

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th June 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 A P Burlton (APB); Mr S W J Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C J Fallon (JF); Mr S J Hawkins (SJH); Mr P A Ray (PAR)

In Attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

- 114/6/09 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from the following - Mr G V Borgonon, Mrs J Montague-Fuller, Cllr Dr S van de Ven and Cllr D McCraith
- 115/6/09 To receive and Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
There were no Declarations of Interest Declared.
- 116/6/09 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7th May 2009:**
Following minor amendments the minutes were approved, proposed by Mr R A Searles, seconded by Mr P A Ray, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
Amendments: Mr J Chamberlain was elected onto the Trigg Charity, he was originally elected onto the charity in 2008/09 and agreed to remain for 2009/10.
- 117/6/09 Members of the public are invited to address the Council:**
There were three members of the public in attendance.
Item 1 – Mr Raymond Christie addressed the members on setting up a football club, which will play on Saturdays at Meldreth. He also would like to put forward a proposal of refurbishing the pavilion as it would not meet football regulations as it stands. The proposal is to gain three quotes for refurbishment (contractors are screened by the Football Association), the quotes are then submitted back to the Football Association who make the final decision. Once the contractor has been assigned grants are submitted, this will be done by the football club. It is hoped that the majority of the work needed will be covered by the grant, however, if it falls short then the parish council can submit a separate grant application to SCDC. Grants from SCDC are subject to match funding. The pavilion will still be owned by the Parish Council, but the management will be taken over by the football club. The pitch will not be changed.

Item 2 - Residents have expressed concern over the increase in noise emanating from the premises of Gocold. It would appear that vehicles are not hooking up to the electricity but are running their diesel engines.
- 118/6/09 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
Mr J Chamberlain would like to thank members of the council for their kind wishes during his recent illness.
- 119/6/09 Planning: Cllrs. Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Ray and Land**
Planning Meeting of 7.05.09 (meeting cancelled)
Planning Meeting of 14.05.09
S/0343/09/F, 15 Chiswick End – erection of bungalow
Parish Council Recommendation – Approval with comments
S/0133/09/F, 21 Whitecroft Road - dwelling
Parish Council Recommendation – Approval
S/0414/09/F, 13/15 North End – dropped kerb
Parish Council Recommendation – Approval
S/0512/09/F, Gocold – temporary cold store
Parish Council Recommendation – Approval with comments
SCDC Decisions:
11 North End, permission granted for the removal of the brick boundary wall
Planning Meeting of 04.06.09
S/0635/09/F, 90 High Street – dwelling
Parish Council Recommendation – approval with comments
S/0637/09/F, 90 High Street – double garage
Parish Council Recommendation – Approval

Showman's Site

Increase of pitch numbers to 17

Parish council would like to reiterate their previous correspondence. There is also no evidence in the correspondence, from planning, which would indicate that there is an increased need for more showman sites.

120/6/09

Report from District Councillor:

1. Noise nuisance from Go-cold, particularly at night. See item 117/6/09. Cllr van de Ven has been in contact with Mr Russell Watkins (SCDC Environmental Health) who is monitoring the situation.
2. Skate ramp project – details have been passed from Jane Lampshire to the Clerk, who has passed them onto the members.
3. Rail Station – Cllr van de Ven has met with Melbourn Parish Councillor Mr Christopher Stead to assist in the efforts to promote usage of the station.
4. Rail User Group – an initial positive response and one resident is willing to help run it. Advice is to keep it independent but liaise with other groups like Railfuture.
5. Burtons fuel deprivation: SCDC Environmental Health measure fuel poverty only for people on benefit. Being employed makes it difficult to access grant provision. Cllr Montague-Fuller provided contact to village charities, which have been passed onto residents in need. Cllr van de Ven has passed her concerns to Cambridge Housing Society, who have according to residents reduced their fuel charge by 25%.

121/6/09

Railway Station:

The Parish Council agree to support the Railfuture idea. Clerk to write to First Capital Connect regarding the name change back to Meldreth & Melbourn Station.
(see item 120/6/09)

Action: Clerk

122/6/09

Village Maintenance:

1. Grass cutting outside the Almshouses:

This has now been clarified. The grass in question is being cut by the Council's grass cutter - the land which lies in the trees does not come under the Parish Council.

2. Hedge cutting at Bell Close:

This has now been done.

3. Hedge along the Railway track:

The hedge on the side of the farm land has been cut back by Railtrack but the hedge on the opposite side (Gocold) has not been done. Clerk to write to Railtrack.

Action: Clerk

4. Sign post at the Stocks:

The post has been purchased and delivered to Mr R Course who will arrange with Mr Walford to have it erected and the sign reinstated.

123/6/09

Insurance:

It was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr C A Land that the amount of £1,192.11 for the parish council insurance and £132.16 for the pavilion was acceptable; all agreed. The new bench at Melwood has been included onto the Parish Council insurance.

124/6/09

Speedwatch:

Following the article in Meldreth Matters, one resident has offered to volunteer for Speedwatch training, Clerk is presently arranging. Mr R A Searles and Mr P A Ray would now like to progress Speedwatch. Mr R A Searles will organise when others are available this will include the new volunteer once training has been done.

Action: RAS

125/6/09

Affordable Housing

The report is still to be finalised by Cambridgeshire ACRE, once this has been done and councillors have been able to read it, then Catherine Shilton is to be invited to address the council to explain what the next procedure is to be. This will probably be in September.

Action: Clerk

126/6/09

Quality Status:

Clerk is presently putting together the report to be submitted for Parish Quality Status; this should be completed soon.

127/6/09

Playground:

1. Monthly Report

Items needing attention:

Matting under the Igloo at the door way

Items in good order:

Both sets of Swings, the springer, rocking horse, abacus and the slide.

Mr C A Land will take a look at the netball hoops.

Action: CAL

2. Tree planting – to be done later in the year, however the type of tree still needs to be decided.

Action: JMF, JF

3. Report from Wickstead – Clerk is still waiting to meet David Owen, Area Sales Manager to discuss the matting problem under the roundabout.

Action: Clerk

ROSPA report has been received and is on circulation; there are some areas which need to be addressed.

128/6/09

Skateboard Ramp:

The Recreation Committee, fronted by Mr C A Land will take a look at the recreation ground to identify a suitable place for the proposed new Skateboard ramp. This will be then be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: CAL and Recreation Committee

129/6/09

Parish Path Partnership Report:

1. Monthly Report - there was no report this month.

2. Footpath 8 – Mr Mike Cooper has agreed to meet to discuss the footpath. Mr R A Searles will contact Mr Cooper and inform Mr J Chamberlain.

Action: RAS

130/6/09

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

1. Office equipment – Computer

There have been problems with opening documents. It was suggested by Mr R A Searles that the computer may now need upgrading. Clerk to ask Mr G V Borgonon to investigate purchasing a new computer/software.

Action: GVB

2. Lime tree overhanging 22 North End – Clerk has contacted the Tree Officer at SCDC and is awaiting response.

3. Pipex – Clerk has contacted Pipex as another BT invoice has been received. This should not be happening with the contract signed which was for broadband and free calls. Clerk has once again sent copies of the invoice to their office in UK, however there appears to once again be a problem with Pipex honouring their contract as they are unable to activate the account correctly. Clerk to investigate signing up with BT for a full package to include broadband and telephone calls. To get prices.

Action: Clerk

4. South Cambs Parish Forum Meeting – Mr R A Searles to attend the meeting on 30th June at Cambourne.

Action: RAS

5. Ancient document – Cambridgeshire Archives have been made aware of an ancient document from 1438 (reign of King Henry the VI) which names Meldreth, Whaddon and Kneesworth. It was proposed by Mr S Hawkin and seconded by Mrs J Fallon that Meldreth should contribute 1/3 of the cost of obtaining this ancient document, all agreed. Clerk to contact Cambridgeshire Archives.

Action: Clerk

6. CPALC – seminar on 23rd June for website tools and training, Mr S Hawkins maybe able to attend. Paperwork handed over.

Action: SJH

7. Flambards Close drain – Clerk to contact the Lettings Agency to explain that this is not a Parish Council concern. Any drain in Flambards is the responsibility of all the properties it serves, regardless of its location (whether or not it is under the public highway). Trees allegedly causing damage are not on the public highway and therefore the responsibility of the house holders.

Action: Clerk

8. £240 has been received from CCC PPP for parish paths rights of way.

9. Email received from a resident requesting an allotment in Meldreth. He has been put in touch with Phillipa Hart who owns the allotments. Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908 'local authorities and/or parish councils have a legal duty should a demand exist to provide adequate space within their council area or parish for the use of allotment gardens'. If the council has enquired about suitable land and there is none then they can not obtain land for allotments. However, in the case of Meldreth enquires were made, and luckily some land did become available from a private landowner. There appears to be a high demand for allotments, so if anyone has any spare land which they would agree to designating for allotments, please let the Clerk.

131/6/09

Councillors' Reports:

AB – Burial ground fencing
Still awaiting a third quote.

Action: APB

132/6/09

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

Payments were proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr R A Searles, all agreed. Cheques were signed by Mr C A Land and Mrs J Fallon.

Cheques for approval and signature including any additional payments:

Name	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Description	Power
J Damant	1835	510.41	0	510.41	Clerk salary	LGA 1972 s 112
J Damant	1836	36.39	0	36.39	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
M Taylor	1837	191.6	0	191.6	Litter picker	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Inland Revenue	1838	195.00	0	195	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s 112
Playsafety	1839	183.43	0	183.43	RoSPA report	OSA 1906 s 9&10
P chilvers	1840	80.00	0	80.00	Internal audit	LGA 1972 s 226
BT	1841	134.83	15.69	119.14	telephone	Telecomms Act 1984
G B Goodwin	1842	500.00	0	500.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 ss.9/10
Suffolk Acre	1843	1324.27	0	1324.27	Insurance for Parish Council and pavilion	LGA 1972 s226

Shaded area – additional payment, proposed by Mr P A Ray, seconded by Mr C A Land, all agreed.

LGA – Local Government Act, OSA – Open Spaces Act

132/6/09

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

Clerk – will be unable to attend the beginning the next meeting, Mrs P Penfold has agreed to attend the next meeting and take the minutes.

Mr J Chamberlain – The British Legion would like to purchase a concrete flower vase which will be placed at the war memorial to house fresh flowers. To obtain a written quote and submit to the parish council to discuss at the next meeting.

Action: JC

Mrs J Fallon – Concerned parents at the primary school would like to get a safer crossing. At the moment, with cars parked along the High Street it is difficult to see oncoming traffic. Suggestions are: extended yellow lines, lollipop lady. Clerk to enquire with Safer Routes for Schools and CCC.

Action: Clerk

Police have been in contact, with updated information, on the vandalism at the pavilion last month.

Mr R A Searles – Received a call from a resident on North End who has had his car vandalised, but did not report it to the police. It is essential that all criminal acts are reported to the police. Clerk to enquire with Meldreth Matters if the non emergency number can be placed in the front of the magazine.

Action: Clerk

133/6/09

Action Points: if not already covered:

All action points have been covered.

Items for next agenda:

Skateboard

War Memorial Vase

Safer Crossing at School

Communications – Computer

Communications - Telephone

Lime Tree at 22 North End

Affordable Housing

Railway Station

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd July 2009.

Chairman
Meldreth Parish Council

Date