

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

UNApproved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 1st March 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)

(SCDC) – South Cambridgeshire County Council; **(CCC)** – Cambridgeshire County Council

- 251/03/12 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mrs J Montague-Fuller.
- 252/03/12 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
There were no declarations either personal or prejudicial declared.
- 253/03/12 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 two members of the public in attendance.
Issues were raised about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (see item 272/03/12)
- 254/03/12 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2nd February 2012:**
The minutes were proposed by RAS to be a true record this was seconded by APB all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 255/03/12 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
There were no matters arising all items are covered within the agenda.
- 256/03/12 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Montague-Fuller, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only.** Further details can be found in the full planning minutes.
There was no meeting on the 16th February 2012
Meeting on the 1st March 2012

26 Chiswick End, S/0165/RM - Bungalow and garage. The Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments. 'The main entrance is facing the neighbours property. The relocated garage is on the neighbours boundary. It is forward of the four adjacent buildings and thus visually intrudes into the rural cul de sac which is Chiswick End'.

13 North End, S/0127/12/FL - Erection of Garage. The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.

43 Chiswick End, S/0272/12/PO - Application to Modify Planning Obligation of planning permission ref S/0903/91/O. The Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments. 'The building is tied to the business and the Parish Council can see no reason why it should be split. Only one party appears to have requested that the schedule is taken out'.

Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/0327/12/FL – Extension. Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.

Bury Lane Fruit Farms, S/0328/12/FL - Siting of building for commercial kitchen. 'The Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments. 'The Parish Council are not against the proposal in principal but feel that a more suitable location could be found, possibly to the west of the retail area'.

SCDC Decisions: 76 North End, S/2532/11 – permission has been granted for a first floor extension; 116 High Street, S/1249/11 – permission has been granted for a single storey extension and link, loft conversion and alterations to exterior of dwelling; 104 High Street, S/2585/11 – permission has been granted for extensions to dwellings and cartlodge.

Other Items: The letter received from the owners of 3 Gables Close was discussed, Clerk to respond.

257/03/12

Report from District Councillor:

Public Meeting-Proposed Housing on Whitecroft Road: Approximately 26 residents met at Cllr Soond latest surgery, which was dedicated to discussing the above development for the benefit of the residents of Meldreth. In attendance were officials from SCDC and Jephson's Housing Association. Key points for discussion were as follows:

1. Traffic Survey and Highways. Concerns were raised regarding the flow of traffic around a stretch of road where speeding traffic is already seen as an issue. A traffic survey and report is awaited from the Highways Agency.
2. Flooding and Drainage. Concern was also raised by residents regarding drainage. The proposed site is outside the water table. The drainage design is based on engineers' calculations which incorporates a system of soak-aways and 'tanks' for storing rainwater helping to reduce surface water and potential flooding.
3. Density. Although people were ostensibly supportive of the prospect of more affordable housing some felt that the density is too high. It was explained that the size, mix and tenure of the properties is dictated by the Housing Needs Survey, which was how the mix and tenure split was arrived at. Moreover, density has to meet feasibility requirements which could mean that if the scheme is reduced too far in density, this proposal may not be financially feasible and could result in potential loss for more much needed affordable housing for Meldreth.
4. Available School places. As this is a 'rural exceptions site' it is not subject to Section 106 education contributions and therefore provision of school places would ultimately fall to County Council.
5. Fencing and Boundaries surrounding site. Jephson's agreed to meet the residents immediately bordering the site to address boundary treatments. The general view was that removing Leylandii and replacing with 6' close-boarded would be welcomed by the residents.
6. Orchard. The orchard at the rear of the site will be looked into being transferred/leased to SCDC under the care and maintenance of conservation officers to be used as a possible community orchard.
7. Pavements on Whitecroft Road. The extensions of some pavements will be looked at to permit safe access to High Street.
8. While Jephson's were hoping for a March Planning date (realistically this looks like it will be April/May)

At this juncture, we are eagerly awaiting reports from Highways to be released for consideration as part of the whole application.

Parish Emergency Plan

SCDC is encouraging all parish councils to adopt a 'Parish Emergency Plan' in an emergency situation, local skills, resources, places of safety, emergency contacts, lists of community organisations etc are vital pieces of information. It is hoped that this initiative will help Parish Councils have a plan of action in place should it ever be required.

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) News

Sat 31 Mar, 11:00 – 13:30 at Great Abington Institute

Warmer Homes, Smaller Bills event organised by the parish councils of Gt and Lt Abington and Hildersham.

Contact Siobhan Mellon and Richard Hales for more info:

The Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB23 6 EA
sustainability@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Surinder M Soond. Tel: 07920 428183; email: s.soond@btinternet.com;

<http://surindersoond.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

DC Surgeries: March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, 7-8pm at Elin Way Community Room, Meldreth.

258/03/12

Report from County Councillor:

1. White Lines, North End: these will be repainted in the spring.
2. Blocked drain, corner of Whitecroft and Station Road Hill: this is a riparian responsibility due to adjoining ditch blocked with debris.
3. After considerable prodding at the county council, Bikeability will now be universally offered to primary schools free of charge, which is what should have happened this year – the council had been charging £15 admin fee. Safer Cycling is to be discontinued and all emphasis put on Bikeability which is offered to a professional standard. This is fully funded by government.
4. Pippins Children's Centre will see a funding reduction of about 15%. This is very concerning. Cllr van de Ven will be meeting the Children's Centre Team on March 20th to learn more.

5. Bus subsidy withdrawal: The 128 will lose its subsidy in Sept. 2014. The subsidy cost per journey is £2.14. County has committed to doing their best to providing an alternative service with about half the funding, but it has not yet demonstrated any workable ideas. The County will not be turning its attention to Meldreth for some time as it has cut all subsidies across the county and will be working in six-monthly tranches.

- 259/03/12 May Fayre:**
It would appear that the date of the May Fayre is Saturday 5th May, however the Parish Council have not been officially approached and it is not known if a football game is scheduled for that date JF to enquire. Clerk to contact the officials of the May Fayre committee.
Action: JF/Clerk
- 260/03/12 Playground:**
1. Monthly Report – the working party met on Saturday 25th March. All equipment was checked and all appears to be in good working order. The large swing seats will need to be replaced soon this is mainly due to wear and tear. It was suggested by RAS that there is money (S106) which can be spent on new play equipment. The working group will meet and look at ideas, it was also suggested that the children from the play group and primary school could be invited to give their suggestions as to what they would like to see regarding play equipment. The working party will organise. **Action: Recreational Working Party**
2. Tree and hedging plants
APB will order the Field Maple tree and some hedging plants to fill in the gaps around the play area. **Action: APB**
- 261/03/12 Dog bins:**
Clerk has met with SCDC and positioning of dog bins were discussed.
- One at the Recreation Ground near the Pavilion/Village Hall entrance. No Charge
- One the corner of High Street/Flambards. No Charge
It was proposed by SH that the Clerk order both the dog bins, all agreed. **Action: Clerk**
- 262/03/12 Parish Plan:**
There has been response, as yet, to the article put in recently to Meldreth Matters.
- 263/03/12 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
- Local Plan Workshop on 29th March at Cambourne – RAS and SH will attend.
- Parish Liaison Meeting at Cambourne – RAS and Clerk to attend TBC **Action: Clerk**
Clerk has received a letter from Mr G Duncan requesting voluntarily work for his Duke of Edinburgh award. JC will take this on and contact Mr Duncan. It was suggested that litter picking along North End would be a suitable project. Equipment will need to be given ie. visibility jacket, boots, picker ect. **Action: JC**

The two new notice boards are now ready to install on Bell Close. Once the Clerk has received notification as to when the boards are ready to be installed, they will contact the Highways Department just to make sure that there is nothing (cables) underneath when the boards are installed.
Clerk is presently looking at sites to place the refurbished board. **Action: Clerk**
- 264/03/12 Melbourn Area Youth Development:**
JF and JMF have stepped down as the Parish Council representatives. The meetings are held monthly on the the first Tuesday. A new representative is needed. **Action: All Cllrs**
Cllr van de Ven can report in the meantime. Clerk to ask for recent minutes. **Action: Clerk**
- 265/03/12 Burial Ground:**
The rabbit fencing and ferreting is proving successful, though there are still a few rabbits but in time it is hoped that these too will be eradicated from the site. However, there is still some fencing required at the front left hand corner. APB is obtaining quotations for this work. **Action: APB**
The front soil will also be removed during the spring. APB will manage this project. **Action: APB**

Clerk has had problems with excess soil on a couple of the graves, it was suggested that only vetted grave diggers be allowed into the burial site, other Parish Councils have done this. Clerk to make enquiries.

Action: Clerk

266/03/12

SPEP:

Now has its own thermal imaging camera. Upbeat Energy who had a public meeting in Melbourn in February and would like to run a similar one in Meldreth/Shepreth.

Meeting open to public 8.50pm

Meeting closed to public 8.55pm

It was felt by Meldreth Parish Council that for such public meetings to be held in conjunction with the Parish Council they should be available to all providers to be present. There is nothing stopping a company from having a public meeting but not with Parish Council backing.

Meldreth Parish Council are very much in favour of alternative energy sources and getting as much information to the residents of Meldreth but they are not permitted to back sole providers.

267/03/12

Meldreth Matters Extracts:

Rota has been drawn up to be circulated.

Action: Clerk

268/03/12

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	1,058.40	0	salary	LGA 1972 s112
G B Goodwin	500.00	0	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
SLCC	95.00	19.00	Training	LGA 1972 s113
G Borgonon	14.99	0	expenses	LGA 1972 s111
Stationery Cupboard	85.52	16.50	supplies	LGA 1972 s111
Margaret Hunter	45.00	0	hedge	OSA 1906 s9/10
J Chamberlain	21.81	0	expenses	LGA 1972 s111
SCDC	1674.00	0	office rent	LGA 1972 s113
R Searles	21.81	0	expenses	LGA 1972 s111
N Pellatt	19.95	0	expenses	LGA 1972 s111

Deposits

OPC Feb office rent 70.00

Additional payments are shaded – these are payment which are allowed but did not go on the agenda.

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

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

269/03/12

Parish Paths Partnership:

Path 9a has been cleared of overhanging hedge.

Grant request is being prepared for CCC.

Work for the near future has been identified.

Path 1 – way-marking across the golf course

Path 5 – gate needs reporting to Network Rail

Path 6 – the edge in two places is slipping into the River Mel. Material are being evaluated before a working party is arranged. Chippings will also be laid.

Path 9 – The tree roots in the middle section of the path are pushing up the tarmac, which may cause a hazard.

Site visit with Peter Gaskin (P3) has been arranged. Will also look at the potholes on path 12.

Clerk to request that the footpath from Malton Lane to the back of the church be reinstated.

Action: Clerk

270/03/12

Annual Parish Meeting Date:

Meeting will be held on the 17th May (after the planning meeting) at 7 pm in the main hall of Meldreth Primary School.

Topics so far are:

Parish Plan – Mr Stuart Morris from Cambridgeshire ACRE will be attending the meeting.

SPEP

- 271/03/12 Litter Picker:**
There were no members of the public in attendance, at this point, so the meeting did not have to be closed and a motion for the public to leave was not enforced.
It was proposed by SH that the finance working group look at the figures submitted by the Clerk and report back to full council at the next meeting with their proposal.
- 272/03/12 Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations:**
There is now to be a street party organised by Phillipa Hart and her group of dedicated volunteers. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to the group for running the event.
It was proposed that the Parish Council look at erecting a new Diamond Jubilee Sign. To be discussed further.
- 273/03/12 Councillors' Reports:**
CAL
The top of West Way still has a large pot hole. Clerk to make enquires with Highways as to why this has not yet been attended to. **Action: Clerk**
JF
The second half of the football subs is now due. Clerk to invoice. **Action: Clerk**
There is a large pot hole along Mettle Hill/Kneesworth. Clerk to report. **Action: Clerk**
RAS
Two lots of leaflets regarding the parking issue along the High Street near the Station carpark have been given out.
Could their be better signage at the parish office – post box and office location. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**
GVB
The meeting dealing with the proposed yellow lines near the station has been postponed until March 2012.
- 274/03/12 Agenda items for the next meeting:**
May Fayre
P3
Litter Picker
Burial Ground
MAYD
Recreation Ground Report
- 275/03/12 Action Points: if not already covered:**
There were no action points.

 Chairman

 Date

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