

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd April 2009, 8.15 pm
in The Main Room, Meldreth Primary School

Present: Mr C A Land – Chairman (CAL); 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]); Mr D McGraith (Councillor, Cambridge County Council [CCC]) and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

72/4/09 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Mr R A Searles

73/4/09 To receive and Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:

There were no Declarations of Interest declared by any member of the council.

74/4/09 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5th March 2009:

The minutes were proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr S J Hawkins as a true record; minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

75/4/09 Members of the public are invited to address the Council:

There were no members of the public present.

76/4/09 Matters arising (no actions information only)

76/4/09.1 Burial Ground Repairs – Have now been completed and 5 slabs were repaired, as agreed in the minutes of March 5th 2009 at a cost of £1,000 (£200 per slab)

77/4/09 Planning: Cllrs. Burlton, Chamberlain, Land, Ray and Searles.

There was no meeting held on 19th March 2009.

Planning Meeting 2nd April 2009

Land adj 3 Gables Close, No reference Number

A letter had been received from Jenny Clark (SCDC Planning) enquiring about selling a piece of land, so that the trees can be maintained privately. Clerk to write back with the concerns of the Parish Council.

'The land in question is part of an estate, and sale could cause confusion about responsibility over maintenance of the trees and grass. This could then lead to differing standards being applied to the overall look of the estate'.

The Parish Council cannot see why SCDC should not be able to maintain these trees along with the other trees in the area.

SCDC Decisions:

13 North End, S/0105/09/LB - Permission has been granted for alterations – install flexible flue liner and cannon head Chimney pot to gable chimney stack.

Almshouses, C/11/40/071 - No objections from the Tree Officer to the proposed work of removing saplings.

Fieldgate Nurseries, 32 Station Road, S/1832/08/LB - Council gives permission for alterations – internal changes to two dwellings, remove and replace partitions and ceiling, install chipboard floor, convert attic space and implement structural works (regularisation of unauthorised works).

78/4/09 Report from District Councillor: South Cambs DC has received notification of the Government's intention to offer grants to local authorities which will subsidise the annual rent increase and allow it to be kept to 3.1% which is half of the proposed increase.

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In response to the housing shortfall identified last year, South Cambridgeshire DC has tested 35 separate development sites. They have now decided to send forward to the Secretary of State four sites all of which are close to or within the Cambridge fringe and avoids further large development in the villages.

Housing Futures: Home visits are now taking place and Council tenants have had their final consultation documents, including a 100-plus page offer document and another DVD. Some residents feel that they are feeling pressured by the volume and one-sidedness of consultation materials. We understand that a ballot on transfer is scheduled for the 'spring but that date has not been announced.

Cllr van de Ven has met Lisa Harris, Cambridge Housing Society's new officer for this area, who is particularly anxious to help with getting new projects for young people off the ground.

Listed buildings consultation is until April 14. Little feedback from members of the public. Documentation is available at the SCDC website (www.scams.gov.uk).

First Capital Connect (FCC) update: Passenger Focus is taking a serious look at the problem of difficult and unreliable ticket machines across FCC's patch. Cycle wheeling channel: health and safety restrictions mean it cannot be altered, but it is showing signs of wear and tear which indicates that it is being used, so it will be kept where it is rather than removed altogether. Better disabled access to station: meeting with FCC and representatives from Orchard Transition Service and the Manor School on April 15. The £1 car park charge is now in place for a three month period but there is little evidence so far of increased usage of the car park. Other aspects of rail service will be explored further at a later date. We want to keep open the channels of communication.

79/4/09 Grass cutting outside the Almshouses:

Clerk has contacted Mike Cooper, (CCC Highways) who has stated that the area behind the bus shelter, between the footpath and the road is the responsibility of the Highway Department. However, Cllr van de Ven believes that the concern is more to do with leaf clearing. Clerk will confirm this with Mr P Chilvers and then contact Mr Cooper.

Clerk

80/4/09 Railway Station:

Also see item 78/4/09

There will be a meeting to discuss disability access with First Capital Connect and Orchard Transmission Services and the Manor School on April 15th. Mr J Chamberlain and Mrs J Fallon will attend along with Cllr van de Ven.

It has been agreed that a reduced car parking charge of £1 will be administered for 3 months, starting in April.

Mr R A Searles and Mrs J Fallon will be meeting with First Capital Connect to look at traffic concerns.

**JC, JF,
Cllr van
de Ven**

RAS, JF

81/4/09 Financial Assistance:

80/4/09.1 Over 60's Club

It was felt that the information provided was insufficient Clerk to write asking for further information and end of year accounts. These should now be available.

Clerk

82/4/09 Playground:

81/4/09.1 Monthly Report

Equipment checked and found to be in good working order: the abusos, rocking horse, both sets of swings, the slide, three seat springer, kicking board and one 5 a side goal post.

Clerk

- Equipment which needs looking at and to be actioned are: **Pg 757**
- The igloo - matting under igloo needs lifting and dirt removing to make it lay flat. Clerk to ask K Taylor to maintain. **Clerk**
 - Roundabout - the tiles around need the gaps filling in to avoid a trip hazard. Clerk to enquire with Wickstead what would be the best option - to repair and fill in the gaps or renew the whole area? **Clerk**
 - Basketball ring still bent and needs nets (we have the nets). Clerk to ask K Taylor to repair. **Clerk**
 - Hedge to be replanted by placing three shrubs into the vacant spaces. This has now been done. **Clerk**

Concerns near the ditch area:

There are two dead trees, and the elder next to it needs cutting back. Two trees have come down over the ditch behind the goalposts and need to be removed. It was suggested that the Clerk contact a tree surgeon. Mrs J Fallon will do a site visit with the contractors. **Clerk, JF**

Half a tree branch is in the ditch plus a corner post which appears to come from the fence of the house which backs on to the field. Down the side of the new houses a lot of fence wire, from the old fence next to the path, was found - this is another trip hazard and needs to be removed. There is also old wire behind the pavilion, which also needs to be removed. Mr A P Burlton will organise a working party to remove the debris.

Pavilion - the wooden post which holds the roof is rotten and needs to be replaced. Clerk to request quotes. **APB**
 The guttering has also lost a support so is leaking. Clerk to contact K Taylor. **Clerk**

81/4/09.2 Tree planting

Mrs J Montague-Fuller is still waiting to hear back from Roz Richardson (SCDC, Tree Officer) **Clerk**

83/4/09 Parish Path Partnership Report

82/4/09.1 Monthly Report

There will be a working party on the 18th April to lay chippings on footpath 6 at Woopack Way and Flambards Bridge. Mr J Chamberlain will attend the P3 Coordinators meeting on 23rd April in Cambridge. A copy of the Action Plan will be circulated. Clerk will contact other tree surgery companies to enquire if they have free chippings available. **JC**
Clerk

84/4/09 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

A request for £45 has been received in order to purchase three trees for Malton Lane. It was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon and seconded by Mr A P Burlton that the amount was agreeable but payment would be made on receipt of the invoice, all agreed. Clerk to contact Mrs M Hunter. **Clerk**

85/4/09 Councillors' Reports:

Mrs J Montague-Fuller

A request was made to ask Cllr van de Ven if SCDC will be clearing the ditches in Chiswick End. Cllr van de Ven explained that this should have been done but due to unforeseen circumstances within the department it will now take place in October. Mrs J Montague-Fuller also took this opportunity to thank SCDC for the clearing work done in the recreation ground, the ditch is looking very good. Cllr van de Ven will pass this on to Mr P Matthews. **Cllr van de Ven**

Mr A P Burlton

Mr A P Burlton would like to place rabbit proof fencing around the cemetery, along the the outside of the hedge which borders his land.

He will also enquire with Meldreth Manor to see if they are agreeable to the fencing being applied along their land which also borders the cemetery. The Parish Council would pay for materials; the Burlton family would donate doing the work. Mr A P Burlton will get costs and report back to the council before proceeding.
 Signpost at the Stocks : it would appear that the post may need replacing rather than repairing. Mr A P Burlton will investigate and ask for quotes.
 Mr A P Burlton will also remove the post.

APB

APB

Cllr McCraith

Melbourn Village College will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. There was a police 'Day of Action' involving 20/25 officers in Bassingbourn, Melbourn and Gamlingay areas. 74 offences were recorded from using mobile phones while driving to driving while disqualified.

86/4/09 To receive details of cheques to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payments: Cheques for approval and signature including any additional payments:

Name	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Description	Power
J Damant 86/4/09.1	1805	459.52	0	459.52	Salary	LGA 1972 s 112
J Damant 86/4/09.2	1806	26.64	0	26.64	expenses	LGA 1972 s 112
M Taylor 86/4/09.3	1807	201.47	0	201.47	Salary	LGA 1972 s 9 & 10
Inland Revenue 86/4/09.4	1808	311.06	0	311.06	PAYE & NI	LGA 1972 s 112
SCDC 86/4/09.5	1809	318.66	0	318.66	Rates (office)	LGA 1972 S 226
Chubb Fire Ltd 86/4/09.6	1810	98.14	12.8	85.34	Fire equipment	LGA (misc) 1976 s19
Cambridge Water Co. 86/4/09.7	1811	74.68	0	74.68	Water (pavilion)	PHA 1936 s125
Cambridge Water Co. 86/4/09.8	Q1812	24.69	0	24.69	Water (cemetery)	PHA 1936 s125
NALC 86/4/09.9	1813	8.79	1.17	7.62	Postage for portfolio	LGA 1972 s143
R A Searles 86/4/09.10	1814	40.94	0	40.94	Expenses (ink x2)	LGA 1972 s 226
V T Skuce 86/4/09.11	1815	710.00	84.00	62.60	Cemetery footpath	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
K Taylor 86/4/09.12	1816	75.00	0	75.00	Pavilion repairs	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
G B Goodwin 86/4/09.13	1817	500.00	0	500.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
Melbourn Self Help Gr 86/4/09.14	1818	300.00	0	300.00	Donation	S137
G V Borgonon 86/4/09.15	1819	107.95	0	107.95	Website expenses	LGA 1972 s226
ACRE 86/4/09.16	1820	25.00	0	25.00	Membership	LGA 1972 s 143
J Fallon 86/4/09.17	1821	14.85	0	14.85	Expenses (shrubs)	LGA 1972 s 226

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

Clerk to enquire how much it would cost to install water meters at the pavilion and cemetery.

Clerk

Payments were proposed by Mr S Hawkins and seconded by Mr C A Land, all agreed. Additional payments (shaded) were proposed by Mr C A Land and seconded by Mrs J Fallon

87/4/09 Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for the next meeting:

Agenda Items for next month

Hedge cutting along Bell Close

Hedge along the railway way track

Sign post at the stocks

Highways – encroaching wall on the High Street

Insurance – annual look at the policy

Quality Status – how to proceed with re-qualifying

Annual Audit

88/4/09 Action Points: if not already covered

All action points had been covered.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm
Next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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