

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 5th December 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)

Motion to exclude Public and Press: Was not needed.

- 176/12/13 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Mr A P Burlton.
- 177/13/13 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.
- 178/12/13 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 two members of the public present. Mrs Gane from the Village Hall Trustees informed the Parish Council that they would like to purchase a projector and screen for use in the village hall. Mr Ray (Chairman of the Village Hall) supported this proposal as he could only see a benefit with the use of this type of equipment. The MVA would be asking for a possible contribution of 50%. All documentation was given to the Clerk.
- 179/12/13 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7th November 2013:**
Following a minor amendment that the public were being excluded from item 200/12/13 and not 199/12/13 as stated,. This item would be postponed until the January meeting. Item 159/12/13 should read Restoring and repairing the Village Sign at the stocks. Minutes were proposed by CAL to be correct, seconded by JF, all agreed. Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 180/12/13 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
Recycling bin: The Village Hall has given permission for the bin to be placed near the green bins. Mr P Ray has kindly donated the paving slabs.
Tree has been ordered and will be delivered mid January.
Tree guard should be ready at the end of December. Installation equipment is available to borrow from Wimpole Hall, if needed.
Information concerning the mirrors along North End are now with the Highways Officer at CCC.
Street lights along Station Road have been reported.
Pot holes outside the One Stop Shop have been reported. Highways do have this on their schedule of works.
- 181/13/13 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 held on 21st November: - Mr Andrew Hodgson and Mr Nick Barber from Savills gave a presentation regarding the proposed Solar Photovoltaic Farm across the railway from Bury Lane Fruit Farm. The plan is for 94,000 panels covering 112 acres with a 25 year agreement with the landowner, EW Pepper Ltd. They explained that existing landscaping would be retained and new planting proposed so the site would be well screened. They proposed that the area would be grazed by sheep and a wild flower meadow mix would be used. Access during the 18 week construction period would be via Bury Lane Farm and then via Icknield Way. It anticipated that a planning application would be made before Christmas and that construction would commence, if approved, in the summer 2014. The power would feed into the National Grid and provide power for approx 4,500 homes. The site would be made secure by a 2.5 metre fence with security cameras. A public consultation will take place tomorrow 22nd November from 2pm to 9.30pm at the Community Rooms on Elin Way. Concern was expressed that no leaflet drop had been undertaken by Savills to all houses in Meldreth and Melbourn, as they had promised, and that the notification in The Royston Crow was not sufficient in allowing residents in Meldreth much notice of this proposal.

Confusion is caused as Savills have advertised the site being "Bury Lane Farm, Melbourn" (based on the postal address) and had ignored the Meldreth Parish Council request to make it clear that the proposed site sits wholly within the parish of Meldreth.

There was no Planning Meeting held on 5th December.

SCDC Decisions:

Malton Farm, S/1867/13/LB has been granted permission for internal alterations to drawing room.

Sheene Manor House, 58 Station Road S/1540/13/LB and S/1541/13/FL has been granted permission for demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new conservatory.

82 High Street S/1589/13/FL has been granted permission for a single storey side and rear extension to dwelling with alterations to the car parking layout including access.

Sheen Cottage, 63 Station Road S/1933/13/LB has been granted permission for replacement of cement render with lime render to front and side elevations.

182/13/13

Report from District Councillor:

South Cambridgeshire Council Tax - South Cambridgeshire has the 13th lowest council tax in the country. Unfortunately this means that future cuts in funding hit us especially hard. The Council will be looking to make a further £1.7m in savings in the next 6-18 months.

South Cambs Services at Melbourn Hub: The Hub is opening soon, and will be in a position to offer a local access point for a number of public and social services not just to Melbourn residents but residents from surrounding villages. The Hub itself is funded by Melbourn Parish Council.

South Cambs Housing and Planning services will have a presence at the Hub as will the Citizen's Advice Bureau. (The Library Access Point will of course be incorporated.) A further possibility is Relate, which provides counselling on relationship issues.

Risk register/friendship club: Several residents have approached Cllr van de Ven about isolation of elderly and vulnerable people. Cllr van de Ven is exploring some ideas, including a friendship/visiting scheme, and a 'time-banking' scheme, which is something being tried out in other villages.

Meldreth Manor will be doing an audit of disabled access around village.

Mobile Warden Scheme - Cllr van de Ven enquired if Meldreth would be interested in re associating with the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme. JC informed the council that the decision to withdraw from the scheme last year was through lack of personnel to oversee it and that there were only a couple of residents using the scheme and that they had decided not to continue. However, that was last year and GVB suggested that it might be time to re-look at the scheme. Cllr van de Ven will get more information. **Action:SvdV**

Affordable Housing - Cllr van de Ven also reported that confirmation had been given stating that the affordable housing needs had been met in Meldreth by SCDC

183/12/13

Report from County Councillor:

Housing Support for Older People - Changes are to be made to the support offered to elderly people living in their own or sheltered housing. The services for most of Cambridgeshire are going out to tender, but South Cambs and the City are being consulted to see if they can deliver this support themselves. The rationale behind the reorganisation is that traditionally support was only offered to elderly people living in local authority sheltered housing but as this is only 5% of our elderly population in the county, it stands that many people who may benefit from support are not getting it. The new service aims to provide support to all elderly people assessed as needing it regardless of where they live, and to target those who need it most. Much of this support has been assessed as being short term or one-off so the fundamental ethos is that a preventative service is designed that will keep people in their own homes, avoiding hospital and care service admissions.

Sources of transport infrastructure funding - Looking to the future, the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) which is administered by business and council leaders, will play a decision-making role on funding allocations.

The LEP reaches across county borders and so a more coordinated approach becomes more feasible where a transport corridor links employment centres – for example, the A10 corridor connecting Meldreth to Royston.

The other prospect on the horizon is the City Deal. Without the City Deal the Local Plan becomes largely non-viable, and this puts large-scale planned growth into question but also removes protections offered by the Plan. With the City Deal comes what is referred to as unlocking of transport infrastructure funding and in many ways a de facto unitary authority comprising South Cambs, Cambridge City and Cambs County Council.

Highways - Footway and road near One Stop will be done 11 December. RAS enquired if the curbs outside would also be repaired along with the potholes, Cllr van de Ven did not think this would happen as the time and type of repairs did not signify this type of repair was being undertaken, but Cllr van de Ven will make enquiries. **Action: SvdV**

Corner of Whitecroft/Station Rd drain: early new year

Fieldgate entry area: white lines should have been done after pot holes. There is a bit more work to do in terms of setting down the boundary markers to delineate Highways owned land.

Parking on pavements: Highways have no objection if the parish council want to put out a polite letter under windscreens for cars parked on pavements, now that an explanatory article has appeared in Meldreth Matters. **Action: RAS/GVB**

The interactive speed sign in Whitecroft Rd has been assured as a high priority.

Footpaths: JC suggested that better communication between the footpath/byway department and the footpath working party of the Parish Council would benefit everyone. Cllr van de Ven will make enquiries. **Action: SvdV**

184/12/13

Village Maintenance:

Benches and bus shelters are being refurbished.

The Cambridge Green Gage trees along Poly Acre need attention. Clerk has contacted Tree Surgery companies but is still awaiting a response. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Tim Elbourn for his advice. **Action: Clerk**

185/12/13

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – All play equipment appears to be in good working order. The play equipment will now be painted in the spring of 2014.

2. Discussion on erecting railings along the play area. It was agreed to ask for new quotes and to included the whole of the play area. **Action: Recreation Ground Working Party**

3. Clerk to arrange for an electrician to inspect the heater. **Action: Clerk**

4. Swing seat has been received, D Chappel to install.

5. Play Equipment – Clerk met with Mo Newman, Serena and Leigh Costa from Sovereign to look at possible ideas for new play equipment for the recreation ground. There is also a possibility of a grant which needs to be completed by 10th January 2014. Part of the grant application is that the Parish Council will contribute 10% of the costs. It was proposed by SH that this money could be taken from the S106 funds, seconded by RAS all agreed. The Recreation Working Party will look at the quotations and ideas from the Play Group.

186/12/13

Solar Panel Park at Bury Lane:

Two articles have been placed in the local paper by Savill's. There is to be a public consultation taking place in Melbourn in January 2014, according to press reports. RAS suggested that Savill's be contacted and asked that a leaflet drop, which had previously been proposed by them, be undertaken by Savill's for both Melbourn and Meldreth residents as not all residents get the local paper. **Action: Clerk**

187/12/13

Highways Minor Improvement Scheme:

As the speed limit reduction to 30mph is already underway and there were no clear ideas for submitting any new scheme for 2014/15 it was felt that Councillors should think of new ideas for 2015/16.

188/12/13

Mettlehill:

Gates: Clerk to contact Mr Tobin. **Action: Clerk**

Clearance schedule: NP informed the Council that Mr A Tobin has a contact who has agreed to clear the site but that funds will be needed for hire of equipment. All monies needed should be presented to the council before any work is undertaken.

It was agreed that any money in the fund should be used in securing the site and that would be by purchasing the gates.

- 189/12/13 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
Howard Road: Update on the turning area on the cul-de-sac on Howard Road. Jenny Clark (SCDC) has made enquiries concerning the area outside No 29 and it was been resolved with SCDC.
 Melbourn & Meldreth Self Help – letter of thanks for donation.
 There is a link for reporting potholes to CCC, Clerk to send this link to Meldreth Matters and it will be put on the Parish Webpage. **Action: Clerk**
- 190/12/13 Interactive Sign along Whitecroft Road:**
 See item 183/12/13.
- 191/12/13 Recreation Ground:**
 1. Ditch – Pat Matthews believed that the cost would be in the region of £30,000. A pond would also need to be installed to compensate for the loss of habitat. An ecology survey may also be needed. With this costing it seems unattainable to culvert the ditch. Residents whose properties border the ditch to be notified to see how they feel about having the foliage cut away from the back of their properties. **Action: Clerk**
 Quotes have been sought for clearing the ditch of debris and for clearing the foliage. The only action taken so far is to have the sides of the ditch strimmed.
 The stump which is still in the far side of the ditch is now causing a back up of water. Clerk to arrange for this to be removed as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**
Other items:
 The asbestos fence along the boundary of the houses bordering the recreation ground needs repairing. Clerk to contact resident. **Action: Clerk**
 The tree behind 16 Howard Road, still to be removed.
 The new fence at the Tennis Courts looks very nice.
- 192/12/13 Village Hall Car Park:**
 APB has sought further advice concerning the specification given to contractors. Item deferred until APB is present.
- 193/12/13 Parish Paths Partnership:**
 The Paths Group carried out the annual clearance of leaves at the Stocks area and a note of thanks to Mr Nick Askam for disposing of all the leaves.
 Mr Graham Borgonon and Mr John Chamberlain attended the P3 meeting at Toft on 14th November.
 The following work is planned over the next few months:
 Further chippings to be laid between the railway level crossing and Flambards Bridge when the chippings become available.
 Mr Hawkins to arrange the construction of steps between footpath 14 and 6, near the Flambards Bridge.
 Mr Peter Gaskin (CCC) will arrange for work to be carried out to clear footpath 12 on either side of the A10 bypass.
 The annual survey to be carried out during December and January.
- 194/12/13 Proposal for Reduced Speed Limits:**
 Article has been posted in Meldreth Matters.
 Speedwatch – GVB reported that most of the original members are happy to resume Speedwatch. The police appear to be more proactive and involved which makes reporting the data easier. RAS reported that the consultation period has begun and that Barrington already have their scheme in place. In Barton, red warning signs were erected, which would appear to be a good idea in informing drivers that a new speed limit is in force.
- 195/12/13 Councillors' Reports:**
JC - reported that £1,600 was collected for the poppy appeal.
NP – plans for the pavilion are currently on hold as further quotations are needed and builders are not coming forward. If there have been no further developments by the New Year, NP will look for new builders. Clerk passed on the grant information as the pavilion may benefit from this, if the scheme is running next year, there is not enough time to get the information for this year.

DS – MAYD are looking for a new play leader. Cllr van de Ven will contact Cllr Smith (SCDC) from Gamblingay to see how the Youth Club is running there.

RAS – attended the Parish Forum meeting on 3rd December at Cambourne.

Community Right to Bid –listing a community asset.

This allows PCs and other community groups to get time (6 months) to decide or organise to bid for a community asset if it comes up for sale. Listing is not automatic and only made if it can be shown that the asset is used by the community.

Local Plan –an update

No changes to the published timetable. Subject to cabinet decision next year inspector will be given the plan and 7500 replies to consultation next year.

Implementation in 2016.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – an update

Will replace S106 payments in April 2015. Does not apply to affordable housing.

Proposed at £100/sq m. PCs will get 15% of this unless they have a neighbourhood plan when it becomes 25%. However SCDC such plans could cost £20,000 unless parishes have access to local experts for free! Grants of £7500 and help in kind (£2000) are available. Neighbourhood plans may not justify the cost.

Update on the Review of the Conservation and Design Service.

This ongoing covering consultations, conservation and urban design. No detail given. In answer to a question on tree officers it was confirmed that Roz Richardson was leaving to a job closer to her home but will be replaced.

196/12/13

Dog Fouling:

Awaiting report from Heidi Duffett (SCDC)

SH suggested that it might be beneficial for neighbouring parishes to get together to employ a Dog Warden this would have a number of benefits. To be looked into once the report has been received from Ms Duffett.

197/12/13

To receive details of cheques to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payments:

LGA Local Government Act; LGFA Local Government Finance Act; TCA Telecommunications Act; OSA Open Space Act; WMA War Memorial Act

1. Cheques for approval and signature including any additional payments:

Payments already made

Staff salaries	£ 947.86	November salaries	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	£ 139.71	November PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112

Payments for approval

D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Oct grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA
BT	£ 206.21	Telephone	TCA
Wicksteed	£ 57.00	swing seat	OSA 1906 s9/10
Wilson Sport Surfaces	£3,314.40	tennis courts	OSA 1906 s9/10
CAPALC	£ 49.99	Local Council book	LGA 1972 s113
D. Chappel	£ 150.63	war memorial repairs	WMA 1923 s1
D Stewart	£ 19..99	Cllr allowance	LA Members Allow 2003

Deposits:

S106	£65,215.69	15-17 Whitecroft Road S/1911/11/F
Tennis Club	£ 2,762.00	contribution towards resurfacing
OPC	£ 90.00	office rent
Cecil Newlings	£ 35.00	headstone

Precept: (LGFA 1992 s41) – first meeting took place in November and it would appear that the costs for the next year should remain similar. Further meeting to be arranged.

198/12/13

Burial Ground: .

JF and Clerk have begun cleaning and clearing the graves. Clerk awaiting quote for repairing the shed.

199/12/13

Agenda items for the next meeting:

It was proposed by SH, seconded by RAS and agreed by all to make the January meeting on the **Second Thursday**, this will happen every year from now on. Diaries to be amended.

Clerk to inform the Village Hall to see if the 9th January 2014 is available.

Action: Clerk

200/12/13 Clerk:
Appraisal and salary – to be held over until January.

201/12/13 Action Points: if not already covered:
SH will place an article in the January edition of Meldreth Matters concerning the Parish Council elections which are due in May 2014. Anyone interested in joining the Parish Council please come along to any of the monthly meetings or contact the clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm (21:25hrs)
The next meeting will be held on **9th January** in the Green Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm (19:30hrs)

Chairman

Date

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