

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 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), Mr SWJ Chamberlain (JC), Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), Mr C A Land (CAL), Mr N Pellat, and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

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- 82/04/14**      **To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton.
- 83/04/14**      **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.
- 84/04/14**      **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 12 members of the public in attendance.  
Concern was raised regarding a proposed concrete crusher being installed at Mettle Hill. Correspondence was read out by concerned residents and the Chairman. The objections were raised about the amount of dust which would be created and the increased vehicle movements of HCV's. The Chairman allowed all attendees to voice their concerns he then explained what was happening. A proposal, being considered, is that a portable rubble crusher be used at Mettle Hill for 1 or 2 days per annum as part of the clearance process and would crush rubble on site which could not be recycled.  
The Parish Council purchased the land on behalf of the residents of Meldreth and will not be doing anything with the site without full village consultation in order to discuss the way forward. At the moment the land needs to be cleared, made safe and secured with limited funding this proposal of someone using the land for a period of time in agreement to clear the site and make it secure seemed a good way forward. The proposal was that this company would use the land for a period of time rent free in agreement that they cleared the site.  
The Chairman suggested that if any member of the public could come up with other ideas on how this could be achieved the Parish Council would like to hear from them. In response to the concerns voiced at the meeting the Chairman reiterated that no decisions would be made concerning Mettle Hill without consulting the village but the Parish Council must make the site safe and secure until a final use is found. At this moment in time, there have been no other ideas coming from parishioners as to how this can be achieved.  
Mr Ken Fairbairn attended the meeting on behalf of CCC to update the Parish Council on Maycroft Care Home and assured the Parish Council that previous concerns are being addressed and a new manager has now been appointed.
- 85/04/14**      **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014:**  
The minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by RAS. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 86/03/14**      **Report from District Councillor:**  
**South Cambs housing growth and infrastructure funding:**  
The South Cambs Local Plan has been voted through. At the same time, the County Council Transport Strategy has been adopted, and central government has announced the Greater Cambridge City Deal – this is funding for transport infrastructure worth about £500 million over a number of years. For the first tranche of £100 million, the idea is to deploy to shovel-ready schemes where there is an opportunity to influence 'modal shift' toward sustainable transport modes. Very few details were mentioned in the briefing, however the A10 south was mentioned in terms of improving access at the three rail stations between Cambridge and Royston, and completing cycle link along this corridor. This comes in spite of the fact that our area is not getting the massive growth that other areas are getting, and reflects the need to mitigate the growth in vehicle traffic on the A10, which contributes to congestion in and out of Cambridge.

There are a number of other funding mechanisms to support different localized transport infrastructure projects and the County Council has been very proactive about these. The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign is now working with the County Council of an application for funding through the Local Sustainable Transport fund to create an off-road 2.5 metre cycle path connecting Melbourn and Royston on the A10. City Deal funding would cover the Local Enterprise Zone which includes Royston, and this would in theory facilitate funding of a safe crossing at the A505 roundabout.

#### **Mobile Warden Scheme**

Three people in Meldreth would like to use the scheme. One is self-funding directly to Melbourn Parish Council and make a 10% contribution to the Meldreth Parish Council-held fund. Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme would need to arrange to receive payment from Meldreth PC, to subsidize the other two clients. For this to work Melbourn Parish Council would not be looking to fill out forms and apply for Meldreth PC funding – rather, Meldreth PC would need to contact Melbourn PC and arrange to make the payment to purchase the service.

#### **Green bins**

SCDC cabinet has made a decision to reduce green bin collection in the three winter months (Nov, Dec and Jan) to monthly.

#### **Leylandii North End**

The long row of leylandii in the early stretch of North End is a concern, due to the great height of the trees. SCDC's tree officer is coming out to take a look and assess any safety risks. The Enforcement Officer has suggested that the parish council and district councillor write to the land owner to express our concern.

**87/03/14**

#### **Report from County Councillor: Station Bridge**

The improvements to the station bridge were part of the CCC bridge improvements work, not Network Rail as first thought. These are very welcome.

#### **Fenny Lane Crossroads**

Please see the attached report following the meeting attended by Cllrs Searles, Borgonon and Cllr van de Ven with County officers. Appendix 1

#### **County Council move to committee system**

The County Council is moving to a committee-based system next month, following on from many years under a cabinet and leader model. This is the result of a full council decision last May, and detailed preparations have taken place over the course of the past eleven months. Under the new system, all the different political groups will together populate the different service area committees, which will be decision-making groups.

**88/04/14**

#### **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**

There were no matters arising.

**89/04/14**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> March**

19 Whitecroft Road, S/1336/13/FL - Erection of dwelling with revised parking and turning for existing dwelling (amended design pursuant to planning permission S/1336/13)

Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'No Recommendation' with no comments.

Bury Lane Solar Farm, S/2616/13/FL - Removal of the Southern Field. Due to the confusion concerning the plans the Chairman felt that no further discussion can take place until residents and the Parish Council are looking at the same information. SH will contact the planning department to enquire as to why there is differing information. It is hoped that this matter will be discussed at the next planning meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.

SCDC Decisions: S/0090/14/VC, 63 High Street has been granted permission for Variation of condition 2 of planning reference S/1005/12

Other Items: S/1246/13/FL, Land adj The Tavern & The Station Yard has been granted permission ofr the erection of 4 bungalows (2 detached and 2 semi-detached)S/1440/13/FL, 97a North End – Appeal APP/W0530/A/13/2209294

### **Planning Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Verbal Report**

Bury Lane Solar 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.

The concerns raised from the public were discussed by the planning committee. The proposal of removing the southern field and improving the landscaping has now addressed many of the concerns. All members of the planning committee present had attended a site meeting to view the site from both No 37 Chiswick End and the footpath from Chiswick End to Fieldgate.

While some of the site would be visible from an upstairs window at No 37 only a distant (1.35 km away) glimpse would be seen from the footpath, once the landscaping had reached 3m in height. If a fuller landscaping plan is required by SCDC it was suggested that the Parish Council request that they can see this. It was felt that it would be difficult to refuse this application on planning terms and that solar farms would be a preferable way of gaining green energy to wind turbines.

The questions raised about other solar farms being proposed in the area was discussed and it was reported to the public that anyone has the right to put their concerns to SCDC through the planning process.

It was proposed by RAS, seconded by JC to recommend approval of the application, agreed by all with comments. The Parish Council would like to reiterate their concerns that solar farms should be taken as a whole across the district and not seen solely as individual developments. The Parish Council would also like to see any landscaping plans.

SCDC Decisions:

**S/0155/14/LB, Sheene Manor, 58 Station Road** has been granted permission for alterations, demolition of existing conservatory, replacement with new. **S/0115/14/FL, 17 North End** has been granted permission for side and rear extensions with detached garage.

#### **Other Items:**

While contractors are working at 82 High Street they will park vehicles on the remit of the site and not on the public highway as requested.

S/2607/12/VC, Biddalls' Blvd – Adoption of the public open space (play area) by the Parish Council will be discussed at full council. (See item 91/04/14)

Appeal: S/1440/13/FL, 97a North End – Appeal APP/W0530/A/13/2209294. There is no documentation yet concerning this appeal on the Planning Inspectorate website. The recommendation of refusal made at the MPC Planning meeting (5.2) on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 will be forwarded to the Inspector and still stands.

**90/04/14**

#### **Indemnities:**

- 6a Chiswick End S/0548/11/F
- 7 Whitecroft Road S/1755/11/F

Clerk read out the documentation. SH and RAS signed the documents, witnessed by the Clerk. The Clerk informed the Council that money from S106 may also be used to repair the carpark.

**91/04/14**

#### **Biddall's Blvd Play Area:**

An offer for the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the play area situated at Biddal's Blvd has been received from SCDC. The Parish Council, due to the location of the play area are not in agreement to this proposal. Clerk to reply to Mr P Sexton. **Action: Clerk**

- 92/04/14 Playground:**  
 1. Monthly Report – play equipment appears to be in good working order  
 2. Railings along the play area – four quotations were looked at, it was proposed by SH to accept the the quotation from Hill Trident seconded by CAL all agreed. Clerk to arrange.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 93/04/14 Mettle Hill:**  
 See item 84/04/14. The Parish Council would like to encourage residents to think about ways in which the land at Mettle Hill can be cleared with out major expense. Once this has been completed then ideas on how to use the site can be looked into but the first priority is the clearing and securing of the site.
- 94/04/14 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**  
 Park and Ride charges – there is to be a £1 parking charge at all P&R premises.  
 Bollards at the Stocks area – the cost is £1000 for three concrete bollards which would be installed by Highways. The Clerk to contact Highways to see if metal bollards can be purchased, the Stocks are in the conservation area and it would seem more appropriate to install cast iron bollards if possible.  
**Action: Clerk**  
 Village maintenance – Mr Chappel will be carrying out the maintenance of the bus shelters and benches now that the weather is improving.  
 Drainage Issues with the ditches along College Bends – Clerk still awaiting a response.  
 Clerk payscale – has been submitted to CAPALC and awaiting their response.  
 Soil still to be removed at the burial ground once the ground is more stable. Clerk to contact the contractor to see when this is to be carried out.  
 Meetings: - 1<sup>st</sup> May – next meeting; 15<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Village Meeting; 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Elections, 5<sup>th</sup> June - Annual Parish Meeting.
- 95/04/14 Speedwatch:**  
 Signs, it as already been agreed to purchase Speed watch signs – Clerk to arrange. GVB reported that this had been deferred until after the inspector from CCC had inspected the proposed locations, this has now been agreed and Clerk to order 4 signs. **Action: Clerk**  
 In response the report on Whitecroft Road and Fenny Lane a discussion took place concerning the overgrown hedge and trees. Cllr van de Ven will contact the landowners concerning the large trees and Mrs Philippa Hart will clarify whether the hedge on the opposite side (on the corner of Whitecroft Road and Fenny Lane) is under the responsibility of her father or Eternit.  
 The proposal to move the Give Way signs a little further back from the junction, refresh the white lines and install painted red bars near the junction was taken as a favourable option by the Parish Council. It was also proposed by SH to purchase four reflective bollards at a cost of £193 each, seconded by RAS agreed by all. The bollards will be placed at the cross roads at Fenny Lane. Cllr van de Ven will place the order with CCC.
- 96/04/14 Annual Village Meeting:**  
 Will take place in the Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. The Parish Council would like to thank Mrs Joan Gane, the Table Tennis Club and the Womens Institute for moving their evenings around in order to accommodate the Parish Council, it is very much appreciated.
- 97/04/14 Village Hall Carpark:**  
 Clerk to meet Mr Richard Remnant to look at the specification and discuss a way forward.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 98/04/14 MAYD:**  
 There have been no dates set for the next meeting. NP voiced his concern on how the Youth Club accounts have been presented as no mention is made of previous grants by Meldreth Parish Council.
- 99/04/14 Parish Paths Partnership:**  
 General Report from JC  
 The following work has been carried out on the footpaths:  
 Peter Gaskin CCC and Network Rail are looking into the repair or replacement of the gate at the level crossing on footpath 5.  
 Footpath 5 Melbourn side of A10 bypass has had the damaged stile removed and the planks across the bridge will be replaced soon.  
 The landowner has reinstated the waymarkers across the field on footpath 4.  
 Peter Gaskin CCC has inspected the stiles at Malton Lane at the end of footpath 4 and is presently in discussion with the landowner(s) in replacements.

Wood chippings have been laid between the railway level crossing and the edge of Melwood from Woolpack Way to the other edge of Melwood.

More chippings will be laid when they become available.

The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Ray who has laid chippings behind the British Queen to Topcliffe Meadow,

Mr Hawkins will arrange for the construction of steps between footpath 14 and footpath 6 near Flambards Bridge.

Work to be carried out on footpath 2 at North End in April

It has been reported that Mr Mutti will be erecting a wicker fence alongside his field on footpath 2 as dog walkers are not clearing up after their dogs

Grass Cutting on the Public Rights of Way – Mr Chamberlain has requested a schedule of works, in the past parts of Melwood where accidentally cut. Peter Gaskin has been copied in.

**100/04/14**

**Internal Audit:**

It was proposed by SH that Mr Bruce Huett be appointed as the internal auditor for 2013/14 accounts, seconded by CAL all agreed.

**101/04/14**

**Councillors' Reports:**

**GVB** – Can the clerk enquire if the suggestion of moving the 30mph speed limit situated near the Showmans site has been agreed. **Action: Clerk**

**JF** – Damage has been done to the verge on Howards Road, this is probably by the vehicles from SCDC who are working on the houses in Howards Road. Clerk to report to Cllr van de Ven. **Action: Clerk**

**CAL** – The single yellow line at the junction of Flambards and the High Street was not replaced when the road was resurfaced. Clerk to report to Highways. The drains are still blocked along the High Street especially near Bell Close.

**JC** – The drains along North End are still blocked. Clerk to notify Highways of the drains.

**Action: Clerk**

**SH** – along with RAS attended the Parish Liaison meeting held at Cambourne. Matters discussed were:

- City Deal – the money will now be a grant and not a loan as originally proposed. There is to be a new partnership involving Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire District Council, County Council and Cambridge University. Cambridge University will only be an advisory as they will have not voting rights.
- Affordable Housing – There is to be 100,000 houses built over so many years in this region, most of which will be on exception sites. There is to be a Green Belt review.
- Local Plan – a new inspector is to be appointed soon.
- CIL (Council Infrastructure Levy)- will be replacing the S106. The changes are that Parish Councils will no longer be entitled to funds on exception sites and that the percentage will be decreased unless there is a Neighbourhood Plan in force, however it should be noted that to carry out a Neighbourhood Plan it would cost at least £20,000. Clerk to report to SCDC that Mettle Hill will be part of the S106 funding along with the pavilion, car park and recreation area. These have all been precepted for which is a requirement.
- There is to be new training available for Parish Councillors in Planning, there are approximately 200 planning applications being submitted per week to SCDC.
- Bailiff charges are being increased.
- Papworth Hospital may be moved to Peterborough. SCDC supports the original plan to re-site to Addenbrookes. However this will be a central government decision.

**102/04/14**

**Dog Fouling:**

Clerk has asked if it would still be possible to place a new dog bin at the corner of the recreation ground near the footpath to Bell Close. The Parish Council may have to pay for this as SCDC did not see a need to put one here as there are already two bins on the recreation ground both of which are not being fully used. Clerk awaiting response.

**103/04/14 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; TCA Telecommunications Act; OSA Open Spaces Act; PHA Public Health Act; PCA Parish Council Act

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

**Payments already made**

Staff salaries	£983.72	March salaries	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	£163.83	March PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112

**Payments for approval**

D P Gardens	£ 514.16	March grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
CWC	£ 30.28	Water for BG	PHA 1936
CWC	£ 91.67	Water for pavilion	PHA 1936
SCDC	£ 47.10	Rates for BG	LGA 1972 s111
SCDC	£ 541.65	Rates for pavilion	LGA 1972 s111
CCC	£ 651.50	Street lights	PCA 1957 s3
Shaw & Sons	£ 98.23	Right to Burial book	LGA 1972 s111
G Borgonon	£ 69.40	Web hosting and name	LGA 1972 s111
J Chamberlain	£ 27.00	PPP expenses	OSA 1906 s9/10
LCR	£ 17.00	Annual membership	LGA 1972 s143
SLCC	£ 73.50	Annual membership	LGA 1972 s143
Cambridgeshire ACRE	£ 48.00	Annual membership	LGA 1972 s143
Eon	£ 30.26	Electric for Pavilion	LGA 1972 s111
Stationery Cupboard	£ 105.01	Office supplies	LGA 1972 s112
PWLB	£3,728.25	Loan	LGA 1972

**Deposits:**

OPC	£ 90.00	March rent
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Payments were proposed by JC, seconded by JF all agreed.

**104/04/14 Burial Ground: .**

Mr Chappell will look at the shed repairs in the next couple of weeks. It was proposed by SH that the Clerk had a set amount to cover the costs of these repairs, seconded by JF all agreed. This amount is more than the set amount stated in the Standing Orders.

Clerk to enquire with Mr Thomas when the soil will be removed.

**Action: Clerk**

**105/04/14 Agenda items for the next meeting: This will be the last meeting for the Council before the Election.**

Mettle Hill, Whitecroft Road/Fenny Lane junction, Speedwatch signs, Pavilion plans, PPP, Annual Village Meeting

**106/04/14 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