

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unapproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 5th July 2012, 7.30 p.m. 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 D Stewart (DS)

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

- 080/07/12 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from NP.
- 081/07/12 To receive any Declarations of Interests both personal and prejudicial from Councillors on any item listed on the Agenda:**
There were no declarations declared either personal or prejudicial.
- 082/07/12 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 was one member of the public in attendance.
Concern was raised about speeding lorries on Whitcroft Road. The Parish Council are in the process of trying to get the speed limit reduced on this road so that the 30 mph extends from Meldreth into Whaddon for the whole length of the road.
- 083/07/12 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7th June 2012:**
Following minor amendments the minutes were proposed by JC to be a true record, seconded by RAS all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 084/07/12 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
1. Play equipment has been ordered from Playdale Ltd
 2. Letter has been sent to D Pattman regarding a public garden
 3. Notice board on Bell Close – will be installed and the old one removed by Dave Chappel
 4. Broadband- response obo Meldreth PC
- 085/07/12 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, and Land Information Only**
Planning meeting held on the 21st June
Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/1182/12/FL - Variation of Condition 2 of application S/0327/12 for extension to the building. Response to SCDC: Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.
Valley Farm, Station Road, S/1194/12/FL - Extensions and alterations. Response to SCDC: APB left the room. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **No Recommendation** with comments. Concern was raised about the blank wall on the extension on the south west elevation facing the road. It presents a large expanse of unbroken render which although not visible from the road, at present due to the high hedge, would be better enhanced by having some kind of feature in the wall, such as windows in order to balance the building.
Barnfield, Woolpack Way, S/0817/12/FL – permission has been refused for the extension.
Planning meeting held on 5th July (verbal report)
14 Howard Road, S/1018/12/FL - Two storey side/rear extension, new porch to front and garden to side, new vehicular access to un-classified road. Parish Council recommends **No Recommendation** with comments. 'A party wall' agreement will be required. There is concern that works of this type may cause structural damage to the adjoining property owing to the nature of the original construction.
Southfield Farm, Whaddon Road, S/1230/12/FL - Conversion of residential linked outbuilding (B8) to residential (C3). Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments. 'The proposed development is against the Local Plan as it would create a new house in the countryside.
Driftwood, Brewery Lane, S/1238/12/FL - Re-siting of approved outbuilding S/1507/11. Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.

086/07/12 Section 106 for 17-19 Whitecroft Road:

Still need clarification on how housing will be allocated. Clerk is still awaiting a response on how housing will be allocated if there are not enough applicants with a Meldreth connection. Section 106 monies – response from James Fisher SCDC – Technically monies secured by way of a section 106 agreement should not be used to remedy an existing deficiency but should generally provide 'capacity' in order to accommodate the demands of the new residents. An extension therefore is a suitable project. As would be a refurbishment if the existing facility was found to be in a poor state and needed investment. It was agreed by all that further investigation is needed on how best to spend the monies. To be discussed further.

Street naming request – clerk to enquire if the History Group have any knowledge of old names pertaining to Meldreth. To be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

087/07/12 Report from District Councillor (SCDC):

- **Report was circulated.**
- SCDC has launched a new planning guide for businesses.
- Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the council is required to appoint an Independent person to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct among its elected members and town and parish councillors. They are seeking to recruit one lead and a deputy.
- Residents will be asked for their views (until September 28th) on how SCDC should be developed over the next 20 years.
- SCDC are looking for representatives to form a Consultation Panel. They are looking at all spectrum's of the community to give opinions on the services available:- 'what you think about their priorities and what you think they should focus on in the future from council tax bills, affordable housing to waste collections?'. If anyone is interested, please register on the SCDC website.

088/07/12 Report from County Councillor (CCC):

- Thameslink Franchise (post – First Capital Connect): Cllr van de Ven requested the clerk to circulate the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group's draft response for comment. It was proposed by RAS that all 15 points were important and therefore the Parish Council should support them, seconded by APB all agreed. Clerk to respond. **Action: Clerk**
- County Council South Cambs and Cambridge City Transport Strategy: at last a transport strategy is taking shape, in conjunction with tremendous growth of Cambridge southern fringe. The link is: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/tscsc. To be discussed further, councillors should respond as individuals. **Action: All**
- Cambridgeshire Future Transport: Cllr van de Ven has accepted an invitation to join the county-wide Governance Group for this project, which is all about what next after bus subsidy cuts.
- Bike Bank and Community Connect: The Bike Bank pilot project, which teaches bicycle maintenance skills to young people on a six-week course based at Melbourn Village College on Tuesday evenings, is going very well.
- Through the Bike Bank initiative Cllr van de Ven has had continuing contact with the county's advisor for young people who are 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training); they are doing a very effective job in this area and has made a special request to local businesses to be receptive to training and apprenticeships for young people. The Rail User Group now has young people involved in weekly gardening, fulfilling Duke of Edinburgh requirements, and the minutes have been taken by a young person looking to develop her administrative skills.
- A planning application for affordable housing and a community hub in Melbourn, which would house the Library Access Point and a CAB outlet, is now with South Cambs Planning (decision has been deferred pending resolution of new code of conduct parameters). All parish councils in the Melbourn area are now supporting the LAP. If the parish council wishes to make a representation there is still time to do so.

- Tree roots in the footway near the Stocks: There have been complaints from

Meldreth Manor about the disturbance to the level of the path, Cllr van de Ven has contacted Mike Cooper. It was agreed that this should be investigated further along with other footpaths in the same condition. Cllr van de Ven will contact Mike Cooper (CCC) and Roz Richardson, Tree Officer (SCDC), APB will also attend.

Action: SvdV/APB

089/07/12

Speed Limits on Whitecroft and Whaddon Road:

Meldreth Parish are looking at reducing the speed limits along this stretch of road. One of the areas Highways consider is accident/fatality history. Meldreth Parish have made representation on having signage erected restricting HCV access through the village at Whaddon Gap. It was proposed by RAS and seconded by GVB that Cllr van de Ven explore other avenues.

Action: SvdV

090/07/12

Street Lighting:

SH attended a recent meeting where street lighting was discussed. Notes have been circulated. The lighting in question is County Council and not District Council. All amber lighting will be replaced with halogen on roads and white on streets. There is also the chance to have some lights, which it is felt are not needed, to be removed. DS and JF will look at the lights and report at next meeting.

Action: DS/JF

RAS also proposed that the Clerk get a quotation on having all the lights replaced on North End (9) and Chiswick End (4), these are presently footway lights belonging to SCDC. These are to be replaced to the same standard as the proposed CCC ones.

Action: Clerk

091/07/12

Transport Strategy:

See item 088/07/12

092/07/12

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP)

GVB and Mr D Smith attended a workshop where Greendeal was discussed. The UK has the oldest and least energy efficient in the EU. The government are setting up an initiative to provide £1.3 bn in support via the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). This initiative is due to start in October 2012 and its intention is to improve 14 million UK homes by 2020. This is being locally led by South Cambs District Council. To make buildings more energy efficient, insulation, double glazing, new boilers and PV panels can be financed by Green Deal Providers as non personal loans directly linked to the property with a 25 year pay-back period. These up-front loans from Green Deal Providers – must meet the 'Golden Rule' i.e.– savings from energy efficiency must equal/exceed the work cost

It is hoped that it not only will save energy but also create jobs and cut carbon emissions.

Further information: <http://www.cambsgreendeal.org.uk/content/12th-june-workshop-proceedings>

093/07/12

Pavilion:

Held over until next month as NP absent.

094/07/12

Playground:

1. Monthly Report

The working party will arrange a meeting before September to look at the area.

The hedge has been cut. New swing seat needs installing, clerk to arrange.

The ditches are due to be done, Clerk to enquire as to when this work will be carried out.

Dog signs need to be ordered.

Pavilion windows need attention: clerk to make enquiries.

Posts still need to be done.

New play equipment has been ordered, clerk to make enquiries as to when this work will be done.

2. Tree to be done in the autumn.

095/07/12

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

- Village Hero Award –all agreed, not to be considered this year.

- letter from resident concerned with criminal activity – tabled. It was proposed to put ecops and crime stoppers information into Meldreth Matters so that residents, if they wish, can look at crime rates for the village www.crimestoppers-uk.org and ecops www.cambs-police.co.uk. The police website has crime maps available to view across the UK.

Pg 944

- letter from resident concerning parking problems outside Oakrits (motorists avoiding the

recently reduced train-station parking). The first part of the letter concerned an increase in parking which is believed to be a direct consequence of carpark charges in the station carpark. It was advised that residents who are concerned contact First Capital Direct. The remainder of the letter was concerned about the development in Whitcroft Road, this was forwarded onto the Planning Department at SCDC as it involved vehicle movements for the developers.

There will be a meeting with JF and the Clerk with Wicksteed to see if the 'horse springy' can be put into the play area and at what cost. The animal springy is a piece of equipment unwanted from another parish, which has been offered to Meldreth.

The new Code of Conduct has only just been received and will need to be passed at the September meeting.

096/07/12

MAYD:

SH nominated DS this was seconded by JF all agreed.

097/07/12

Village Hall Carpark:

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Village Hall trust enquiring if the Parish Council, as the land owners, would take on the responsibility of controlling the vegetation around the village hall carpark. It was proposed by SH that this could be included into the new grass cutting contract which is due to go out in October 2012 for the new grass cutting season. This was seconded by RAS. For the time being the weeds and hedge have been tidied up.

098/07/12

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:

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|------|----------------|
| Clerk Salary | £616.30 | 2208 | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Clerk Expenses | £ 5.40 | 2209 | LGA 1972 s113 |
| Inland Revenue | £186.18 | 2210 | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Litter Picker | £268.20 | 2211 | LGA 1972 s112 |
| G B Goodwin | £500.00 | 2212 | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| G B Goodwin | £360.00 | 2213 | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Ian Hadwen | £4560.50 | 2214 | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Stationery Cupboard | £183.32 | 2215 | LGA 1972 s113 |
| Cambrdgeshire Acre | £ 30.00 | 2216 | LGA 1972 114 |
| Acacia Tree Surgery | £ | 2217 | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| P Penfold | £126.00 | 2218 | LGA 1972 s113 |

The payment for Acacia was held back as the final invoice has not yet been received.

Deposits

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| OPC rent, ink, SLCC | £241.38 |
| J Rule | £ 50.00 |

It was proposed by SH that all payments were in order, seconded by APB all agreed. Cheques were signed by JF and SH.

099/07/12

Financial Assistance: (SH, RAS, NP, GVB, Clerk)

Working group's recommendation

Cancelled - meeting to be arranged before the next planning meeting.

A notice to be put into Meldreth Matters asking for all financial assistance enquiries to be with the Clerk by November 2012. ACTION: Clerk

100/07/12

Holy Trinity Church:

1 - Tree Survey Report – APB and RAS to look over the survey. It may be that the Chestnut tree way need to be done before September, if this is the case the Clerk will get further quotes.

2 – Church wall buttresses work has been completed and copy has been sent to Shona Smith for grant reimbursement. The church has requested that the Coping/header course on the top of the wall may need some attention. This was not in the engineers report when the wall was first looked at. Needs further investigation.

101/07/12

Annual Parish Meeting:

Meeting to take place with Clerk, NP, APB and Mike Barnes from Cambridgeshire ACRE to discuss updating the Parish Plan.

102/07/12

Parish Paths Partnership:

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Footpath 2 has been visited by Mr Peter Gaskin who has arranged for contractors to replace three bridges after the harvest has been completed.

Footpath 11 has had a tree removed which was partially blocking the path.

Footpath 12 the overhanging brambles and hedges have been cutback on the Meldreth side
The following work has been highlighted for the future:

Footpath 1 needs waymarking across the golf course

Footpath 5 needs the gates to be looked at. Clerk to chase with the Railway. Action: Clerk

Footpath 6 the path edges in two places is skipping into River Mel and materials needed are being evaluated before a small working party is arranged. This has been reported to Mr Gaskin

Footpath 9 has tree roots in the middle section of the path pushing up the tarmac. Has been reported to Highways (CCC) by Mr Gaskin. (see item 088/07/12)

At the moment there is discussion regarding a transfer of P3 scheme to SCDC from CCC,
The annual return has been submitted by JC who awaits a further update.

103/07/12

Councillors' Reports:

SH

There will be no August meeting.

ABP

Mettle Hill – the trees need cutting back, may need to go to tender. ABP will make enquiries.

JC

The hedge over the railway bridge needs cutting back on the Gocold side. Clerk to make enquiries.

DS

It was proposed by DS that the old Notice Board should be relocated at Elin Way/Whitecroft Road, this was seconded by CAL all agreed. Clerk will make arrangements.

Action: Clerk

104/07/12

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Agendas – easier access

Street Lighting

Footway lighting – replacement

105/07/12

Action Points: if not already covered:

There were no action points.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

The next meeting will be on **September 6th 2012** in the Green Room of the Village Hall.

Chairman

Date

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