

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 9th January 2014 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), Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), Mr C A Land (CAL), and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

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- 01/01/14** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Mr N Pellatt and Mr A P Burlton.
- 02/01/14** **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.
- 03/01/14** **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 was one member of the public in attendance.
- 04/01/14** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5th December 2013:**
The minutes following minor amendments were proposed by CAL and seconded by RAS all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes to be a true record.
Amendments:
178/12/13 – MVA to be corrected to Meldreth Village Hall Trustees.
183/12/13 – Footpaths – Footpath/byway department to be changed to Cllr van de Ven.
195/12/13 – DS – replace 'for a new play leader' with 'to form a new infrastructure with supporting youth workers'.
- 05/01/14** **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
The tree and tree guard are now in situ at the war memorial. Meldreth Parish Council would like to thank Mr Damant for his time and assistance.
- 06/01/14** **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 19th December. 22 Howard Road, S/2487/13/FL -Front porch extension with associated external works, alterations and hard standing area. Meldreth Parish Council recommend approval with no comments. **98 North End, S/2240/13/FL** - New additional vehicular access. Meldreth Parish Council recommend approval with comments. 'This will provide additional off road parking and alleviate problems at this property with parking on the footway. It will also allow vehicles to exit safely forwards and further from the bend at the end of Stone Lane. It is noted that as well as the new cross over the existing crossover needs repair following damage during building works by the previous occupants'.
62 High Street (Information Only), S/2357/13/LD - Application for a lawful development certificate for a proposed use of double garage as a family room, replacing garage door with joinery screen, internal insulation and relocation of roof light. Has been 'Noted'.
SCDC Decisions: Brook Cottage, S/2082/13/FL – permission has been granted for a single storey side extension with veranda and erection of front porch.
Verbal report for Planning Meeting held on 9th January 2014:
Scrapyard at Chiswick End, S/1130/13/FL - Erection of a storage building. The Parish Council recommend **Approval** with comments. The Parish Council would like to have the screening, as suggested by the applicant, but please to not use Leylandii.
23 Oakrits, S/2572/13/FL – Extension. The Parish Council recommend '**No Recommendation**' with comments. 'If the council is minded to approve the plans please take note of the following:- 'Contractors vehicles to be parked on site; the new bay window, on the proposed extension is out of character with others on this Close; fencing to be erected during construction work and that there is an inaccuracy in the drawing of the red area marked on the site plan which does not reflect the boundary with No. 24 correctly'.

27/29 Biddalls Blvd, S/2119/13/FL - Erection of shed (retrospective). The Parish Council recommend '**Approval**' with comments. The Parish Council request that the hedge on the N.E boundary be maintained at its current height so to screen from West Way and Kneesworth Road.

07/01/14

Report from District Councillor:

South Cambridgeshire Ltd: South Cambs has set up a company which will buy properties and then rent them at market rates. These are not the same as Council houses – the Council is in effect becoming a Landlord competing with all the other property management companies locally. It does have two significant advantages. Firstly it can borrow at a discounted loan rate and secondly it already has an in-house housing management team. So it will borrow £7million (enough to buy about 100 properties) and lend this money at an increased rate to the new company as well as a management charge for running these homes. The purpose is to raise income. Councillors have asked to be involved as part of an advisory group planning this project to which there was agreement.

Other

Oil Club – good to hear from a resident last month who had recently joined and was saving about 1/3 off his heating oil bill.

08/01/14

Report from County Councillor:**1. Highways:**

- The verge outside number 22 North End – the main bend between the church and the stocks continues to erode and the gap to the pavement is disappearing. The pavement is now dangerously slippery, which is a concern given the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic here. Cllr van de Ven and RAS to arrange a site visit to look at North End footways and other concerns. **Action: Cllr SvdV/RAS**
- One Stop pavement and drains have been done, and Cllr van de Ven has reminded Mike Cooper that the other side of the road was left out – this is on the list, together with all the jobs listed in my December report.

2. Vulnerable and isolated people: Mobile Warden and Friendship Club

Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme will be meeting shortly to discuss the viability of extending their scheme to Meldreth. Cllr van de Ven will be talking with a County Council officer about funding issues and what the options are for Meldreth. Whatever happens there would be a funding requirement from both the parish council and residents.

At the same time Cllr van de Ven would like to develop an idea for a 'Friendship Club' which aims to enable us as a village community to be aware of people who may benefit from a small level of contact and support, whether just shopping, light gardening or more, and who themselves would like feel they are part of the community and have something they can offer. There is a very good county initiative now called Timebanking, in which people can swap favours depending on their needs and what they offer. To progress further during the spring.

3. Black Bin rubbish: The Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant at AmeyCespa's Waterbeach site is once again processing all the county's household waste. It is now processing all Cambridgeshire's household waste. The plant processes waste put out in black bins using a range of gadgets to remove any recyclable materials before sending the remaining waste to biodegrade. This reduces the amount of household waste going to landfill by at least 50 per cent.

4. Foxton Level Crossing: The feasibility study is now published on the county council website under a Foxton LC page.

5. Station Access: Thank you to everyone who came along to the station yesterday to support the accessibility campaign. Meldreth Manor have provided their audit which is very useful. The County Council has station access on its radar under the umbrella of its Transport Strategy.

Meldreth Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to Chris Elbourn for the work which has gone into the Manor's audit and that they will look at the comments raised.

09/01/14

Village Maintenance:

Clerk to make contact with Mr Chappell to see if the benches and bus shelters have been refurbished.

- 10/01/14 Playground:**
 1. Monthly Report - The play equipment appears to be in good working order but still needs painting.
 2. Railings along the play area - The weather has been too wet to re-measure the area but will be done this month.
 3. Electric heater in pavilion - The heater has now been repaired.
 4. Update on play equipment and possible grant application - Clerk has met with three play equipment specialists. There is to be a meeting with the Playgroup representatives, Clerk and Cllr Fallon tomorrow 10.01.2014 to discuss the matter further. There was not enough time to get all information required to apply for the recent grant and some of the information such as a Safeguarding Policy is not relevant for what is required. However, there should be other grants available.
- 11/01/14 Solar Panel Park at Bury Lane:**
 This will be discussed at the next planning meeting on 23rd January. North End residents have not received a leaflet. **Action: Clerk** (to contact Savills)
- 12/01/14 Policies:**
 Equal Opportunity Policy - It was proposed by RAS to accept the 'Equal Opportunity Policy', seconded by GVB all agreed. Clerk will prepare the Conflict of Interests Policy for next month. It was felt that the safeguarding policy is not relevant to the Parish Council at this time. **Action: Clerk**
- 13/01/14 Mettle Hill:**
 Clerk has spoken with Alan Tobin who will meet with SH and RAS to discuss the gates and metal panel fencing for the site. There is approx £4,000 in the fund. The Mettle Hill finance group meet regularly and will be happy to coordinate with the Parish Council to get a working party together to start clearing the site which will involve checking the electrics and knocking down the buildings. Mr Tobin said that once a meeting has taken place with the Parish Council then a plan of action can be put together to move this forward and hopefully people will volunteer their services, which will help keep costs down. **Action: SH**
- 14/01/14 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
 Working Group for Area G (CFT) Tuesday 4th March 7-9pm at Haslingfield Village Hall – this is not for Meldreth as they will be under Area M.
 Green Gage Trees at Poly Acre - Clerk has spoken with Mr Tim Elbourn who advised that the the ivy should be cut at ground level this will then kill the ivy and allow it to die back, then the tree underneath can be looked at. Clerk has contacted Dan Pettit to oversee the cutting of the ivy. Some trees may come back but if not then they should be removed. Dan to meet with JF. **Action: JF**
- 15/01/14 Interactive Sign along Whitcroft Road:**
 Has been repaired and is now working
- 16/01/14 Recreation Ground:**
 JF reported that over the past couple of weeks the recreation area and football pitch has been water logged this is due to the amount of rain received and that some of the ditches were blocked by flooding in the ditch so that the water was unable to drain off.
 Ditch – Clerk still awaiting quotes to clear the ditch at the back of the recreation ground, at the moment the ground is too soft to handle heavy machinery.
- 17/01/14 Village Hall Carpark:**
 APB was absent from the meeting, follow up to follow next month.
- 18/01/14 Parish Paths Partnership: Report from JC**
 The paths group are carrying out the Annual Path Surveys, which will be used to plan working parties during 2014. Resulting from the recent gales, members of the group plus CCC contractors have cleared fallen trees along footpaths 11 and 12. The CCC contractors have also cleared overhanging hedges and weeds on footpath 12. A further working party is planned to lay hard chippings between the railway level crossing and Flambards Bridge when they become available. Mr Hawkins will arrange the construction of the steps between footpath 14 and footpath 6 near Flambards Bridge. When the weather improves and wood chippings are available, some will be laid on footpath 2 and footpath 6 between Melwood and Topcliffe Meadow.

- 19/01/14 Proposal for Reduced Speed Limits:**
RAS reported that this will now be going out for the second statutory consultation on 24th January and that the new speed limit signs will be erected on 27th January or soon after. Speedwatch will be running soon after the signs have been put up. **Action: GVB/RAS**
- 20/01/14 Councillors' Reports:**
At the moment MAYD is not running and is currently without a fundraiser/ youth support worker as the previous leader resigned at the end of the school term. A meeting has been arranged for next week, 14th January, between the MAYD chairman and 'Groundwork', which is a community based charity and supports ventures like MAYD.
- 21/01/14 Dog Fouling:**
The litter bin on the recreation ground near Bell Close has had the liner removed again, however, this bin appears to be being used for disposing of dog faeces. Clerk is presently awaiting a report from Heidi Duffett on dog bins and it has been proposed to put a dog bin in this area. If the litter bin is not being used for the disposing of litter then it may be removed.
- 22/01/14 Finance Group:**
- Meldreth Village Hall Trustees Application
The finance group recommend approving the application for £1350.00. It was proposed by SH and seconded by RAS to agree the application, all agreed.
- Precept (LGFA 1992 s41). Following a presentation by SH it was proposed by CAL and seconded by GVB to request a precept of £53,175.00 for 2014/15. This is unchanged from 2013/14 and all agreed.
- 23/01/14 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 | £1012.90 | November salaries | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Inland Revenue | £ 177.46 | November PAYE/NI | LGA 1972 s112 |
- Payments for approval**
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| D P Gardens | £ 514.16 | Dec grass cutting | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Village Hall Trust | £ 61.25 | Room Hire | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Eon | £ 47.61 | electric for pavilion | LGA 1972 s133 |
| D J Prime | £ 120.00 | Notice board sign | LGA 1972 s111 |
| SLCC | £ 34.99 | Employment Law | LGA 1972 s111 |
| CCC | £ 411.92 | Media notice | Highways Act 1980 s274A |
| Talk Talk | £ 15.31 | Broadband | TCA |
| Andrew Klose | £ 264.00 | Tree guard | OSA1906 s9/10 |
| Caldecote PC | £ 35.00 | Cllr training | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Richard Burns | £ 20.00 | heater for pavilion | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Village Hall Trustees | £1,350.00 | Donation for projector | S137 |
- Deposits:**
- | | | | |
|-----|---------|----------|-----|
| OPC | £ 90.00 | Dec rent | LGA |
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- 24/01/14 Burial Ground: .**
The earth has still to be removed.
Clerk still waiting to hear from D Chappell about the shed at the burial ground.
- 25/01/14 Agenda items for the next meeting:**
Burial ground; policies; internet banking; North End; Reduced speed limit; village maintenance
- 26/01/14 Clerk:**
Appraisal and salary. Date to be set for a meeting with SH, RAS and the Clerk. **Action Clerk**
- 27/01/14 Action Points: if not already covered:**
There were no action points.

 Chairman

 Date

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