

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET UNAPPROVED of the Parish Council Meeting held 3rd September 2009, 7.30 p.m.
in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr G.V. Borgonon (GVB); Mr A.P. Burlton (APB) – Acting Chairman; 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) Clerk)

It was proposed by the acting Chairman that item 169/09/09 be moved further up the agenda, this was agreed by all.

156/9/09 To receive any apologies for absence:

Mr C A Land, Mr R A Searles, Mrs J Montague-Fuller, Dr S van de Ven
In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Mr A P Burlton chaired the meeting.

157/9/09 To receive and Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:

Mrs J Fallon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Pavilion.

158/9/09 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2nd July 2009:

It was proposed by Mr SWJ Chamberlain, seconded by Mr G V Borgonon that following an amendment to 141/7/09, the minutes should be signed as a true record, all agreed.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

159/9/09 Member of the public are invited to address the Council:

There were 6 members of the public present.

Concerns were raised on the following items:

Will the lateral ditches from the High Street to the Mel be cleared this autumn? Mr P A Ray stated that as far as he was aware no work has been agreed between the Flood Avoidance Sub-Committee and SCDC, albeit some good work has been carried out by Mr Price on the ditch down the side of his property. His understanding is that these ditches are not considered to be a significant issue for flood prevention but Miss Hunter's concerns will be passed to Dr van de Ven.

Mr Darren Jones apologised that he had not had time to put together a comprehensive report concerning the proposed skateboard ramp; he would like to address the item at the next meeting.

Mr Ray Christie asked if it would be possible to install a net at the far end of the football pitch to stop footballs from going into neighbouring gardens

169/9/09 Pavilion:

1. Review of latest design

Mr Richard Brown from Skinners Construction addressed the meeting concerning the architectural plans for the proposed pavilion. It was gratefully noted that Skinners have prepared costings of the initially sketches as a goodwill gesture to the village and do not expect to be paid for the work done so far.

It was suggested that the football club prepared a "focus report" on what they envisage for the future with timescales and milestones and what their needs will be, for the October Parish Council meeting. It was proposed that a public meeting should be held once more information has been obtained, to gauge the level of support in the village and establish who might be involved in the project. Subsequently, if the Parish Council agree, a team will be put together to oversee the project.

2. Project Planning and funding including available grants

Mr Brown estimates that the costs would be in the region of £200,000. Mr Christie stated that the FAA would be willing to put £20,000 towards the project and that other organisations should be approached such as SCDC and Cambridgeshire ACRE.

Some funding will also be needed from the Parish Council, who will need to assess council tax payers' exposure to any funding shortfall due to e.g. cost overruns.

Meeting opened at 7.55pm

160/9/09 Matters arising: (no actions information only)

There were no matters arising.

161/9/09 Planning: Cllrs. Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Ray and Land

Amendment to the agenda, the planning meeting of the 20th July should read 16th July.
Information Only

Planning Meeting of 3rd September 2009

Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/1042/09/F, Erection of packing and chiller building.

Parish Council recommends: Approval

Meldreth Bowls Club, S/0903/09/F, Replacement shed.

Parish Council recommends: Approval

4 The Grange, S/0919/09/F. (amended plans concerning the parapet wall for Information Only). Parish Council noted the amended plans but no comment was needed.

Other Planning Matters:

Clerk to confirm that the proposed site visit to GoCold on the 15th September is appropriate.

Planning Meeting of 20th August 2009

98 North End, S/1063/09/F. Extensions, alterations and conversion to garage to habitable room. Parish Council Recommends: Approval subject to provision of sufficient off-street parking following the loss of the garage.

Five Trees, 26 North End, S/1090/09/F. Replacement doors and windows and rendering of existing external walls. Parish Council recommends: Approval subject to render colour being sympathetic to the local streetscape and the location.

79 High Street, S/1115/09/F. Garage. Parish Council recommends: No Recommendation.

Other Planning Matters:

45 Whitecroft Road, S/0955/09/F has been withdrawn

Planning Meeting of 6th August 2009

47 Howard Road, S/0936/09/F, Porch. Parish Council recommends: Approval but commented that an extension at the rear would need a site visit, if it forms part of the application.

Meldreth Manor School, C/11/40/071-34/09. Prune one ash tree.

Parish Council recommends: Approval

Meldreth Manor School, C/11/17/071/02-07/66 & 36/09. Prune two ash trees.

Parish Council recommends: Approval

4 The Grange, S/0919/09/F. Increase in roof height over existing conservatory.

Parish Council recommends: No Recommendation.

SCDC Decisions

90 High Street, S/0637/09/F. Permission has been granted for a double garage

11 The Grange, S/0686/09/F. Permission has been refused for an extension and loft conversion.

21 Whitecroft Road, S/0133/09/F. Permission has been granted for a dwelling.

Other Planning Matters:

GoCold – Architectural drawings – an informal site visit will be arranged by Mr R A Searles, to understand how residents' concerns about noise will be effectively addressed.

Showman's Site – response from SCDC. Mr R A Searles reported to the meeting having attended the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee on 5th August. The meeting had refused a request for an additional 6 plots.

Planning Meeting of 16th July 2009

45 Whitecroft Road – S/0955/09/F, Demolition of former fire damaged butchers shop, extensions and alterations. Parish Council recommends: Approval.

SCDC decisions

45 North End, C/11/17/071/02-07/66, consent has been granted for the removal of a Horse Chestnut Tree

162/9/09 Report from District Councillor:1. BMX/Skate Ramp, Meldreth Rec:

Site meeting took place July 28; Mr C A Land, Cllr Fallon, Jane Lampshire (SCDC), Ben Norman, Darren Jones and Cllr van de Ven were present. Main discussion was about requirements for positioning a new ramp and how to proceed toward SCDC match funding. Best position for a new facility was considered to be the same spot as before. Petition from young people requesting BMX/skate ramp received and noted by JL. Informal public meetings need to be arranged so that queries and concerns can be raised – first one is scheduled for Sept 16, 6pm, and a notice has been published in Meldreth Matters Sept issue. Jane Lampshire will attend.

New ramps are now much better designed and maintenance problems should be fewer. SCDC will match fund up to £10,000 and young people will need to engage in some fund raising. Ben Norman to report back to Sept PC on design possibilities. Next steps: public meeting Sept 16th; young people to report on fund raising plans

2. Burtons heat and hot water:

Rules have changed on LPG supply to metered estates; residents of Burtons will have opportunity to change supplier. Flogas have written to all residents and Cambridge Housing Society have written to me.

3. SCDC Award Watercourse Tendering Process complete.

In-house service put in bid; had most competitive tender and was deemed best service on basis of local knowledge and response time. Service to stay in-house. In-house service lost one member of staff (out of four) during the process.

4. The Barrington Liaison Group

Met on the 9th to hear a six-monthly report, on current issues and plans for the site. Demolition of some buildings to take place and pit restoration to take place. Long term option to redevelop the site; any such move would involve new license requirement by Environment Agency. Cemex site caretaker announced that a 6 foot fence would be erected around the Cemex owned lake at Meldreth (situated along the A10) due to safety concerns. The lake is attracting trespassers/swimmers and is considered very dangerous due to years' worth of dumped materials and tangled fishing lines.

5. Chairmans's Delegation Meeting review:

Planning Portfolio Holder meeting September 1st considered this matter. A number of parish council representatives and district councillors attended. Continuing concerns about transparency and parish council representation were expressed. Some receptiveness to possibility of allowing observers; possibly something more substantial. Any decisions about changes to meeting format must be taken by full Planning Committee and the matter will be on the October 2nd agenda. Informal consensus that any planning application of particular importance, on which the parish council holds a strong view, should be recommended by the local district councillor to go to full Planning Committee.

163/9/09

Report from County Councillor:

1. Resurfacing on the High Street:

Cllr van de Ven has received two complaints regarding resurfacing work. Mike Cooper from the Highway Department (CCC) responded saying he was quite happy with the result; 90-some pot holes had been filled prior to the work being carried out.

2. Double yellow lines on Station Road at Melbourn boundary:

Highways had indicated to Melbourn Parish Clerk last autumn that, while it could not fund double yellow lines, it had no problem with putting them down. PCs would have to come up with funding which Melbourn and Meldreth did, including legal fees (Melbourn). When Cllr van de Ven queried the lack of action in early July, they were told that they had changed their minds and didn't feel that this action would be beneficial to traffic safety. Cllr van de Ven raised concerns about the decision-making process at full council and had an apology from Exec Director, followed quickly by a site visit with Richard Preston who has now produced an official view.

The Parish Council have reviewed the compromise proposal put forward by Mr Preston and conclude that the new lay out is very different to the original proposal. Melbourn will be holding a public meeting on the 20th October before the Neighbourhood Panel Meeting at Melbourn Village College.

It was felt by Meldreth Parish Council that, unless the public meeting shows that there is overwhelming support to the compromise proposal, Meldreth will be unwilling to offer any financial support. Clerk to write to Melbourn with their concerns.

Action: Clerk

3. County Minerals and Waste Plan:

Safeguarding of mineral sites as long term resource – for our area this includes only Barrington Waste: new site at Waterbeach will involve processing black bin waste, reducing need for landfill. Cambridgeshire has a continuing obligation to take some London waste so this puts added pressure on need to find new solutions to waste disposal. New household recycling centre site for as yet unspecified location south of Addenbrooke's Access Road – state of the art design including roofing and enclosure. All villages should be within easy reach of such a centre.

4. Transport Innovation Fund:

Cambridge Transport Commission reported back to County Council July 22, recommending going forward with TIF bid - approximately £500 million government grant to implement measures to reduce congestion, mainly improvements to infrastructure and also an element of congestion charging. With anticipated 30% population growth in Cambridge area, the Commission points out that current congestion levels will evolve inevitably into gridlock. There is no other pot of money of this kind and it will not be around for long. County Council to make decision on whether or not to proceed at October 13th meeting. Many details not yet clear at this point.

5. Meldreth Station:

- a. FCC have started work on wheelchair access ramp to northbound platform, after years of discussion with Orchard Transition Service and Meldreth Manor School.
- b. new Meldreth Station booking office opening hours have been officially posted.
- c. Cllr van de Ven has organized a meeting between County Council senior officers and First Capital Connect Managing Director, September 23rd, to discuss in general terms how CCC and FCC could cooperate for the benefit of local rail commuters using service at Meldreth/Shepreth/Foxton.

6. Cambridge Central Library

Will be reopening at last. County Councillors have been invited to a preview of the new facility on 24th September.

7. CCC Community Engagement Strategy

Consultation is now under way – aims to ensure that all residents have skills and confidence to take part in local decision making and to access the services they require. Consultation till 24th November, on line at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/communityengagementconsultation.

164/9/09

Railway Station:

Request to change the name to Meldreth & Melbourn Station has been denied due to the costs involved.

165/9/09

Gypsy and Traveller DPD

1. Site Options

All councillors agreed with the draft response, Clerk to contact Mr R A Searles

Action: Clerk

2. Letter to Andrew Lansley

It was agreed by all that the Clerk should send the letter to Mr Lansley.

Action: Clerk

166/9/09

Speedwatch:

1. GVB Report

Speedwatch have now conducted 12 sessions throughout the village, but further volunteers are still needed. An overview on Speedwatch will be given at the next Neighbourhood Police Panel meeting in October. Analysis of Meldreth's data is that during the hours between 8am and 10am, 15% exceeded the 33 mph (trigger point); anyone going over 37mph should receive an official letter from the police. Whitecroft Road, near the Elin Way junction, Station Road between Fieldgate and Melbourn, and North End appear to be the worst areas for speeding.

2. Training Status

There are presently 2 volunteers still waiting training.

167/9/09

Flambards Close

1. Manhole Cover

A manhole cover for a disused storm drain needs repairing. There is concern as to who is responsible for the drain cover. The land owners (Parish Council) or the leaseholders (Flambards Residents Association - FRA). When the lease was being agreed with the Parish Council it was clear that no public money was to be spent on Flambards and that all costs would be covered by the FRA. Clerk to contact Russell Watkins (SCDC) for his advice.

Action: Clerk

168/9/09

Playground:

1. Monthly Report

There was no meeting held this month, but the equipment was inspected and found to be in good condition.

2. Netball Hoops

Still to be done

Action: CAL

3. Tree planting – decision on the type of tree to be planted

It was proposed by Mr S J Hawkins and seconded by Mr G V Borgonon that a field maple would be the best tree to plant in the recreation ground.

4. Quotes for maintenance work

Clerk has received a quote from Wickstead for the amount of £4,378; she will now obtain two further quotes.

Action: Clerk

Recreation Ground Committee will look into the possibility of installing a net at the far end of the football pitch.

170/9/09

Skateboard Ramp:

1. Suitable placing

See item 162/09 item 1

The Recreation Committee will meet prior to the public meeting scheduled for the 16th September. Questions such as cost, vision on how to finance the project and positioning need to be discussed before any decision can be made. Clerk had received a letter from a concerned resident, which was read out at the meeting.

171/9/09

Parish Path Partnership Report:

1. Monthly Report

Footpath 6 - Flambards Bridge to Meldreth Church

a) Following general concern about the state of the footpath near Topcliffe Mill, the working party proposed to shore up the river bank for about ten yards. The land owner is concerned with this proposal and has refused permission for the work to be carried out. Gravel chippings have now been off loaded onto the footpath and appear to be sliding into river. This may make wheelchair access more difficult.

b) It was reported that the stile at end of Topcliffe Meadow was broken. The stile is rotten and has been removed. There is better access via the adjacent gate.

c) Walkers reported that there were wasps nests along the side of footpath 6. Warning notices were displayed at the entrances to the footpath. The Parish Council are now seeking advice from CCC on who is responsible for any such future natural problems.

d) An overhanging bough was reported on footpath 6; this has now been removed.

2) Path 1 - Kingswood near Malton Golf Course

There is an annual working party planned for October 3rd at 9.30 am.

3) Painting Path Fingerposts

Mr R A Searles has completed North End fingerposts, the remaining fingerposts will be painted during the year.

4) Path 9 - Station to Melbourn

This will be strimmed during September by Mr A P Burlton.

2. Footpath 8 – Whitecroft Road to Recreation Ground

Some repairs to the footpath, behind the garages in Howard Road, have now been carried out by the Highways Department (CCC).

172/9/09

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

1. Lime Tree at 22 North End, and

2. Ash Tree at Recreation ground – Mr Thomas' quote for work on these trees was accepted.

3. Cambridgeshire Together – workshop 16th September at Bar Hill – No one able to attend.

4. NHS AGM 22nd September in Ely – No one able to attend.

5. SLCC Regional Conference for the East of England on 24th September in Linton. No one able to attend.

6. CDRP – Anti Social Behaviour event - 29th September at Cambourne. No one able to attend.

7. Cambridgeshire ACRE AGM 29th September in St Ives. No one able to attend.

8. Email from Highways concerning the hedge at the cross roads at Fenny Lane. Clerk reported that Highways had repainted the white lines at the junction as the police felt that this was a contributing factor to an earlier accident. Highways did not feel that there was any overgrown foliage and that the hedge was not a factor.

9. Parked cars – clerk had received correspondence concerning cars parked along North End, at the Shepreth end of the village. The Parish Council and the Police are aware of the situation.

173/9/09

Councillors' Reports:

APB – Burial ground fencing – deferred to next meeting.

JF – The Highway department have not reinstalled the peripheral white lines on the High Street. White lines are also missing from both of the 'Give Way' points along the High Street. Clerk to contact Highways. The yellow lines outside the school also need re-installing.

Action: Clerk

SW – The white lines at the junction of the train station and the High Street also need reinstalling.

Action: Clerk

174/9/09

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:

Proposed Mr P A Ray, seconded Mr S W Chamberlain. All agreed.

Cheques were signed by Mrs J Fallon and Mr G V Borgonon.

Name	amount	vat	Description	Power
Salaries & PAYE July	£911.66		salaries	LGA 1972s112
Clerk expenses	£ 98.10		P Penfold	LGA 1972 ss9/10
G B Goodwin	£700.00		grass cutting	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
SLCC	£ 20.00		clerk training	LGA 1972 s 111
Clerk/Litter picker	£746.35		salaries	LGA 1972s112
PAYE/NI	£161.73		Inland Revenue	LGA 1972s112
BT	£144.54	£16.96	telephone	Telecomms Act 1984
Meldreth Village Hall	£ 87.00		rental	LGA 1972 s 133
Staples – stationery	£ 64.68	£ 8.44	stationery	LGA misc 1976 s19

175/9/09

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

Mr A P Burlton

Requested that the Clerk chase First Capital Connect to see when the hedge on the left hand side of the bridge on Station Road is to be cut.

Action: Clerk

Clerk

Clerk requested that as there has been several reports of potholes in the village could councillors make a list of potholes in their area. This will then be submitted to Highways.

Action: All**Agenda Items**

Recreation Ground:

- Pavilion
- Skateboard ramp
- Play equipment repairs
- Netting

Burial Ground – rabbit fencing

Yellow lines at Melbourn

176/9/09

Action Points: if not already covered:

All action points were covered

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.06 pm.

 Chairman

 Date

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