

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unapproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 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) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

**In attendance:** J Damant (Clerk)

- 211/01/13 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies received from Mr N Pellatt, Cllr van de Ven and Cllr S Soond
- 212/01/13 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.
- 213/01/13 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 present.  
Concern was expressed about the overgrown hedge on Kneesworth Road. Children are being stopped by the police for not walking against the traffic; this is because the hedge is overgrown and therefore not safe for them to walk on the grass verge. Clerk will try and find out who the land owner is as they are responsible. **Action: Clerk**
- 214/01/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meetings dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012:**  
Minutes were proposed to be correct by CAL, seconded by JC and agreed by all. Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 215/01/13 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- Highways Minor Improvement Scheme has been submitted.
  - Rocking Horse will be refurbished and Wicksteed to install in the New Year.
  - A new bin ordered for the Play Area of the Recreation Ground (locking bin)
  - Dog signs ordered
  - Speed checks on North End – police have been consulted and will be carrying out checks as requested
  - Footway priorities
- 216/01/13 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Fallon and Land**  
Planning meeting for 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – There was no planning meeting  
Planning meeting for 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – There was no planning meeting
- 217/01/13 Mettle Hill Update:**  
RAS reported that he had been in contact with the solicitors who had received a draft contract from CCC. The solicitors have agreed to ask CCC to take responsibility for the remedial costs of any contamination which may be found on the land. The total for legal costs will be in the range £1,000 to £1,200, to include local authority searches by SCDC, which it was agreed to include at £100 to £200.  
SH reported that he had been in contact with the Public Works Loan Board who now have all the relevant documentation and expect to be able to confirm the loan very soon. It was agreed to ask if completion and payment be deferred to the financial year 2013-14 so it can be covered by the new precept.  
It was proposed by CAL that the authoritative decisions and the approval to authorise and formalise paperwork be with the Chairman SH and the Vice Chairman RAS, this was seconded by GVB, all agreed. The Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer is automatically proposed.  
Uses of the land to be included in the updated Parish Plan and there will be a public consultation with the village. All suggestions for how to use the land to be forwarded to the Clerk.

218/01/13

**Report from District Councillor:****1. SCDC Local Plan Consultation:**

SCDC is preparing its Local Plan on how it will set out its vision for the District until the year 2031. The second consultation on extra Issues and Options started on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January and will run until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013. You can have your say on issues such as potential housing sites in or around your parishes (or even areas that need to be protected), Development Focus, Green Belt sites around Cambridge, Community sporting facilities, Recreation Open Spaces and the Protection of Village Character. Log onto

[www.scams.gov.uk](http://www.scams.gov.uk), email [ldf@scams.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@scams.gov.uk) or call 03450 450 500 to have your say (or for more information on local exhibitions). Alternatively, residents can request a hardcopy of these consultations from Cllr Soond.

RAS reported that in the report is a request to move the village envelope behind 97a North End/Malton Lane. It was suggested that all Councillors look at this as it would allow further development along Malton Lane. Also in the consultation are 267 new houses for Melbourn east of New Road and at East Farm

**2. DC Surgery Times:** Feb 4, March 4, 7-8 pm Elin Way Community Rooms, Elin Way, Meldreth.

219/01/13

**Report from County Councillor:**

**Street lighting:** After complaining to CCC, Cllr van de Ven had a site meeting with Balfour Beatty (who are running the County Council's Private Finance Initiative project to replace street lights with more cost-efficient lighting) to go over a number of 'snags' in their installation of new lighting. Mainly this relates to the remarkable concentration of lighting around the Station Rd Village Memorial area, both down Whitecroft Road and the High Street. The understanding was that there was to be a reduction, not increase, in street lighting. Also: the placement of lights near or within existing trees, and other impracticalities. The excessive lighting at Whitecroft between Oakrits and Station Rd is due to the developers having installed their own street lighting scheme before the scheme was approved – thus a communications gap with CCC. This will be followed up and the total batch of new lights will have to be reduced to a sensible scheme. Cllr van de Ven has asked to be consulted on this and complaints of glare causing danger to drivers: A meeting on site again next week, in the dark, to assess and follow up.

**Barrington Cemex:** meeting 7pm, January 17: A public meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group to discuss the future of the vast Cemex site – neighbouring parishes specifically welcome.

**Oil Club rebate:** The Melbourn Division Oil Club has received a rebate of £95 for donation to a local charity. The rebate is worked out on the basis of numbers of customers ordering over a certain volume during the year. Cllr van de Ven has nominated the Meldreth and Melbourn Self Help Group Luncheon Club. Last year's recipient was Melbourn Area Youth Development.

**Issues and Options exhibitions:** There has been inaccurate information in the local news about large-scale housing development in Melbourn. The correct information: SCDC's Local Plan Issues and Options consultation will have a road show at Melbourn Village College on 14 January from 2:30-7:30. This includes prospective development in South Cambs.

**Request for 50mph sign yellow backing:** the first 50MPH sign approaching Meldreth from Royston still lacks yellow backing to help promote the beginning of the lower speed limit stretch.

**Priority list for pavement and road repair:** Please can the parish council let Cllr van de Ven know if there any areas in particular bad condition you'd like on her list. Clerk has sent a list of footways in need of repair to both Cllr van de Ven and Highways, but parish councillors need to look at footways which may need totally resurfacing. **Action: All Cllrs**

**Melbourn Business Association:** The MBA has issued a general open invitation to the travelling community of Meldreth to join the association, and the next meeting is a breakfast meeting on 5 February, 7:30, Sheene Mill. The MBA has many Meldreth members and Cllr van de Ven would encourage people to join – it is a lively and welcoming group.

**A10 Corridor Cycle Campaign:** meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January, 7:30PM, Elin Way Community Room  
**Mettle Hill petition final:** after checking for duplication, that the final number is 4318. It may be higher as odd sheets keep surfacing. Thanks are due to everyone who helped ensure the integrity of the petition result.

220/01/13

**Village Maintenance:**

- Tree at war memorial - awaiting quotation

- Repairs to the bus shelter at North End – quotation has been received and it was proposed by SH to accept the quote, seconded by JF all agreed. **Action: Clerk**

- 221/01/13 Eternit:**  
Site visit has been arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 2pm.
- 222/01/13 Playground:**  
Monthly report – all equipment has been inspected and appears in good order. Awaiting visit from Wickstead to look at the matting, this is to concur with the installation of the horse which is presently being refurbished.  
The hedge around the play area needs some new hedging plants. **Action: JF**  
There is a tree in the ditch which needs clearing along with some debris near the lamp post.  
The village hall car park has a lot of large potholes appearing. Clerk to get quotes for repairs, but will await feedback from APB who will get a specification on the works needed.  
**Action: APB/Clerk**
- 223/01/13 Pavilion:**  
Nothing to report.
- 224/01/13 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**  
Highways Report – the table of footways which are in need of repair has been sent to the Highway Department.
- 225/01/13 Speed limits on Whitecroft and Whaddon Road:**  
Application to Minor Highways Improvement Scheme has been submitted; Clerk to enquire when a decision will be made. **Action: Clerk**  
DS reported that a meeting with Cllr van de Ven and Shyful Choudhury CCC has taken place and that Mr Choudhury would be interested in installing a weight limit sign on the A1198 for traffic turning to Whaddon at Whaddon Gap, Whaddon are also in support of this proposal. Needs further discussion.
- 226/01/13 Junction of Whitecroft Road/Station Road:**  
A proposal from Mrs P Gilmore has been received. RAS reported that the proposal, as it stands, may not meet with Highways approval. It was proposed by RAS that the proposal be forwarded to Highways to ask for their suggestions on how traffic can be slowed down when approaching Whitecroft Road via the bridge on Station Road. **Action: Clerk**
- 227/01/13 Holy Trinity Church:**  
1 – Church wall buttresses – ongoing, paperwork has been submitted awaiting response, may need further clarification from Alan Hazelwood.  
2 – Tree work to commence 26-28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Clerk to inform the neighbouring house that work is due to start. APB will inform the PCC. **Action: Clerk/APB**
- 228/01/13 Parish Paths Partnership:**  
Path surveys are currently being carried out.
- 229/01/13 Councillors' Reports:**  
**APB**  
A resident has complained that there is inadequate lighting along North End and Chiswick End; this appears to be more noticeable since the CCC has installed new lights elsewhere in the village. Unfortunately, the lighting along North End and Chiswick End are not CCC property, but come under the remit of either SCDC or Parish Council. Cost of replacing a footway light is approximately £1500, this could be considered as an ongoing project and precepted for.  
**DS**  
Reported on Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD). There appears to be a few more children attending and attendance records are now being done. There is funding available to keep it running until April 2014 but they are reliant of donations from Parish Councils. RAS suggested an article from MAYD be submitted to Meldreth Matters explaining what the youth club is doing and what it offers. **Action: DS to investigate**  
**JC**  
The paving stones around the war memorial need inspecting – will check to see if there are grants available. **Action: JC**

**230/01/13 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 already made**

Staff salaries	£915.25	December salaries	LGA 1972 s112
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**Payments for approval**

J Damant	£ 7.50	December expenses	LGA 1972 s113
PAYE/NI	£127.01	for December	LGA 1972 s112
Village Hall	£ 67.50	rental Sept – Dec 2012	LGA 1972 s113
Rospa	£ 30.00	check list for equipment	OSA 1906 s9/10
Eon	£ 32.25	electricity	LGA 1972
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA

Payments proposed for approval by GVB, seconded by APB all agreed. SH and RAS signed the cheques.

**2. Precept** – meeting arranged for 7.15 on 17<sup>th</sup> January - this will follow the planning meeting.

**231/01/13 Dispensations:**

Documentation was given to each Councillor explaining what dispensations incur. At the moment councillors declare an interest at the beginning of each meeting. However, if there is a case of needing a fuller dispensation or that more councillors are seeking a dispensation for the same item then, in the past, it was granted by the Standards Board, this no longer happens and it is the decision of the Parish Council to either give dispensations as a whole council or for the Clerk to carry this out. It was proposed by RAS to leave things as they and to make a decision if needed, at the time, seconded by SH - all agreed.

**232/01/13 Parish Plan:**

Meeting with Mike Barnes (ACRE) and Linda Brown (SCDC) to discuss how best to revamp the Parish Plan will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7pm in the Clerk's office. APB, RAS, NP and Clerk to attend.

**233/01/13 Burial Ground:**

1. Rabbit fencing – further quotations being sought
2. Removal of earth – further quotations being sought
3. General maintenance – the verge near the gates is badly eroded, Clerk to contact Highways. Hedging near the shed needs replacing – JF will see if extra hedging is available when looking into the hedging for the playground. **Action: JF**

Cleaning of grave stones and general tidy up to be arranged with a working party.

**234/01/13 Tree Replacement Scheme:**

A survey to be carried out on all the trees which the Parish Council are responsible for, some of these trees may be susceptible to disease and may need to be replaced. Areas would include the stocks, war memorial, burial ground and churchyard. Clerk to ask Mrs J Montague-Fuller for advice on this. **Action: Clerk**

**235/01/13 Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Internet Banking; Mettle Hill; Parish Plan; Precept; Tree Survey; War memorial repairs; P3; Pavilion; Church wall

**236/12/12 Action Points: if not already covered:**

There were no action points.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.33 pm. Next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in the green room of the Village Hall.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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