

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unapproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 4 October 2012, 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr R.A. Searles (RAS) Acting Chairman; Mr S.W.J. Chamberlain (JC); Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF); Mr C.A. Land (CAL); Mr N Pellatt (NP), Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

- 134/10/12 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr Burlton, Mr Borgonon and Mr Hawkins. Mr Searles, in the absence of Mr Hawkins, chaired the meeting.
- 135/10/12 Councillors to disclose any Pecuniary Interests (disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) include interests held by a member's spouse, civil partner or similar) listed on the Agenda:**
There were no Interests declared.
- 136/10/12 New Code of Conduct:**
It was proposed by CAL to adopt the new Code of Conduct, Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act"), this was seconded by DS, all agreed. Clause 2.4 Option 2 will stand, this is where councillors, if they have an interest, have to leave the room when the item is being discussed. However; councillors are allowed, as does any member of the public, to speak in Public Participation.
- 137/10/12 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. Items discussed:
Will the new lights being implemented by County Council (street lights) be anti light pollution and energy efficient, this was confirmed to be the case.
Will the mis-spelling on the notice board be corrected – this has already been agreed by the Parish Council to leave as is, the notice board has been in the village for many years and is now an integral part of the village and its anomalies.
Electric sockets in the village hall should not be covered – clerk to contact the Village Hall Trust.
Action: Clerk
- 138/10/12 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6th September 2012:**
Following minor amendment the minutes were proposed by CAL to be a true record seconded by JC all agreed. RAS, as acting Chairman, then signed the minutes.
Amendments:
116/09/12 - Mike Cooper CCC will be jetting the drains between 110 High Street and the centre of the village.
130/09/12 - It was footpath 9 and 9a which was cut back not footpath 6 as stated.
- 139/10/12 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- Street name for the new development 'Melrose' has been submitted.
- notice boards – Clerk has spoken with Joan Gane (MVA) about moving their notice board. The Parish Council board will be re-sited in the original place. The old notice board is to be removed and refurbished.
- football contracts have been posted to the relevant teams.
- clerk has contacted Linda Brown (SCDC) with corrections to the Recreation Study
- clerk has reported the potholes and drains at West Way and North End to Highways.
- 140/10/12 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Fallon and Land**
Information Only
Planning meeting 19th September
75 High Street, S/1480/12/FL – Extension. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.
1A Chiswick End, S/1819/12/FL - Conversion of half of double garage into utility room. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **No Recommendation** with no comment.
15 – 17 Whitecroft Road, S/1911/12 - Landscaping Plan. The Parish Council have inspected the proposed landscaping plan and whilst they agree in general they do have a concern with the hedging. Hedging which has been removed must be replaced as the plan states, especially along the rear boundary of 11-13 Whitecroft Road, where the hedging shown as "existing" has been removed and must be replaced.

SCDC Decisions:

S/0958/10/F, Land to the east of 104-108 High Street – permission has been granted for 3 dwellings.

S/1478/12/FL, Barnfield, Woolpack Way – permission has been granted for an extension.

S/1648/12/FL, Valley Farmhouse – permission has been refused for extension and alterations.

There was no planning meeting on 4th October 2012

141/10/12

Report from District Councillor:

As from April 2013, Council Tenants living in properties with unoccupied bedrooms may be subject to having their Housing Benefit Payments reduced. This is part of a national scheme that is being adopted by SCDC. While some residents may have already had a visit from SCDC representatives to discuss this, SCDC are still formulating their local policy and are looking for all tenants to submit their views online at www.scambs.gov.uk as part of the consultation process. It is very important that residents who require help from visiting carers (due to ill health, for example) and who have a spare bedroom specifically to accommodate carers, highlight this to SCDC. These may be considered exceptional cases and who may not be subject to housing benefit cuts particularly if they receive benefits such as Disability Living Allowances or Attendance Allowances.

New Housing Repairs Contractor

From 2nd April 'Mears' are the newly appointed contractor who are a major national company specialising in carrying out repairs in the public sector and tenants have been advised to check contractors accreditation.

Community Chest fund.

Funding has been awarded to a number of groups such as pre-schools, village halls, local football clubs, community centres and local charities. For information about applying for a grant visit www.scambs.gov.uk/CommunityandLiving/CommunityGrants or contact Kathryn Hawkes in South Cambridgeshire District Council's community team on 03450 450 500.

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) Transport Event

Shepreth-Mebourn and Meldreth-SPEP will be hosting a 'Sustainable Transport' event in collaboration with our County Councillor Susan van de Ven in the new year. The theme of which will be highlighting the initiatives that can be (or have been) put in place with a view to addressing the public transport issues in our villages and what measures can be put in place to reduce energy consumption, reduce carbon footprints and strive towards greater sustainability. While this is an initiative that is still at the developmental stage, we hope that residents of our villages will find it useful and should they want to get involved in any way can contact the respective SPEP Group for the relevant village. There will be more details to follow.

SPEP Events Saturday 17 November, at Girton Baptist Church, Girton **VILLAGE ENERGY SHOW** organised by [Sustainable Girton](http://SustainableGirton). Stalls, talks and displays on saving energy and saving money.

Community Transport Fund:

This is a loan not a grant and is available to Parish Councils for particular projects relating to transport issues. More information is needed.

142/10/12

Report from County Councillor:

Superfast Broadband: Signup for Superfast Broadband in Meldreth needs to be MUCH higher to put us in a good position for any serious upgrade to our service in the county council's Superfast Broadband project. The registration rate in Meldreth is 9.4% compared with 79%, 86%, 96% and even 99% in other Cambridgeshire villages. It is to those villages that work will be directed first because of the clearer sign of a receptive market. It is an incredibly easy process to register: just click on www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk and then follow the instant link which asks for your postcode and landline number. All information is protected and used only for the purpose of mapping need. The site also allows you to test your current Broadband speed; Cllr van de Ven's was 1.75 Mbps. Superfast Broadband gives you a speed of at least 25 Mbps. The idea is that working or studying or accessing services from home becomes much, much easier.

Free cycle stands for the local community: Community groups, voluntary sector organisations, charities, surgeries and places of worship can all apply for up to two new cycle parking stands from the County Council. Each stand holds two bikes neatly and securely.

The recipient is responsible for installing them on their own premises, in a location agreed with the scheme organiser. The community cycle parking scheme is being run by a social enterprise called Park That Bike. The £9,000 scheme is funded through the DfT Local Sustainable Transport Fund. To apply for a pair of cycle stands visit www.parkthatbike.info to download an application form, or phone 01594 564 344. Park That Bike will process the application, and then arrange a site visit. Only a limited number of stands are available.

A10 Cycle campaign: Cllr van de Ven receives a variety of queries relating to cycling on the A10 between Royston and Cambridge and feel it would be useful to organize a small campaign group to further the cause. Ideally this should comprise residents who use the path. Presently, county council investment in cycling infrastructure is focused on the Guided Busway corridor and Cambridge-Ely corridor.

Bikes on Trains: please be aware of the 8:10 train's cycle-on-train restriction policy, on safety grounds. FCC have said that they will have to take action and impose penalties if the matter doesn't resolve itself. Cllr van de Ven has written to sixth forms colleges in Cambridge since incoming students may not be aware.

FCC's website has an error on the 50% student discount rail pass, indicating instead 30%. This is being corrected and no one has actually been charged the wrong rate. Abellio, who run the Liverpool Street Station line, have increased their student discount to 55% and it is hoped that FCC will match this.

Royal Mail: You may hear in the local news that Royal Mail is considering relocating its Cambridge sorting centre to Peterborough, affecting 200 jobs. However, the future of existing local post offices should be secure.

- 143/10/12** **Speed Limits on Whitecroft and Whaddon Road:** Cllr van de Ven is making enquires with Ms Lund (CCC) concerning the awaited report. A meeting is scheduled on 17th October with the CCC officer responsible for heavy commercial vehicles policy. DS and NP will attend.
Action: DS/NP
- 144/10/12** **Section 106 Final Agreement:**
Clerk as received a response. The developer has not yet responded and a draft has been requested. Clerk to follow up.
Action: Clerk
- 145/10/12** **Village Maintenance:**
- **Bus Shelter** - Dave Chappel has retrieved the wooden arm rest pieces from the bus shelter. He will inspect and try and use the oak he removed from the pavilion to replace the arm rest.
- **Sycamore Tree** – Clerk has requested Mr D Thomas to inspect and is awaiting a report
- **Bus Shelter at North End** – Clerk to enquire with Cllr van de Ven if the youths still wanted to repair the shelter, if not, then a quote for the repairs will be needed. **Action: Clerk**
- 146/10/12** **Christmas Tree:**
Clerk and RAS will undertake decorating the tree for the church festival. **Action: Clerk/RAS**
- 147/10/12** **Pavilion:**
- Plans. Presently have four grant applications partially completed. This is on hold until the amount of money available from S106 and the amount available from the Parish Council is known. See item (144/10/12)
- Funding (S106 money, grants) – see above
- 148/10/12** **Playground:**
1. Monthly Report – there are wooden posts across the ditches which will be removed. The hedges around the play area are due to be cut next week.
Clerk has contacted Roz Richardson SCDC Tree Officer, who gave some information about getting trees and hedges. Clerk to follow up. **Action: Clerk**
Matting needs to be looked at, not dangerous but may need re-fixing. Clerk to see if Wicksteed can look at this when they install the horse spring. **Action: Clerk**
2. Horse springy – Clerk has been given a price from D Chappell of £80 which is much better than the price given by Wicksteed. The installation will be done by Wicksteed, once the horse has been repainted. It was proposed by JF that D Chappell paint the horse at a cost of £80, this was seconded by CAL, all agreed. **Action: Clerk**

- 149/10/12 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
 - Village Hall Trustees thanked the Parish Council for the donation
 - M & M lunch Club – invitation to Christmas dinner – JF will attend. **Action: JF**
 - Flood Risk management – a public consultation will run from 17th September to 14th December and is looking for feedback. RAS will contact SvdV to convene the Flooding Committee to look at what is required for the Council to respond as a whole and report at the next meeting. **Action: RAS**
www.ccc.Cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/floodandwater/flooding
 - Community Transport Fund - see item 141/10/12
 - The ivy on the telegraph pole on the corner of Malton Lane and North End has been reported to Highways.
- 150/10/12 Financial Assistance: Financial Assistance Working Group (SH, RAS, NP, GVB, Clerk)**
 Working group to meet on 16th October 2012 to discuss applications. **Action: FAWG**
- 151/10/12 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:
Payments for October
- | | | | |
|----------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| J Damant | £ 647.25 | Salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| M Taylor | £ 240.80 | salary | LGA 1972 s112 |
| J Damant | £ 13.28 | expenses | LGA 1972 s113 |
| Inland Revenue | £ 114.48 | PAYE/NI | LGA 1972 s112 |
| J Towner | £ 100.00 | office | LGA 1972 s113 |
| G B Goodwin | £ 500.00 | grass cutting | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| G V Borgonon | £ 29.48 | CAP | LGA 1972 s113 |
| Eon | £ 25.58 | Electric-pavilion | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Talk Talk | £ 15.31 | broadband | TCA 1986 |
- Payments were proposed by JC, seconded by JF, all agreed.
 Cheques signed by JF and RAS.
- 152/10/12 On line Banking with Unity Trust:**
 As Mr Borgonon was absent so discussion deferred until next meeting.
- 153/10/12 Holy Trinity Church:**
 1 - Trees – as Mr Burlton was absent discussion deferred until next meeting.
 2 – Church wall buttresses – a letter has been received by Shona Smith SCDC, copies have been sent to Mr Hawkins and Mr Burlton, a breakdown of costings is being requested. Clerk to make enquires with Mr Burlton. **Action: Clerk**
- 154/10/12 Parish Plan Upgrade: NP, APB and Clerk**
 Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mike Barnes of Cambridgeshire ACRE to discuss updating the Parish Plan. **Action: Clerk**
- 155/10/12 Parish Paths Partnership:**
 A working party has laid wood chippings along the River Mel footpath. GVB and JC have inspected the river bank and are listing the required materials required to make the banking safe. A grant of £250 has been made available from CCC. Clerk has received the PO from CCC. **Action: JC/GVB/Clerk**
- 156/10/12 Councillors' Reports:**
APB
 Trees on Mettle Hill – deferred until next month
DS
 MAYD
 Still awaiting the figures of how many children are attending from Meldreth. MAYD have not yet submitted an application for finance.
 Voluntary work force, will be available when needed, for next year.
NP
 The hedge and weeds around the village hall are due to be done next week.
 Parish Council did approve the fenced area around the garden. Clerk did write informing them of the decision.
 The Village Hall received a grant of £500 from the Community Chest Fund SCDC.

CAL

The gates at the cemetery are still sticking, Clerk to make enquiries.

Action: Clerk

The seats in the burial ground need some attention. Clerk to contact one family to see if they still wish to maintain their bench or if they would like the Parish Council to take it on.

Clerk to make enquiries.

Action: Clerk

There are many overgrown plots and dead trees with need attention, Clerk and JF to arrange a site visit.

Action: Clerk/JF

The soil needs levelling, Clerk to contact Mr Burlton.

Action: Clerk

The verge outside the cemetery still needs filling in.

Action: Clerk

RAS

Attended the training course, as did the Clerk, on the General Power of Competence, notes will be sent around by the clerk and to be discussed further. An asset register of things which may need protecting needs to be compiled, this is not necessarily what the Parish Council actually owns and is an action as part of the revision of the Parish Plan.

JC

Grass cutting along Howard Road, the verge has been cut but the nettles have not, Clerk to make enquiries. The verge along Howard Road is maintained by SCDC who are presently only doing three rough cuts per year.

JC will lay the British Legion wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: JC

157/10/12

Agenda items for the next meeting:

General Power of Competence

Pavilion – S106 funding

Burial Ground

Tree at the Bus Shelter

Bus Shelter at North End

Church Wall and Trees

Village Maintenance

Play Equipment

MAYD

Financial Assistance.

Grass cutting contract

Dispensations – Clerk or Parish Council to arrange.

158/10/12

Action Points: if not already covered:

Complaints procedure needs to be completed.

Standing orders needs updating in line with the new Code of Conduct

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.53 pm.

The next meeting will be on **November 1st 2012** in the Green Room of the Village Hall.

Chairman

Date

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