

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

UNApproved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2nd February 2012, 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); Mr N Pellatt (NP)

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

- 229/02/12 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mrs J Montague-Fuller.
- 230/02/12 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
There were no declarations of interests declared either personal or prejudicial.
- 231/02/12 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 4 members of the public in attendance.
Discussion:
There was concern expressed about the lack of involvement from the Parish Council regarding the celebrations for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council have asked other village organisations whether they were planning any events, but so far there has not been any response. It was suggested that a public meeting should be held as soon as possible to see if there were any individuals willing to help organise an event.
- 232/02/12 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5th January 2012:**
The minutes were proposed by JF to be a true record, seconded by GVB all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 233/02/12 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- Housing Strategy Consultation has been submitted
- letter to Shepreth and Whaddon Parish Councils have been sent (item 218/01/12.1)
- Rabbit fencing has now been installed at the Burial ground.
- Precept has been submitted.
- 234/02/12 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Montague-Fuller, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only.** Further details can be found in the full planning minutes.
January 19th 2012
76 North End, S/2532/11, Mr Martin Rule. First floor extension. The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments
Land between 6 and 8 Chiswick End, S/2445/11, Mr Brian Charlwood. Variation of Condition 2 on Planning Permission S/0548/11 to provide larger detached garage. The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with comments. 'A ditch, now in a conduit, is believed to run under the site of the proposed garage and takes all the water from the north side of Chiswick End to the surface water drain in Whitcroft Road. The Drainage Officer should be consulted. Also surface water from the gutters is drained to 2 soakaways but also, it appears, to a road gully. Is this acceptable given the past flooding problems in the part of Chiswick End'?
- SCDC Decisions:**
29 Elin Way, S/2289/11 – permission has been granted for extension and loft conversion.
- February 2nd 2012**
Maycroft Residential Home – 73 High Street, S/2584/11 Samved Holdings Ltd
Construction of two storey bedroom extension, new dayrooms and associated alterations to existing residential home. Parish Council recommend **Approval with No Comments**.
- Maycroft Residential Home – 73 High Street, S/2592/11** Samved Holdings Ltd
Two storey bedroom extension, new dayrooms and associated alterations to existing residential home. Parish Council recommend **Approval with No Comments**.

6 Fenny Lane – C/11/17/071/02, TPO 07/66 Mr Van Essen. Reduce stem and reduce crown of Beech tree. Reduce overhanging road of Beech tree. Remove poor hedgerow trees overhanging property consists of Sycamore and Ash trees. Parish Council recommend **No Comments**.

235/02/12

Report from District Councillor:

Cllr Soond summarised the SCDC position on their proposed budget for 2012-13, as has been highlighted in the press. Details are available at:

http://www.scambs.gov.uk/pressreleases/pressrelease.htm?mode=10&pk_press_release=1585

Meldreth DC Surgeries: Feb 6, March 5, April 2, May 7 at the Elin Way Community Centre, Meldreth, 7-8pm.

Feb 6 surgery: SCDC and Jephson's visit and presentation on the proposed affordable housing development on Whitcroft Road.

236/02/12

Report from County Councillor:

- Capital borrowing plan for highways - £90M over three years
- Capital borrowing for new station at Chesterton (Cambridge Science Park) which has cross-party support locally and nationally.
- Capital borrowing for a £29 million by-pass at Ely, to avoid the level crossing where regional freight lorry traffic is currently log-jammed.
- Continuing £1 million per year expenditure for the Guided Bus contingency fund should the multi-million pound contractual dispute.
- £20 million on superfast Broadband, speeding up the work that private telecoms industry would be doing anyway.
- Continuing withdrawal of all bus subsidies (£2.5 over three years) and investment (£1.5 million) in the new 'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' project.
- Adult Social Care is facing tremendous continuing underfunding issues on a scale which is quite difficult to fathom.
- Children's Services: funding of rural children's centres is being cut back and outreach work will be affected.
- Academies top-slicing has caused a serious funding shortfall for those schools remaining under local authority control. CCC is about £3 million short.
- Meldreth Rail: Cllr van de Ven had a very good two-hour visit from Arriva, prospective franchisee in the run-up to next year's end of franchise. The main topic discussed was disabled access to the London-bound platform and the prospect of a ramp to be funded early in a franchise period. Also: better cycle parking on both sides, the old Meldreth-Melbourn name which could increase patronage from the perspective of internet-journey planning to Melbourn employment centres, and a half-hourly service, which Arriva suggested could be justified by current footfall. -
- Rail User Group: Application forms to join are now at the booking office. The AGM is March 14 at Meldreth Manor School

237/02/12

Holy Trinity Church:

The application for a grant has been accepted and agreed by the 'Listed Buildings and Conservation Dept' A grant of £1,140 or 25% of the costs, whichever is less, has been awarded. The work will commence once the weather improves.

238/02/12/

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – The equipment is in good working order
2. Tree - APB and JM-F to meet, tree to be planted once the ground has thawed.

Action: APB/JM-F

Other items

The ditch at the back of the recreation ground which backs onto the houses on Howard Road needs to be cleared and the vegetation cut back and removed. The ditch is the responsibility of the Parish Council and because of the fence which runs along the back of the houses it makes access from the properties difficult. It was proposed by JF that the Parish Council clear this area, seconded by APB all agreed. APB will obtain quotes. **Action: APB**

239/02/12

Speed Limits:

Letters have gone out to Whadden and Shepreth Parish councils see item (233/02/12)

- 240/02/12 Parish Plan:**
There has been no response from the article published in Meldreth Matters asking for residents to come forward with regards to updating the Parish Plan. It was agreed that another article should be put in as this process does need community involvement. GVB will write an article.
Action: GVB
- 241/02/12 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
1. Empty Homes Consultation ends February 2012 – The Parish Council agree in principal with this consultation but are unable to see how Parish Councils are able to contribute.
2. Queen's Garden Party – open to Chairman. Information given to SH
3. Fuel Poverty – this has had a lot of media attention lately.
4. P3 information handed to JC.
- 242/02/12 Melbourn Area Youth Development:**
A meeting has taken place and they are advertising for an administrator.
- 243/02/12 Burial Ground:**
The rabbit fencing has now been completed but a little more may be needed along the bottom APB will obtain some quotes.
Action: APB
The holes have been filled and the remaining soil will be removed at a later date. There has been some concern reported from residents about the removal of rabbits from the burial ground, but the Parish Council has a legal duty to control pests and to make sure that the area is safe as rabbit holes do create a hazard.
The pest controller is doing the work voluntarily.
- 244/02/12 SPEP:**
A presentation took place in Melbourn, and it was felt that many residents who attended believed that the feed in tariffs have caused confusion.
Meldreth now have a Thermal Imaging Camera which will be available to residents who want to see how much heat their properties are losing. Residents need to contact Mr Graham Borgonon or David Smith.
A further presentation/open day is being proposed for Meldreth in March – date still to be decided.
Looking into funding issues in order to do final energy surveys.
- 245/02/12 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 February 2012**
- | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| Salaries/PAYE/NI | 1,038.73 | 0 | salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| G B Goodwin | 500.00 | 0 | Grass cutting | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Glasdon UK | 202.46 | 18.75 | Litter bin | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| David Neale | 54.00 | 0 | Pavilion | LGA 1972 s113 |
| David Chappell | 168.40 | 0 | Maintenance | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
- Deposits**
OPC Feb office rent 70.00
There were no additional payments.
Local Government Act (LGA); Open Spaces Act (OSA); Telecoms Act (TA)
Payments proposed by GVB, seconded by APB all agreed. Cheques signed by SH and RAS.
- 246/02/12 Parish Paths Partnership:**
On 14th January the paths group worked the cemetery to fill in rabbit holes.
During December and January path wardens have carried the annual path surveys to highlight any problems and assist P3 coordinator prepare the request for a grant for 2012/13 plus annual report to Cambs CC.
The following work has been highlighted for the near future :-
Path 1- need waymarking across the golf course.
Paths 2/3/4 - have been checked by path wardens and problems reported
Path 5 - gate problems have again been reported and need to be sorted out by Network Rail.
Path 6 – the path edge in two places is slipping into the River Mel and materials needed are being evaluated before a small working party will be arranged. Also when this work has been completed, another larger working party (ies) will lay chippings after current bad weather.

Path 9a - overhanging hedge reported I will action as soon as the weather improves.

Path 9 - the tree roots in the middle section of path are pushing up the tarmac, which are causing a problem particularly in the dark.

Path 13 - it has been reported by walkers that the dogs from Hawthorn Park are causing problems.

We have been invited to attend County Paths Meetings at Bar Hill and Over on 23rd February Site Visit by Peter Gaskin – I have asked Peter Gaskin from Cambs CC P3 team to meet me and discuss various other problems highlighted by annual path surveys plus to look at potholes on path 12 as reported by our county councillor.

APB - is currently looking into a possible link from path2 at Eternit to Kneesworth Road which could exit near to our path 13 to come to Chiswick End and a link to Path 10 to Fieldgate and Path 12.

247/02/12

Annual Parish Meeting Date:

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting will be 17th May 2012, venue not set yet. In order to increase the attendance by the Village it was suggested that the evening should be extended to include other items of interest.

Suggested items Items which could be incorporated include:

- Parish Plan
- Sustainable Energy
- Fashion Show using recyclable materials from the Youth Club

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be 3rd May 2012 in the Green Room of the Village Hall.

248/02/12

Councillors' Reports:

RAS

Letters have been delivered to motorists explaining that the charges at the station car park have been reduced.

There have been reports of stones and mud along the road at North End bends which were causing a hazard. APB has spoken to the contractor. It was proposed that the Clerk also writes asking that the road and foot ways be swept. The drains along North End have also been affected by the excess debris and may need jetting.

GVB

Community Access Point (CAP). Is well attended and there are two new tutors. There has been no correspondence from SCDC regarding the issue of whether Meldreth will receive WiFi. Clerk to enquire.

Action: Clerk

CAL

The pot hole on West Way has still not been filled. Clerk to enquire.

Action: Clerk

SH

Repairs to the carriageway on the Station Road bridge are under way.

JC

Attended the Emergency Plan Meeting along with the Clerk. Plan to be circulated to all Councillors. The Emergency Plan is a Community Plan which helps to identify and clarify certain areas within the community, this could be who has generators, where the nearest emergency building is, to who in the community maybe at risk.

249/02/12

Agenda items for the next meeting:

May Fayre

Dog bins

P3

Annual Village Meeting

SPEP

Parish Plan

Meldreth Minutes Extracts

250/02/12

Action Points: if not already covered:

Dog signs

Chairman

Date

These minutes are published and provided, and may be used, only on the basis that the user assumes all responsibility for any loss, damage or consequence resulting directly or indirectly from them or their use. For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Meldreth Parish Council are those signed in Public Meetings by the Chairman. They are available for public inspection from the Clerk.