

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 7th March 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 J Chamberlain (JC), Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), Mr C. A. Land (CAL), Mr N Pellatt and Mr D Stewart (DS)

In attendance: J Damant (Clerk), Cllr van de Ven (CCC)

- 261/03/13 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton and Cllr Soond (SCDC).
- 262/03/13 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.
- 263/03/13 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 no members of the public in attendance.
- 264/03/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meetings dated 7th February 2013:**
Following an amendment (255/02/13 – should read Elin Way not Whitecroft Road) the minutes were proposed by CAL to be a true record, seconded by JF, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 265/03/13 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- The new bin for the Play Area of the Recreation Ground has been received – there are a few issues with the locking system - being investigated
- Tree work at the churchyard has been completed
- Grit bin for Burtons – awaiting feedback from Highways
- Village Hall Carpark - ongoing
- Play Horse will be installed and the matting surface looked at by Wickstead.
- 266/03/13 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 21st February 2013 (not 16th as previously stated)- Cancelled
Planning meeting 7th March 2013 (verbal report)
6 Howard Road, S/0217/13/FL - Single Storey rear and two storey side extensions
The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.
3 Gables Close, S/0293/13/FL - Change of Use of land to garden and erection of boundary fence. The Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments. 'The Parish Council objects to the change of use from Common Community Land to Garden Land on this open plan estate. It is felt tht this would also set a precedence in selling off verges within Gables Close'.
26 North End, C/11/17/071/02 - To remove or reduce four oversize pine trees from the front boundary and replace with indigenous trees such as Silver Birch. The Parish Council commented that they had not been consulted as mentioned on the application; however, if removal is necessary then replacements should be good sized British natives as recommended by the Tree Officer.
SCDC Decisions: There were no decisions.
Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/2603/12/FL – went to Full Planning Committee at SCDC on 6th March – Mr S Hawkins attended.
- 267/03/13 Kneesworth Road (Mettle Hill):**
The monies will be with the Parish Council at the beginning of next week. Site meeting to be arranged with parish councillors and to include Cllr van de Ven (CCC).
CCC would not accept any liability for contamination and the land has to taken 'as seen'. It was felt that an environmental survey would not be needed.
All searches have been received and completion for the sale will be completed at the beginning of the next financial year (April 2013).

268/03/13 Local Development Framework (LDF): Green Spaces

It was proposed that the following areas should be included in this phase of the LDF, the deadline is 11th March 2013. Clerk will submit the documentation.

Action: Clerk

- Melwood

- Melmeadow – subject to Mrs Hunter's agreement – GVB will investigate and contact the Clerk.

Action: GVB

- Recreation Ground

- Land behind the Jephsons site (Whitecroft Road)

- Flambards Green

- grass verge at Bell Close and High Street

269/03/13 Report from District Councillor:

Cllr Soond will be holding surgeries on 1st Monday of each month 7-8pm

270/03/13 Report from County Councillor:

The 128 bus contract has been re tendered and the new operator is Cozy's, who currently run the 31 bus that runs through Fowlmere, and who provide some home-school transport for Melbourn Village College.

Street light column in tree, Temple House – Cllr van de Ven will be meeting Balfour Beatty and County Council on site next week. Items to be discussed are:

North End/Fenny Lane corner – too dark

Fenny Lane – lamp in tree

Bell Close – lights not working

Audit of pavement repair following street lamps dug up – Cllr van de Ven has requested this.

Dimming of all street lamps will take place when the work is completely finished.

Following on from their franchise extension by the Dept for Transport (initially six months, and then likely an additional two years), First Capital Connect have formally invited the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group to form a Community Rail Partnership, which it is hoped will mean some additional officer support both from FCC and CCC for some of the group's projects. This could involve opportunities for local businesses, for example advertising on the rail network in exchange for incentives to travel to Foxton by rail – this is happening with Shepreth Wildlife Park. Overall it should increase the level of support from FCC and make things run a bit more smoothly.

The Group would like to thank Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who tidied up Meldreth Station gardens during a cold morning in half-term.

The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign will be meeting again. Interestingly the 2011 Census data is indicating a higher than expected level of cycling in the A10 corridor as means of transport to work. This has been picked up by the CCC transport strategy team in their work on prioritizing types of transport infrastructure investment in the coming decade.

Frustrating and somewhat shocking news from Cambs CC which is that they can no longer provide general engineering advice on prospective highways schemes that do not fall within the strict remit of Minor Highways Improvements. This was in response to a question which Cllr van de Ven put to them seeking general advice on what would be most advantageous from a traffic engineering standpoint with regard to traffic conflict around the war memorial junction of Whitecroft Road, Station Road and the High Street. The answer is that parishes could look to hire consultants to give advice. This does not seem an appropriate response and Cllr van de Ven will be following this up.

British Transport Police have deployed extra resource to Meldreth following reports of playing chicken on one of the rural level crossings near the station. Network Rail's feasibility study for the closing of Foxton Level Crossing is due out next month and will likely propose the closing of some rural crossings in the area.

271/03/13 Village Maintenance:

- tree at war memorial – It was agreed for Dave Thomas to be given the contract for the required works. Clerk to enquire with the Tree Officer at SCDC what a good replacement would be.

Action: Clerk

- war memorial cleaning – awaiting a final quote, once they have been received to then investigate whether a grant would be available.

Action: Clerk

- 272/03/13 Internet Banking:**
Clerk has been in contact with the bankers and internet banking is possible. Clerk will be setting up a high interest account for the reserves along with a debit card for the chequeing account.
Action: Clerk
- 273/03/13 Playground:**
1. Monthly Report - All the play equipment appears to be in good working order, awaiting for Wicksteed to erect the horse springy and to look at the surface of the swings. Hedging has now been planted, equipment will be painted once the weather allows.
2. Pitch preparation – NP has made enquiries with Eternits for the use of their roller but there are problems in transporting it to the football pitch at the recreation ground. Other enquiries to be made for alternative rollers.
Action: Clerk
- 274/03/13 Dates for the village meeting and annual parish meeting**
Annual Parish Meeting on 2nd May (AGM)
Annual Village Meeting will be held near the end of May - date a venue to be finalised.
Action: Clerk
- 275/03/13 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
Litter bin has been placed near the play area, but there is a problem with the locking system – clerk investigating photos need to be sent to Glasdon.
Notice boards – Dave Chappel will reposition the notice boards. The old notice board has been refurbished and will be positioned at Whitecroft Road/Elin Way will get a final check with Highways.
Grass cutting - Dan Pettit has agreed to take on the three year contract for grass cutting.
Precept – request has been sent to SCDC
Highways Report:
The interactive sign in Whitecroft Road is scheduled to be relocated, to a point ahead of the site entrance, by the Developers as part of the Section 106 Agreement.
Highways have inspected the footway outside Maycroft and apologise as it does not appear to have been repaired they will investigate and arrange for the job to be completed as soon as possible.
Highways did patch the worst pothole at the West Way/Kneesworth Road junction. The remainder of the surface at the junction is very "scabby" and needs resurfacing this to be done as soon as funding becomes available.
Highways are aware of the condition of the footways in Oakrits which are on the list for resurfacing.

Grit bins – these are available to purchase from the Highway Department at a discounted price of £95 +VAT. Delivery is about 4 weeks. A suitable location needs to be agreed with Highways in advance for the bins to be placed on the highway. If they are placed at the approved locations they will be maintained with grit by us at no cost to the Parish. Clerk to contact Cllr Soond and have a contact for Burtons Residents Association. A meeting to be set up with Highways and Burtons Residents Association.
Action: Clerk

Highways ask that the Parish nominate someone to spread the grit as required (either a member of the Parish Council or an adjacent resident). It is with regret that if the grit is found to have been used on private property the grit topping up facility will be withdrawn.
There have been problems with theft of the grit from the bins in Melbourn and it is recommend that they are locked.

Ditch at Recreation ground: The ditch at the back of the recreation ground will be cleared next week.
- 276/03/13 Community Led Plan:**
This will be included in the Annual Village meeting in May.
- 277/03/13 Recreation Ground:**
May Fayre and Football contracts – at the moment the football contracts run until 31st May this is to give extra dates for football games as the season may have over-run due to weather conditions. The May Fayre have a semi-permanent fixture for the first Saturday in May to hold the village May Fayre celebrations.

It was proposed by SH that an amendment be inserted into the new contract, which runs annually, to incorporate that the first Saturday in May may not be available, seconded by RAS all agreed. The May Fayre inform the Parish Council in June following the most recent May Fayre event informing them if they will be holding the next year's event. **Action: Clerk**

278/03/13

Holy Trinity Church:

Church Wall – Clerk has sent information to Shona Smith, but she wants a complete breakdown of the contingencies, this will be forwarded as soon as the Clerk has received them from Mr Hadwen. **Action: Clerk**

Churchyard – tree work has now been completed.

279/03/13

Parish Paths Partnership: (brought forward under Chairman's discretion as JC had to leave the meeting early)

The small bridge has been repaired on Footpath 6

Future work includes:

Footpath 6 – work is planned for the 9th March to lay wood chippings from Woolpack Way towards Melwood. It is also hoped to organise the construction of steps from Flambards Bridge (FP14 to the junction with FP6).

Footpath 9 – verges need strimming on Melbourn side of the bypass, the light is still being obstructed by the tree. Clerk to investigate who is responsible, as Highways say they are not.

Action: Clerk

Footpath 2 – the north end section of the footpath will need some wood chippings.

There are presently ongoing discussions with the landowners of footpath 3 and 4 and Peter Gaskin in replacing stiles and gates – map to be circulated to all councillors. **Action: Clerk**

P3 meeting in Over on 7th March, Mr Paul Ray will attend.

A thank you to Mr Alan Tobin for his help in laying down the chippings on his land.

280/03/13

HCV Vehicles:

Proposal to erect signs on the A1198 requesting HCV's not to travel through the villages unless they are delivering specifically to them. This has been agreed in principal by both Whadden and Meldreth Parish Councils. The sign will direct HCV's to proceed South, passed the Whadden Gap along the A1198 to the A505 thus avoiding both villages. It is also felt that the reduction of speed limits will also discourage HCV's from using the village roads.

281/03/13

Councillors' Reports:

DS – MAYD – the youch club is to be registered as a charity and youths from Meldreth are still attending the youth club.

DS & RAS – met with Cllr van de Ven to discuss Whitecroft Road. HCV signage see item (280/03/13) and the interactive speed sign see item (275/03/13). It is still not known whether Meldreth have been short listed on the Minor Highway Improvement Scheme application. It has been agreed that if Meldreth are not successful with their bid that they would proceed regardless, this has also been precepted for. Eternit have been in the negotiations and are in support of the proposal. Parking on Whitecroft Road/Oakrits has increased which could be as a result of the double yellow lines at the station. This needs to be monitored once all the development work on Whitecroft Road has been completed.

Junction improvements on Whitecroft road submitted from Mrs Gilmore has been submitted to Highways see item (270/03/13)

GVB – Freedom of Information document – this is a living document and need updating.

282/03/13

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: It was proposed by DS and seconded by NP that all payments were in agreement. Cheques were signed by RAS and SH.

Payment already made:

J Damant	£ 681.19	Salary	LGA 1972 s112
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Payments for February:

M Taylor	£ 240.80	salary	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	£ 137.11	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
BT	£ 247.42	Telephone	TCA 1986
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1986
D Chappel	£ 90.00	painting horse	OSA 1906 s9/10
D Chappel	£ 68.00	litter bin	OSA 1906 s9/10
Staples	£ 147.25	filing cabinet OPC	LGA 1972 s113

D Stewart	£ 14.49	expenses – ink	LGA 1972 s113
Additional payments			
PAYE (payment was not received)	£ 330.23	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
Clerk's expenses	£ 9.09	stamps	LGA 1972 s113
Income:			
OPC	£ 70.00	Feb rent	
OPC	£ 196.42	filing cabin	
Cambridge Funeral	£ 50.00	Interment	

Grant

Invoice for £550 has been submitted to CCC for works needed on Footpath 6

Invoice for £250 has been submitted to CCC for works needed on Footpath 6 (shoring up the bank)

Loan – PWLB have agreed the loan and the monies should be in the account at the beginning of next week.

283/03/13**Burial Ground:**

1. Rabbit fencing – still awaiting a third quotation.
2. Removal of earth – still awaiting a third quotation.
3. Clerk to put in a notice in Meldreth Matters stating the Parish Council's intentions of tidying up the burial ground and cleaning some of the grave stones.

284/03/13**Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Village Meeting
Burial Ground
PPP3
Grit Bins
HCV signage

285/03/12**Action Points: if not already covered:**

The bus shelter will be repaired by D Chappel.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.32pm (21:32hrs).

Next meeting will be on 4th April 2013.

 Chairman

 Date

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