

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes Approved** of the Parish Meeting held Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 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, Mrs C.J. Fallon (JF), Mr C A Land (CAL) Mr N Pellatt (NP) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

**In attendance:** J Damant (Clerk) and Cllr S van de Ven (CCC)

- 166/07/14 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies received from Cllr P Hart (SCDC)  
All councillors were in attendance.
- 167/07/14 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 declarations declared.
- 168/07/14 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 5 members of the public in attendance, including the four speakers.  
Mr Andrew Hodgeson from Savills along with Charlene Hogan and another representative from Sun Edison attended the meeting to inform the meeting of the recent proposal to change the vehicle access route for assembling the solar equipment to Bury Lane Solar Farm. The new proposed panels will be erected on a slightly smaller footprint but the original access route is no longer viable through Bury Lane Farm Shop as the bridge under the railway is too narrow for the inverters and other large kit that Sun Edison use. Sun Edison have negotiated access and a holding area at the Ashwell Stret turn off the A10 for the majority of the deliveries but for the larger items the only way in The new route will use the bridge on Station Road to access the site through the former Chiswick Supplies site. Sun Edison will monitor traffic and they estimate two vehicle movements per week which would mean about 32 movements in total. Sun Edison will also put into place traffic measures across the bridge such as 'stop and go' signs for those periods where their vehicles need to access both sides of the road in order to make the turn. Cllr van de Ven was concerned about HCV vehicles using the bridge. RAS said that the PC had explained to Sun Edison and Savills the anticipated concerns and an amended application to the planning permission would contain a full traffic management plan.
- Dr S Webb address the council with a report on the Bell Ringers application for financial help to help restore the bells at the Church. The bells are in desperate need to be rehung and turned to protect them. The oldest bell dates from the 1600s. Meldreth also holds the world record for the most peels rung in a church tower .
- 169/07/14 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014:**  
The minutes were proposed by RAS and seconded by NP, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 170/07/14 Co option of new councillors:**  
RAS reported that he had received possible interest from one resident, Clerk to forward some information to them. Notices have been placed on notice boards and Meldreth Matters but so far there has been no other interest shown. **Action: Clerk**
- 171/07/14 Report from District Councillor:**  
Cllr Hart was absent due to a conflicting meeting at SCDC, Cllr van de Ven read out her report.  
**Planning:** Cllr Hart had attended Planning training and the training intended for members of the Northstowe Development Committee. One of the issues which came to light at the training is that the five-year housing supply provided for in the Local Plan has been found to be insufficient. The Inspector has delivered an opinion allowing an appeal by the developer concerning land at Waterbeach intended in the Local Plan to be left underdeveloped as a buffer. This undermines the Local Plan and leaves the door open for more such challenges.

**Station Yard:** There has been an incident reported to Cllr Hart and the Clerk, which was both depressing and encouraging. Depressing in that a large lorry deemed it necessary to drive across the grass at the war memorial triangle and encouraging that the resident reported the incident to Eden Farm and they were very responsive.

Mettle Hill: Cllr Hart has not received any offers of assistance in setting up a working party. RAS reported that he had supplied details to Cllr Hart of the working party members who fought the reopening proposal.

**172/07/14**

**Report from County Councillor:**

Following the fatal car accident in Meldreth on Sunday, Cllr van de Ven has arranged to meet the Road Safety team to understand the recording and function of statistics, and specifically how funding for remedial measures is triggered. Cllr van de Ven has also already asked Road Safety, Highways and Transport Strategy officers if they could discuss the Frog End accident black spot and have indicated that the Melbourn By-pass junction at Meldreth needs to be included in the consideration of road safety improvements.

Last month's transport coffee morning, which was attended by Royston and District Community Transport (RDCT), SCDC, Cllr Philippa Hart and Cllr van de Ven and about 15 members of the public. They were also supported by Maycroft Care Home who were not able to be present. We worked out some potential new community transport offers and suggested adaptations to existing bus services, which people would like to see:

- RDCT monthly shopping trip to Letchworth
- Regular trip to Melbourn Hub and local garden centres.
- Access to the 128 Royston bus difficult for many due to steps; anecdotal evidence says rider-ship is down. The County Council unfortunately did not specify access requirements in its contract with the operator, Cozy's. This is important as rider-ship figures will be relevant in negotiating a replacement service when the 128 subsidy is withdrawn.
- 26 routing query: could alternate buses run through Meldreth and Shepreth High Streets? Cllr van de Ven will be asking Stagecoach.

Meldreth and Melbourn Lunch Club: Two new volunteers have come forward to run this event, which is good news.

Cam Sight: Cllr van de Ven visited the Cam Sight Rural Support Group for local residents with visual impairment. This is an important event not only due to social support, but also practical advice that is offered and followed-up concerning assistive technologies that make such a fundamental difference to people's everyday lives. One of the Meldreth residents who attends is also one of the new recipients of the Mobile Warden Scheme.

Waste and Recycling at Waterbeach: Cllr van de Ven visited the site to better understand how the operations and the variety of local authority budgets work. The site is open for pre-bookable public tours every Monday. Half of the county council's 'Economy, Transport and Environment' budget is spent on waste disposal costs.

SH voiced his disappointment that all surgeries being held by SCDC and CCC will be conducted at the Hub in Melbourn and none conducted in Meldreth. Cllr van de Ven explained that if they are working alone then the Community Rooms is not the best place to be on your own.

**173/07/14**

**Bury Lane Solar Park:**

To be discussed once the anticipate variation to the approved planning application has been received.

**174/07/14**

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

There were no matters arising as all items are on the agenda.

**175/07/14**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**1 Gables Close, S/0643/14/FL** - Proposed single storey front extension and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory. Meldreth Parish Council recommended Approval with comments.

**73 High Street, S/0984/14/VC** - Variation of condition 2 of planning consent S/0912/13/FL in respect of proposed revisions to design/detailing of building. Meldreth Parish Council recommended Approval with comments.

SCDC Decisions: S/0658/14/FL, 15 West Way has been granted permission for a first floor single storey extension above existing garage conversion.

Planning Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 – Verbal Report

There no applications and therefore no meeting.

Clarification was sought on 1 Gables Close S/0643/14/FL which the parish council had responded to but their comments were not recorded on the delegation report. Clerk has asked for an explanation as this has happened before.

**Action: Clerk**

**176/07/14**

**Playground:**

Monthly Report. All equipment appears to be in good working order.

Dave Chappel to paint the equipment, paint is with CAL.

**Action: Clerk**

The roundabout needs new boards, Clerk to order.

**Action: Clerk**

The nettles still need strimming. Clerk to contact the grass cutter.

**Action: Clerk**

The plumb trees and green gages along the alley need attention. Clerk to ask the grass cutter for a quote on getting the trees attended on Parish Council land. The trees on the other side of the fence need the Tree Officer at SCDC to inspect.

**Action: Clerk**

**177/07/14**

**Pavilion:**

NP reported that all three quotes should be with him for the September meeting. **Action: NP**

**178/07/14**

**Mettle Hill:**

Cllr Hart is in the process of trying to set up a working group.

**179/07/14**

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Parish Planning Forum on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July at Cambourne 6.30-8pm. RAS has submitted two questions which the Parish Council are in agreement with. Clerk will submit the questions and RAS will attend the meeting.

**Action: Clerk/RAS**

**180/07/14**

**Village Hall Car park:**

**Three quotes have been received and Mr Richard Remnant has looked at them.**

It was proposed by SH to accept the quotation submitted from North Herts Surfacing Limited, seconded by RAS, all agreed. Clerk to confirm that they are to plane off the area near the garage entrance to make sure that the water falls away to the recreation ground.

**Action: Clerk**

S106 money can be used for this project.

**181/07/04**

**Minor Highways Improvement Scheme (MHI):**

As discussed at the last meeting RAS obtained photos of gates, it was proposed by RAS and seconded that 6 white picket gates would be the best option along with 3 village signs.

Clerk to obtain quotes.

**Action: Clerk**

The area suggested are North End – from Shepreth before the bridge, Kneesworth Road and Whaddon Road. Clerk to get agreement from Shepreth Parish Council.

**Action: Clerk**

It was also proposed by DS that 30mph and dragon teeth road markings also be introduced, seconded by RAS, all agreed. Clerk to get quotations.

**Action: Clerk**

**182/07/14**

**Transport Strategy Consultation:**

RAS has put a draft response which was read out at the meeting. There are a couple of additional items to include: Junctions along the A10, Meldreth Station and disabled access, better cycle parking at Meldreth station and the rural passenger transport which has not been mentioned.

**Action: RAS**

**183/07/14**

**Speedwatch and Signage:**

- bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitcroft Road. Clerk has not heard anything yet as to when these will be erected.

- clearing of ivy from trees. - email has been sent and will be followed up with the owner.

**Action: Clerk**

- cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitcroft Road – Clerk has written to Eternit.

Mr Borgonon has requested that the Parish Council pay speedwatch members expenses. It was proposed by RAS that mileage could be claimed, seconded by SH, all agreed. The mileage allowance is presently 45p per mile. Clerk to contact Mr Borgonon. **Action: Clerk**

**184/07/14 Parish Paths Partnership:**  
There will be a report in September.

**185/07/14 Councillors' Reports:**  
**SH**

SH using Chairman's powers included the Finance Meeting which was not on the agenda. The Finance Working Group have met to discuss applications received. SH declared a personal interest in the 'Bell Ringers' application and took no part in the discussion.

**MAYD** – It was proposed by CAL to offer an amount of £450 until the end of this financial year, seconded by DS all agreed. However, further clarification is needed as to how this project is to be run. Clerk to get confirmation on this. **Action: Clerk**

**Library** – The request of £250 has been received. It was felt that clarification is needed before a decision can be made. Clerk to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**

**Melbourn and Meldreth Lunch Club** – held over until next month as the accounts had not been received.

**Bell Ringers** – The Parish Council supports the project in principle, but there is concern that the amount of the request has not been precepted for in this financial year. They would have to revisit this application nearer the end of the financial year when a clearer idea of the demand on village funds is available. They would also like to know why it is the Bell Ringers who have requested the money and not the PCC. If it should be the PCC then it is their accounts that need to be submitted. Funding will have to come out of next year's precept allocation. Dr Webb's comments were taken into account and it was that this is a very worthwhile Village project. If further clarification is needed for when the Bell Ringers are applying for grants then the Parish Council would be happy to write a letter of approval to accompany the application.

**NP**

Footpath 2 is overgrown with crops, Clerk to contact Mr Chamberlain. RAS reported that in the past this footpath was well used and walkers tended to mark it themselves.

**JF**

The hedge at the corner of Bell Close and the High Street is encroaching the footway, Clerk to write and request it be cut back. **Action: Clerk**

**CAL**

The drains along the High Street and North End are still causing problems, Cllr van de Ven has reported this problem to Highways.

The ditch along College Farms is still blocked. Cllr van de Ven will give her contacts to the Clerk. **Action: SvdV/Clerk**

The yellow lines at Allerton Terrace have almost disappeared and cars are parking there. Clerk to request they get them reinstated by Highways. **Action: Clerk**

**DS**

A decision has been made to go with Groundwork for MAYD. After the initial settling in period it should be a better indication on how it will work. NP is still concerned about how this is to be run as a sub committee of Melbourn PC may not be the correct procedure to take, Clerk to ask for clarification on this. **Action: Clerk**

**RAS**

Annual Village meeting notes to be submitted to Meldreth Matters. Clerk to send to RAS. Plans have been received from Mr Soles regarding further affordable housing. The Parish Council are unable to comment until a formal application has been submitted though it was felt that Meldreth has filled the quota for affordable housing at this moment in time.

**186/07/14 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	£	June salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£514.16	Grass cutting (May)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
Meldreth Primary School	£ 60.00	Mary Course Award	LGA 1972 s113

**Payments for approval**

Inland Revenue	£		June PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
Stationery Cupboard	£	29.98	ink for brother printer	LGA 1972 s113
N Pellatt	£	16.34	ink expenses	LGA 1972 s113
Eon	£	26.68	electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s113
SCDC	£	135.00	uncontested election	LGA 1972 s113
Stationery Cupboard	£	156.56	office supplies	LGA 1972 s113

Clerk will be attending training at a cost of £25.00 which will be invoiced later.

**Deposits:**

OPC	£	90.00	Rent
HMR	£	973.60	VAT S106

Finances were proposed by CAL, seconded by JF all agreed.

**Mary Course Award:**

There are two accounts: Fixed Rate Bond and Community Account. Money from the Fixed Rate is to be transferred to the Community Account so that donations of £60 can be made to the School on an annual basis. In 2014 the fixed rate was reissued for three years, unfortunately no money was transferred to the Community Account which only has £20.40 which is not enough to cover the £60 payment to the school. For the next three years £60 will be given to the school from the parish council and when the fixed rate matures in 2017 the amount of £180.00 will be paid back to the Parish Council with three years funding also being transferred to the Community Account.

**187/07/14****Burial Ground:**

Mr Thomas will be clearing the land at the end of July.

Clerk will be picking up the paint for the shed and will contact helpers to help paint the shed, once the vegetation has been removed.

**Action: Clerk****188/07/14****Holiday Cover:**

RAS and SH will arrange holiday cover.

**189/07/14****Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Pavilion, MHI finalise application.

**190/07/14****Action Points: if not already covered:**

There were no action points covered.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15p, (22:15 hrs). The next meeting, apart from Planning meetings, will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

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 Chairman

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 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