

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unapproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 7th February 2013, 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Hawkins (SH) Chairman; Mr G V Borgonon (GVB); Mr A P Burlton (APB); Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF); Mr C. A. Land (CAL) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

In attendance: J Damant (Clerk)

- 237/02/13 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr R A Searles and Mr J Chamberlain.
- 238/02/13 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.
- 239/02/13 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 were nine members of the public in attendance.
Concern was raised about the lack of a footway from 5 Acres to Westway. There are many children walking to the primary school and the train station for school. With the proposed plan for Mettle Hill there may be a further need to have a footway in this area. The Parish Council have been trying for many years to get footways in this area but Highways need to address the situation as in the past they have said that the only way would be to pipe the ditch and install a footway over the ditch area and this would be too expensive. Parish Council will make enquiries with CCC and residents to also correspond their concerns to the County Council
- 240/02/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meetings dated 10th January 2013:**
The minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by JF agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 241/02/13 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- The new bin for the Play Area of the Recreation Ground has been received.
 - Junction of Whitecroft Road/Station Road- proposal from Mrs P Gilmore has been submitted to Highways
 - Site visit for Councillors to Eternit has taken place.
 - Tree work at the churchyard will begin on 26-28th February 2013
 - Mr D Chappel will repair the bus shelter at North End.
- 242/02/13 Planning:** Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Fallon and Land (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board.)
Planning meeting for 17th January 2013
Showman's Site, Biddall's Boulevard, S/2607/12/VC - Variation of Condition 9 of planning permission S/0177/03/F to allow an increase in the number of plots from 11 to 23.
It was suggested by RAS that the parish council write to the planners with the information gained from the public and ask for clarification. Some of the proposed yards do not appear to be large enough. The application is very confusing and not easy to decipher. In a regular application there would be plans showing what is already in situ with what is proposed. The issue raised with the area at Mettle Hill concerning clustering still holds at this site, if it was fully developed it would result in an over development of the area. A vote was taken with all in favour to recommend **Refusal** with comments.
SCDC Decisions:
Land east of 104-108 High Street, S/2232/12/VC - Permission granted for variation of condition 2 of application S/0958/10/F to relocate terrace of 3 dwellings.
Planning meeting 7th February 2013 (verbal report)
Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/2603/12/FL - Erection of playbarn & education centre
The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with comments – The Parish Council are happy to see the increase in employment prospects this will bring and the improved education opportunities. It was also felt that the application would not cause any major traffic disruptions.

Valley Farm, S/0075/13/FL - Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling

The Parish Council recommend **No Recommendation** with comments – the Parish Council preferred the previous application as it was more in keeping and there are some reservations about the proposed rooflights. It was noted that the previous application failed due to the footprint and this application does not appear to have addressed that particular issue. APB left the room at 7.12pm, returned at 7.18pm

1 Stone Lane, S/0122/13/FL - Single storey rear garden room extension.

Parish Council recommends **Approval** with no comments.

The Alms Houses, 130 High Street, Tree work - To pollard Sycamore tree by 50%. Tree Officer (SCDC) has already inspected the tree. Parish Council have no comments and refer to the advice of the Tree Officer at SCDC.

SCDC Decisions:

Melda Farm, S/2215/12/FL, has been granted permission for erection of new vehicle testing building

Other Items:

Appeal Decision - 10 Elin Way, single storey extension – S/1379/12/FL- APP/W0530/D/12/2188178. Appeal has been dismissed.

6a Chiswick End, S/0087/13/NM - Notification of a non-material amendment decision – S/0548/11. The amendments do not alter the status of the original planning permission and is sufficiently minor not to require a further planning application.

243/02/13

Mettle Hill Update:

The matter is still ongoing and the Parish Council are presently securing the loan in order to purchase the land. The loan has been approved by the Public Works Loan Board. A public meeting is proposed to take place on 21st March 2013 to identify what residents would like to do with the land along with other village items. A leaflet will be distributed to all households and a notice will be put into Meldreth Matters.

244/02/13

Report from District Councillor:

The Local Development Plan – residents are encouraged to put their points/concerns online to SCDC. Cllr. Soond does have a hard copy of the report if residents are unable to download a version from the computer. The proposed change to Meldreth is the boundary change around 97a Malton Lane .

245/02/13

Report from County Councillor:

Street Lighting: Cllr van de Ven has met with Balfour Beatty, the contractor, and Cambs County Council, in their oversight role, to go over outstanding casework, including ensuring that the new footway between the new development in Whitcroft Road and Station Road is not obstructed, the lighting column situated within a tree near Temple House, non-packed seeded soil which in due course will make grass cutting difficult, and other complaints.

Cllr van de Ven has been contacted by members of the public with concerns about unsafe traffic dynamics at the war memorial junction and suggest that rather than look at cost, we look at possible solutions. Cllr van de Ven has also been contacted by residents of the Five Acres Showmen's site about the lack of a footway connecting the site to the paved footway network starting near West Way, and the desire of children to walk safely to school. This needs to be followed up through different angles at county council 'How to fundraise for community projects' – a free workshop takes place on March 12, 1pm, at the Gamlingay Eco Hub.

A very successful launch of the A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign took place on January 29th with overwhelming interest in improving cycling conditions in the area. A particularly noticeable need for cycling to work as a means of affordable transport, but also for health and leisure reasons. A website is being formed and the group is planning a Cycle Ride event probably on May 19th.

First Capital Connect has had their franchise extended for six months, likely to be followed by another two years, and is now taking first steps to create a Community Rail Partnership through the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group. This would help support some of our work in progress.

- 246/02/13 Village Maintenance:**
- tree at war memorial – clerk has received two quotes which are very different, will go out to tender again. **Action: Clerk**
- 247/02/13 Internet Banking:**
Still ongoing. **Action: Clerk**
- 248/02/13 Playground:**
All equipment is in working order and presently waiting on brick to be put back into the brick table. Tree and rubbish in the ditch next to bungalows to be cleared -Clerk reported that MD Landscapes were going out on Friday 8th to look at what needs to be cleared. JF has hedging plants and SH volunteered to help plant them. **Action: JF/SH**
Horse has been repainted and is awaiting Wickstead to install. **Action: Clerk**
- 249/02/13 Grit bin for Burtons:**
A request has been received from Burtons Residents Association for the purchase of a grit bin. Clerk to enquire with Highways the cost and if one is available. The responsibility would then be handed over to the Residents Association. **Action: Clerk**
- 250/02/13 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
There is still no date as to when Highways will give their decision on the Minor Highway Improvement Scheme.
Big Parish Meeting 7th March at 6.30 at Over Community Centre (Rights of Way)
Notice boards – Mike Cooper and Dave Chappel have met to discuss repositioning the boards and this will be done this month, cables had to be checked first which has now taken place.
Quotations for grass cutting – three quotations have been received. It was proposed by SH that the Parish Council to offer the contract to DP Garden Works dependent on satisfactory references being received, seconded by NP all agreed.
Action: Clerk
Letter received from Mrs A Boot concerning speeding at the junction of Whitecroft Road/Kneesworth Rd/Fenny Lane. Mrs Boot reinforced the Parish Councils concern on reducing the speed limit in this area.
Printer/copier – GVB will assist the Clerk in finding a suitable replacement. **Action: GVB/Clerk**
War memorial – have obtained one quotation awaiting two others.
Flashing speeding sign on Whitecroft road has been reported to Highways
Pot holes on Station Road and Whitecroft Road (near Eternits) have been reported to Highways
Proposed Solar development near Orwell – this is for information only as it has not gone to consultation and at present only concerns the parish of Wimpole.
DS and JF attended the Councillor training. JF has now completed her councillor training.
- 251/02/13 Village Hall Car park:**
Due to the weather it has been difficult to get quotations. APB will pass on information to the clerk to follow up in his absence. Specifications have been done. **Action: APB/Clerk**
- 252/02/13 Footways: (not potholes)**
Flambards and the top end of North End have been submitted by Highways as the village's priority. Are there any other areas which may take the place of those areas already identified. It was agreed that North End and Flambards should remain as the villages priority. DS requested that the Clerk contact Highways to inspect the drives along Oakrits which appear to be breaking up as they cross the footways. **Action: Clerk**
- 253/02/13 Holy Trinity Church:**
- Church wall buttresses – still ongoing
- 254/02/13 Parish Paths Partnership:**
Peter Gaskin (P3) has approved grant money to maintain the bridge on footpath 6.
The footpath reports have been finished.
The three bridges on Footpath 2 have been repaired.

255/02/13

Councillors' Reports:**GVB**

Reported on the Local Development plan and that three areas with proposed changes which could have an impact on Meldreth are:

Melbourn, west of Trumpinton Meadows and Bourne Airfield. All areas would have a direct impact on infrastructure and in the case of Bourne Airfield it could result in rat running through Meldreth.

DS

There is a tree on Whitcroft Road which is obscuring the lights. Clerk to report to Highways.

SH

Enquired of Cllr van de Ven if the new street light along the High Street and is being obscured by the Yew tree had been reported to Belfour Beatty. Cllr van de Ven reported that it had but there were complications (legal) which had to be looked at first.

JF

Due to the recent weather conditions there will now be football matches taking place on the Recreation ground on the 4th May, this will have an impact on the proposed May Day Fayre. Clerk to contact the organisers and inform them and that Monday 6th May would be available.

Action: Clerk

The pitch needs rolling once the weather permits in order to make it level. NP will contact Eternit to see if it would be possible to borrow theirs.

Action: NP

Cars are not parking correctly when using the village hall carpark so would it be possible to install white lines or a disabled space. It was agreed that the parking issue is short term while children are being taken/collected from school and that the surface needs to be addressed first and that this may be too costly on top of the resurfacing costs.

CAL

The top of West Way has still not been resurfaced and the junction at West Way/Mettle Hill entrance is now beginning the badly break up. Clerk to report to Highways. **Action: Clerk**

DS

Vehicles parking on Oakrits has increased recently probably due to the double yellow lines at the station.

MAYD – no meeting has taken place recently. At the moment CCC provide youth leaders this is only until half term. An article will be put in the parish magazine and the future of funding will be further discussed.

HCV's – Whaddon support the proposal of putting signs on the A1198 requesting that HCV's are not allowed to go through the villages unless they are delivering to specific village venues. Councillors to read the material and make a decision as to what they wish to do at the next meeting. DS will circulate the web page link. **Action: DS/All Cllrs**

GVB

SPEP have undertaken the thermal imaging and 10 properties have been done, with another two waiting.

APB

Expressed his concerns about the way Balfour Beatty have conducted themselves over the street lighting issues. Residents feel that the fault lies with the Parish Council, but this issue is directly with CCC and Balfour Beatty and is something that the Parish Council has no power over.

256/02/13

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	£1110.41	Salaries	LGA 1972 s112
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Payments for February:

Glasdon	£ 169.93	Litter bin	OSA 1906 s9/10
Staples	£ 128.16	Office supplies	LGA 1972 s113
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1986

Additional payment

Clerk's expenses	£ 54.99	Norton Antivirus	LGA 1972 s113
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2. Precept

Recommendation from Financial Working Party on the precept allocation for 2013-2014 It was proposed by SH to have a precept of £54,218, seconded by NP all agreed. This constitutes a price of £74.75 on a Band D house.

The increase has been due to the loan to purchase the land at Mettle Hill and other ongoing costs. The Parish Council also have to retain money in reserves this is on advice from the external auditors.

257/02/13

Community Lead Plan (Parish Plan):

SH, RAS, APB, GVB, Dr Webb, Clerk met with Mike Barnes (ACRE) and Linda Brown (SCDC) on the 23rd January to discuss ways in which the Parish Plan update could move forward and how to get residents interested in this project. It was decided that the village meeting on 21st March would be a good opportunity to put this to residents as it also concerns the proposed plan for Mettle Hill. The Parish Plan now renamed the Community Lead Plan is just that, it is NOT a Parish Council project.

Once the leaflets have been agreed to email to the Clerk for printing.

Action: SH/Clerk

258/02/13

Burial Ground:

1. Rabbit fencing - still awaiting one other quotation.
2. Removal of earth and general maintenance - still awaiting one other quotation.
3. Hedging JF now has hedging plants which are needed to infill areas of the right hand hedge near the shed.
4. General tidy-up – date to be set and Clerk to enquire if special cleaning solutions are needed for the grave stones.

Action: Clerk

259/02/13

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Burial Ground

HCV's

Mettle Hill

War Memorial – cleaning and tree removal

Public Meeting

Village Maintenance – bus shelters, notice boards

Recreation ground – football pitch, horse installation

May Day Fayre

Internet Banking

260/02/12

Action Points: if not already covered:

There were no action points.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:17p.m;

 Chairman

 Date

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