

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes **Unapproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held 3rd June 2010, 7.30pm in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Hawkins (SH) – Chairman; Mr R A Searles (RAS) – Vice Chairman; Mr S W J Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C J Fallon (JF); Mr C A Land (CAL); Mrs J Montague-Fuller (JMF)

In Attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk); Cllr S Vandeven (SvdV) and Cllr S Soond (SS)

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- 121/06/10 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr P Harris and Mr A P Burlton.
- 122/06/10 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
Mrs J Fallon declared a personal interest in items 130/06/10 and 137/06/10.
- 123/06/10 Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item]**
- Presentation from Mr Daniel Harris - proposal of using the telephone box as a library.**
Mr Harris sent his apologies, item to be deferred to the next meeting.
There was one member of the public present
- 124/06/10 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 13th May (ANNUAL MEETING) 2010:**
Following minor amendments - Item 116/05/10 should read Mr Firebrace - it was proposed by CAL and seconded by GVB that the minutes were a correct account of the meeting, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 125/06/10 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
1. Burial Ground - still being working on
 2. Freedom of Information - updating the form, still being worked on.
- 126/06/10 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only 22nd April 2010**
S/0199/10/F, Land to the North-East of Tavern Yard, Station Road
Parish Council Recommendation was to refuse with comments pertaining to the fact that the proposed houses are quite large and that there was no provision for garages.
- 6th May, 13th May, 20th May and 3rd June 2010 there were no planning applications up for discussion, so meetings were cancelled.
- 127/06/10 Report from District Councillor:**
Cllr Soond had forwarded a list of contacts for SCDC.
The green recycling boxes will soon be decommissioned and replaced with larger blue bins; these will have a facility to store paper, i.e. newspapers and magazines, within the bin, without being incorporated into the main area of the bin, which will be for plastic, tins and glass. Good quality paper can be recycled; if it gets wet then it can only be used for composting.
SCDC are interested in resident's comments on broadband; there is a facility on their website to register your comments. RAS mentioned that he had noticed an increase in speed with his broadband.
- 128/06/10 Report from County Councillor:**
Rail issues: - There was an excellent meeting with the Station Services Manager for the 'Fen Line' (King's Lynn-Royston), Mr Richard Marchant, covering rail issues under the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxtton Rail User Group agenda.
- It was unknown to FCC that National Express was severely undercutting them on student discount season passes for travel from Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxtton. This has been facilitated in part by County Council.
- Parking Charges, and parking in residential areas around stations:** Meldreth and Shepreth car park charges have been lowered (last week) to £2.00 per day, down by 50P. Weekend charges have gone up from £1.50 to £2.00.

Mr Marchant does not feel that focussing on further lowering parking charges at Meldreth and Shepreth will be fruitful.

Parking in residential areas around stations is common: Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton are the smallest stations on the Fen Line and the difficulty is that, small villages have few non-residential area parking facilities. FCC does not have a responsibility for the Highway— once parking takes place outside the station car park it is not FCC's responsibility. We must balance campaigning efforts with the knowledge that having three village stations in such proximity is in fact something of a luxury. Parking charges are the lowest by far on the Fen Line.

Disabled ramp to London-bound platform, Meldreth Station: FCC Franchise ends in 2012. Little money is available for infrastructure development now. However, it is worth keeping the campaign for the second disabled ramp alive on the back burner, and to be ready to campaign hard with the advent of the next franchise.

Designated walkway in Meldreth Station Car Park: In the event of snow or icy weather, the NCP car park attendant would be required to grit/salt only the designated walkway. It is designed so that drivers and passengers will have a minimum distance to walk to reach the treated walkway. If the car park becomes more fully used, then a second walkway on the other side of the car park will be added, with an 'H' link path adjoining the two.

Station Road Bridge, Meldreth, vegetation: Cutting back the vegetation on the approach to Melbourn has been unresolved for years. Mr Marchant believes this is a Highways issue. Cllr van de Ven will make further enquires with the Highway Department.

New 9:45 service from Meldreth to Cambridge: This additional service is much appreciated.

A meeting with Richard Preston (Highways), Police Sgt Rebecca Williams, and representatives of Meldreth (GVB), Shepreth and Foxton Parish Councils will take place on June 9th to discuss possible means of tackling parking around stations

Prescription collections from One Stop: Unfortunately, elderly residents living in Elin Way and other locations within a specified radius of Orchard Surgery Dispensary, Melbourn, who are registered at Melbourn, cannot collect their prescriptions at Meldreth One Stop. This service is reserved for residents who live beyond the specified radius (approx 1.3 miles from the surgery). Cllr van de Ven has taken the matter up with the County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee chairman.

Maps showing the state of A, B and C roads in South Cambs, and indicating 'critical' and 'poor' sections of road indicate that much of Meldreth falls into the 'critical' category, especially on the north-bound side of the High Street, the outgoing side of Fenny Lane, and the outgoing side of North End.

It was questioned by RAS that this could be an old map as the High Street was resurfaced last year.

RAS said that the Metropolitan Police are using the area as a training ground for motorcycles including high speed pursuit and asked Cllr van de Ven to investigate. **Action: SvdV**

129/06/10

Telephone Box:

Deferred until next meeting.

130/0610

Pavilion:

1. Plans for development

JF introduced Mr Lee Vallis of Vallis Construction. It was decided that two further quotations would now be needed. JF will get specification. JF stated that the specifications are in accordance with Football Association requirements so grants can be obtained from the FA.

2. Inspection of the electrics

Clerk has requested that Mr N Willers carry out an inspection of the electrics at the pavilion.

131/06/10

Community Involvement:

Deferred until next month.

- 132/06/10 Standing Orders:**
GVB and RAS are currently looking over the new standing orders as proposed by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
- 133/06/10 Footpath 8:**
The Highway Department has agreed to resurface footpath 8 in August.
- 134/06/10 Office Computer and Software:**
SH and Clerk have met to discuss the matter and are waiting to hear Orwell Parish Councils views.
- 135/06/10 Playground:**
1. Monthly Report
It has only been three weeks since the last meeting, so no report. However, the play equipment is ok.
- 136/06/10 May Fayre/Preschool:**
1. Request to hold the event next year.
The Recreation Working Group will meet with the May Fayre Group to discuss the way forward. It was noted that JF had received some complaints that the May Fayre were charging an entrance fee. The Parish Council had notified the May Fayre group that a charge was not allowed to access the recreation ground and the Parish Council had been informed a donation of £1 would be requested. **Action: RWG**
- It has been requested if the playgroup could have go-carts and a bouncy castle on the recreation ground on July 22nd. The Parish Council do not object in principal but the preschool need to carry out a risk assessment and confirm that their insurance covers such items. It also needs to be stated that the recreation ground is a public area and so cannot exclude other residents from entering the area. **Action: Clerk**
- 137/06/10 Football club:**
Decision on how to proceed from here - costings for hiring
The report had previously been circulated outlying the recommendations of the Recreation Ground Working Group. The proposed contract is presently in circulation, this is to be amended to meet the requirements for Meldreth. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- 138/06/10 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
CPALC Training Dates: It was proposed by SH that JF and CAL attend the Playground Risk Management course being held by CPALC on 10th September at Bluntisham. The cost is £55.00 per person, this was seconded by GVB all agreed. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**
Planning Parish Forum Meeting: 14th June at Cambourne 5.45 - 7.25pm - RAS and SH to attend, if SH is unable then JC will attend.
Bus Stop: - Plans have been submitted for the outlining of the yellow lines and placement of sign. It was noted that the Parish Council would prefer that the sign be adjacent to the building. It was also requested that CCC inform the council as to when the works are to commence so that a parish council representative can be in attendance. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**
Resident concern: - Trellis was not removed by the groundsman and therefore is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to replace Clerk has informed the resident.
Howards Road: A quote from Mr D Thomas for £150.00 to remove elders from recreation side of the ditch has been received; he will treat the roots to prevent regrowth. Clerk to confirm that there is no concern for the water course, Clerk to check with Pat Matthews and Mr Thomas. **Action: Clerk**
The required work at properties 8 and 10 Howard Road has now been completed.
- Information circulated during the month of May.**
Meldreth Cemetery Brochure, Clerks & councils direct, COPE, Planning policy, Parish Paths, NHS, Neighbourhood Policing, SCDC Liaison Meeting notes, email concerning the cost of plannings required for footpath 12, SLCC courses, Proposal from Mr Daniel Harris - phone box library, CPALC training dates , email from Mr Bruce Huett - internal audit, NHS, Neighbourhood Panel, SLCC - The Clerk, ACRE incl. booklet, Footpath 8

139/06/10 To receive details of cheques to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payments:

| Payments awaiting | Amount | VAT | Description | Power |
|---------------------|----------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| J Damant | 545.82 | 0 | salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Inland Revenue | 163.22 | 0 | PAYE/NI | LGA 1972 s112 |
| J Damant | 6.72 | 0 | expenses | LGA 1972 s113 |
| M Taylor | 255.10 | 0 | salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| G B Goodwin | 500.00 | 0 | grass cutting | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Good Companions | 250.00 | 0 | donations | S137 |
| CPALC | 474.14 | 0 | membership | LGA 1972 s143 |
| BT | 164.02 | 23.09 | telephone | Telecomms. Act |
| Pipex | 19.99 | 2.98 | Broadband | Telecomms. Act |
| Suffolk ACRE | 1,339.80 | 0 | Insurance | LGA 1972 s226 |
| Stationery Cupboard | 102.13 | 15.21 | office | LGA 1972 s111 |

Local Government Act (LGA), Open Spaces Act (OSA)

Additional payments are shaded.

It was proposed by CAL and seconded by JF that payments are in order, (including additional payments), all agreed. Cheques were then signed by RAS and CAL.

It was proposed by SH and seconded by RAS, all agreed that payments for BT be paid by direct debit, this is due to a fee of £9.99 by BT for producing paper invoices and payments by cheque. Pipex is already paid by direct debit.

Clerk is still awaiting the paperwork required for 'Change of Signatory'.

140/06/10

Holy Trinity Church:

1. Church wall update

In APB's absence RAS summarised the structural survey carried out by Andrew Firebrace. The Parish Council supported the lowest cost recommendation on height reduction of the wall. The report will now be sent to the PCC for their agreement. It was proposed by CAL and seconded by JC that the invoice for £300 + VAT be paid, as agreed in item 116/05/10

141/06/10

Parish Paths Partnership:

1. Monthly report from Mr Chamberlain

Work carried-out since last report:-

Working Party - There was a working party during May to litter pick on path 10 (Fieldgate to Railway), Path 12 (Bury Lane), Paths 9 (Station to Melbourn) and Path 9a (Station Road to Path 9).

Footpaths 9 and 9a were cut by APB's tractor/cutter. The paths were then swept and any litter picked up and the hedges trimmed back.

The overhanging hedge on tarmac path along Station Road was cut back.

Mr Paul Ray volunteered to strim Path 1 (Kingswood near Malton Golf Course) along with the North End part of Path 2 plus some of Path 3. Mr Ray has also produced notices telling path users that these paths are maintained by volunteers and how about joining our group. JC is presently in ongoing discussions with Cambs CC about items raised at the last Paths Group Meeting, which will be reported later.

RAS has now repaired the signpost at junction of paths 10 and 11. He also has completed repainting all metal old style signposts.

2. Three one-day courses available at a cost of £35 per person, per course - SH to report if he wishes to attend. **Action: SH**

142/06/10

Councillors' Reports:

There were no Councillors' reports.

143/06/10

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

JC

Attended the drainage meeting at Gocold's, report to be circulated. It was noted that during investigations a large pipe has been exposed in the ditch at the front of the premises.

GVB

Melwood Conservation Group - The Woodland Management Plan will now be completed by CCC. Melwood will still be involved in the action plan.

Agenda items

Telephone box, MayFayre report, Preschool end of term event, Pavilion, Rail User Group request for hiring of hall,

144/06/10

Action Points: if not already covered:

APB

Roof tiles on the bus shelter near the station - have now been repaired.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting will be on 1st July in the Green Room of the Village Hall

Chairman:

Date:

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