

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 7th July 2011, 7.30pm in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Hawkins (SH) – 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 Soond (SCDC)

- 77/07/11** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr R A Searles.
- 78/07/11** **To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
JF and NP both declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 87/07/11 as members of the football team.
- 79/07/11** **Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3 mins per item]**
There were no public present.
- 80/07/11** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2nd June 2011:**
The minutes were proposed by CAL and seconded by APB to be a true record, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 81/07/11** **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- Village Hall Carpark
- Dog bins - SCDC have decided that they will empty the dog bins twice a week instead of the scheduled one, this will be instead of an additional bin.
- Grass cutter is aware that the verge near Stone Lane needs cutting.
- 82/07/11** **Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Montague-Fuller, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only.** Further details can be found in the full planning minutes.
Planning Meeting held on 16th June 2011
S/0966/11, Sewerage Treatment Works, Meldreth. Erection of turkey rearing shed and hard standing area, A P Burlton (Turkeys) Limited. The Parish Council recommend approval with no comments. This was agreed by all.
S/0548/11, 4-6 Chiswick End, Permission has been granted for the erection of a dwelling.
Affordable Housing – proposed development
The proposed affordable development off Whitcroft Road was discussed with guest speakers' Mr Tim West, Business Development Manager and Mr Harrington, Architect of Jephson along with members of the public.
Planning Meeting held on 7th July 2011 (verbal report)
S/1177/11, 15 Chiswick End, Extension, Mr S Franks
The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments, the original concerns raised by the council have now been addressed.
Jephson's have responded to the concerns raised at the meeting of 16th June 2011. Mr John Keily of the Apollo Group will no longer be visiting the Parish Council but will respond in August as to whether this scheme is likely to proceed or not.
SCDC Decisions:
S/0541/11, The Coppice, 25 North End, Permission has been granted for a carport.
S/0648/11, 15 Chiswick End. Permission has been refused for a two storey rear extension.
- 83/07/11** **Section 106 money for the Primary School:**
This money is handled by the District and County Councils.
SH, RAS and the Clerk will attend a Section 106 training day on 13th July.
Action: SH/RAS/Clerk

84/07/11

Report from District Councillor:**Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (23rd June update)**

It has previously been mentioned that an assessment by SCDC is running. The update is that there has been a call for sites The Council would like to hear from anyone who may have land they think would be suitable for housing developments. Any land for consideration **should be submitted to the Council by 12 noon on 29 July 2011.**

The Call for Sites is an opportunity for anyone (e.g. landowners, developers, housing associations, parish councils) to suggest sites that they think are suitable, available and deliverable for housing development. Land can also be suggested through this process specifically for Gypsy & Traveller sites or sites for Travelling Show people.

Sites suggested must be:

able to accommodate 10 or more dwellings and at least 0.25 hectares; and within or adjacent to one of the larger better served villages in the district OR adjacent to Cambridge.

Land specifically for Gypsy and Traveller sites will be considered within 1 kilometre of a settlement development framework boundary. The Call for Sites starts on Friday 17 June and runs for 6 weeks to 12 noon on Friday 29 July 2011.

The Parish Council would like to state and have recorded that the lead times for this survey have been very limited and did not give enough time to inform residents.

Dead/overhanging trees in residential areas

To report dangerous trees or trees that need maintenance located on SCDC properties residents can ring health and environmental services at SCDC on 03450 450 063 (8am to 8pm, Mon - Sat, except bank holidays). Also, trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) can also be requested to be maintained by residents by clicking on <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/conservation/treesandhedges/tpo.htm> or by calling 03450 450 500 (Mon - Fri: 8.00am - 8.00pmsat: 9.00am – 1.00pm)

Traffic Flow at The junction of Kneesworth Road, Whaddon Road and Fenny Lane

Concerns have been raised by a resident who uses this junction on a regular basis relating to speeding cars and congestion relating to the access point of the new development at the Holland's site. This issue has been brought to the attention of the County Council and Cllr Susan van de Ven.

New proposal for Affordable Housing on Whitecroft Road

To address the shortfall in provision of Affordable Housing in Meldreth representatives from Jephsons met last month with a view to consulting with Meldreth a proposal for new housing. I will endeavour keeping residents updated with progress on this proposal as and when it arrives.

SCDC are running their 'Step Up' competition for 2011.

Designed to promote business start-up creativity and innovation, Step Up encourages local people to take an entrepreneurial step forward to establish new business ideas and initiatives.

The prize winner will receive around £30,000 worth of business support, including a year of office accommodation and legal, accounting, marketing, public relations support and Chambers of Commerce membership with business event and networking opportunities. This is supported by a number of companies around S Cambs. So if you have a start-up idea or a young business with a new innovation?

Three workshops are taking place at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **12 July, 27 July and 8 August 2011** calling 0845 601 1000 or see the web pages at SCDC.

Shepreth and Meldreth SPEP

Shepreth and Meldreth SPEP will be holding a joint Energy event at Shepreth Village Hall on the 10th September at 10am-2pm. Presentations will be given by Grant Instruments (Solar Panels) and Brook Barn (Micro Wind Turbine) highlighting their experiences in choosing what worked for them in selecting appropriate alternative energy sources. A model 'Ecohome' will also be on display for visitors to have a look at. Moreover, information will be readily available highlighting technology and financing schemes for anybody thinking of installing technology or using car-share schemes with the intention of reducing their carbon footprint.

All residents are invited and should anybody be willing to showcase their technologies/innovations please contact Cllr Soond or Cllr Borgonon.

Free energy monitors are available on a trial period of 4 weeks to anybody who is willing to join and help in this initiative. Feel free to contact Cllr Borgonon (Meldreth SPEP 01763 260358 Mob: 07981567143) or Cllr Soond (Shepreth SPEP on 07920 428 183).

85/07/11

Report from County Councillor:

The County Council has announced that it is halting its programme of bus subsidy cuts. Cuts were the most draconian in England, and unlike bus subsidy cuts by other local authorities, ours were done without a basis of research on transport needs. By definition subsidized buses tend to serve isolated and less mobile. An application for Judicial Review is pending and relates specifically to a special needs child. No decision about next steps will be taken until the next budget is set in 2012. The application for Judicial Review has already cost the council £10K and a hearing would cost between £50-100K.

'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' – a project to redeploy everything the County Council spends on transport (about £30 million, the bulk being in home-to-school transport) in a smarter way, coming up with localized solutions involving micro-franchises, has just been announced. The project has been conceived over an intensive five month period in which local county councillors have been rigorously excluded, so that in spite of being based on the premise of local solutions to local transport needs, there has been a gap in local input. CPALC invited but came only once; this ticked the 'parish council involvement' box. First details to county councillors announced a week ago.

Community transport arrangements for children from outlying areas of Melbourn and the other four villages supporting the new youth club are just about in order. MVC has given permission for its mini-buses to be used without charge, except petrol. CCC which manages insurance have given the go-ahead, and Royston and District Community Transport have five volunteer drivers. There will be a small cost to cover petrol. At the moment details of CRB checked escorts and identifying those children who want the lifts are being worked out and the service should start in September.

HCVs (Heavy Commercial Vehicles) – County Council is setting out a framework for a new policy in which 'local communities' will be expected to monitor presence of HCVs in rural areas. There is concern that the 'Localism Agenda' is devolving too much too fast without adequate communication to parish councils about what they feel is reasonable and sensible.

Railway Station birthday Saturday 9th July: Phenomenal support from Meldreth and Melbourn. All schools involved, from Meldreth Manor providing bedding plants, Meldreth School Gardening Club planting their new veg and flower patch, and MVC students making bird boxes for the station walls and doing a massive litter pick yesterday, on the opposite side of the Melbourn platform. Gocold have been brilliant, on hand all the time with solutions for resolving small problems. The Spice Hut will be serving 200 samosas to go along with Gocold's ice cream on Saturday. Meldreth Local History Group has done a superb display which is now up in the booking office, and Melbourn Local History Group are covering the cost of frames for a permanent photographic exhibit. They will also be supplying a water butt. The schools are all keen to continue involvement, including MVC who want to keep up the litter picking. Cllr Soond (SCDC) and Cllr van de Ven (CCC) have talked a little about merging aspects of this project with SPEP.

86/07/11

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP)

GVB reported that he and Cllr Soond had been working on this along with the Parish Energy Officer from SCDC. A stall was held at the recent School fête and 3 residents borrowed an energy monitor.

87/07/11

Pavilion:

1. Planning

Still waiting for the building regulations, they are also looking into the possibility of installing solar panels.

2. Contracts – would like to increase the football club annual fee.

Both football contracts were discussed and amendments made. It was proposed by SH and seconded by GVB that the annual fee for Meldreth FC (Saturday club) be raised from £300 to £350, all agreed

The amendments to the Meldreth United (Sunday club) were proposed by JC and seconded by CAL all agreed. Clerk will amend contracts.

Action:Clerk

88/07/11

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – JF reported that the play equipment appears to be in good order and a date is to be set with the Recreation Working Group to paint some of the equipment. The hedge has been cut back.
2. Painting of playground equipment – see item 1.
3. RoSPA report – has been received and passed onto the Recreation Working Group.
4. Anchor supports for the bench – have been received and will be used to install the bench.
5. Netball posts – to be installed
6. Waste bin – to be installed

89/07/11

Bus Stop and Yellow Lines: Update

The requested information has been submitted to Karen Lunn and Andy Hunt (CCC). This will now go to consultation and advertising for August. Pictures have been taken by a local resident who has concerns about vehicles exiting the property. The plans the Parish Council have put forward should help alleviate some of the concerns. White lines will be on drive exits and some calming measures may also be incorporated.

90/07/11

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Village Hero – SH nominated Mr M Taylor, seconded by JC, all agreed.
Office rota for when clerk is on annual leave in August. GVB, RAS, SH, CAL and JMF.
Clerk has attended two training sessions both held by SLCC which were interesting and very informative, the finances along with the audit appear to be well covered and spreadsheets are in order and are abiding by all audit laws. Will need to re-look at the financial risk assessment.

Correspondence circulated

Royston & District Financial assistance form, Clerks & councils, Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum Annual Report, Rights of Way and Access Team Annual Report CCC, Parish Charter – Draft copy, Mary Course email, CCC Street Lighting PFI project – Cambridgeshire, LDF review from meeting held on 17th June, CCC Your Community your speed limit, SCDC Cabinet Members and their responsibilities, Community Action, emails regarding a skatepark, parish matters.

91/07/11

Melbourn Area Youth Development:

JMF reported that transport will start in September to bus the children to the youth club, and though the service is being done voluntarily there may be a need for further funding to cover fuel. At the moment there are 15 to 20 children attending though it is not known how many of these come from Meldreth.

92/07/11

Standards Board Nominations:

A vote was taken and a unanimous result was for Mr R Bristow.

93/07/11

Sustainable Housing Land Availability Assessment: (SHLAA)

The Parish Council have no sites to put forward. It was commented that the closing date of the 29th July did not give sufficient time to inform residents, see item 84/07/11. Cllr Soond did comment that the information was in the public domain via local press and the SCDC website, so most people should be aware of it, but agreed that the time scale was not appropriate. He will report this to SCDC.

Action: Cllr Soond

94/07/11

Solar Farm: Update

Clerk has written but not received reply as yet. APB reported that as far as he was aware a letter has not been received. Clerk to resend.

Action: Clerk

95/07/11

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

Recipient	Amount	Vat	Description	Power
J Damant	605.87	0	salary	LGA 1972 s112
J Damant	10.56	0	salary	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	110.13	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
G B Goodwin	830.00	0	grass cutting etc	OSA 1906 s9/10
Pipex July	20.41	3.40	broadband	TA 1984
RoSPA	129.60	21.60	inspection	LGA 1972 s143
S Hawkins	4.97	0	expenses	LGA 1972 s111
Eon	19.49	0.93	electricity	LGA 1972 s111
Earth Anchors Ltd	88.74	17.79	bench parts	LGA 1972 s111

SLCC Training	114.00	19.00	training	LGA 1972 s143
Suffolk Acre	145.23	0	pavilion insurance	LGA 1972 s143
Meldreth village	74.00	0	rental	LGA 1972 s111
Stationery Cupboard	155.30	25.88	stationery	LGA 1972 s111

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

Payments were proposed by SH, seconded by JC all agreed. Cheques were signed by SH and GVB

2. Internet Banking – signatures required

Clerk has opened another account for S106 money, this will have the same signatories as the current account. Waiting for paperwork. Clerk has also made enquiries about a separate higher interest account for the reserves. When the paperwork arrives the Financial Working Group to go through and see what would be the best option. **Action: FWG**

APB suggested that the Clerk keep an order book for general purchases.

96/07/11

Holy Trinity Church:

1. Church wall update – Planning Committee at SCDC are still holding the application. The Conservation Team at SCDC were concerned about the type of bricks which were going to be used. Hopefully this has now been rectified.

97/07/11

Village Matters:

1. Overgrown trees on High Street – request to have them cut back. The Principal at Scope has reported that certain trees from properties are overhanging the foot way on the High Street which is making it very difficult when using wheelchairs. Clerk to write to the properties concerned. **Action: Clerk**

2. Bench at The Meads – Clerk to order the bench.

3. Noticeboards – proposal to install two new noticeboards at the corner of Bell Close and High Street. Quotations have been received and it was proposed that Mr John Prime be given the contract at a cost of £775 which is one of a pair of notice boards. The Meldreth Village Association will purchase the other notice board. Both boards will be placed where the existing Parish Council notice board is at present. Proposed by CAL and seconded by NP all agreed. The board has to be able to display 8 A4 sheets of paper clearly. APB will talk to the company. The old notice board will be reused in another location within the village.

4. Grass Cutting at the churchyard – APB will talk to the PCC to finalise what they wish and whether a meadow cut would suffice.

5. Rabbit fencing at the burial ground – APB has obtained three quotations for labour, all materials are to be supplied by APB. The fencing to be done is to the left of the burial ground, and rabbit holes are to be found within the burial ground so it was suggested that the fencing be done inside the hedge. The hedge needs to be cut back before the fencing can be done. GVB and JMF volunteered to help with the hedge. APB will also enquire about getting the soil removed from the front of the burial ground. It was proposed by JC and seconded by CAL, agreed by all to give the contract to MD Landscapes at a cost of 1,600 which will provide labour to install 130m of fencing and dig a trench.

Action: Clerk, APB, GVB, JMF

98/07/11

Street Name for the new development off Whitcroft Road:

The Parish Council's request for Newtons Way has not been accepted as there is already a village with that name, however GVB did report that it was Newton. Clerk to enquire if this is the case and whether the name could still be agreed, if not then Mary's Way would be the preferred choice.

99/07/11

Parish Paths Partnership:

Two further working parties have completed clearing paths 9 and 9a. A litter pick was also carried out on paths 10 and 12.

There was a committee meeting on 6th June to review the running and agree the future of the group plus its work schedule.

The following work has been carried out by members of the group:

Path 1 - (Kingswood) and Path 2 (Church End) have been strimmed

Path 6 - (railway crossing) have had the brambles cutback

Path 8 - weed killer has been applied to the tarmac path across the recreation ground.

Path 4 – there is a difficulty to cross the cornfield the farmer will trim the path.

Path 5 – Network Rail have been approached numerous times about the condition of the gates which are difficult to open and close. Clerk to report again.

Action: Clerk

There is a meeting in Swavesey on 21st July Mr Stephen Marshall will attend.

100/07/11

Councillors' Reports:

JC

The hedge on North End (College Bend) and the end of Chiswick End needs cutting back.

Clerk to write.

Action: Clerk

JF

Hedge opposite the village shop also needs cutting back as it is obstructing the foot way and also causing a visibility hazard for vehicles turning out of Bell Close. Clerk to write.

Action: Clerk

CAL

Can the clerk contact Highways to enquire when the bollard and barriers are to be reinstalled and the Fenny Lane crossroads.

Action Clerk

GVB

Speedwatch has been running for three years, and though he is happy to still be part of the team he is going to step down as the coordinator. There will be a need for someone to take over this position. More volunteers are needed in order to carry on with the scheme.

SH

Attended the Chairman's training run by CPALC.

Committees: have to have public meetings, and can make decisions.

Working Groups – do not have to hold public meetings though they are unable to make decisions as all decisions have to be made by the full council as a corporate body.

Clerk put together a list of who is on Committees and Working Groups.

Action: Clerk

The missing bollard at the war memorial has been replaced by a concrete one, Clerk to enquire with Highways if this could be painted black. JC also suggested that bollards should be placed around the stocks area.

Action: Clerk

101/07/11

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Pavilion

Yellow lines at the bus stop

SPEP

102/07/11

Action Points: if not already covered:

There is no meeting in August.

Planning Meetings continue as scheduled.

Next meeting 1st September

Chairman

Date

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