiting approval	£ 1,919.03
True balance	£ 848.10
Plus total amount in Deposit Account (includes uncleared payments)	<u>£42,792.83</u>
Total funds available	£43,640.93

Payments including additional payments proposed by Mr R A Searles, seconded by Mr J Chamberlain, all agreed.
Additional payments (shaded)

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

- Hedges – AB and Highways report
- Litter bin on A10
- PPP
- Precept
- Parking concerns on High Street
- Charges – sewage and pipex
- Speedwatch – update from Highways about the consultation
- Speed limits along Whaddon Road/Kneesworth – what is happening?
- Yellow lines in Melbourn

24. Action Points: (if not already covered)

All action points covered

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.
Next meeting will be on 8th January 2008, at 7:30 pm in the Green Room, of the Village Hall.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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