

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th March 2009, 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]); Mrs J Damant (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Guest Speakers:

Miss Kirsten Bicknell, Arts Development Manager came and introduced herself to the council. Miss Bicknell also explained about the event on 31 March, which is part of the preparations to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Melbourn Village College. Mrs Catherine Shilton, Cambridgeshire ACRE addressed the council about the 'Housing Needs Survey', which will be delivered to all the residents of Meldreth at the end of March, for return at the end of April. The survey will be used to establish the need for such housing within the village.

Chairman's Discretion Item 61/3/09.4 Pavilion repairs be included onto the Agenda

Action

47/3/09 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton and Cllr D McGraith (Cambridge County Councillor [CCC])

48/3/09 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:

Mr C A Land and Mr J Chamberlain both declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 59/3/09.

49/3/09 To sign and approve minutes of the meeting dated 5th February 2009:

It was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon and seconded by Mr R A Searles that the minutes of the 5th February be approved as a true record. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

50/3/09 Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council:

Gratitude was expressed for all the hard work, which Cllr van de Ven had put in concerning the railway station and in organising the public meeting, which appears to have gone very well.

51/3/09 Matters arising: (no actions information only)

51/3/09.1 – Dog bins: Clerk is still waiting to hear from Mr Hardwood Clarke
 51/3/09.2 – Pipex refund: There appears to have been a credit issued of £148 but the amount has not been explained. Clerk is currently waiting to hear from the company.
 51/3/09.3 – Quality Council: Mr Ian Dewar will be visiting the Clerk tomorrow to discuss the new regulations, Mr S J Hawkins and Mr J Chamberlain will try to make the meeting.

52/3/09 Planning: Cllrs Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Ray and Land

52/03/09.1 – Planning meeting; 19th February 2009

S/0105/09/LB, 13 North End – Alterations on gable chimney stack
 Parish Council recommends - Approval
 S/1382/08/LB, 32 Station Road Fieldgate Nursery – Alterations
 Parish Council recommends – No Recommendation
 SCDC Decisions
 S/1996/08/F, 15 Chiswick End – permission has been refused

52/3/09.2 – Planning Meeting: 5th March 2009

S/0133/09/F, 21 Whitecroft Road – Dwelling
 Parish Council recommends – Approval
 S/0177/03/F, APP/W/0530/A/03/1136689, Showman's Site, Biddalls Blvd
 Parish Council will be writing to the Planning Department. There appears to be some discrepancy on the number of plots which have been asked for and the number already in existence.
 S/2068/08/F, 2 Woolpack Way – Replacement Stables
 Parish Council recommends – Approval

53/3/09 Report from District Councillor:

Council tax rise nationally is about 3%; South Cambs will be 4.5%, a climbdown from 4.9%, which had been on the agenda but was immediately amended by the council administration at the start of the meeting.

The main opposition party had suggested 2.45%. Administration said it faced an unworkable Revenue Support Grant from government (below inflation). Opposition said administration was looking to beef up reserves, which should in fact be spent during tough times now being experienced. Under spends last year were £480K.

Homelessness inquiries at SCDC have seen an increase of 33%. Extra staff support to deal with them to be hired from under spends.

Rail service meeting at Meldreth March 3rd: Cllr van de Ven has written a report for the parish magazine to explain the outcomes of the meeting, and has written a detailed letter to the parish council outlining the same in more detail. Progress: booking office will remain open Saturday mornings but cuts still to go ahead for Monday to Friday; we still await Dept for Transport's response to consultation on booking office. Ongoing: Overall cost of rail travel, including car park charges and exorbitant cost especially of student 'discount' scheme, disabled access to both platforms. Dropped kerb for northbound platform access to take place this month. FCC promise to look into the many problems surrounding ticket machines, noise pollution from announcement system, and platform shelters.

Housing Futures drop in session at Elin Way: only 6-7 members of the public. Concern about one-sided information, with no explanation of the risks of transfer – both financial complications in acquiring loan necessary for acquisition of the housing stock and the implications for the council left behind, once all promises to new housing association are made. Promises in the literature give sums of money to be spent but no realistic idea of what that money, spread across a large housing stock and district, will be able to buy.

Pest control: Environmental Health budget for next year sees no relief on rates for pest control call-out, no exceptions made. The cost is high. Cllr van de Ven will be looking at this with other district councillors; making pest control unaffordable could be setting up bigger environmental health problems for the future.

Consultation until April 14 on biodiversity and listed buildings. Council meeting March 10 to address Site Specific Development Plan Documents and the housing shortfall; Meldreth not affected.

54/3/09 Station: Changes to Office working hours

Covered in item 53/3/09

55/3/09 Hedge Cutting along Whaddon Road:

It was proposed by Mr R A Searles and seconded by Mr S J Hawkins that this is to be a yearly project. All agreed. Mrs Hunter will oversee the work.

56/3/09 Housing: housing needs in the village

It was proposed by Mr R A Searles and seconded by Mrs C J Fallon that the proposed questionnaire designed by Cambridgeshire ACRE be sent out to all households. All agreed. A reminder to be placed in Meldreth Matters. The questionnaire will be sent out at the end March.

57/3/09 Proposed new bus route via Whaddon:

Clerk has spoken with Mr Andy Hunt (CCC) in order to clarify the situation of the proposed bus route. The bus will be operational from March but will incorporate the other end of the journey (Steeple Morden). Timetables have been printed and, as they had not received confirmation from Whaddon, they had proceeded. They will be running a probational period of six months, after this Meldreth and Whaddon could then be incorporated, if they wish. It is not possible to run the bus via the A10 back to Royston, as it has to return to Kneesworth. The proposal is for the bus to enter Whaddon via the Whaddon turn from the A1198 and to then return to Kneesworth via Mettle Hill. As to the possibility of going to the Stocks, CCC are prepared to take a look, but they did say that there are time constraints for this bus, so it may not be possible. Clerk will put an article in Meldreth Matters, requesting feedback from residents to see if this is a viable service and whether it would be used.

Clerk

58/3/09 Flood Avoidance Subcommittee:

With the cooperation of the Highway Department (CCC) an improved service in clearing storm drain gulleys and jetting in problem areas has been achieved. The benefits of this can be seen in the High Street and Stocks area, which did not flood during the last heavy rains. Extensive investigation in Chiswick End with the working party has been done and SCDC will be dredging out the ditches on either side of Chiswick End soon. Sections of the west side of the recreation area have been dredged by SCDC. The investigation of the historic ditches from the High Street to the river have not revealed any particular potential for alleviating flooding in the High Street. However, the ditch alongside Mr Price's property has undergone extensive clearing and this may have helped avoid roadway flooding at the stocks end of the High Street.

Mr Rob Mungovan (SCDC Ecology Officer) has provided considerable assistance to the subcommittee's activities..

Mr J Chamberlain thanked the subcommittee for all their hard work. Mrs J Montague-Fuller was also thanked, not only as part of the subcommittee, but for also creating a drainage pond on her property, which is believed to have helped alleviate the Chiswick End drainage problem. Pg 752

Artesian Wells have been appearing in Shepreth, this is probably due to the closure of Cemex who had been pumping water from the greensand.

59/3/09 Burial Ground: footpath repairs

Quotes had been received for repairing the footpath. It was proposed by Mr S J Hawkins and seconded by Mr P A Ray to accept the quote from South Cambs Landscaping Services. All agreed. Clerk to ask the company if they could brush finish the concrete on completion. **Clerk**

60/3/09 Financial Assistance:

60/3/09.1 – Melbourn and Meldreth Self Help Group for 2009/10

The organisation has always involved both villages, though it is currently more widely used by Melbourn residents. It was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr G V Borgonon that a donation of £300 be made available, all agreed. Given the proportion of the funding from the villages it would be nice to see Melbourn donating a higher proportion of the Group's funding needs. It was also suggested that the facilities at the Community Rooms in Meldreth could also be used to do lunches, especially as they are now going to use Moorlands to do the catering. **Clerk**

60/3/09.2 – Tree planting at the Almshouses

The request is in abeyance whilst news is awaited of whether applications to other organisations are successful.

61/3/09 Playground:

61/3/09.1 – Monthly Report

All the equipment appears to be in good order. The ditch has been cleared from behind the bungalows and the water level is now low.

61/3/09.2 – Tree planting

Is in progress

61/3/09.3 – Tree Guard

It was proposed by Mr S J Hawkins and seconded by Mr R A Searles that the offer from the National Trust be accepted. Mr S Damant (National Trust) has recently put in an order for Victorian tree guards to Andy Klose, Orwell, and has kindly offered that he will order an extra one for Meldreth. Payment of £200 plus vat will be to Andy Klose. The guards are of a Victorian design used at Wimpole Hall and will give 40 years of growth. Mr Damant has kindly offered to erect and rivet the guard when it is needed.

61/3/09.4 – Pavilion repairs (Chairmans' discretionary item)

Quotes have been received for the repair works needed in the Pavilion. It was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon and seconded by Mr J Chamberlain that the quote from Peachey Drylining be accepted. All agreed. **Clerk**

62/3/09 Speedwatch:

An article has been put into Meldreth Matters explaining what Speedwatch is and how residents can volunteer to take part.

The police held their first training session on 20th February in Whaddon and Mr G V Borgonon attended.

Other villages are already up and running with the scheme and it will be reviewed at the next

Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 20th April.

For the scheme to be a success it needs volunteers to register their interest and take part. Clerk has application forms.

63/3/09 Parish/Village Charities:

Mrs C J Fallon passed to the Clerk documentation concerning the Trigg Charity. Clerk to request information from the other charities in the village in order to compile a document. There may be some organisations which would be of benefit to residents, which are not widely known about.

64/3/09 Freedom of Information Act:

Documentation is being completed and will be put on the website. **Clerk**

65/3/09 Parish Path Partnership Report:

Mr J Chamberlain read out his report.

Working Party – Footpath 2. The chippings should have been delivered to path 4, but were dropped off at Footpath 2; however they have not been wasted, as parts of footpath 2 were very muddy.

Future Working parties are planned for March and April on footpath 4 (bridge repairs and footpath 6 which will require at least two loads of good chippings).

Footpath 4 is flooded behind The Warren and needs plank repairs on the bridge over the ditch.

The next group meeting is on 16th March 2009 at 19.30 in the Green Room of village hall.

Report on the meeting with CCC P3 Department:

Junction of paths 10 & 11 to look at the signpost; someone has straightened the sign post but the name plates need attention.

Footpath 9 - Graham Ward had reported that there was a lot of moss on path edges; this was shown to Andrew Stimpson.
The stiles on footpaths 5 & 7 on the A10 bypass are still in need of repair; Andrew Stimpson stated that it is the landowner's responsibility for the maintenance of these fences and stiles. Mr Stimpson was asked if there needed to be a stile or gate in these areas or could it be left open, due to the proximity of the Highway? He will get back as he was not sure what the regulations are.

Footpath 6 was also inspected. A working party is scheduled in March or April to lay two loads of good chippings. The question was raised about creating steps from footpath 14 to footpath 6, Mr Stimpson agreed that this would be acceptable but that the work needed to be carried out by the working party, and not CCC.

Footpath 8 leading from Howard Road to the Recreation Ground was also inspected and the missing railing on the little bridge over the ditch, was highlighted for replacement.

66/3/09 Melbourn Village College Workshop:

Following the talk from Kirsten Bicknell, Mr S J Hawkins volunteered to attend the workshop for creating kiln glass. **SJK**

67/3/09 Correspondence: (has been circulated)

Mr R A Searles, Parish Council representative on Village Hall Trust, will liaise with the officers for the Village Hall audit being carried out by SCDC. **RAS**

Cambridgeshire ACRE – playing field membership – it was decided by all the council that this would not be of benefit to the Parish Council.

South Cambridgeshire Community Chest – Grants available for voluntary and community sector organisations. Information has been sent to Meldreth Matters and people who would like further information should contact the Clerk.

SCDC – LDF Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) coverings Biodiversity and Listed Buildings: works to or affecting the setting of SPD – Mr G V Borgonon will summarise the information and report back the parish council. **GVB**

Recycling bins – As the clerk had not received any feedback on the recycling bins it was decided that they could now be removed. Clerk to inform Cllr van de Ven. **Clerk**

68/3/09 Councillors' and Clerk's Reports:

Clerk's Report

Money for the grass cutting and Cambridge Water has been received.

Have applied for 2008/09 VAT refund.

Highways – broken sign for Northfield Kennels has been removed - Highways were looking at whether permission had ever been granted for this sign.

Mattress at Mettle Hill has been reported to Environmental Services for removal via Mike Cooper. Mike could see no evidence of vehicular access to the Mettle Hill site, all concrete posts are in place and there is also a ditch.

Royston & District Community Transport have written seeking financial assistance, the relevant form has been sent to them.

The Highway Department are asking for residents to contact them with pothole sightings. A notice has been put up on the noticeboard and sent to Meldreth Matters.

Mrs C J Fallon

Could the electricity company, (E.on) come and inspect the pavilion meter? Clerk to arrange. **Clerk**

69/3/09 To receive details of cheques to be drawn on the Parish Council's accounts as detailed or amended by late payments. To improve payments.

Cheques for approval and signature including any additional payments:

Financial Statement was circulated to all councillors.

Name	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Description	Power
G B Goodwin	001798	500.00	0	500.00	Grass cutting - Dec	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
Lee Valis	001799	256.89	0	256.89	Repairs to Pavilion	LGA (misc) 1976 s 19
CCC	001800	1719.88	0	1719.88	Street Lighting	PCA 1957 s3
Margaret Hunter	001801	45.00	0	45.00	Hedge cutting	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
Eon	001802	62.20	2.96	59.24	Electricity for pavilion	LGA (misc) 1976 s 19
BT	001803	132.31	15.36	116.95	Telephone	Telecoms Act 1984

LGA – Local Government Act; OSA – Open Space Act; Telecom - Telecommunications

Available funds for current account: £ 264.82
 Available fund for deposit account: £36,836.96
 Total amount in hand: £37,101.78

70/3/09 Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for the next meeting:

Insurance
 Financial Assistance – Over 60's Group

71/3/09 Action Points:(if not already covered)

All action points have been covered.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.30pm.
 Next meeting will be on 2nd April 2009 at **Meldreth Primary School** following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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