

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 4th April 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)

001/04/13 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton and Dr Surinder Soond.

002/04/13 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.

003/04/13 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 public in attendance.

004/04/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meetings dated 7th March 2013:

Amendments – DS wanted clarification on where the refurbished notice board will be positioned. Clerk checked and stated that it should read 'Elin Way/Whitcroft Road see (item 103/07/12) and not Howard Road/Whitcroft Road as previously stated.

The minutes were then proposed by DS to be a true record, seconded by CAL all agreed.

005/04/13 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 - Still ongoing
- Grit bin for Burtons – awaiting feedback from Burtons Residents Association
- Village Hall Car park - ongoing
- Local Development Framework: Green Spaces - Melwood, Melmeadow, Recreation Ground, Land behind the Jephsons site (Whitcroft Road), Flambards Green and grass verge at Bells Close/High Street have been submitted.
- War memorial cleaning, quotations received presently investigating if grants are available

006/04/13 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 March 2013 - Cancelled

Planning meeting 4th April 2013 (verbal report)

3 Gables Close, S/0293/13/FL - Change of Use of land to garden and erection of boundary fence. Revised fence line to allow visibility for neighbour.

The Parish Council's comments remain the same and the Parish Council feel that the revised fence line and the neighbour's comments regarding visibility are valid, visibility was not a reason for recommending refusal but this only reinforces the Parish Council's initial recommendation for **refusal**.

10 North End, C/11/40/070 - Tree work, reduce Field Maple in front by 1.5 mtrs overall, reduce adjacent Maple by 1 mtr overall. The Parish Council believe that the trees in question may pose a current or future threat to the culvert and they ask that this be taken into account when making a decision.

SCDC Decisions:

1 Stone Lane, S/0122/13/FL – permission has been granted for a single storey rear garden room extension.

6 Howard Road, S/0217/13/FL – permission has been granted for a single rear extension and two storey side extension.

Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/2603/12/FL – permission has been granted for erection of play barn and education centre.

Other Items:**The Old Mill Site" in the High Street, Mr Buzzing**

Paint works to the finished development. It is intended to use English Heritage colours from the "Colours of England" collection from the Little Green paint company.

It is proposed that yellow pink (ref 46) will be used for the two listed cottages; the new houses to the rear of the site will be cream (ref 42). The existing listed barns will be left in black as that is their historic colour. The Parish Council are happy with the proposed colour scheme.

Maycroft Residential Home – will be submitting new revised plans and would like to attend the next planning meeting to clarify what the proposal entails.

007/04/13

Kneesworth Road (Mettle Hill):

The monies have been received from PWLB and now awaiting instructions to transfer money to complete purchase of land in early April. This should be completed by the 19th April. RAS and SH visited the site with permission for CCC to see about environmental damage as there was no indemnity. Conclusion is that it is in a good state but dangerous (no manhole covers in situ).

Signs need to be erected as the area is not safe and the public must be warned not to trespass on the land.

Action: Clerk

There is very little encroachment by shrubs and trees and it could be restored to grassland quite easily. It was proposed that a site meeting for all councillors be arranged, Cllr van de Ven to be included.

Action: SH

008/04/13

Report from District Councillor:

An email has been received from Dr Soond stating that he has resigned as District Councillor. A new councillor will be elected on 2nd May.

009/04/13

Report from County Councillor:

Some progress on street lighting issues: Balfour Beatty acknowledged that they made a mistake in removing an SCDC light near 1 North End and this provision is being reinstated with a new column. Balfour Beatty accept that the column in the yew tree near Temple House on High Street is not ideally situated and they are looking to reposition it more sensibly. County Council street lighting contract managers have agreed that we should have a snagging visit for Meldreth in a couple of months' time to ensure that all concerns have been addressed and hopefully resolved. Also see item 013/04/13.

The County Council has been asked for detail on the schedule for rolling out Superfast Broadband, following their signing of a contract with BT. It is hoped this will be available in the next few months.

The County Council has now adopted its Flood Risk Strategy. Cllr van de Ven has requested that they give special attention to the problem of staff shortages in the Highways department which has a direct impact on flood and drainage issues. Meanwhile she thanked the Flood Avoidance Subcommittee which did a walk in North End, together with Mike Cooper from Highways, on a bitterly cold afternoon on March 11. RAS proposed that the clerk should write to home owners whose ditches require maintenance for flood avoidance and this was agreed in principle.

Action: Clerk

Following a restructure of the entire environment services directorate, a very large number of voluntary redundancies have resulted in significant staff shortages.

Cozy's have now taken over from Charter Travel in running the 128 bus, though the driver is the same and knows the needs of local passengers.

Following on from priority setting at its March 13 AGM, the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group is undertaking a special campaign to improve physical access to the station – especially for people who are disabled or responsible for very young children. The next meeting is June 12, Foxton Village Hall.

The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign meets next on May 14, Elin Way Community Room (7:15 for 7:30).

County Councillors were asked last week to vote on a motion endorsing the notion of 'local contributions' to the £1.5 billion scheme to upgrade the A14. There has been much discussion and debate on the matter. As this is a European and national trunk road Cllr van de Ven does not think it appropriate that local councils should be paying. The County Council is already undertaking massive prudential borrowing for important local public services, for example road maintenance work (£90 million), Superfast Broadband (£20 million). There is consensus that the A14 needs to be made safe, but the principle of getting local contributions would ultimately add to the burdens already being shifted down to parish councils.

010/04/13

Village Maintenance:

- Tree at war memorial has been removed. The Tree Officer at SCDC recommended replacing with a 'Pride of India'. It was questioned whether the metal work still in situ could be removed. RAS and SH to investigate. **Action: SH/RAS**

- Dave Chappel will be repairing the bus shelter at North End

- The notice boards have now been repositioned opposite the shop. It was proposed that the clerk arrange for the name board to be erected on the Parish Council notice board.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk has notified the Village Association, who own the second board, but they have decided not to have a name board.

- John Prime has refurbished the old notice board and will meet with Highways to reinstate it at Elin Way/Whitcroft Road

- The bus shelter at the war memorial has now been repaired.

011/04/13

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – Play equipment has been checked and all appears to be in good working order. The hedge plants are growing well. Now waiting for Wickstead to put in the horse springer. The brick seat still needs to have the brick put back. Clerk to ask Dave Chappel.

Action: Clerk

2. Pitch preparation – has now been rolled.

3. Ditch clearing – will be done when the water has subsided a bit.

012/04/13

Dates for the village meeting and annual parish meeting:

AGM will be held on May 2nd in the green room of the village hall

The Annual Village Meeting will be held at the primary school on May 23rd. The theme will be "The Future of Mettle Hill (and Meldreth)". The room will be open to the public from 6.30pm to see displays and talk to councillors. The main meeting will commence at 7.30pm. It was suggested that groups may wish to put up a display concerning their particular event or sport. Advertisement for the Annual Village Meeting is to be put in Meldreth Matters.

Action: SH

Clerk to enquire if display boards are available at the school.

Action: Clerk

013/04/13

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Bell Close lighting. A resident had reported that the footpath from the High Street along Bell Close to Gable Close is now very dark. JF reported that Belfour Beatty have removed the wrong light. Originally the light outside No.32 Bell Close was asked to be removed but they removed the light outside No. 11 Bell Close. The light outside No 5 Bell Close was removed correctly. Cllr van de Ven will investigate. **Action: Cllr vdV**

014/04/13

Community Led Plan: (CLP)

This will be an item at the Annual Village Meeting. The Parish Council initiates the CLP but a Steering Group made up from members of the community run it. Parish Councillors can be on the Steering group but they are not recommended to hold any official position i.e., Chairman or Treasurer. The CLP is the old Parish Plan and is a good way of finding out what residents want and what has been achieved in the past. Meldreth are now in the process of updating the plan which was originally completed 8 years ago and has helped both SCDC and the Parish Council to know what residents actually want and what they feel is important to them. Affordable Housing being one issue.

015/04/13

Recreation Ground:

Football contracts have been rewarded, JF and NP to approve.

Action: Clerk/NP/JF

016/04/13

Holy Trinity Church:

A grant of £800 has now been received from SCDC, this is money received for the repairs to the church wall.

017/04/13

Parish Paths Partnership:

The report was tabled. At the recent Committee meeting the lack of way markers along footpath 4 was raised. This has now been an issue for a couple of years. It was requested that the Clerk write to Peter Gaskin (CCC P3 Team).

Action: Clerk

018/04/13

HCV Vehicles:

- Signage has now been approved and will be erected on the A1198 instructing HCVs to continue along the A1198 for the A10 and A505. The sign will be erected at Whaddon Gap.
 - Meldreth has put forward the proposal to have a new speed limit along Whitecroft Road. The proposal is to extend the 30mph zone to include the cross roads at Fenny Lane and to introduce a 40mph speed limit between Meldreth and Whaddon. Meldreth have been short listed and RAS and SH attended a meeting to give a presentation to the Minor Highway Improvement Scheme panel from CCC who will make the decision on whether to give a grant to cover this work. A decision should be made in early May

019/04/13

Traffic calming: (junction of Station Road / Whitecroft Road) – report from Mrs P Gilmore

NP has been approached by Mrs Gilmore with a proposal to help alleviate the traffic congestion at the war memorial. One idea was to reposition the memorial to another part of the village; this was seen as not practical. The other suggestion was to look at having large vehicles turn onto Whitecroft Road from the exit road leading onto Station Road, this would mean that the vehicles have to stop before turning and therefore cannot speed down the hill. It was suggested that the changes about to take place – repositioning of the interactive speed limit, the new footpath and the new 30mph speed limit along Whitecroft Road and the new HCV signs on the A1198 may have an impact. It was proposed that these changes be given a chance. It was noted that in the period 2007-11 there are some 12 reported accidents (one fatal) on Whitecroft Road between Mary's Way and Eternit there have been none at or near the junction with Station Road.

020/04/13

Councillors' Reports:

DS – MAYD will be holding a meeting on April 9th 2013.

JF – The May Fayre would like to have pony rides, this was seen to not be a problem as long as the football pitch remains pony free and all straw bales are removed before Sunday morning.

Would it be possible to have railings erected along the play area on the side of the footpath. A plan with costings is to be drawn up.

Action: RWP

021/04/13

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	1978.96	salaries	LGA 1972 s113
Clerk expenses	7.50	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s113
Inland Revenue	174.46	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112

Payments awaiting approval

Talk Talk	15.31	Broadband	TCA
G V Borgonon	31.41	CAP	LGA 1972 s113
GV Borgonon	37.95	Website hosting	LGA 1972
SCDC	531.30	Rates,rec ground	LGA 1972
SCDC	46.20	Rates, burial ground	LGA 1972
SCDC	1674.00	Office rent	LGA 1972
LMR	120.00	stump clearance	OSA 1906 s9/10
Staples	14.35	stationery	LGA 1972 s113
Easter Tree Surgery	2086.32	churcyard trees	OSA 1906 s9/10
Chubb Fire	119.78	fire extinguisher rental	LGA 1972 s
CAPALC	598.58	annual membership	LGA 1972 s
D J Thomas	300.00	Tree removal	OSA 1906 s9/10
Eon	37.51	Electric for pavilion	LGA 1972

All finances were proposed by SH, seconded by RAS, cheques signed by SH and GVB.

2. Internet banking – in the process of being set up with Lloyds TSB.

3. Clerk has opened a separate account to hold £30,000 reserves

4. £800 grant has been received for the church wall repairs.

022/04/13

Burial Ground:

1. Rabbit fencing – quotations have been sought.
2. Removal of earth – quotations have been received but still looking at a further quotation to have the soil removed.

Some residents have come forward to help set up the working party, but more help will be needed. This is to clean and remove foliage from some of the grave stones along the right hand side of the burial ground. Clerk to keep a record.

Action: Clerk

023/04/13

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Village meeting

Internet banking

P3

Whitcroft Road – various items including MHI scheme.

Recreation Ground

Village Hall Carpark

024/04/12

Action Points: if not already covered:

- There is a very large tree along Elin Way near the phone box (No 43 or 45). Clerk to enquire who owns the tree. **Action: Clerk**
- The overgrown hedge at 49 Elin Way has been reported to SCDC Housing, Clerk still awaiting a response.
- The dying trees outside the Community Rooms have also been reported to SCDC Housing, Clerk still awaiting a response.
- Rob Mungoven (SCDC Ecology Officer) has been working on Footpath 6.
- Cllr van de Ven will include an article in Meldreth Matters requesting that all Riparian Way owners please check their ditches.
- APB is awaiting a third quote for the car park.

 Chairman

 Date

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