

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Unapproved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 6th October 2011, 7.30pm in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr R A Searles (RAS) -acting Chairman; Mr G V Borgonon (GVB); Mr S W J Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C J Fallon (JF); Mr C A Land (CAL); Mrs J Montague-Fuller (JMF); Mr N Pellatt (NP)

In Attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk), Cllr van de Ven (CCC)

- 127/10/11 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Mr S Hawkins and Mr A P Burlton. Mr R A Searles acted as Chairman in his absence.
NP left the meeting at 10pm
- 128/10/11 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
GVB declared a personal interest in item 149/10, as the Parish Council's representative on this committee.
JF and NP declared a personal interest in item 137/10 as members of the football club
NP declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 144/10 as a land owner.
- 129/10/11 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 present.
- 130/10/11 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 1st September 2011:**
The minutes were proposed by CAL to be a true record, seconded by JF all agreed. RAS signed the minutes as acting Chairman.
- 131/10/11 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- The new bench for the Meads has been received and will be installed next week.
- Bus Stop and Yellow Lines: Update – Traffic regulations orders (TRO's) have been drafted along with notices. These will be advertised at the end of October.
- 132/10/11 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 15th September July 2011
Land to the North West of Valley Farm, S/1658/11 - AP Burlton (Turkeys) Limited.
Extension to existing turkey rearing shed and provision of hard standing. Parish Council recommend Approval with No Comments.
87 High Street, C/11/40/071, Mrs Young. Crown reduction by 20% on Silver Birch. Parish Council have No Comments.
7 Whitecroft Road, S/1755/11 Mr & Mrs A Dudley. Erection of new dwelling and vehicular access with reduction of existing single storey wing to No. 7. The Parish Council recommends Approval with comments. 'The Council is concerned at an additional entry point from properties lining Whitecroft Road, as this has already been flagged as a safety hazard. Consideration should be given to avoid any increased surface water runoff to Whitecroft Road'.
Planning Meeting held on 6th October
Driftwood, Brewery Lane, S/1507/1, Mr & Mrs Slater. Erection of oak framed outbuilding, domestic dog kennel and natural pool. The Parish Council recommended Approval with no comments.
27 High Street, Temple House, S/0382/11 & S/0383/11, Mr Anscombe. Proposed alterations and conversion of storage barn into habitable accommodation. The Parish Council recommended **Approval with Comments**. 'If SCDC is minded to approve this application the Parish Council suggest that a condition be placed on the approval to prevent a subsequent conversion into two dwellings'.
45 Whitecroft Road, S/1327/11, Mr & Mrs R Davey. Proposed Garage (Amendment). Parish Council recommends **Refusal with Comments**. 'The Parish Council would like to reiterate the comments made on the original application as there is concern over the visual impact of the garage and substantial walls and their impact on the street scene and neighbouring properties'.

74 North End, S/1792/11, Mr A Sadler. Erection of a full height side extension in place of the existing garage and a first floor extension to the front of the property above the existing single storey front facing gable. Parish Council recommends **Approval** with no comments.

SCDC Decisions:

32 Howard Road, S/1488/11 - Permission has been granted for rear extensions.

Land to the North West of Valley Farm, S/1658/11 - Permission has been granted for extension to existing turkey rearing shed and provision of hard-standing.

133/10/11

Report from District Councillor:

- Proposed skatepark in Shepreth – nothing to report

134/10/11

Grass cutting: – SCDC are asking parishes if they wish to take on the grass cutting of their areas of responsibility. They are also suggesting that parishes may like to work together with one contractor. Clerk has requested the District Councillor to look into this matter, as there is not enough information for the Parish Council to make a decision. RAS proposed that the reply to SCDC should be that the level of payment from SCDC is needed so costings need to be given in order for Parishes to set precepts. **Action: Clerk to advise SCDC**

135/11/11

Report from County Councillor:

Speed limits: Cllr van de Ven has discussed the process for parish council initiatives on reducing speed limits within settled areas, including, specifically, Whitecroft Road. Because the county council's 'Localism' policy includes the payment for small highways projects by means of parish precept, she would suggest that Meldreth PC take stock of the variety of small jobs around the village it might want to undertake and then meet together to discuss a strategy.

Primary School's Safer Cycling offer from the County is now being charged £15 per head, compared with nothing at all in the past. Training is done by volunteers and there is also an alternative training package paid for in full by central government, called 'Bikeability'. The question is 'why the admin fee?' and the danger is that the school will find the cost a deterrent. Cllr van de Ven is looking into this.

Bus subsidy cuts consultation now happening. December 9th is the deadline.

Rail User Group

Tubs were replanted yesterday and donations of many bulbs and shrubs have been gratefully received from thoughtful residents.

Officers from County and First Capital Connect came to a recent meeting so there has been some progress on long-term campaign points. To help alleviate access limitations on the London-bound platform, FCC has offered to move the Ticket Vending Machine from the Cambridge-bound to the London-bound platform. The Cambridge-bound platform would retain the Permit to Travel machine and this could bring more business to the booking office. Signage has been suggested on the Melbourn side of the station toward village amenities for Melbourn. Meldreth Parish Council see no reason why this cannot be done by Melbourn Parish Council as long as they have permission from the landowner.

County Farms policy on wind farms: call-in successful: County cabinet to an uninformed and autocratic decision recently to ban all wind turbines, of whatever quantity or size, anywhere on its massive land holdings known as County Farms. This includes any prospect of individual small turbines on small holdings proposed by tenant farmers. The normal channel for this kind of decision-making is of course the planning process. A 'call-in' of the decision was successful, meaning that the Scrutiny Committee has decided to send the decision back to Cabinet for review.

136/10/11

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP)

The recent event held in Shepreth 10th September was well attended with over 60 people. GVB proposed that the Parish Council pay for the hiring of Meldreth Village Hall for the next meeting on "Go Solar Energy – Can you afford not to?" which is to take place on 25th November in the village hall at 7:30pm. This was seconded by JMF and all agreed.

137/10/11

Pavilion:

1. Plans to be circulated. NP to obtain three quotations.
2. Football clubs – both contracts have been signed.

138/10/11

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – CAL and JF met and inspected all the equipment which appears to be in good order.

2. Painting of playground equipment – igloo will be painted in the spring
3. Tree – the ground is too dry at the moment, hopefully in the next couple of months the ground will be wet enough to plant the tree.

Other items: could more trees be planted in the recreation ground? This would coincide with the Queen's Jubilee.

The kicking board appears to have some rot at the bottom, Clerk to contact Dave Chappel for repair costings. **Action: Clerk**

There is a small dead tree at the back of 10 Howard Road; this is on the Recreation side, Clerk to ask GB Goodwin to give a costing of removing it. **Action: Clerk**

There has been some vandalism at the tennis courts; this has been reported to the police, though it was not seen to be Criminal Damage. The Parish Council owns the tennis courts but the management was handed over to the Tennis Club.

139/10/11

Queen's Jubilee:

A suggestion of planting trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee or are there other ideas to come from the village?

140/10/11

Bus Shelter at North End:

The two young men who brought this to the Parish Council's attention have approached Alan Tobin for advice.

141/10/11

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

- Mr R A Searles, Mr A P Burlton and Mr S Hawkins to attend the Parish Training and Information Session regarding planning on Tuesday 25 October at Cambourne.

- Christmas Tree Festival – JMF and Clerk will decorate the tree.

- Resident's concern about the safety at the junction at the entrance to Bell Close and the High Street - The Parish Council are aware of the concerns regarding this intersection and the amount of traffic congregating near the shop, this has not been helped with the temporary closure of Orwell's shop. The Parish Council are considering the possibility of having the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph (see item 145/10/11)

- Hedge at College Bends – Clerk has contacted the residents.

- Hedge at 53 High Street needs cutting back – Clerk to write. **Action: Clerk**

- Notice boards – at the junction of Bell Close and High Street – Permission is being sought from SCDC and Highways (CCC) have concerns about placing a further notice board on this corner. Clerk has a site visit booked for Monday 10th October. **Action:**

Clerk**Issues sent to Highways:**

- Collapsed drain in the High Street – has now been done

- Light and barriers at the cross roads at Fenny Lane – damaged light has again been reported, barriers have been done (they are of a slightly different design).

- Large pothole near West Way - has been done

142/10/11

Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD):

Community Transport lifts to Youth Club have been worked out via a team of four drivers and two escorts, all volunteers. Youth Club has very strong attendance across all age groups and cooperation with the Village College is strong. MAYD steering group meets next week.

143/10/11

Burial Ground

- Hedge will be cut back later in the autumn

- Rabbit fencing will be installed once the hedge has been cut back.

- There is a grave which has a tree growing through it, Clerk to contact family. **Action: Clerk**

144/10/11

Sustainable Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA):

Report from Mr R A Searles on the meeting held on 28th September- 6 sites in Meldreth have been registered. See report under 151/10/11 below

145/10/11

Speedwatch

- CCC have suggested that Parish Council's could have a larger say in the setting of speed limits within their parishes, though this will have to be funded by the Parish. GVB, NP and RAS to investigate further. **Action: RAS, GVB, NP**

- There has been one new volunteer for Speedwatch.

146/10/11

Financial Assistance:

Mr R A Searles to be added onto the Finance Working Group.

Royston & District Community Services – request for £400.00 was proposed by RAS, seconded by NP all agreed

The Good Companions - request for £250.00 was proposed by NP, seconded by RAS all agreed.

147/10/11 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:

Payment for approval in October 2011

John Cobb – vat	£235.00
Staff salaries and PAYE/NI	£946.10
Clerk expenses	£ 29.46
G B Goodwin grass cutting - September	£500.00
Pipex	£ 20.41
Eon Electricity	£ 15.51
Fulbourn Parish Council - Cllr training	£ 33.00
Moore Stephens – audit fees	£375.00

Deposits

Precept	£19,942.50
P3 Grant	£ 150.00
S106	£ 743.82

Payments and additional payments (shaded) were proposed by CAL, seconded by JC and all agreed. Cheques were signed by RAS and JF

148/10/11 Holy Trinity Church:

1. Church wall update – Clerk has applied for a grant from the Conservation Department at SCDC. The works which were to commence in October will have to be held back until a decision has been made concerning the grant application. No work may commence before a grant has been decided.

149/10/11 Melwood:

A letter has been received from Melwood concerning the Parish Councils decision to pay on invoice only. This can be re discussed at the next meeting as the sixth month obligatory requirement through the Standing Orders will have ceased. There was also a clerical error in the amount awarded.

150/10/11 Parish Paths Partnership:

The bridges on footpaths 1,2,3,4,5 and 7 have been checked. The following work has been carried out – Footpaths 1 (Kingswood), 2,3,4 have been checked. The gate on footpath 5 has been repaired by Network Rail. Brambles on footpath 6 have been cut back. Weedkiller has been applied to footpath 8 along the section across the recreation ground.

There is a County Path meeting on 1st November, JC is unable to attend.

The following is planned for the autumn.

Cutback brambles on footpath 9 (Station Road to Meads) and 11 (Chiswick End towards Kneesworth)

Clearance of leaves around the Stocks.

Annual footpath survey will be carried out in December

Chippings may be laid on footpath 6 between Flambards and Topcliffe Meadow.

Footpaths 9 and 9a will be strimmed.

151/10/11 Councillors' Reports:

Mr R A Searles

Parish Liaison Meeting of 28th September 2011

Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council announced a change to the grants SCDC offer – these are Service Support, Capital and Community Chest Grants. The latter are easy to apply for and for less than £1000 - £60,000 is available in total. A summary will be circulated.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

SCDC have published the list of the land offered for housing following the request in early summer. The list and a map showing the location of all sites offered is on the SCDC web site and can be accessed at:

<http://www.scams.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/DistrictPlanning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/SHLAA.htm>

It was emphasised that this list offered many times the number of houses that would be needed and each plot would now be subjected to a technical and policy assessment and a revised and much smaller list would go to public consultation in June/July 2012.

There are 6 sites offered in Meldreth:

land at Whitecroft Road; land north of Gables Close; riding school at land adjacent to Meldreth Manor School; land adjacent to Whitecroft Road; Willow Stables on Whitecroft Road; and behind 80a High Street.

Emerging Financial Picture

SCDC have "ring fenced" the Housing Revenue Account now that they cannot transfer their housing stock to housing associations. They will be allocated a debt of £220 million by HMG and will need to pay this off from rents – not from their general accounts.

SCDC are looking into making their treasury management services available so parish councils can get better returns from investing their contingency funds. SCDC are highly rated in this. Smaller parishes might need to combine as minimum investment would be £75,000 with 3 months notice on withdrawals. Decision to be made in November and then offered to 6 larger councils.

New arrangements for Footway Lighting

The proposal to transfer the maintenance of street lighting to PCs is regarded as messy, particularly on insurance aspects, so has been revisited. Balfour Beatty will cancel any contracts made with Parish Councils and SCDC will take over. Final decision in October but expected that SCDC will take over insurance and maintenance and CCC will bulk buy power.

Parish Questions

Included were questions on lighting and SCDC confirmed Parish Councils could ask for lighting to be turned off at night. RAS asked if SCDC could add to the on-line information on planning applications which neighbours were "carded", as other district and city councils do this. This was thought to be useful and will be looked into.

Site visit at Bakewell Mews attended on 27th September 2011. This was attended by RAS and the Clerk who were invited to see the progress being done and to see the six affordable housing sites.

Letter received concerning the risk of flooding to Whitecroft Road. This was not a direct question to the Parish Council but it was noted that there was once be a ditch along the boundary of the new housing site; its reinstatement would alleviate the possibility of flooding.

Dog bin. RAS suggested that the Clerk enquire with the Environmental Dept (SCDC) to see if it would be viable to have a dog waste bin placed near the bridge at Flambards.

Action: Clerk

Mrs J Montague-Fuller

Will attend the Water management briefing at Cambourne on 26th October.

Mr J Chamberlain

Remembrance Day – the wreath will be laid by NP on behalf of the Parish Council

Mrs J Fallon

Clerk to arrange for Highways to look at the footway on Whitecroft Road.

The tree at 1 Bell Close is very overgrown and obstructing the road signs – Clerk will enquire with Highways and SCDC.

152/10/11 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Melwood
Parish Plan
Finance Group Recommendation
Dog signs
PPP

153/10/11 Action Points: if not already covered:

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.35pm. The next meeting will be in the Village Hall (Green Room) on November 3rd 2011.

Chairman

Date

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