

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

UNApproved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 3rd November 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 A P Burlton (APB), 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)

Under Chairman's Discretion: two additional items – Parish Plan and Community Access Point to be added.

- 154/11/11 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Mr S Hawkins and Cllr S Soond (SCDC). Mr R A Searles Chaired the meeting in Mr Hawkins' absence.
- 155/11/11 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
Personal declarations received for item 163/11/11 from JF and NP as they are members of the football club. Personal and prejudicial declaration from JC for item 172/11/11 as Mrs Chamberlain is the warden.
- 156/1111 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 three members of the public present.
Items discussed:
- There appears to be a lot of Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCV) going through the village. RAS explained that the Parish Council were aware of this, as it had been noted in Speedwatch. One of the reasons is that lorries are using car sat navs systems which direct them through the village to avoid congestion at the bottom of B1198. RAS is to attend the HCV consultation evening later this month.
 - There is a lot of rubbish on the land near the railway line, JC will make enquiries.
 - A resident was requesting for white lines to be put outside her property to stop cars from parking across her access. The Parish Council are very aware of the situation and sympathise but they are unable to finance the work. The main reason is primary school traffic parking. Could drivers please be aware that they are blocking in residents when parking across their drives.
- 157/11/11 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6th October 2011:**
The minutes were proposed by JC to be a true record, seconded by CAL and all agreed. Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 158/11/11 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- The new bench for the Meads has been installed.
- 159/11/11 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Montague-Fuller, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only.** Further details can be found in the full planning minutes.
20th October 2011
Land adj. to the Tavern Yard & Station Road, S/0029/11
Amendment – erection of four dwellings (three 2 bedroom houses in the form of a terrace & one detached 3 bedroom bungalow) and creation of associated access and parking (amended) - Parish Council recommend **Refusal with comments**. 'While this goes some way to addressing the Parish Council's concerns expressed on the previous application there is still overcrowding and difficulty for emergency vehicle access'.
Land to the West of Burtons, Whaddon Road, S/1881/11 Temporary consent (3 Years) for the siting of three mobile containers (B8 Use Class) (Retrospective) Parish Council recommend **Approval with comments**. 'When does the three year consent run from, date of original infringement or date of enforcement notice?'
SCDC Decisions: 79 High Street, S/1639/11. Permission has been granted for the erection of a telephone pole.
3rd November 2011 – Verbal report

104 High Street, S/1656/11

Erection of a new commercial unit, conversion of existing barn into 2no residential units and erection of 2no dwellings.

Meldreth Parish Council recommends **Refusal with comments** 'while there is no objection to the semi detached houses and the rebuilding of the industrial unit in a more sympathetic style the Parish Council are concerned that the plan seeks to demolish an historic barn within the curtilage of the listed building which already had planning permission for conversion to two houses. Application has already listed building consent S/0280/07/LB.

26 Chiswick End, S/2052/11

Detached bungalow and garage with vehicular crossover.

Meldreth Parish Council recommends **Refusal with comments** 'need more detail in a Full Planning application to assess the impact it would have on neighbours and the street scene in Chiswick End and it is clear that precautions against flooding would be needed and the Parish Council would like to see how this can be achieved.

15 – 17 Whitecroft Road, S/1911/11

Demolition of existing house and erection of 22 x 2,3 and 4 bedroom social houses and ancillary works.

Meldreth Parish Council Recommends – **No Recommendation with comments** 'The Parish Council are minded to approve, based on the need for extra social houses as evidenced by the latest housing register which shows 52 families with Meldreth connections in need of better housing and our own survey which shows over 75% of former social housing is now in private ownership, but they have major concerns about certain issues'.

The application is incomplete as the Surface Water Plan is missing (Jephson say it will be ready in 3 weeks).

We would like to see:

- A Foul Water report dealing with the capacity of the pumping station and the sewer in Whitecroft Road and whether it would be able to cope with the extra 22 houses.
- A report by CCC Highways of the safety of the junction of Whitecroft Road with Station Road, as traffic coming from Melbourn direction does not slow to take the bend making crossing from the proposed development to access the village facilities dangerous.

Will pedestrian safety be addressed and can a footway from the development to Station Road be provided?

What is the housing split between rental and equity share homes? The application states all rented but Jephson informed us that there would be 4 shared equity houses.

Existing landscaping to the site will be retained but some of the trees are dead or dying. We would like a condition to provide a full landscaping plan with tree survey to ensure that the neighbours' privacy is maintained.

Would like to see an amended application with the Surface Water plan and the correct rented/shared equity split.

There is major concern over the traffic issues through this particular part of the village especially with the junction of Whitecroft and Station Road. At present this is seen to be a dangerous junction and the increase in vehicular and pedestrian movement is a real cause of concern, along with the lack of a footway to access the railway bridge and local shops.

SCDC Decisions:

New Malton Golf Club, Malton Lane, S/1416/11 – permission has been granted for extension of time application for extension to club house, erection of pro shop with ground keepers flat and erection of 6 accommodation lodges (S/2439/06/F). This application was sent for Meldreth Parish Council's information but it lies within the parish of Orwell.

160/11/11

Report from District Councillor: Report was read out by RAS

Cllr Soond has received correspondence concerning the proposed affordable housing development in Whitecroft Road and will be meeting with residents later this week.

There is a PhotoVoltaic meeting on the 25th November at 7.30 at Meldreth Village Hall and is open to all.

Cllr Soond has been contacted by SCDC concerning the grant for the church wall, which is currently being processed.

SCDC has opened it's Community Chest for grant proposals up to around 1K of funding for 2011/12 (deadline is 16th December).

- 161/11/11 Report from County Councillor:**
1. Riverside Walk between Shepreth and Meldreth: On a chance query from a Shepreth resident, it would appear that County Council have been looking for a long time to improve the walk and have made a grant application to the Forestry Commission which looks as if it will be successful.
 2. Rail issues: First Capital Connect and County Council transport officers have agreed to meet with Cllr van de Ven to formally explore the possibility of a Community Rail Partnership for Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton stations.
 3. Highways Parish Warden Open Day: Cllr van de Ven will attend an open day at the Whittlesford Highways Depot on November 16th to learn more and will report back.
 4. Melbourn Parish Council has voted unanimously to support the creation of a Community Hub in a High Street location, as part of a redevelopment of the Old Police site for social housing. The hub will house the current Library Access Point which is excellent news, since the library's current premises must be vacated in the near future. They are also exploring the possibility of a CAB presence.
 5. A new decision-making process will come into force to replace the Area Joint Transport Management Committee. Up to £50K will be available district-wide; parish bids for small projects costing no more than £10K, of which the parish council will be asked to pay 10%, can be made annually. The first round of bids must be received by the end of November 2011.
 6. The 'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' project is proposing to run three pilots including two in South Cambs, offering franchises for small scale local transport which will include a minibus provided by the county.
- 162/11/11 Grass cutting: update**
It would appear that SCDC will no longer pursue this particular initiative. Anita Goddard stated that there had been limited interest from the parishes.
- 163/11/11 Pavilion:**
1. Planning
The plans are being circulated and the building regulations are presently being looked at.
- 164/11/11 Playground:**
1. Monthly Report
The equipment has been inspected and appears to be in good working order.
 2. Painting of playground equipment – still to be done when the weather allows.
 3. Tree – to be ordered and planted when the weather allows.
 4. Kicking board – has been looked at, Clerk awaiting quotation.
 5. Removal of tree (10 Howard Road) – will be removed within the next couple of weeks.
- Other items:
The pavilion area is not a toilet, would those responsible please ensure that this behaviour stops. It was suggested to install motion sensor lighting. Clerk to investigate. **Action: Clerk**
- 165/11/11 Queen's Jubilee:**
Clerk to enquire if other committees/societies are planning events. **Action: Clerk**
- 166/11/11 Bus Shelter at North End:**
Update – Nothing to report at the moment as the children have their exams. Mr Tobin has offered his help when they need it.
- 167/11/11 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
- Mr R A Searles, Mr A P Burlton and Mr S Hawkins attended the Parish Training and Information Session regarding planning on Tuesday 25 October at Cambourne.
 - Overgrown Hedges at College Bends and High Street – requests have been made to get these hedges cut back.
 - dog bin at Flambards - request has been put in awaiting response.
 - Yellow lines on High Street – the 'proposed' noticed will be advertised in the CEN on 4th November 2011. A closing date for comments and objections will be November 25th.
 - JMF and Judy will decorate the Christmas tree for the festival.
 - CPALC AGM – Bluntisham Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December
- 168/11/11 Melbourn Area Youth Development:**
There is to be a meeting in two weeks. There is a very good attendance with more children joining.

- 169/11/11 Burial Ground:**
There is increasing concern from residents over the rabbit problem and general state of the burial ground. The Parish Council, as the landowner can implement whatever measures they feel would be appropriate, i.e. shooting, ferreting, gassing – the environmental agency would only get involved if there was too much noise, i.e. shot guns. Much of this should be rectified once the new rabbit proof fencing has been installed later this month.
- 170/11/11 Notice boards on the corner of High Street and Bell Close:**
1. Position of the new notice boards- The notice boards have been ordered – Highways have done a site visit and recommend that the boards be moved to around the corner, so that they will be facing the bungalows – Jenny Clark, SCDC has no objection to this as they are the land owners, have emailed permission to support this. Highways will do an inspection to make sure there are no cables etc underneath the ground.
2. Position of old notice board – There was a suggestion to place the old notice board at Whitecroft and Howards Road. Clerk to enquire with SCDC if this would be possible.
Action: Clerk
Notice board will be refurbished before installing. Clerk to gain quote for repairs.
Action: Clerk
- 171/11/11 Speedwatch**
- CCC have suggested that Parish Council's could have a larger say in the setting of speed limits within their parishes. Meeting to be arranged with RAS, GVB and NP. **Action: RAS**
There have been two new volunteers, but more are needed as it is still not possible to run two teams.
- 172/11/11 Financial Assistance:**
Mobile Warden Scheme – request for £1,000.00. Proposed by JF, seconded by JMF all agreed. JC did not vote.
Melwood update – letter has been written to Melwood asking for them to resubmit. The six month standing order requirements have now ended.
- 173/11/11 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 November 2011
- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|----------------|
| J Damant | 601.86 | salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| M Taylor | 255.30 | salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| G B Goodwin | 890.00 | grass etc | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| GV Borgonon | 11.20 | expenses | LGA 1972 s111 |
| N Pellatt | 14.06 | expenses | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Royston & District | 400.00 | donation | S137 |
| The Good Companions | 250.00 | donation | S137 |
- Local Government Act (LGA); Open Spaces Act (OSA); Telecomms Act (TA)
Payments were proposed by CAL, seconded by RAS all agreed.
RAS and GVB signed the cheques.
Deposits
OPC office rent 70.00
- 174/11/11 Holy Trinity Church:**
Church wall update – Further information has been requested by SCDC Grants (listed buildings and conservation areas) Clerk is presently dealing with this and will chase SCDC on progress on the grant as the weather may delay building work. **Action: Clerk**
- 175/11/11 Audit**
Audit has been passed with no comments – Clear audit.
- 176/11/11 Street Lighting Maintenance: Update**
There is a new proposal from SCDC.
'to simplify maintenance and contractual arrangements, I am minded to take over all day-to-day maintenance responsibilities for footway lights from Parish Councils, with effect from the start of the PFI contract. This would mean that SCDC would be responsible for all aspects of footway lighting maintenance, including day-to-day maintenance, renewals and replacements. Parish Councils would no longer have any maintenance responsibilities'.
(Paul Quigley SCDC – email of 30 Sept 2011). A final decision was to be made in October.

177/11/11

Parish Paths Partnership:

- 1) Twelve volunteers cleared and burnt leaves from the the stocks area. Thank you to Tony Burlton for his tractor, John Elbourn for allowing us to use his field and Nick Askham who burnt about three tons of leaves. Thank you to all the volunteers and hopefully we will be able to extend the life of the chestnut tree.
 - 2) Brambles on paths 9a and 11 have been cutback.
 - 3) Contractors have been working on path 9a to cutback overhanging trees.
- During December path wardens will be carrying path surveys on all fourteen paths.

178/11/11

Councillors' Reports:**RAS**

Parish Training and Information Session - RAS reported that this was a very useful meeting. The question concerning the Strategic Housing and why it was done in this way was explained. In the past landowners who had not submitted their land requests in time were then included under 'objection sites'. The idea was to try and avoid this situation and ask landowners who may have had land not necessarily within the guidelines to submit them first. There is a need to build 3,000 more houses by 2031 in Cambridgeshire. At the moment there are 270 sites offered – far more than those needed.

S106 agreements – many parishes felt that they were not being consulted and due to some of the restrictions associated with these payments are not able to use it.

John Kock SCDC, leader of the Planning West Team – was requesting that when planning applications were being assessed by the Parish Council that unless they have strong opinions which can be backed up with planning laws that they use the No Recommendation, this will allow SCDC to make the decision and thus avoid going to Full Planning Committee. Applications on major applications and minor applications on Change of Use are submitted to the Full Planning Committee when Parish Councils recommend “Refusal” and SCDC Planning want to approve. It was felt that many parishes feel they need to put a recommendation down i.e. Approval or Refusal but then do not follow it up and do not attend the Full Planning Committee meetings. Meldreth are one of the few parishes who are active within the planning system.

APB

The hedge at the corner of Malton Lane, when turning right onto North End is very overgrown and is obstructing site lines. Clerk to request it is cut back. **Action: Clerk**

GVB

There has been an increase in crime within Meldreth. The October figures showed 30 incidences, which is double of what would be expected. Residents to be aware and call **101** if they see anything suspicious.

178/11/11

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Parish Plan, Precept, Notice boards, Burial ground, HCV meeting, Church wall, Speed limits, Melwood.

179/11/11

Action Points: if not already covered:

Dog signs for the recreation ground – 4 have been ordered.

180/11/11

Parish Plan:

The Parish Plan needs to be updated and a new Steering Group to be implemented. Article to go in Meldreth Matters. Will need a public meeting. **Action: Clerk**

181/11/11

Community Access Point (CAP)

Funding of the computers is to be withdrawn. There will be some funding for 50 of the 70 CAPs (20 will be disbanded) but this will be for wireless access only, funding for hardware, software and servicing will cease and will commence from April 2012. If Meldreth wish to continue then the Parish Council will need to support it financially.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Chairman

Date

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