MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET **UNAPPROVED** of the Parish Council Meeting held 5th November 2009, 7.30 p.m. in The Green Room, Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr C A Land (CAL) – Chairman; Mr G.V. Borgonon (GVB); Mr S.W.J. Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF); Mr P.A. Ray (PAR); Mrs J. Montague-Fuller (JMF)

In Attendance: Dr S. van de Ven - District and County Councillor (SvdV) and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

203/11/09 **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr S Hawkins, Mr R A Searles and Mr A P Burlton

204/11/09 **To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
Mrs J Fallon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 217/11/09 as she is a representative of the football club (Meldreth United). This comes into effect for any voting matters.

205/11/09 **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 1st October 2009:**
It was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon, seconded by Mr P A Ray that the minutes should be signed as a true record; all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.

206/11/09 **Members of the public are invited to address the Council:**
There were two members of the public in attendance.
Matters of concern were:
Hedge at the corner of the Village Hall needs cutting back, Clerk to contact resident.
Poor state of the High Street since the road was resurfaced.
Safer school crossing. The Parish Council have recently enquired about a School Crossing Person - a survey has now been carried out by CCC and it is not viable for Meldreth to have a school crossing person, there are not enough vehicle movements.
There is concern about parked cars on the High Street. It would appear the cars are obstructing residents driveways.

207/11/09 **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
1. Speedwatch - Two further volunteers have completed their training. There are now 5 people trained in total, more however are needed.

208/11/09 **Planning: Cllrs. Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Ray and Land**
Information Only
1. There was no Planning Meeting of 15th October 2009
2. Planning Meeting of 5th November 2009
45 Whitecroft Road, S/1226/09/F – Extensions, Parish Council recommend: Approval
6 Bell Close, S/1459/09/F – Extensions, Parish Council recommend: No Recommendation
5 Bell Close, S/1511/09/F – Extensions, Parish Council recommends: No Recommendation
SCDC Planning Decisions
Meldreth Bowls Club, S/0903/09/F – permission has been granted for a replacement shed.
Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/1042/09/F – permission has been granted for erection of packing and chiller building.

209/11/09 **Report from District Councillor:**
Chairman's Delegation meetings (CDM): Planning Committee 7 October resolved to abolished CDM and introduce a revised delegation procedure, to be considered by Planning Committee Nov 4, and introduced as soon as practicable; to be reviewed after 12 months. Until such time, CDM would continue. Parish Councils would be invited to submit comments at the end of the 12 months so as to ensure continuity and flexibility of service. Development Control Team Leaders be given the same degree of delegated responsibility as the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) and Development Control Manager.

Housing Services Review will take place at Cabinet Nov 12 – agenda just published today. This to include sheltered housing and other areas.
Recycling bins Fieldgate: Have received no reply, as yet, to having these removed. Have now contacted the Head of Environmental Services and the Democratic Services to see if they know what is happening.
Unreasonable and unreasonably persistent complaints: the Council has adopted a new policy to handle such complaints which could in principle be of value as a reference point for parish councils. A copy of the policy is to be sent to CPALC for information.

210/11/09 **Report from County Councillor:**

1. Reinstate the bus stop sign near the station

Road safety assessment still not complete – slow because team will assess when it's in the area for something else, but complicated because of layout of the area in question. Office did not know if the assessment had actually been done or not. I also discussed safety concerns with the officer. There may be a need for double yellows in that stretch due to station over-flow parking. There was a two-vehicle collision in front of station entrance on Monday (which I reported to police but due to lack of injury/death no record taken). Possible scenario which I suggested we discuss once the assessment is in: If the area is agreed suitable for a bus stop, then road markings for a bus stop would be put down and this would prevent parking.

2. Parking issues under the underpass on Station Road – who is responsible and what powers do they have?

It would appear that HGV's are sometimes using this area to 'park up'. This is not a Highways concern but could be an environmental matter. One possibility to stop parking is to implement disabled parking. Cllr van de Ven and Mr J Chamberlain will look at the area to see if it would be possible. **Action:SvdV, JC**

3. Yellow lines outside the school – are they in the correct position?

Mike Cooper satisfied on the basis of a photograph that no error has been made in repainting the yellow lines. I have asked to see a copy of the photo. Have put it back to him that repainting still needs doing from Miss Hunter's to school.

<u>Other matters:</u>

#North End highways drains are pooling – Cllr van de Ven has asked Highways to investigate.
#Traffic related queries and concerns are among most frequently received. Looking for strategic measures to reduce traffic in the village. Cllr van de Ven has learnt that County Council policy prioritises: pedestrian first, cyclist second, vehicle third.
#Weight restrictions on station bridge:Cllr van de Ven has queried this again with Highways '**there are no weight restrictions on the station bridge'**.
#Rail issues: First Capital Connect MD has cancelled meeting (tomorrow) for a second time. A wide range of issues to discuss: fares, disabled ramp not open yet.
#Rail fares: Students from Meldreth should have access to a £352 annual rail fare via County Education Transport – and only one fee per family if two children in post-16 education. Goldrider bus pass holders should have been contacted and offered conversion to rail with accompanying refund. Please let Cllr van de Ven know if you need help. Cllr van de Ven has raised concerns and will be doing a report for the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee.
#Melbourn Village College is doing its Travel Plan, a prerequisite to Safer Routes to School Funding. Because Melbourn will be having a village-wide 20MPH speed limit scheme imposed soon, this helps all crossing points there. All other college feeder villages except Meldreth have free school transport. Cllr van de Ven has arranged for Sustrans to come out next week to explore possibilities of opening up safe cycling between Melbourn and Meldreth and we will meet with MVC Travel Plan project team to explore possible areas to help.
#CCC have agreed in principle to try for a new, different cycle wheeling channel over station pedestrian bridge – this after they install and test a different model at Whittlesford Station.

211/11/09 **Installation of Yellow Lines along Station Road, Melbourn:**

1. Results from the public meeting held in Melbourn

Mr P A Ray attending the public meeting held at Melbourn Village College to discuss the issue of installing yellow lines in the Sheene Mill area. The new proposed plan was discussed and it was agreed that it is best not to have long stretches of yellow lines or parked cars and that the proposed plan of splitting the road with some yellow lines would be the best option. The police have recommended that yellow lines would be needed at the junction of Station Road, into Meldreth, to reinforce that it is illegal to park there. The yellow lines, need to be redone at Dolphin Lane –they have been obliterated by resurfacing work. Mike Pilkington has offered to explore the potential for allowing some parking on land he owns – this will be followed up.

Meldreth will wait to hear the final proposed plan from Melbourn Parish Council.

Mr P A Ray recommended that the proposed plan should be an improvement. There may be times when parking (due to events) may cause difficulties but these would not be often. He suggested putting aside £1,000 for next year's precept.

212/11/09 **Skateboard Ramp:**

1. Consideration of the proposed design
2. Grants and funding - update
3. Project Team – formation if all information has been received

This item was deferred until the designs have been received.

213/11/09 **Affordable Housing**:

Response from MPC on the survey conducted by Cambridgeshire ACRE:

There have been reports of some residents not receiving the original questionnaire. The survey had a 28% response which is low. Clerk to invite Cambridgeshire ACRE to the meeting in January in order to understand the connection between the survey data and the conclusion that 53 affordable houses are needed – councillors currently cannot understand this conclusion. The council needs to be fully convinced of the need, before looking at where and by whom more houses should be built. **Action: Clerk**

214/11/09 **Pavements, potholes, benches, bins and bus shelters :**

1. Update from Mr P A Ray on conditions

Mr P A Ray circulated an up-to-date survey on the pavements, potholes, benches, bins and bus shelters in the village. This survey includes works carried out and works still needed. The bus shelter near the station needs some new roof tiles on one corner. Mr C A Land will make enquiries. **Action:CAL**

The Cemetery Committee to meet in the spring to discuss works needed on some of the cemetery benches. Most of the drop kerbs have now been done. The pathway between the Recreation Ground and Whitecroft Road does need attention, as does a section of the pavement from Howard Lane to Fenny Lane, but on the whole, most pavements are not too bad. Clerk to write to the Highways Department.

Clerk to follow up on the Miscellaneous List which identifies overgrown vegetation intruding on to pavements. A notice was put into October's Meldreth Matters; will wait to see what happens before writing to the relevant residents. **Action:Clerk**

2. Response to residents concerns

There is concern about the pavement approaching Fieldgate from the bridge on Station Road. It is necessary to cross the road twice. This matter has been investigated many times with the Highways Department, and considering the present financial climate, would appear unlikely to attract funding for a new section of pavement.

215/11/09 **Red telephone Kiosk:**

BT will be removing all the telecommunications equipment from inside the box, due to lack of use, but there is a possibility of adopting the kiosk itself for £1. However, there will be an insurance cost, the boxes are valued at approx £3,000, 'public liability would be covered within the existing policy as long as the box is well maintained and lit, particularly if it is close to a road' according to our insurers. There would be costs involved and it was proposed that

an article be placed in the next Meldreth Matters to discover how residents felt about the telephone box and in keeping it at a cost to rate payers. **Action:Clerk**

Pg 786

216/11/09 **Playground:**

Monthly Report:

1.There is still rubbish and debris in the ditch, Clerk to contact resident again asking for it to be removed. **Action: Clerk**

2.Platform for the roundabout will soon be replaced.

3.Netball Hoops. Still awaiting to be done. **Action: CAL**

4. Quotes for maintenance work; Two quotes have been received a third is awaited.

217/11/09 **Pavilion:**

Debate on the way forward

1. Meldreth United Football Club's vision on the way forward and how they would like to progress the pavilion had been circulated to councillors.

Still awaiting the vision of the future from "Meldreth British Queen" who play on Saturdays. Meldreth United feel that the pavilion, with some alterations, would still be fit for purpose. This would involve gutting the building and a small extension. New plans need to drawn up but the expense would not be as high. To be discussed further.

2. Formation of a Project Team

To be deferred until further discussions have taken place.

218/11/09 **Parish Path Partnership Report:**

1. Monthly Report

Work completed since last PC meeting:-

Path 1 (Kingswood near Malton Golf Course) - Annual clearance completed on 3rd October.

Clearing/burning chestnut leaves from the Stocks triangle was completed on 3rd October.

Mr J Chamberlain has written an article about parish paths volunteers in Meldreth Matters.

Work planned for the Autumn period:

Follow-up clearing/burning of chestnut leaves at Stocks triangle, is planned for 7th November.

The leaves at the War Memorial have now been cleared, however the slabs in this area may need some attention in the future.

Path 9a (Alongside Bypass to Station Road) needs a tidy-up before the winter.

Path 6 (Riverside Walk) will probably need some more chippings before the winter.

2. Brewery Lane Residents - re: footpath from Brewery Lane:

Our chairman received a complaint from a resident stating that the footpath from Brewery Lane towards the golf course had been ploughed up. Mr J Chamberlain contacted the resident and explained that there was **NOT** an official 'right of way' from Brewery Lane. He also checked with the CCC Rights of Way Officer that the statement was accurate. Mr J Chamberlain also enquired about getting a footpath accepted and was informed that it would have to be proved that the route had been walked regularly for over twenty years plus the landowners permission would need to be granted. Both Mr P A Ray and Mr J Chamberlain have inspected the area. The complaint concerning putting up barbed wire across gateways onto the land was discussed with the landowner who explained that he was receiving a grant from the Environment Agency, in order to promote quiet field edges for wild life, and did not want walkers disturbing the wild life.

219/11/09 **Freedom of Information and Data Protection:**

Mr G V Borgonon attended the latest meeting and felt that it was very informative. Some of the ideas they put forward should be implemented and some items already in progress need to be updated. Working party of Mr G V Borgonon, Mr J Chamberlain and the Clerk to meet to discuss the matter further. **Action: GVB, JC, Clerk**

220/11/09 **Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Damaged railings on the High Street has been reported and the Highway Dept has repaired the broken metal; awaiting final repair.

Chairman's Delegation Meeting – new date of 2nd December 2009
Ditch - Near Old Mill site
SCDC Planning and the Enforcement Officer are aware of the situation concerning the ditch being filled in. It has also been noted that a tree has been felled, Clerk to contact the Tree Officer. **Action: Clerk**
Pg 785
Planning Parish Forum - 10th December at Council Chamber, Cambourne – No one able to attend.
Resident concern on parking around the school
RAS had proposed forwarding suggestions onto the police - this was agreed by all as a good idea.
EERA public consultation on 9th Nov
Though this is being held in Hertfordshire, Clerk was informed that the consultation is not confined to Hertfordshire and that at the moment there is no plan to hold one in Cambridgeshire.
Response to Regional Strategy
To be completed by councillors in an individual capacity.
Tree work - Dave Thomas will be carrying out the requested tree work next week (commencing the 9th November).
Dog bin – letter from Holy Trinity asking if the bin can be moved to the car park area as it is presently opposite the main church gate. Have asked Environmental Health waiting to hear back to see if it would be possible to relocate it to the car park area.
Railway Station
No reply for request to get the hedging cut back, though GoCold have cut back some trees and a resident has also cut back near the entrance to the station, but as yet nothing for the foliage over the bridge.
Items circulated See annex A attached:

221/11/09 **Councillors' Reports:**
J M-F
Report of the Tree Council Meeting of 8th October was circulated to all Councillors for information.

222/11/09 **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:

Royston & District	1874	£ 400.00	Donation	LG&Rating Act 1997
Inland Revenue	1878	£ 125.66	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
G B Goodwin	1879	£ 500.00	grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Additional payment				
Wickstead – roundabout part	1880	£137.25	£110.00 vat 17.90 carriage 9.70	

LGA – Local Government Act; OSA – Open Spaces Act
OSA – Open Spaces Act
All payments including additional payments, were proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr G V Borgonon, all agreed. Cheques were signed by Mr C A Land and Mr G V Borgonon.

223/11/09 **Salary increase recommended by NALC:**
1. Clerk – it was proposed by Mr P A Ray and seconded by Mr C A Land to back date the Clerk's salary to April as recommended by National Association of Local Councils (NALC), all agreed.
2. Litter Picker – it was proposed by Mr G V Borgonon and seconded by Mrs J Montague-Fuller for the litter picker to be put on SCP 16 and to have the increase backdated to April as recommended by NALC, all agreed.

224/11/09 **Holy Trinity Church: Report read out by the Clerk in the absence of Mr R A Searles.**
Mr A P Burlton and Mr R A Searles have not yet been able to meet. However Mr R A Searles has met with Peter Penfold and John Price (PCC). The wall concerned is at the back of the churchyard and between there and the land behind owned by Mr and Mrs Mitchell. The churchyard is higher than this land and there is a 8-10 metre section that has been deteriorating and collapsing over many years. The construction is part flint and part Burwell

bricks and then, to the north side as the difference in land heights is less, it is replaced by a mix of iron and barbed wire fencing. The full extent of the repairs needed will not be known until further excavation has been carried out. Mr R A Searles recommended that both he and Mr A P Burlton look at the wall in November when they are both back from holiday.

Pg 784

It was also suggested that the Clerk write to the PCC to enquire if they have any knowledge of the closed churchyard status and if there is an 'Order in Council'. Need to find out if the churchyard was officially closed and passed on to the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

225/11/09 **Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for the next meeting:**

J M-F

Mrs J Montague Fuller will order the Maple tree for the playground area as soon as the tree guard is ready. Clerk to enquire with Mr Damant (National Trust) when this will be.

Action:4JMF, Clerk

GVB

The police have issued their plans for 2010/11 and encourage people to complete the survey, which can be found online at:

http://www.cambs-pa.gov.uk/newsDetail.cfm?articleID=4832

The survey is found at:

https://www.cambs-police.co.uk/policingplansurvey/survey/_policing_plan_consultation.htm

CAL

Has received correspondence from a town in France who are interested in Twinning, information has been included in the recent correspondence pack.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Precept
Pavilion
Skateboard Ramp
Playground Repairs
Holy Trinity Church – wall repairs
Telephone kiosk
Twinning with town in France

226/11/09 **Action Points: if not already covered:**

There were no action points.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 23.00 hrs.
Next meeting is December 3rd at 7.30pm

Chairman _____ Date _____

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