

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 4th July 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) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

-
- 080/07/13** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Mr A P Burlton and Mr C A Land, Mr G V Borgonon was in attendance.
- 081/07/13** **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.
- 082/07/13** **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 four members of the public in attendance.
Concern was raised from the Meldreth Village Association (MVA) about the play equipment in the recreation ground. They have been undergoing some preliminary investigations on what would be suitable equipment for all ages including children from SCOPE. The Parish Council are presently looking into updating the equipment and would very much appreciate any input the MVA have. A working party consisting of members of the MVA and the Parish Council Recreation Working Group to meet and decide how best to move this forward. There will be funds available from the S106 money but grants may also be needed.
- 083/07/13** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6th June 2013:**
The minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by GVB. The Chairman signed the minutes to be a true record.
- 084/07/13** **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
- War memorial cleaning, quotations received still investigating if grants are available (see item 092/07/13)
 - Dog signs have been erected on the recreation ground
 - Tree has been ordered for the war memorial area (Pride of India) (see item 092/07/13)
 - Horse Spring is due to be installed this month.
 - Letter sent to Mrs Goater – Flambard's information request
 - Riparian Way letter sent out to relevant householders.
- 085/07/13** **Planning:** Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Fallon, Land and Stewart (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board.)
Planning meeting for 20th June 2013
102 High Street, S/0934/13/FL - Proposed rear extension, new garage with office, change of use to garden land and alteration to pub car park.
The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with comments – Owing to the lack of other off-road parking in the area and the popularity of “The British Queen” the Council strongly recommend that the plan for alterations to the Car park, as shown on the plan attached to this application, should be made a condition of this Proposal and that no fewer on site parking spaces should result from this development.
- Planning meeting 4th July 2013 (verbal report)**
Cambrad Building Unit 1, College Farm, S/1180/13/FL - Change of Use from light industrial (B1c) to Leisure (D2). Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval with no comments.**
Land adj The Tavern and The Station Yard, S/1246/13/FL - Erection of 4 bungalows (2 detached and 2 semi-detached). Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval with no comments.**

19 Whitecroft Road, S/1336/13/FL - Erection of dwelling with revised parking and turning for existing dwelling (amended design pursuant to planning permission reference S/1336/13)

Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval with comments**. Clarification is sought regarding a building shown at the back of the plot. The plans show a building and the parish council would like to know if this is an existing building or whether a building is planned. The plans show three sheds in total but only mention that two will be removed.

63 High Street (The Chapel), S/1200/13/FL -Erection of garage. The Parish Council recommend **Approval with no comments**.

SCDC Decisions: - 3 Woolpack Way, S/0848/13/FL – permission has been granted for extension to dwelling and erection of porch.

Other Items: - 100 North End, Torpoint House – non material amendment to approved application S/1116/10/F. Input new sash window and reduce the footprint of the extension. Information Only no comment is required.

086/07/13

Report from District Councillor:

1. Unfortunately the smaller generator installed at Eden Farms in station yard has not mitigated the noise disturbance to people in nearby residential properties. It is hoped that the installation of a permanent power supply will happen as expeditiously as possible though a date has not yet been given.

2. Cllr van de Ven has attended a very useful meeting of the Burtons Residents' Association. Of particular note: residents there naturally frequent the Eternit Sport and Social Club as it is nearby; walking on the verge which is the only option for pedestrians continues to be treacherous and a near-miss incident involving a car swerving on to the verge was reported. The BRA is very keen that that stretch of road be included in any speed limit reduction scheme for that part of the village.

3. Derek Stewart and Cllr van de Ven met with Mike Cooper (CCC) yesterday to look at the interactive street sign near Melrose. While Jephsons have said they would contribute significantly to the cost of relocating the sign as a way of demonstrating their support for improving traffic and pedestrian safety in that part of the village, it was felt that this would not be the right use of those funds because:

- a) an extensive analysis was done on the optimum placement for the sign when it originally went in, and where it is now was felt to be the most effective location
- b) the sign hasn't been working for about 18 months so the priority should be to get it fixed – this will not cost anything. Mike has requested Balfour Beatty to repair the sign some six weeks ago and, as yet, has had no reply.

Cllr van de Ven will ask Jephsons instead to cover the cost of two signs in the vicinity of the war memorial indicating children crossing the road. There would be no legal hurdles, the signs could be mounted on lamp posts, and they are relatively inexpensive – about £500, compared to up to £4K for moving the interactive street sign. Jephsons was not able to commit to more than £2K. Cllr van de Ven has written to Jephsons to ask if they could support the alternative proposal, pending an agreement from Meldreth PC and Mike Cooper who is double checking with colleagues.

It was proposed by RAS that this is a good alternative, seconded by DS all agreed.

087/07/13

Report from County Councillor:

1. Pavement repair after street cleaning work: SCDC have said they will pay for County Highways repair work, but the underlying poor condition of the pavement is not addressed and the end result will be unsatisfactory. This is symptomatic of a county-wide crisis. The council's borrowing of £90 million over five years will allow, this year, 8% of needed capital improvement works to be completed, as compared to 3% if that borrowing were not to happen. Pot hole repairs are dealt with in a separate budget and only 25% are able to be filled; often a road with pot holes is deemed structurally sound in terms of no subsidence, etc. The council has no plan for addressing what is estimated now to be a £300 million gap in bringing the whole network of roads and pavements into decent condition, widening at £50 million per year due to continuous deterioration of the network.

2. The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign is asking parish councils if they would be able to cover room hire costs for one meeting per year. It is proposed to rotate round the villages to maximize support and interest.

The A10 off-road path between Royston and Melbourn/Meldreth has now had the turf pulled back to expose the full one metre width of path, as a first step toward allowing more cyclist to go off-road. This was done at the request of the A10 Cycling Campaign. It is expected to hear very shortly whether the County's bid for £300K to improve 'cycle links to Foxton Station' will be successful. County has asked the campaign how it would recommend that money be spent and the consensus was a 2.5 metre path between Foxton Bottom and Shepreth Frog End, as that is the worst A10 stretch nearest Foxton.

3. The County Council is still giving away free cycle racks. Cllr van de Ven has asked for more at Meldreth Station but if the parish council has ideas please let me know. It was suggested that cycle racks would be useful at the Village Hall. Clerk to notify Cllr van de Ven.

Action: Clerk

4. The County Council's Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire: SCDC has rejected the 270 homes site for Melbourn. In this part of the world, in spite of the lack of a major new development the A10 is still considered an important transport corridor which requires public transport and cycling improvements if only to avoid eventual gridlock toward Cambridge, and therefore the strategy advocates improved cycle and rail links. There will be a public consultation between July 19-September 30.

5. Melbourn Village College students are doing some gardening and litter picking at the station next week as part their Activities Week. It is great to have the involvement of MVC on a regular basis.

088/07/13

Village Maintenance:

Three tree guards have yet be collected from Wimpole Hall (NT). Clerk awaiting quotation for work needed ie painting.

089/07/13

Playground:

1. Monthly Report

The brick work has now been done and the bolt tightened on the chicken spring. A date for the painting needs to be set – Joan to arrange for next week with councillors.

Both set of swings and slide appear to be in good working order and the trail is being well used.

2. Ditch clearing – Clerk has contacted MD Landscapes. The ditch banks also need clearing and the cost is £270.00 to clear the vegetation from the sides and clear the debris from within the ditch. Proposed by RAS seconded by SH agreed by all to proceed. Clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk

090/07/13

Melwood:

Interpretation board to be erected in Melwood by the end of July. The board to be added onto the parish council insurance.

091/07/13

Mettle Hill:

RAS will trim around the Keep Out signs.

CAL and APB have contacts who may be able to help with clearing the land. As the parish council do not meet again until September it was agreed that both the clearing of the land and reseeding the back area to be included onto the September agenda. The access also will need to be secured once vehicles begin to move onto the site.

Clerk to make enquiries with Anglian Water and Highways regarding plastic manhole covers for all the open drains.

Action: Clerk/SH

092/07/13

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

A large tree on Elin Way (No. 43-45) This has now been cut back. Amendment, this has not been cut back, Clerk making enquiries with SCDC as to who is responsible.

Fly posting and event signage - correspondence from a resident. There has been an increase in fly posting from outside the village. Clerk to inform all village organisations of the rules of advertising their events. Article for Meldreth Matters.

Action: Clerk

Horse spring to install with a shroud, ground anchor, matting and installation.

Playsafe have received the photos – still waiting for date for fixing.

Salvation Army: Would like to place a textile bank in the car park – have contacted Tom Richardson who will be away on annual leave, when he returns he will contact the parish council to arrange a site meeting.

Flambards Association: Clerk has written to Mrs Goater requesting updated information on Trustees and insurance cover.

Burial Ground: Clerk awaiting updated quotations to have the soil removed and the front cleaned up.

War memorial: Quotes received are Ivett and Reed – 1567.00 + vat; Hibbitt & Sons – 1510.00 + vat – Not getting much from anyone else. There is no grant for this as it is not a major work and is basically cleaning and repainting names. Ivett & Reed have stated that they will re-point if necessary within the price. It was agreed that this is not an urgent item and could wait. The paving stones have not been included within the quotation and they need minor repairs, Clerk to contact maintenance to have the paving stones repaired.

Action: Clerk

Tree (near war memorial):(Julie at Barcham's 01353 720748). Order has been put in with Barcham's for a 'Pride of India'.

Riparian Owners: A letter has been sent out and Mike Cooper has agreed to meet any landowners who may have concerns.

Software: Following the meeting of the Chairman or Orwell and Meldreth there is a request from Orwell PC that the software be updated to a Microsoft version.

Finance Meeting: Finance group to meet on the 18th July at 6 pm prior to the planning meeting.

093/07/13

Clerk Holiday:

Clerk vacation August 12th – 26th. RAS, SH and GVB to cover the office.

094/07/13

Recreation Ground:

1. Discussion on erecting railings along the play area. JF still waiting for one quote

2. Application for new fencing around the tennis courts. Financial assistance form to be completed by the Tennis Club.

Action: Clerk

3. Discussion on the latest children's football in garden problems. There has been a report of children kicking footballs into a resident's garden. The recreation facilities are being reviewed at this time.

4. Gas canisters have been removed.

5. There is to be no May Fayre next year

095/07/13

Village Hall Carpark:

APB absent.

096/07/13

Parish Paths Partnership:

Report to follow.

The Parish Council would like to extend their gratitude to Mr Alan Tobin for all his help with the footpaths and the loan of his dumper truck which was very much appreciated by all those working on moving the chippings.

097/07/13

Whitcroft Road:

- repositioning of the interactive speed sign on Whitcroft Road - update from recent meeting (see item 086/07/13)

- Minor Highways Scheme (Third Party) – Meldreth has not been successful this year though it may be reconsidered in the 2014/15 budget. Meldreth can also get a third part funded scheme if they are prepared to fund the project by 100%. RAS would like to enquire with Cllr van de Ven why Meldreth scored only 2 on the ratings. Mr Michael Anker is the new Lead Officer and will look into pursuing this with the parish council. It was agreed that if the MHI Scheme was not successful that the parish council would fund this project themselves. Monies have been precepted for this project. RAS will contact Mr Anker with all the details of the plan.

Action: RAS

There is still water collecting in the ditch at the corner of Whitcroft Road and Station Road which will cause flooding. Clerk to write to the residents to see if they can clear this.

Action: Clerk

098/07/13

Councillors' Reports:

SH

Bassingbourn Barracks Golf Club along with other organisations may have to leave due to access difficulties. SH proposed that the Parish Council write with their concerns as many residents from Meldreth enjoy the facilities offered at the Barracks and it would be a shame to lose them.

DS

MAYD will be putting on more activities during the summer vacation. Fund are needed for the Youth Support Provider (YSP) who support the under 19's. At the moment there are 156 10-14 year olds and 198 15-19 yrs youths in Shepreth and Meldreth. The youth club mainly caters for under 13's but there is need for support for the older youths.

JF

Grid in the pavilion is loose, Clerk has already notified maintenance.

JC

Howard Road/Whitecroft Road the footway near the garages has a lot of nettles, Clerk to enquire why this has not been strimmed with the grass cutting from SCDC. **Action: Clerk**

GVB

There are two blocked drains on the corner of College Bends. Clerk to inform Highways as they are due to be jetted. **Action: Clerk**

099/07/13 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

J Damant	614.23		June salaries	LGA 1972 s112
J Damant	31.80		Jacket for LP & post	LGA 1972 s113
M Taylor	235.60		June salary	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	106.40		June PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
D P Garden	514.16		June grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Filcris	714.00	119.00	Interpretation Board	OSA 1906 s9/10
A P Burlton	32.50		Boots for Litter Picker	LGA 1972 s113
MD Landscapes	96.00	16.00	Roll football pitch	OSA 1906 s9/10
Jane Bates	13.71		food for village meeting	LGA 1972 s113
Mr G Borgonon	51.87		CAP – ink	LGA 1972 s113
Cambridgeshire Acre	30.00		Annual membership	LGA 1972 s144
Talk Talk	15.31		Broadband	TCA
Eon	30.83	1.47	Electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s113
D Chappel	60.00		Recreation ground	OSA 1906 s9/10

Additional payments which do not appear on the agenda, but which do not need prior approval.

Local Government Act (LGA); Open Spaces Act (OSA); Telecomms Act (TA)

Payments were proposed by JC, to be in order seconded by JF all agreed. SH and RAS signed the cheques.

2. Internet Banking:

Credit Card: To be minuted that the Clerk is authorised to purchase items with only their signatory and with a limit as stated within the Standing Orders of £300.00. If a higher amount is required then it will have to go to Council for prior approval. Proposed by GVB, seconded by SH all agreed.

100/07/13 Burial Ground:

1. Rabbit fencing – still ongoing but the soil needs to be removed first.
2. Removal of earth (see item 092/07/13)
3. Working Party - date to clear and clean grave stones. Burial working party to give a date.

101/07/13 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Speed limits on Whitecroft Road
Recreation Ground – update on MVA and working group

102/07/13 Action Points: if not already covered:

There will be no meeting in August but Planning meetings will still be held if needed.
Maintenance is inspecting all the village benches.
The notice board at Whitecroft Road/Elin Way will be erected next week.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm (21:30hrs).

The next meeting will be held on 5th September in the Green Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm (19:30hrs)

Chairman

Date

These minutes are published and provided, and may be used, only on the basis that the user assumes all responsibility for any loss, damage or consequence resulting directly or indirectly from them or their use. For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Meldreth Parish Council are those signed in Public Meetings by the Chairman. They are available for public inspection from the Clerk