

## MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES AS YET **UNAPPROVED** of the Parish Council Meeting held 7th January 2010, 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 S Hawkins (SH); Mr P.A. Ray (PAR); Mr R A Searles (RAS); Mrs J. Montague-Fuller (JMF)

**In Attendance:** Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

**Public Participation:** There were two residents in attendance along with two PCSO representatives.

Concerns was raised about the overgrown foliage on the High Street.

The car park opposite ESSE is now open, but will be locked on the weekend.

The PCSOs reported that speeding was still an issue along Whitecroft Road, the Highways Department have also carried out a survey in this area. There have been reports of anti social behaviour in some parts of the village along with some attempted vehicle break-ins. They are also looking into the parking concerns outside the school. The matter of cars parked overnight on the highway facing the wrong way was also discussed.

**01/01/10 To receive any apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton (APB)

**02/01/10 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**

JF declared a personal interest on item 09/01/10, as she is affiliated with the football club.

**03/01/10 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 3rd December 2009:**

amendments:

Item 239/12/09 the leylandii mentioned is not a hedge but a very large tree. Following the amendments the minutes were agreed to be a true record, proposed by PAR and seconded by CAL and agreed by all. They were then signed by the Chairman.

**04/01/10 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**

1. Catherine Shilton (ACRE) has agreed to attend either the February or March meeting to discuss affordable housing issues.

**05/01/10 Planning: Cllrs. Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Ray and Land  
Information Only**

**1. Planning meeting held on 17th December 2009**

90 High Street, S/1711/09/F, Dwelling

The revised plans were agreed by the Planning Committee, though it was noted that they were not to scale.

SCDC Decisions:

6 Bell Close, S/1459/09/F, permission has been granted for extensions

5 Bell Close, S/1511/09/F, permission has been granted for extensions

**2. Planning Meeting of 7th January 2010**

79 High Street, S/1115/09/F, Garage - APP/W0530/D/09/2118938

This application has gone to appeal, the parish council are in agreement with the Planning Department.

**06/01/10 Report from District Councillor:**

1. Dustbin Men: Cllr van de Ven has written to SCDC to say thank you to the refuse collectors who appeared on schedule on the first very snowy day last month.

2. BMX: Reluctantly, Cllr van de Ven feels that the generous offer of Mr Darren Jones to undertake work on a BMX facility on the Recreation ground, for young people in the village, can not be accepted at this time. This project needs to be community driven with substantial input from potential users of the site, and this input has not been as great as we would have hoped. There may be other funding avenues for such a project to be pursued if a dedicated community group wished to take it up. This input is important for the long-term success of a BMX facility. Cllr van de Ven recorded her thanks to Mr Jones and his family for their time and goodwill.

3. Report of Anti-social behaviour in Burtons; resident has agreed to report concerns directly to the Neighbourhood Police Panel.

07/01/10

**Report from County Councillor:**

1. Assessment of Neighbourhood Police Panel programme is under way. Cllr van de Ven has responded but would be interested to know the Parish Council's view of the effectiveness of the panels.
2. Bus stop update: Andy Hunt is consulting with the relevant bus companies until Jan 15 and will then send us a map asking for the precise point at which the parish council would like the bus stop to be placed.
3. Missing yellow line in front of the school. Statement from Highways:  
'Regardless of what lines were there originally, the questions I have is - why and what problems have been created? There are traffic orders and regulations we are bound to comply with and, I am assured by my traffic colleagues, who have inspected the site, that everything there is as it should be. The zig zags are the correct length and there is no access to protect at this location. The rules have changed since the original white lines were installed in association with the speed bumps and these have now been reinstated to this later specification. Therefore there will be no further action.'
4. Pot holes in the High Street: Cllr van de Ven has noticed that after the redressing of the High Street and Station Road, pot holes resulting from the cold weather have not appeared as much as they have elsewhere. Statement from Highways is that 'the whole principle of surface dressing is to seal the cracks from water/ice ingress thus extending the life of the road surface and preventing the formation of potholes. It may not have looked very pretty at the start and was not what people expected or wanted but it's working'. There have been a number of complaints about gritting and clearing. Cllr van de Ven is taking an inventory of any serious gaps that parish councils feel should be on the schedule.
5. Meeting between First Capital Connect and Cambs County Council on areas of cooperation relevant to Meldreth station users. First Capital Connect (FCC) have agreed, in principle, to pre-publish a guaranteed post-16 student fare in time for County budget setting, which lays the groundwork for the two parties to cooperate on a student discount fare. The County Council has also agreed to rewrite its information booklet for post-16 students, acknowledging that the present information is unclear for circumstances in our part of the county, where bus and rail travel are both possible.
6. Cllr van de Ven has written to Richard Preston (CCC) to ask about tending to overgrowth of weeds and trees on the station side of Station Road bridge which impede visibility for cyclists. Clerk has contacted FCC but, as yet, nothing has been done.
7. The northbound platform wheelchair ramp has been completed at a cost of £34,000 to FCC. FCC have agreed to come out to Meldreth next week, Jan 13th, for a meeting to consider a ramp to the southbound platform which could be accessed via the paved footway.

08/10/10

**Skateboard Ramp:**

Cllr van de Ven suggested that the project should be community driven. The Parish Council would like to express its gratitude to Mr Jones for all his help in this matter, but, unless the community is behind this project, it will not be feasible. In order to apply for grant funding it must be shown that the community is supporting the project and helping to raise funds. It was proposed by PAR that the project be abandoned, this was seconded by CAL, all agreed.

09/01/10

**Pavilion:**

Plans are currently being prepared and will be ready for the next meeting.

10/01/10

**Audit:**

The audit has been passed by Moore Stephens the external auditors.

11/01/10

**Installation of Yellow Lines on Station Road - Meldreth and Melbourn:**

It was proposed by CAL that Meldreth contribute, up to £1000, towards the project, this was seconded by SH, all agreed. Clerk to write to Melbourn Parish Council to reiterate support, now that the residents appear to be in favour.

**Action: Clerk**

12/01/10

**HCV Consultation - responses to be in by 29th January:**

RAS circulated a report. Agreement with the report was proposed by PAR and seconded by GVB and agreed by all. A summary of the report is as follows:  
'Heavy lorries (HCVs) of up to 44 tonnes) that are following satellite navigation from the north (Huntingdon) on the A1198 to the A505 for the M11 are being directed via Whaddon, Whitecroft and Station Roads through the centre of Melbourn to the A505. While there are signs on the A10 and in Melbourn advising no access to the A505 through Melbourn for lorries over 17 tonnes there are no such signs on the A1198 at the Whaddon or Kneesworth turns. A weight limit for through traffic (but not for access to Meldreth businesses) is therefore proposed'.

The full report will now be sent to Traffic Management (CCC). It was also agreed to send the report to Melbourn, Whaddon and Shepreth parish councils.

**Action: Clerk**

**13/01/10**

**Red telephone Kiosk:**

Clerk is still waiting for a response from BT on how much it would cost to relocate the telephone box and whether it would be permitted. There has been correspondence from residents on alternative locations.

**14/01/10**

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report

Equipment is in good working order, however certain items will need repainting.

2. Netball Hoops

Ring has now been repaired, will now be netted and replaced.

3. Quotes for maintenance work

Two site meetings have now taken place with the third due next week.

**14/01/10**

**Twinning with town in France:**

Clerk has received correspondence from Melbourn Parish Council who have no objection to Meldreth Parish Council pursuing this matter. It was suggested that it could possibly be a joint project as Melbourn and Meldreth have close ties. Clerk to write to Sylvie Sharpe Parish Councillor in La Roche-Chalais. An article to be placed in Meldreth Matters explaining about the proposal of Twinning with La Roche-Chalais, this will be sent to organisations within Meldreth including the Primary School, looking for their support.

**Action: Clerk**

**15/01/10**

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

**Correspondence circulated:** NHS Newsletter, SCDC monthly update, CPALC AGM Minutes, Risk Assessment (Annex A), Sustainable Communities Act, SCDC Weekly bulletin, Big Lottery Fund, letter from Melbourn PC on yellow lines, CPALC training dates, NALC grant allocations, District Council newsletter, Pavement in North End, ACRE - Community Action Magazine with Wildlife Training workshops, Street lighting, South Cambs Magazine, Parish precept, Exception Sites Parish Review meeting 18th January, letter sent to Andy Hunt in agreement to reinstating the bus stop, SCDC - community facilities audit, Salt bins, letter from Holy Trinity Church, email from Melbourn PC - twinning.

**Overgrown Leylandii at 10 Elin Way** - The Clerk has not been able to contact the owner, so has no further information on this, however. House as the house has been seen to being cleaned up, the Clerk is assuming that it may be sold soon so the the new owners will then be approached.

**Railway Station** - Foliage - No response from First Capital Connect. Cllr van de Ven has now contacted the Highways Department as the hedge is causing concern for cyclists.

**Railway gates** - The request to have the gates inspected and repaired has gone back out to the contractors.

**Overgrown vegetation in village** - Letters have been sent out. There is increasing concern over the overgrown hedge at Chiswick End/Whitcroft Road - Highways have looked at this, and stated that the correct footway width is a minimum of 1 metre, the residents have trimmed the hedge but it needs to be cut right back. Clerk to get advice from CPALC.

**Youth Provisions in South Cambs** - Letter received from our MP Andrew Lansley who would like information on the facilities provided for the youths. Clerk to send a copy of the relevant section of the Parish Plan with updates.

**Action: Clerk**

**Pavement on North End, near the Turkey farm** - A site meeting has taken place and Burlton Farms have agreed to pay for the pathway to be reconstructed. It was also advised by Highways that HGVs should enter/exit the lane from/to the Shepreth direction. If further damage is sustained, Highways will put up concrete posts.

**Parking in the lay-by near Station Road** - Cllr van de Ven - preventing HCV parking is not enforceable - Cllr van de Ven has followed this matter up with SCDC and CCC. The matter of environmental issues, is that there is not a strong or consistent pattern for any enforcement.

**Salt bins** - Clerk has spoken with Cambridgeshire ACRE who stated that whoever takes on responsibility is then liable. The advice is not to do anything, therefore you will not be liable for any accidents. If paths have not been cleared, nobody is liable if an accident occurs.

**Community Transport** - PAR has collected the relevant information and it will be forwarded to Linda Browne (SCDC).

**Action: Clerk**

16/01/10

**Councillors' Reports:**

**Mr J Chamberlain:**

Is in the process of writing the Foopath Report which will then form the bases of the grant application from CCC.

**Mr G V Borgonon**

Will prepare the annual Speedwatch Report for Meldreth Matters.

17/01/10

**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:**

Salaries	1895	946.84	0	946.84	Salary	LGA 1972 s112
Village Hall	1898	72.00	0	72.00	rent	LGA 1972 s113
J Damant	1899	8.90	0	8.91	clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s226
G B Goodwin	1900	500.00	0	500.00	grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
K Taylor	1901	205.00	0	205.00	village maintenance	OSA 1906 s9/10

Payments were proposed by SWC, seconded by PAR, all agreed.

Cheques were signed by GVB and RAS.

18/01/10

**Precept:**

RAS presented the proposed expenditure, income and precept proposal for 2010-11, as prepared by PAR, SH and RAS. It was proposed by GVB and seconded by JMF to make a request for £38,410, this was agreed by all. Clerk to make request. RAS will draft a summary of the proposed precept expenditure for Meldreth Matters.

**Action: Clerk**

19/01/10

**Holy Trinity Church:**

1. Church wall update - still waiting for response from the church.
2. Closed churchyard update - still in progress

20/01/10

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

**Mrs J Fallon**

The primary school is 100 years old this year, if anyone has any past class work or photographs can they let the school know.

**Agenda items for next meeting:**

Affordable housing, Clerk's appraisal, PPP, Twinning, Elections

21/01/10

**Action Points: if not already covered:**

**CAL**

Roof tiles on the bus shelter near the station, to be progressed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

The next Parish Meeting will be on 4th February at 7.30 pm

Chairman

Date

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