

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr C A Land (CAL) Acting Chairman, Mr G V Borgonon (GVB), Mr J Chamberlain (JC), Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), , Mr N Pellatt (NP) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

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- 127/10/13 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies received from Mr Hawkins, Mr Searles and Mr Burlton. Mr Land will chair the meeting.
- 128/10/13 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.
- 129/10/13 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.
- 130/10/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013:**  
Following minor amendments the minutes were proposed to be a true record. Proposed by JC, seconded by JF all agreed. Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 131/10/13 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**  
Horse spring has been erected in the children's play area at the recreation ground.
- 132/10/13 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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
**82 High Street, S/1589/13/FL.** Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension to dwelling with alterations to the car parking layout including access. Amended site location, existing plans and additional information showing Certificate B of the Planning Application Form. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No Recommendation**' but reiterated their previous comments in the previous application dated 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.  
**Sheene Manor House, 58 High Street, S/1540/13/LB & S/1541/13/FL.** Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new conservatory. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Approval**' with no comments.  
**SCDC Decisions: 15 West Way, S/1399/13/FL-** Permission has been **granted** for conversion of garage to annexe (retrospective application). **102 High Street, S/0934/13/FL –** Permission has been **refused** for proposed rear extension, new garage with office, change of use to garden land and alteration to pub car park. **Land at 97a North End, S/1440/13/FL –** Permission has been **refused** for a single dwelling. **Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/1334/13/FL –** Permission has been **granted** for erection of grasscrete service road and overflow car park. **60 Whitcroft Road, S/1385/13/FL –** Permission has been granted for a two storey side, single storey rear extension.  
**Other Items: 4 bungalows at Land Adj The Tavern & Station Yard, High Street, S/1246/13/FL.** To consider our response to the request from SCDC to reconsider our recommendation on the above application prior to the determination of the application bearing in mind the noise issues to date from the Eden Farms site." It was proposed by SH that RAS draft a response which will be circulated to the Planning Committee, seconded by APB. The Parish Council still feel that the previous application S/1346/13/FL was better suited and that a similar condition as imposed on S/0029/11/FL be put in place (Condition 16) to help deal with noise issues.  
**Eternit –** they would like to attend a meeting to discuss future development of the site. It was proposed by RAS and seconded by SH to invite them to attend the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**

**Indemnity for 15-17 Whitecroft Road S/1911/11/F**– RAS and SH have signed the indemnity form at the recent planning meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September. However, the other councillor's would like to see a copy of the document.

**Planning meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October** – There was no planning meeting.

**133/10/13**

**Report from District Councillor:**

1. Tavern Yard Planning Application: Cllr van de Ven has spoken at the SCDC Planning Committee meeting on this item. Officers had recommended refusal on the basis of new noise issues emanating from Eden Farms. On the basis that the proposed scheme represents an improvement over the originally approved application, Cllr van de Ven urged the committee to support the current application, which they did on a vote of 12-1 – the result being delegated approval with Environmental Health officers instructed to work out appropriate noise attenuation measures. The owner of the site attended also and is keen to support the Liaison Group in its endeavours.
2. Station Yard Community Liaison Group meets on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The number of complaints coming to Cllr van de Ven has gone down significantly. A complaint last week indicated inconsistent management of night-time lorry noise.
3. SCDC has endorsed the purchase and upgrading of the Traveller sites at Milton and Whaddon. This time around, the council had worked properly with local members and communities and got things right. It was good to hear the cross-party debate and widespread support for the way the matter had been handled, contrary to reports in the press.
4. The recent Burtons Residents' Association meeting was attended by Cambridge Housing Society (CHS) officers. Cost of energy (Flogas) continues to be very difficult. Cllr van de Ven has asked CHS if they would consider rent-a-roof solar energy schemes.

**134/10/13**

**Report from County Councillor:**

1. Street lamps at Fenny Lane/Kneesworth Rd crossing, and one near the Burtons entrance, have all been out of order, Balfour Beatty have been notified and are working on repairs. CAL also reported the light opposite West Way, which Highways are aware of, is still not working. The light is attached to a telegraph pole and therefore may need to have a new column. Cllr van de Ven will make enquiries. **Action: vdV**
2. Interactive speed sign Whitecroft Rd: Cllr van de Ven has chased this up; there was a significant electrical problem and the officer team realizes that repair work has been neglected for far too long.
3. Path to Showmen's sites: Cllr van de Ven has been asked by residents whether any progress has been made on a path connecting the Showmen's sites to the village footway network. Children would like to be able to walk to school. Cllr van de Ven has responded that Highways have given a very rough cost of £100K for a footway connecting to the West Way footway but that the ditch would require piping. It was also stated that once the plans for Mettle Hill begin to take shape, there will be a better idea as to possibilities for connecting up with the village footway network.
4. Drainage at Whitecroft Rd/Station Hill corner: Cllr van de Ven is working with Mike Cooper from Highways on a long-term improvement plan involving replacement of the drain and proper connectivity to adjoining ditch.
5. County Council's offer of bus improvement funds to South Cambs parish councils: This is a small amount of left-over funding from a Dept for Transport 'Better Bus Areas Fund' grant for Cambridge City. It is something of an ad-hoc offer and the deadline of Nov 4 is very tight. It can't be used to subsidize bus services themselves, only to pay for capital costs, so things like bus shelters, Real Time Information (which is hardly worth it when you have only one bus per day), etc. Nevertheless a rough-guide cost for some basic items.

*Installing one real time information display at a bus stop costs approximately £5,000, the installation of hard standing and 5 racks is approximately £2200, and a basic shelter (without hard standing) would be in the region of £5-6K.*

It was proposed that the Parish Council write expressing their concern regarding this and that at the moment villages such as Meldreth who have a very limited bus service are not able to apply and that if they could the time limit is not workable. **Action: GVB**

6. The County Council is making a representation on South Cambs' consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy, (CIL) which will eventually replace Section 106 as a device for taking developer contributions.

The Parish Council are concerned about this as it would appear that the monies will firstly be going to SCDC and that the Parish Council will have to make a bid in order to receive around 15%. At the moment S106 money comes direct to the Parish Council, via SCDC, in two sections: Community Facility and Public Open Space, monies have to be allocated to specific projects. With the new system SCDC will have the majority of the finances and the Parish Council will be entitled to 15%.

7. The County Council wants to introduce a £1 charge at Park and Ride sites. This seems to go against the whole point of the facilities, which is to persuade people to leave their cars outside of Cambridge. It would under the charge cost more to park and take the Guided Bus to Addenbrookes than to park at Addenbrookes, as an out-patient. The Parish Council will write voicing their concerns with this proposed charge. **Action: Clerk**

135/10/13

**Village Maintenance:**

Benches – Dave Chappell will make a report to the Clerk.

Riparian Way letter sent out to relevant householders – Clerk has still not received the requested information. Clerk to contact them again. **Action: Clerk**

Tree to be ordered for November planting, volunteers needed to plant once the tree has arrived.

Sign for notice board at Whitecroft/Elin Way – John Prime to give a quote.

136/10/13

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report – all equipment appears to be in good working order, still needs painting.

2. Discussion on erecting railings along the play area – Clerk has arranged a site meeting with Andy Klose. It was suggested to see how much it would cost to have the whole of the play area railed. Quotes will be sought for both requests – the whole of the play area and for one side which is abutting the footpath. **Action: JF/CAL**

**Other items:**

- The netball post has been removed from the recreation ground as it was damaged. Dave Chappell to see if it can be repaired. **Action: Clerk**
- The tree guards have been looked at and will cost £70 to refurbish, this along with the £50 for the purchase totals to £120.00 and will need to be fixed and maintained. A new tree guard which is galvanised and powder coated would cost £210 and would not need any maintenance for at least 10 years. It was proposed by GVB that it would be more cost effective to purchase a new guard, seconded by NP all agreed. The machinery for fixing the guard could possibly be borrowed from Wimpole Hall as they use the same guards. Clerk to enquire. **Action: Clerk**

137/10/13

**Dog Fouling:**

**Dog Fouling: The following is a statement from SCDC website:** Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is generally an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to allow it to foul unless they clear it up.

Due to an increase in dog fouling in both the recreation ground, including the children's play area, and throughout the village the Clerk is arranging a site visit from SCDC to see what measures could be taken. **Action: Clerk**

Clerk has also drafted a leaflet, it was proposed by GVB that the leaflet be printed once the draft has been approved. **Action: GVB/Clerk**

138/10/13

**Mettlehill:**

A working party needs to be put in place. NP will contact Alan Tobin to see if the offer of assistance in clearing the site is still viable. **Action: NP**

SH looking into getting manhole covers. **Action: SH**

139/10/13

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

**Tree guards:** (see 136/10/13)

**Salvation Army:** Mr Hawkins will arrange a site meeting on his return from Annual Leave.

**Grant for Bus Facility Improvements:** need an 'Expression of Interest' by the 4<sup>th</sup> November. See 134/10/13.5)

**Riparian Letter:** Clerk to make enquiries with the Land Registry to find out who owns the ditch near College Bends as nobody seems to know. **Action: Clerk**

**Hedges and trees:**

The tree on Elin Way which was obscuring the light (CS15) has been cut back around the light but the tree is still in need of cutting back. Clerk to write to the residents. **Action: Clerk**

The hedge on the corner of Whitecroft Road and Elin Way (34 Whitecroft Road) is now causing pedestrians problems as the hedge is overhanging the foot way. Clerk to write to the resident. **Action: Clerk**

Hedge at the junction of Kneesworth Road and Whitecroft Road, response from Highways is to write to the landowners. Clerk to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**

**Garages on Howard Road:** request to have nettles removed has been done and the nettles removed. Clerk has passed this to Cllr van de Ven (SCDC)

- 140/10/13 Interactive Sign along Whitecroft Road:**  
See item 134/10/13.2)
- 141/10/13 Recreation Ground:**  
**1. Ditch clearing** - update from Highways. Piping of the ditch you will need to apply to the Environment Agency for what effectively is planning permission. They will require a detailed plan of the proposal. If approved they will advise you on the required diameter of the the pipe. As the Parish Council would like to see if this could be an option letters have not yet been sent out to residents. Clerk is making enquiries as to the cost and implications for piping the ditch in. If this is not a possibility then Clerk will contact residents about removing the foliage/shrubs as it may leave some feeling exposed. **Action: Clerk**
- 142/10/13 Village Hall Carpark:**  
Clerk is presently seeking quotations. **Action: Clerk**
- 143/10/13 Parish Paths Partnership:**  
Railtrack have repaired the style on the Melbourn side of the level crossing on Footpath 6. The following is planned over the next three months:-  
Hard chippings to be laid between the railway level crossing and Flambards Bridge.  
Mr Hawkins to arrange contraction of steps between footpath 14 and footpath 16 near Flambards Bridge.  
Mr Gaskin (CCC) to arrange clearance of footpath 12 on either side of the A10 bypass.  
Footpath 9 and 9a will be cleared of ground foliage and the hedges trimmed.  
Annual stocks area cleared of leaves.
- 144/10/13 Proposal for Reduced Speed Limits:**  
A proposal for reduced speed limits on Whitecroft & Kneesworth Road & Fenny Lane. To approve estimated expenditure of £3200.(This was agreed on item 120/09/13).  
A notice has been put in Meldreth Matters and residents responses are being filed. **Action: RAS/Clerk**  
GVB along with other members of the Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to RAS and SH for all their hard work on this matter.
- 145/10/13 Councillors' Reports:**  
**JC** – Wreath Laying at the War Memorial for Remembrance Day. It was proposed by JC and seconded by CAL that Mr Stewart be in attendance to lay the wreath. JC enquired if the slabs had been repaired as they need to be done prior to November 11<sup>th</sup>. Clerk will enquire with Dave Chappell. **Action: Clerk**  
**GVB** – attended the recent Parish Liaison meeting held at Cambourn. There were over 40 parish council's in attendance with most SCDC councillor's in attendance. There will be no Parish precept grant available next year. Mr Mark Howell, Housing Officer, stated that there were changes in the housing department and that they are going to be running more like a business. They are also looking for properties they can turn into housing stock. The CIL (see item 134/10/13.6) is under consultation.  
**DS** – MAYD started on 10<sup>th</sup> September.  
**JF** – the bench at the stocks needs repairing. GVB may have some wood suitable for this. **Action: GVB**

Richard ?? has also enquired if he could go into the Burial Ground again to attend to the rabbit problem. There were no objections from the parish council. Clerk to ask permission from SCOPE for access onto their land.

**Action: Clerk**

**146/10/13**

**Web site hosting review:**

GVB reported that the existing 'Personal' hosting system is being discontinued. The 'Professional' hosting system which replaces it will cost £60.00 per annum. It was proposed by GVB and seconded by NP that this be accepted, all agreed. GVB will make the necessary arrangements.

**Action: GVB**

**147/10/13**

**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:**

J Damant	695.22	Salary	LGA 1972 s112
J Damant	35.52	Expenses	LGA 1972 s113
M Taylor	249.30	Salary	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	137.33	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	514.16	Sept grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Michelle Cooper	30.00	Clerk training	LGA 1972 s144
Melbourn Self Help	300.00	Donation	S137
Royston Community	400.00	Donation 2012/13	S137
Royston Community	450.00	Donation 2013/14	S137
MAYD	450.00	Donation	S137
Village Hall	78.75	Rental	LGA 1972 s113
Graham Borgonon	21.90	Expenses ink	LGA 1972 s113
Talk Talk	15.31	broadband	TCA

**Additional payment**

Stationary Cupboard 134.40 printer ink LGA 1972 s113

All payments proposed to be correct by GVB, seconded by DS all agreed. GVB and JF signed the cheques.

2. Internet Banking: Documentation has been received.

3. The higher interest account has been opened.

4. Tennis Courts: It was proposed by GVB and seconded by NP that the parish council pay the invoice for the new fencing, as they own the courts, but that the Tennis Club would reinstate the parish council, all agreed.

**148/10/13**

**Burial Ground: .**

1. Rabbit fencing – will be re-looked at once the soil has been removed.

2. Removal of earth - two quotes have been received, Clerk has made numerous attempts to get a third quote without success. It was suggested by CAL to go with the quotes received. Quotes are for removing the soil from both sides of the gate, remove soil from around the shed and a general tidy up. It was proposed by NP to accept MD Landscapes quotation, seconded by JF all agreed.

3. Working Party - date to clear and clean grave stones to be arranged once the soil has been removed.

**149/10/13**

**Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Clerks salary and appraisal

Mettle Hill

Benches

Stock area

Indemnity Form

Christmas meeting

January meeting

**150/10/13**

**Action Points: if not already covered:**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm (21:45hrs).

The next meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November in the Green Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm (19:30hrs)

Chairman

Date

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