

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 7th November 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 A P Burton (APB), Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), Mr C A Land (CAL), Mr N Pellatt (NP) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

Guest Speaker: Mr James Munnery and Mr Harry Coldar (Marley Eternit)

- 151/11/13 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr J Chamberlain.
- 152/11/13 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.
- 153/11/13 Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item]**
Mrs Margaret Hunter enquired as to when the water collecting along the High Street was going to be investigated. Cllr van de Ven informed the meeting that Highways were about to start work on the drainage system item 158/11/13.
Mr Munnery and Mr Coldar gave a brief presentation concerning the future of the disused part of the site at Eternits. Much of the area is unused and they are currently looking at ways of reusing this land and asked for input from Meldreth Parish Council on whether there would be support for new housing at this location with for example a relocated school and doctors' surgery. RAS informed the Eternit representatives that in the emerging SCDC Local Plan new housing in villages was required closer to Cambridge than Meldreth in order to be sustainable and that the disused section of the Eternit site was designated as an Established Employment Area (New Site) and was well outside the village envelope.
- 154/11/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 3rd October 2013:**
The minutes were proposed by DS and seconded by CAL, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 155/11/13 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
Tree to be ordered for planting, once the tree guard has been received, which should be at the end of November, volunteers needed for planting and picking up the guard.
Sign for notice board at Whitecroft/Elin Way – John Prime is making the sign which will read Meldreth Parish Council from both sides.
The bench, at the Stocks, has been repaired.
The Whitecroft road sign is with the Clerk awaiting repairs by SCDC.
Response to the Bus Grant from SCDC has been sent.
Response concerning the proposed P&R charges has been sent.
- 156/11/13 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 17th October 2013
63 Station Road, S/1933/13/LB - Replacement of cement render with lime render to front and side elevations. Parish Council recommend Approval with no comments.
1 Malton Lane, S/2082/13/FL - Single storey side extension with veranda and erection of front porch. Parish Council recommend Approval with comments. 'The Parish Council is concerned about the closeness of the brook and any work agreed should pay attention to the potential of the flood risk and any revetment work should be wildlife friendly.
17 North End, C/11/40/071 - Fir tree in front garden causing light restriction and also becoming increasingly a hazard to telephone cables and sewer pipes. Would like to have it removed or taken to the reduced to ground level. Parish Council recommend this be referred to the Tree Officer at SCDC.
Land adj The Tavern and Station Yard (Information Only) S/1246/13/FL - Erection of 4 bungalows (2 detached and 2 semi-detached). Additional Information: Noise Report noted by the Parish Council.

63 High Street, (Information Only), S/2020/13/DC - Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4&7 of planning permission S/1005/12/FL for details of the windows and doors and tree protection details. Parish Council note the information and await further details of the materials to be used.

SCDC Decisions:

114 High Street, S/1360/13/FL has been granted permission for single storey rear extension.

45 Whitcroft Road, S/1602/13/FL has been granted permission for Change of Use from existing residential garage to home hairdressing salon.

Planning meeting 7th November 2013 – There were no applications and therefore no meeting was held.

Marley Eternit Presentation – discussion: The land in question is currently designated for industrial use and is outside the village envelope and therefore would not gain planning permission for housing. Local Planning Policy only indicates this as an industrial area. Meldreth have been very involved with affordable housing and have, at present, had four affordable housing projects within the village (Melrose, Burtons, Elin Way and part of Mary's Way). The Parish Council are in agreement with the current Local Planning Policy which is not in favour of expanding villages such as Meldreth. It was also felt that the area is too far from the central of Meldreth. However, further information is needed, such as land contamination. Clerk to respond.

Action: Clerk

Other Items: RAS reported that he had seen the details submitted on the new windows and doors for 63 High Street on the SCDC website. However they were just photocopies from the manufacturer's catalogue and not what we requested. RAS will make enquiries with Planning to see what is happening.

Action: RAS

157/11/13

Report from District Councillor:

General matters:

SCDC is considering setting up its own housing company. More detail to come.

SCDC is asking all villages if anyone is known to be sleeping rough.

CIL and S106: As you know, when a village has done a Neighbourhood Plan it is entitled to 25% of CIL, as opposed to 15%. Very few villages have taken the initiative to develop a NP. If Meldreth wishes to consider this we can ask for some initial guidance and advice.

The District Council Community Transport: The officer has been very proactive in helping to think about working out a replacement service for the current 128 bus, which loses its county council subsidy in September 2014 (though this may be slightly delayed). We have been working together with Royston and District Community Transport on some possible ideas. The county council's project to replace subsidised buses with some other, less costly form of subsidized transport continues and district council involvement can make a big difference in terms of getting to grips with working out detail.

Broadband

A number of people have contacted Cllr van de Ven to report terrible, declining Broadband speeds. It would appear that there has been a fault at the Royston Exchange.

158/11/13

Report from County Councillor:

1. The County's Chief Finance Officer has said he would be happy to visit any parish council that would like a brief presentation, or to ask questions, on the county's budget situation.
2. The Community Rail Partnership was signed last week. Meldreth Station volunteers were thanked for attending. Projects will now receive extra support and we are working particularly hard to make progress on improving disabled access on the Melbourn side of the station.
3. Four or the five bidders for the new Thameslink rail franchise have been in direct contact with the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group to better understand aspirations going forward. The Dept for Transport minimum standards specification has neglected to include half-hourly peak time trains; the rail user group has flagged this up with DfT and lobbied bidders to keep this standard in place and build on it.
4. A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign: Work on the Frog End junction to Foxton path has now started, and the path from Foxton-Harston will be greatly improved with overhanging vegetation cut back. It is hoped that a meeting will take place with Herts. County Council representatives next month, to make a concerted effort to tackle the Melbourn to Royston

route.

5. The Park and Ride charging proposal has been delayed for reconsideration, in part to examine a proposal by Stagecoach that they could run the sites more cheaply than the council currently does.

6. The county council has managed to restore the Morrison's stop on the 128 bus, which was never previously registered.

7. Drains:

Whitecroft/Station Hill corner: the ditch into which the drain clears has now been properly dug out by Jephson's. Highways will now replace the drain and get things working.

Mike Cooper (CCC Highways) has agreed to make repairs to drains, pavement and road in the High Street near One Stop.

It has also been asked if he could address pooling drains in North End at College Farm bend.

Jephson's have been asked if they could address the drains in Whitecroft between no 6 and Oakrits entrance, bearing in mind the debris from construction work. If they decline, Mike Cooper will come out to inspect for action.

It is fantastic to see the tremendous amount of ditch clearing undertaken by residents in response to the request by the Flood Avoidance subcommittee.

8. Highways will soon be repairing pot holes on CCC land in front of Fieldgate and alongside the entrance to Bury Lane, restoring the boundary marker that delineates County owned land (this will be a flat stone marker that will sit in the ground so that it is not knocked over), and repainting the 'Keep Clear' markings where it is important that cars are not parked, due to the dangerous traffic environment in this small area.

159/11/13

Village Maintenance:

It was proposed by GVB that the quotation for maintenance of village seats and bus shelters be accepted, seconded by SH. As the cost of repairs is under the Standing Orders limit this does not need to go out to tender. Clerk will contact Mr Chappel.

Action: Clerk

It was also reported by DS that the Meldreth sign at the stocks may need repairing. Clerk to make enquiries.

Action: Clerk

160/11/13

Playground:

1. Monthly Report

The equipment appears to be in good working order. One of the seats from the large swings needs replacing as the rubber is coming off. Clerk to order.

Action: Clerk

The heater in the pavilion is not working. Clerk to arrange for an electrician to check it.

Action: Clerk

2. Discussion on erecting railings along the play area – quotation received from Andy Klose Recreation Working Group to discuss the quotations received and report back at the next meeting.

Action: RWG

161/11/13

Clothes Recycle Bin:

Have had a request from Mrs Sarah Helme about a recycle bin. The proceeds from the scheme would be split between the primary school and the preschool. The Clerk met with Mrs Helme and possible sites were identified. The Parish Council have no objection but feel that the Village Hall Committee should be involved. Clerk to contact Mrs Helme.

Action: Clerk

162/11/13

Mettlehill:

NP has not yet spoken with Mr Tobin. It was felt that the monies received in the fund could be used for securing the area and it was suggested that this money could be used in obtaining a set of large metal gates. SH will make enquiries on the type of gate which would be suitable. Clerk will then gain sufficient quotations.

Action: SH/Clerk

163/11/13

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

- Mirrors along North End – Clerk to send all information to Highways as they are the authority on this matter.

Action: Clerk

- Ditch clearing – Most ditches have been cleared. Mr Peter Thomas has done a lot of work and it was suggested that a site meeting with Cllr van de Ven, Highways and a parish council representative be arranged to see if other improvements could be made. Clerk contacting possible owners of the ditch at College Farm.

Action: Clerk

Local Highways Initiative (LHI). Feedback is needed from Cllr van de Ven as to why Meldreth scored low on their previous application. This is required before another application be submitted; deadline for submissions is Monday December 9th. RAS will contact Cllr van de Ven.

Action: RAS

Clerk will email request for MHI projects to all for their ideas.

Action: All

- 164/11/13 Interactive Sign along Whitecroft Road:**
Nothing appears to have happened. Cllr van de Ven was looking into this matter but it would seem that there is still an electrical fault with the sign. Clerk to enquire. **Action: Clerk**
- 165/11/13 Recreation Ground:**
1. Ditch clearing – Clerk is waiting to hear from Pat Matthews (SCDC) to see if this ditch could be culverted and filled in. **Action: Clerk**
- 166/11/13 Village Hall Car park:**
Two contractors have responded that they are unable carry out the work with the specification submitted to them. APB will contact Richard Remnant. **Action: APB**
- 167/11/13 Parish Paths Partnership:**
Railtrack have repaired the stile near the level crossing on footpath 6.
Ground foliage and overhanging hedges have been cleared on footpath 9 and 9a between Station Road, Meldreth Station and Melbourn.
The following is planned over the next three months:
Chippings to be laid between the railway level crossing and Flambards Bridge when they become available.
Mr Hawkins to arrange the construction of steps between footpath 14 and footpath 6 near Flambards bridge.
Mr Gaskin (CCC) will arrange for a contractor to clear footpath 12 on either side of the A10 Bypass.
Annual Stock area clearance of leaves is planned for 16th November.
The Annual Footpath Survey is to be carried out.
- 168/11/13 Proposal for Reduced Speed Limits:**
RAS has summarised the consultation which was circulated to all councillors. The all residents who responded by the deadline were in favour of the plan to reduce the speed limit. The proposal will now include the areas near to the Showman's sites. A press notice will go out from CCC on the 18th November and there are three weeks for comments. Once this has been done the go ahead should be given by the end of December. RAS suggested an update article for Meldreth Matters. RAS agreed to do this. **Action: RAS**
It was also suggested that Speedwatch consider carrying some speed checks on the Whitecroft Road area to monitor the success of the scheme. **Action: GVB**
- 169/11/13 Councillors' Reports:**
SH
There is to be a public meeting held in the Community Rooms on Elin Way to present a proposal for a Solar Park on 112 acres of farmland over the railway from Bury Lane Fruit Farm. The meeting will run from 2 – 9 pm, probably on 22 November (awaiting confirmation). Savills (agent for E W Pepper Ltd) has informed the parish council that they will be doing a leaflet drop to both Meldreth and Melbourn residents.
DS
DS reported that the new street light near the underpass is not working and has no number, SH said that he had passed this onto Cllr van de Ven some time ago. It may be that the light is too high and glares at traffic going over the under pass and therefore needs to be lowered. Clerk to contact Cllr ven de Ven. **Action: Clerk**
MAYD have had their meeting and the first of their block of 7 weeks has taken place. It was reported that 110 young people attended, with the majority coming from Melbourn. Out of the 110 attending only 6 were from Meldreth.
- 170/11/13 Dog Fouling:**
Heidi Duffett (SCDC) will be carrying out a survey on the dog bins in Meldreth, once this report has been done it will clarify if further bins should be included and if the one's presently in situ are working. Once this information has been looked at, the Parish Council will see what or if further action is needed.

171/11/13 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	£985.62	October salaries	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	£153.31	October PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112

Payments for approval

D P Gardens	£514.16	Sept grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA
Mission Computers	£ 47.88	leaflets for 30mph	LGA 1972 s144
Staples	£228.25	Printer and stationery	LGA 1972 s113
Playsafe Playgrounds	£768.00	Horse spring	OSA 1906 s9/10
MD Landscapes	£144.00	Ditch clearing at rec	OSA 1906 s9/10
Mrs James	£ 60.00	Reimbursement	LGA 1972 s113
		for sold burial plots	
Equip4work	£184.80	Dog signs	OSA 1906 s9/10
Stationery Cupboard	£ 8.86	Office supplies	LGA 1972 s113

All payments were proposed by CAL and seconded by RAS; all agreed. SH and GVB signed the cheques.

2. Audit: Meldreth have passed the audit with some comments, Clerk to discuss with internal auditor

3. Precept: Date for Finance Group to start Precept procedures was agreed to be 5th December at 6.30 (if a planning meeting is taking place) or 7pm if not.

172/11/13 Burial Ground:

1. Removal of earth – will be taking place soon.
2. Working Party – JF and Clerk will begin cleaning the graves and looking at having the trees removed, which are growing up through some of the graves. **Action: JF/Clerk**
3. Rabbit fencing – once the soil has been removed fencing can proceed, quotations to be requested. **Action: Clerk**

173/11/13 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- January meeting
- Clerks appraisal
- Solar Panel
- Article for new councillors for Meldreth Matters.

174/11/13 Clerk: Motion to exclude Public and Press for item 174/11/13) was not needed. Appraisal and salary – RAS and SH to set a date with the Clerk for next week.

Action: SH/RAS/Clerk

175/11/13 Action Points: if not already covered:

There were no action points

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm (21:40hrs).

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

Chairman

Date

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