

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Unapproved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 3rd March 2011, 7.30pm in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Hawkins (SH) – Chairman; Mr R A Searles (RAS) – Vice Chairman Mr G V Borgonon (GVB); Mr A P Burlton (APB); Mr S W J Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C J Fallon (JF); Mr C A Land (CAL); Mrs J Montague-Fuller (JM-F); Mr N Pellatt (NP)

In Attendance: *Mrs J Damant (Clerk), Cllr S van de Ven (CCC), Cllr S Soond (SCDC)*

Chairman's discretion – item 347/03/11.2 was included.

- 329/03/11 To receive any apologies for absence:**
There were no apologies as all Councillors were in attendance.
- 330/03/11 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
Mrs J Fallon and Mr N Pellatt declared a personal interest in item 339/03/11 as secretary and treasurer of the Sunday Football Team. Mrs J Montague-Fuller declared a personal interest in item 342/03/11 as they are a local horse owner. **(Jo are you also a member of some kind of horse and bridleway association – might be more apt than a 'horse owner'.**
- 331/03/11 Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item**
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 332/03/11 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 3rd February 2010:**
The minutes were proposed by GVB and seconded by APB as being a true record, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 333/03/11 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
Burial ground gates – have been repaired.
Chestnut tree in churchyard – permission has been granted by the PCC, still awaiting third quotation.
Ergonomic key board and wireless mouse have been purchased for the clerk.
Extra bank accounts still to be arranged.
Letter concerning the Bus Stop has been sent off.
- 334/03/11 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only**
Planning meeting held on the 17th February
S/0119/11, Malton Workshops, Erection of Replacement Workshop – Parish Council recommended **Approval** with no comments.
- SCDC Decisions:**
- S/1107/10, Gocold Ltd, Station Yard – application has been **granted** permission for an extension and alterations and erection of a smoking shelter.
- S/1884/10 and S/1886, 104-106 High Street – application as been amended. However, both applications have now been **withdrawn**.
- S/1899/10, 4-6 Chiswick End – application has been **withdrawn**.
- Planning meeting held on the 3rd March – verbal report**
- SCDC Decisions**
- S/2242/10, 15 Chiswick End, rear two-storey extension has been **withdrawn**.
- Other items:**
- Churchwall** – the planning application has now been submitted to the planning department.
- Affordable Housing** – Mr Tim West (Jephson) has sent a revised plan of the proposed development site on Whitecroft Road. Clerk to ask Schuyler Newsted (Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer SCDC) if she can forward any further information concerning the need for affordable housing in Meldreth. To be further discussed once the information has been received.
- Proposed Solar Site at Bury End** – A public consultation took place in Meldreth Village Hall on Thursday March 24th and was well attended by local residents. One area of concern was the issue of screening, especially around the area of the River Mel and the nearby footpaths. The scheme may not get the go-ahead if Government funding is withdrawn.

335/03/11

Report from District Councillor:

Pedestrians crossing across High Street at Elin Way - A number of residents have expressed concerns about the above junction, visibility is poor, due to illegally parked cars and it has been reported that vehicles are also speeding. It was reported by the Parish Council that this is an ongoing concern, but as yet, the issue of placing yellow lines has not seen favour with many of the residents in the area. Clerk to contact the PCSO with concern over the illegally parked cars.

Action: Clerk

Council Tax Freeze - This applies to SCDC, CCC, Police and Fire authorities but not Parish Councils.

Potholes and Highways - New CCC system available on 0345 045 5212 or at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/highwaysfault.

Faulty reporting and progress reports. This is offered as an alternative to using other systems eg. www.fixmystreet.

Affordable Housing - Cllr Soond has been receiving requests, from local residents, about affordable housing in Meldreth, there appears to be some demand but how much is not known, see item 334/03/11

336/03/11

Report from County Councillor:

The budget council meeting took place on 15th February, there is to be £160 million cuts over the next 5 years with some cuts being implemented within this year, such as the bus service and youth service. Council tax will probably be frozen for the next 5 years.

Public Transport - There is to be 100% cuts to bus subsidies over the next four years. In terms of CCC' statutory duty on public transport provision: it must 'seriously consider socially necessary services' so support services not necessarily commercially viable. Concessionary bus fares become CCC responsibility from April; without subsidized buses the demand from CF decreases. Locally, bus service 139 is to be withdrawn from the 7th April 2011.

Activated Speed Signs - Reduced maintenance.

Children - School crossing patrol officers: There will be some efficiency savings and new patrols will not be granted. Road safety education will be deleted. No funding for music, area/county choirs and orchestras. Teenage pregnancy will have a reduced capacity to coordinate work. School budgets under 'Designates Schools Grants' will have huge pressures.

Libraries - Meldreth's LAP along with nine others have been held up as models nationally of Community Supported Libraries. Thirteen small libraries are facing the withdrawal of county support, unless they can convert to a more community basis.

Other items

The heating oil bulk-buying club is now set up across several villages in the local area.

The Youth Club due to the support of the local Parish Councils is able to keep running. A Steering Group has been set up, consisting of Parish Council representatives. Meldreth to still assign a councillor.

There is a new after school basket-ball club at Melbourn Village College. It is hoped that in future the youth club will work with the school to shape out-of-school activities.

Cllr van de Ven is to meet with the Melbourn Primary School Gardening Club to discuss a possible project for the station. There maybe some funding available from CCC in support of the Community Rail Partnership, the User Group will discuss soon and looking into possible transport links with the three local stations (Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton).

338/03/11

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP)

Meldreth have now joined the scheme. Mr David Smith and GVB have met and would like to invite Richard Hale (SPEP) to discuss what support is available. There is a possible visit to the Donarbon Recycling Centre, many of the Councillors were interested GVB will make enquires.

Action: GVB

339/03/11

Pavilion:

1. Plans for extension – A planning application will now be submitted by the architect to SCDC at a cost of £85.00. This money will be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

340/03/11

Village events;

Royal Wedding update – The group organising the event are aware that they need to arrange for public liability insurance and the signage needed for closing the road.

The date for Annual Meeting will be 5th May 2011 (AGM)

The date for Annual Village Meeting will be held on 19th May – venue still to be confirmed, but will be either the main room of the village hall, or at the Primary School.

341/03/11

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – All members of the committee met and inspected the play equipment. The roundabout, railings and igloo need to be painted but other than that the equipment is sound. It was noted that a roof panel was loose JF will arrange for its repair. **Action: JF**

2. Prohibiting dogs on the Recreation Ground – it was proposed by RAS that dogs should be prohibited from going onto the football pitch and the play area, this was seconded by J M-F, all agreed. Dogs must be kept under control at all times and fouling to be removed. NP will put an article in Meldreth Matters. A new dog bin has been ordered but has not yet been agreed by the Environmental Department (SCDC). Clerk has spoken to sign makers, and will arrange final wording with JF. **Action: Clerk/JF/NP**
Clerk has in the office 'Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005' with the enforcement guidance pertaining to this.

There is overgrown vegetation from the property bordering onto the footpath leading into the recreation ground from the High Street. Clerk to write. **Action:Clerk**

342/03/11

Off-Road horse riding around Meldreth:

Have had a meeting with local horse riders. The main area of business is to be able to link up the bridleways of Meldreth with Whaddon this would then give access to Bassingbourn and Wimpole. Clerk to enquire about specialised horse gates and how they can be administered. **Action: Clerk**

343/03/11

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Notice boards – Parish council have had correspondence from the village association concerning placing a notice board opposite the shop, for village matters. The Parish Council would like to investigate this proposal with the combination of purchasing a new notice board for the parish council and then placing both boards together. This would be in place of the original notice board already in situ.

344/03/11

Financial Assistance:

It was proposed by SH that a finances working group should be set up to discuss all the financial assistance applications, this was seconded by CAL, all agreed. The working group will consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, NP and GVB with the Clerk. Applications will be discussed outside the meeting and recommendations will be brought back to the meeting for the whole council to vote.

345/03/11

Melbourn Youth Club

This item will be included in item 344/03/11

346/03/11

To receive details of cheques to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payments:**1. Cheques for approval and signature including any additional payments:****February/March Payments – Already paid**

BT	167.68	telephone	TA 1984
Pipex	20.41	broadband	TA 1984
SCDC	85.00	Planning (church)	OSA 1906 s9/10
EFL (Architects)	590.00	Plans for pavilion	LGA (misc) 1976 s 19

Payments for approval

David Neale	290.00	pavilion showers	LG(misc)A 1976 s19
J Damant	554.69	salary	LGA 1972 s112
M Taylor	241.40	salary	LGA 1972 s112
Staples	104.79	office equipment	LGA 1972 s113
LGS Services	72.00	clerk training	LGA 1972 s113
GB Goodwin	500.00	grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Inland Revenue	129.66	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
M Hunter	45.00	Whadden Rd hedge	OSA 1906 ss9/10
J Damant	63.00	salary adjustment	LGA 1972 s112
SLCC	135.00	Annual membership	LGA 1972 s143

Additional payment are shaded.

Local Government Act (LGA); Open Spaces Act (OSA); Telecomms Act (TA)

Payments were proposed by GVB, seconded by CAL all agreed. RAS and SH signed.

- 347/03/11 Holy Trinity Church:**
 1. Church wall update – is now with the planning department at SCDC.
 2. Chestnut Tree - three quotations for the removal the Chestnut Tree have now been received, it was proposed by SH that Eastern Tree Surgery should be given the contract, this was because the quotation was the cheapest and they are a reputable firm, seconded by RAS, all agreed. Clerk to inform the company. **Action: Clerk**
- 348/03/11 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP)**
 Footpath 6 has now been laid with chippings.
- 349/03/11 Councillors' Reports:**
CAL
 Clerk has arranged to have the suckers removed from one of the trees near the entrance. It was suggested that another article be put into Meldreth Matters for volunteers to form a working party to tidy up the burial ground. Clerk has a few people who have already agreed to help, but more are needed. To be done when the weather improves.
J M-F
 There is still a vehicle repeatedly parking at the junction of Whitecroft Road and Chiswick End, clerk to inform the PCSO. **Action: Clerk**
 There has been concern about the time work is starting on the Holland's Site, Clerk to check to see what the official start and finish times are. **Action: Clerk**
 Roz Richardson SCDC Tree Officer has visited the Holland's Site and reported that the developers are in breach of compliance as they removed the trees before the 15th February. The Tree Officer will contact the Enforcement Officer SCDC.
JF
 The garages in Howard Road appear to be being vandalised, Clerk to inform Cllr Soond (SCDC). **Action: Clerk**
GVB
 Speedwatch will be in operation again soon. There is to be a meeting on Monday 7th March, two representatives from Meldreth will be in attendance.
 Melwood has finished the Management Plan.
APB
 The hedge at 27-29 North End has now been trimmed.
 Has met with various companies but has only received one quote for the filling in of the potholes in the village hall car park, is awaiting two further quotes. **Action: APB**
RAS
 Attended the HCV meeting on 2nd March 2011. It was a very useful meeting with over 80 in attendance. A report is to follow. **Action: RAS**
- 350/03/11 Councillors' and Clerk's comments with agenda items for the next meeting:**
- 351/03/11 Action Points: if not already covered:**
 Extra dog bin in the recreation ground – still ongoing

 Chairman

 Date