

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 6th February 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)

- 28/02/14** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton.
- 29/02/14** **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.
- 30/03/14** **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 were nine members of the public in attendance.
Concern were raised about the drains opposite the shop on the High Street. Cllr van de Ven explained that the drains on the south side of the High Street have been jetted but the north side is still waiting. Highways are aware of the drains but due to the wet weather they have been working in other areas.
Questions were raised as to what is happening with Mettle Hill. SH reported that he had had site meetings with regards to getting the area cleared and made secure. Ecologists from SCDC have also been out to inspect the area, their report will be sent soon but there does not seem to be any protected species (bats, owls etc.) on the site. The question of Self Build was also mentioned, at the moment it is not clear as to whether this will be possible on this site, as the LDF is not favourable. Cllr van de Ven was also looking into this.
Questions were also asked concerning the planning for Biddals Blvd (see item 46/02/14)
- 31/02/14** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 9th January 2014:**
The minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by RAS all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes to be a true record.
- 32/02/14** **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
There were no matters arising.
- 33/02/14** **Planning:** Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, Fallon, Land and Stewart (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).
Extracts from the Planning Meeting held on 23rd January (full minutes available from the Clerk)
Bury Lane Fruit Farm, S/2616/13/FL - Development of solar photovoltaic panels and ancillary structures including; field transformers, auxiliary transformer, inverter housing, communication room, District Network Operator (DNO) building and switch room building, access tracks, security fencing and security cameras. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'Refusal'** with Comments.
45 Whitcroft Road, S/02601/13FL - Proposed retention of existing boundary wall (retrospective). If the wall is to be retained at its existing height of 600mm there is no objection and the Parish Council would recommend Approval; however the plans actually show a much larger wall of 2000mm, this would not be acceptable and the Parish Council would recommend refusal. Approval if the wall is to be retained as it presently is - 600mm. Refusal if the wall is to be 2000mm.
SCDC Decisions: S/2487/13/FL, 22 Howard Road has been given permission for a front porch extension with associated external works, alterations and hard standing area. S/2240/13/FL, 98 North End has been given permission for a new additional vehicular access.

Verbal report for Planning Meeting held on 6th February 2014:

63 High Street, S/0090/14/VC - Variation of conditions 2, 4 and 5 of S/1005/12. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No recommendation**' with comments. The drawings do not show the front windows as they are at present as the Gothic headers have not been included, the Parish Council believe this could be due to the fact that the plans have been drawn up via a computer. The Parish Council would like to note that these should remain.

23 Oakrits (amended plan), S/2527/13/FL - Extension – reduction in extension size and alterations to bay window and alteration to site plan (alteration to red line). Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No recommendation**' with comments. Although there is no objection to the application the Parish Council believe that it has not been reduced in size and is in fact slightly larger than the original application.

17 North End, S/0115/14/FL - Side and Rear Extensions with Detached Garage. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No Recommendation**' with comments. The recommendation is based on the assumption that the east elevation has a central section only in a textured render and that the flanking sections will remain as brickwork. The verge is to be reinstated.

Scrapyard at Chiswick End (Information Only), S/1130/13/FL - Amended site plan and revised description. Erection of a storage building and change of use of the land to commercial storage for a landscape and general ground and factory maintenance business

104 High Street, S/0089/14/FL - Erection of new commercial unit, conversion of existing barn into 2 no. residential units. To be discussed at the next planning meeting on the 20th February 2014.

Showman's Site, Biddall's Boulevard, S/2607/12/VC – (see item 46.02.14)

34/02/14

Report from District Councillor:

SCDC Cuts South Cambs has delivered efficiency savings of about £5 million over the past four years; another 24% cut in Government funding is now in store. To balance the books next year another £300,000 of savings will be delivered by the Council with a further £790,000 in 2015/16. The Council plans to absorb almost 90% of the reduction in funding by generating income and delivering further efficiencies – equivalent to £18 per average band D home, with a proposed £2.40 (2%) rise in council tax for band D properties (less than 5 pence per week). Things being looked at include moving to a monthly green waste collection during the winter months. The proposed budget would also see reserves run down to £2.5 million by 2018/19.

Police Panel Feb 11: Has been amalgamated into the 'Cambourne' Neighbourhood.
Connecting Cambridgeshire: In addition to the Superfast Broadband roll-out, this programme involves a variety of measures to help small and medium sized businesses become better connected, with advice and grants through EU and government funding. This is to be publicized in mid-February.

The Draft Transport Strategy, which is aimed at providing infrastructure to accommodate the huge growth that comes with the Local Plan (if approved) specifically mentions improved access to our local rail stations between Cambridge and Royston, and a cycle path extending all the way from Trumpington to Royston.

Foxton Level Crossing Feasibility Study: Foxton PC is hosting an exhibit on the proposals at Foxton Village Hall, every weekday in the week of Feb 17th.

Local News:

Drain at Whitecroft - done. Elsewhere, drains and potholes are awaiting Highways who have been totally hijacked by reactive repairs all over the district.

A10 Underpass – There has been ASB/criminal behaviour involving the Police.

Meldreth and Melbourn Luncheon Club – The new team providing the running of the club has decided to step down, in mid-March.

Oil Club: A rebate of £105 has been received and donated to Royston and District Community Transport.

CAB at Melbourn Hub: Cllr van de Ven has been working with North Herts CAB who will have a twice monthly presence at the Melbourn Hub: first Monday and third Tuesday of the month, 9:30-12:30. Cambridge CAB has provided an advice kiosk.

Mobile Warden Scheme – Cllr van de Ven attended the recent Melbourn Mobile Warden meeting. They have a strong scheme with four wardens and about 40 clients. The cost per client is about £500 per year; about £200 of that is paid by the client in monthly installments. The rest comes from grants from Melbourn Parish Council and elsewhere. They were amenable to the idea of accommodating Meldreth residents. This would require a commitment from Meldreth Parish Council to fund the balance of the cost per client. It may be that some clients would be willing to pay the entire cost themselves, freeing up funds to help support others unable to pay. We also talked about recruitment of new wardens from within Meldreth and possibly extending the Melbourn scheme more fully as time goes on.

Friendship Club – I agree with Cllr Borgonon's suggestion that rather than inventing new initiatives, we first offer more support to the Good Companions Club.

35/02/14

Report from County Councillor:

County Council cuts: Having made £74m worth of cuts over the past two years there is a further £149m to come over the next five years. County will not be taking the Pickles Council Tax freeze of 1% but will be increasing the rate by 1.99%. The council is now looking at (1) their property portfolio including the Shire Hall site in Cambridge, and where Castle Court is on the market 2) charging for more or less everything that's currently free and (3) cutting back services including Children's Centres, youth work, community transport, buses, winter maintenance, Home to School transport and so on.

Other proposals: All the political groups now go through the exercise of putting together alternative budget proposals which is a useful exercise. One item is the proposal for the sale of Shire Hall and most of the County Farms estate in order to reduce interest payments on borrowing and free up revenue spending for road repairs and a number of other urgent areas. The budget meeting is on February 18.

Park and Ride: There is now a public consultation on charging to park at the Cambridge Park and Rides. This runs to February 14th – and was advertised first on January 24th, meaning that every South Cambs parish newsletter missed the deadline. The proposal is free for one hour, £1 for 1 – 12 hours and thereafter huge amounts.

36/02/14

Village Maintenance:

Once the weather has improved these items will be attended to. Benches and bus shelters

37/02/14

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – play equipment appears to be in good working order. Dave Chappell has collected the swing seat which will be installed soon.
2. Railings along the play area – awaiting two further quotes.

38/02/14

Policies:

- Conflict of Interests. It was proposed by RAS to accept the policy, seconded by CAL, all agreed.

39/02/14

Mettlehill:

SH has had site meetings with Alan Tobin to discuss what gates would be best, funds will come from the Mettle Hill Fund:

Clearance schedule: This has also been looked at with the proposal to recycle as many of the bricks as possible and for the remainder to be crushed on site.

RAS, SH and APB to have a further site meeting to discuss the clearing and security of the site.

Action: SH, RAS, APB

GVB reported that he had not seen the warning signs, SH will investigate and reinstall if necessary.

Action: SH

40/02/14

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

New Play Equipment: All information is now with the Playgroup people.

41/02/14

Village Services and Facilities Questionnaire:

This was discussed and changes will be forwarded onto SCDC.

Action: Clerk

42/02/14

Recreation Ground:

Clerk awaiting quotes from M Thomas and Richard Webber of Agricates. Mr Webber stated that the ground is still too wet for access and the trimming of some of the hedges will have to wait until July due to the birds nesting.

Clerk has also asked to have the tree stump removed from the far end of the ditch near the Sheltered bungalows, separate to any quotation, Mr Thomas has agreed to do this.

- 43/02/14 Village Hall Carpark:**
APB to progress. There have been reports from users of the carpark that the potholes are getting larger. **Action: APB**
- 44/02/14 Parish Paths Partnership:**
The Paths Group have carried out Annual Path Survey, which has been summarised and will be discussed at the meeting on 24th February to plan working parties during 2014. JC has informed Peter Gaskin CCC and Network Rail asking for repair or replacement of the level crossing gates on footpath 5, this has been acknowledged. JC has reported the damaged stiles on footpath 5 along the Melbourn side of the A10 along with the damaged bridge which goes across the ditch. JC has reported that residents are concerned about the access across the field on footpath 4, this is presently being discussed with CCC and the landowner. Peter Gaskin has inspected the stiles at the Malton Lane end of footpath 4 with the view to replacing them with kissing gates. The following workload is planned for the next few months:
- Hard chippings to be laid between the railway level crossing and Flambards Bridge, when they become available.
 - Mr Hawkins will arrange the construction of steps between footpaths 14 and 16, near Flambards bridge.
 - When weather permits and wood chippings are available to be laid along footpath 2 and footpath 6, between Melwood and Topcliffe Meadow.
- 45/02/14 Proposal for Reduced Speed Limits:**
The new speed limits signs have now been installed. GVB suggested that yellow Speedwatch signs, as they have in Waddon, would be beneficial. GVB will investigate. **Action: GVB**
- 46/02/14 Councillors' Reports:**
- DS**
MAYD – DS attended the recent MAYD meeting where funding was discussed, a further meeting is to be arranged in order to plan for a youth club which it is hoped will open in April 2014. Further discussions are due to take place between MAYD and Groundwork (a youth specialist organisation). DS still to do his last training session.
- RAS**
North End Footways – RAS and Cllr van de Van have walked the village and inspected the footways, report has now been circulated to all councillors. The footways along North End are in urgent need of repair, Cllr van de Ven will pursue this with CCC. **Action: SvdV**
SCDC Planning Committee and application for increased plots at Biddalls Boulevard - RAS and SW attended the planning meeting at Cambourne where the application to increase the plots at Biddalls Blvd was up for discussion. The proposed footway connecting Biddalls Blvd with West Way will need to be completed before any granting of permission is considered. The responsibility of the recreation land is to be discussed further. There will be 4 new plots in total and all plots/yards are now within planning regulations and have been registered with the Land Registry. At the moment there are 17 existing plots so the total amount of plots will be 21, some of the existing plots are to be subdivided therefore there will be more yards, but only 21 actual plots.
- GVB**
CAP – the computers are getting old and it was proposed by GVB to increase the memory in one machine, seconded by SH agreed by all. The costs should be approximately £50 to £60. **Action: GVB**
- CAL**
Could bollards be installed around the stocks area, as has been done at the War Memorial. Clerk to enquire with Highways. **Action: Clerk**
- SH**
Suggested that the Annual Village Meeting could be held in the Community Rooms in preference to the Primary School, after discussion it was felt that the Village Meeting should take place in the Village Hall. Clerk responded that the Village Hall is at present fully booked. RAS suggested contacting Mr P Ray, Chairman of the Village Hall, to see if bookings could be rearranged. Due to a recent “walk in” robbery the village hall doors need to be secured however parish council meetings are required to be open to the public. Further discussions to take place. It is hoped to have the Annual Village Meeting on the 15th May.

The elections are to take place on the 22nd May and the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 5th June.

- 47/02/14 Dog Fouling:**
Clerk has asked for assistance from Cllr van de Ven. There have been further reports of dogs fouling and it not being cleared. SH reported that he has unofficially enquired if other parishes would be interested in a joint hiring of a Dog Warden which has met with some interest.
- 48/02/14 Holy Trinity Church:**
Request for the next part of the repairs to the West boundary wall (was originally split into three stages (stage one has been completed). RAS has spoken with Mr J Price (Church Warden) three quotations need to be applied for. APB to pursue on his return. **Action: APB**
- 49/02/14 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; Local Authorities (LA); 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 | £1,014.44 | January salaries | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Inland Revenue | £ 173.10 | January PAYE/NI | LGA 1972 s112 |
| PKFLittlejohn | £ 480.00 | External audit | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Payments for approval | | | |
| R A Searles | £ 25.98 | Expenses | LGA 1972 s111 |
| R A Searles | £ 21.01 | Ink | LA (members allowance)
(England) Regulations 2003 |
| Barcham | £ 201.60 | Tree (Pride of India) | LGA 1972 s111 |
| D P Gardens | £ 514.16 | Jan grass cutting | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Talk Talk | £ 15.31 | Broadband | TCA 1984 |
| SCDC | £1,674.00 | Office rent | LGA 1972 s111 |
| Deposits: | | | |
| OPC | £ 90.00 | Jan rent | |
- Payments proposed by CAL, seconded by JC all agreed. Cheques signed by JF and SH.
- Internet Banking:** Is up and running though there is a problem with authorization from other members, as they are experiencing difficulties logging on. SH suggested that all signatories meet in the parish office to pursue this.
- 50/02/14 Indemnity S106 Agreement for 4 Old Court, 104 High Street S/2232/12/VC**
Public Open Space contribution - To be agreed then signed by Mr S Hawkins and Mr R A Searles. It was proposed by JF and seconded by NP that RAS and SH sign the document which was witnessed by the Clerk.
- 51/02/14 Burial Ground: .**
Ground is too wet at the moment for the soil to be removed. Clerk still awaiting quote for repairing the shed.
- 52/02/14 Agenda items for the next meeting:**
Mobile Warden Scheme, Mettle Hill, Annual Village Meeting, Burial Ground, Railings, Carpark, Church Wall, Dog Fouling, Speedwatch signs, Village maintenance
- 53/02/14 Action Points: if not already covered:**
There were no action points.
- 54/02/14 Clerk: (Motion to exclude Public and Press)**
Appraisal and salary. Due to the Clerk's workload this has been deferred to next month.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm (22:10 hrs)

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