

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 4th September 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 P Hart (SCDC)

- 191/09/14 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Cllr S van de Ven (CCC).
- 192/09/14 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.
- 193/09/14 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.
Mrs Joan Gane - The History Group would like to be involved with any archaeological digging with the Bury Lane Solar Farm. Mr Hodgson of Savills is aware of this request
- 194/09/14 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 3rd July 2014:**
The minutes were proposed for approval by CAL, seconded by NP all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 195/09/14 Report from District Councillor:**
Solar Farm Community Contribution: Cllr Hart has noted that new Solar Farms in the area have attracted significant community funding. This is a new area of development and she is in the process of investigating how the funding was negotiated.
Mettle Hill Working Group: Cllr Hart is pleased to report that eight local individuals have offered to help with this working group. It would be ideal if the first meeting could take the form of a site visit to the Mettle Hill site. Cllr Hart is in the process of organising a mutually convenient time towards the end of the month.
Open Surgery: Cllr Hart held her first Meldreth based surgery on Monday 1st September at Elin Way Community Rooms. Cllr Susan van de Ven (CCC) joined her. Two sets of residents attended and the feedback was positive. The plan is to alternate surgeries each first Monday of the month with Shepreth. Meldreth surgeries will be held between 3.30-4.30pm, the next being Monday November 3rd and the Shepreth surgeries will be from 1.30-2.30pm at the meeting room upstairs at The Plough, the next to be on Monday 6th October.
Grounds Contract: Cllr Hart has had a couple of enquiries over the summer from residents asking about small parcels of land which they have historically taken on the responsibility for the maintenance, mowing thereof etc and whether henceforward they could be included in the general grounds contract for the village. In each case she has recommended that they contact the Parish Clerk direct.
- 196/09/14 Report from County Councillor: (Report was read out by SH)**
16-18 year-old education transport: Every September queries arise about the cost of transport to sixth form and other 16-18 education and training, as this is invariably significant and often comes as a shock. This is not helped by the fact that arrangements are so complex. The council subsidizes transport costs if a child is attending a 'Nearest Designated Education Centre' but even so the subsidy is a fraction of the total cost. In fact the council is not required to provide any subsidy at all, and given the enormous and continuing across the board cuts it is notable that the subsidy plan still exists. For students from our area who need help with transport to Comberton Sixth Form have discovered that the college is not within the County Council's catchment for transport subsidy. Comberton's privately run bus transport costs sixth formers about £1000 per year. For transport to Cambridge-based sixth forms, the rail discount will be continued by Govia through contact with the Rail User Group, at £466 for an annual ticket, compared with £636 for council-subsidized Stagecoach bus travel.
Govia takes over from First Capital Connect on September 15. Govia have been invited to the Rail User Group meeting on September 24, 7:30PM, at Foxton Village Hall.

High Street drains: Highways have been contacted regarding the High Street surface water drainage concerns. They are intending to return to Meldreth to make improvements to drains in the High Street especially around Bell Close but also in the stretch toward the primary school.

Melbourn and Meldreth Luncheon Club has more than doubled its numbers since reopening under new leadership and Meldreth residents are attending. Due to the sudden increase in demand extra volunteer drivers are needed for the weekly run.

Cambridgeshire Future Transport: After much anticipation the review of the 128 bus subsidy will now take place. Public consultation (including 6 November, 2-4, Melbourn Hub), and other information (meeting 22 September, 2-4, Melbourn Hub).

Community Transport trips to Letchworth and Melbourn – this has been slow to get going due to various holidays of key people but Royston and District Community Transport still hope to get things underway as discussed at our June meeting.

County Council's Surface Water Management Plan – information sought from parish councils. Please note that the deadline has been extended from an unworkable 7 August to 'September'. The council is trying to map surface water problems using local knowledge – a useful opportunity for us.

Household waste recycling service consultation: Some of the big cuts we are facing will be in household waste recycling/disposal services. Please can people fill out this questionnaire: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentreservice>. It may be that significantly reducing opening hours/days can prevent outright closures, but that message would need to be conveyed via the consultation response.

197/09/14

Co option of three new councillors:

Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985 gives the Parish Council the power of co-option to fill vacancies remaining unfilled following an ordinary election.

There were five candidates:

SH nominated all five candidates: Mr Martin Berry, Mrs Hilary Duncan, Mr Robin Farbridge, Mr Julian Fenner and Mr Alan Keena and these were seconded by RAS. All nominees gave a brief statement to the Council. A vote was taken and the following were elected onto the Parish Council. Mrs Hilary Duncan, Mr Julian Fenner and Mr Alan Keena. All then signed their Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Proper Officer.

SH thanked all nominees for attending the meeting and hoped that the Council can call on those not elected in the future.

There is to be training at The Hub in Melbourn on the 20th September 2014. Clerk to organise.

Action: Clerk

198/09/14

Bury Lane Solar Park:

This was discussed within the planning meeting. Cllr Hart wanted to bring to the attention of the council that this might be the correct time to pursue the Community Benefit aspect of this development.

199/09/14

Matters arising: (no actions information only)

There were no matters arising.

200/09/14

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 7th August 2014

26 Flambards Close, S/1354/14/FL, Single Storey rear extension. The Parish Council have no objections.

29 Whitcroft Road, S/1569/14/FL, Two storey side extension and garage. The Parish Council have reservations with regard to the position of the new garage in respect of mature trees on the site and would ask for the recommendation of the Tree Officer at SCDC. We would also wish to have the converted garage conditioned not to be a separate dwelling.

Eden Farm, Station Yard, S/1699/14/FL, Alterations and extensions to existing buildings to form additional cold storage and loading facilities in conjunction with the overall site reorganisation (revised scheme S/1107/10). The Parish Council wish to defer this decision until after a site visit (proposed CAL agreed by all, and reconsider on 21st August.

SCDC Decisions:

S/1036/12/FL, 63 High Street – condition 7: Landscaping Scheme: The details have agreed subject to the landscaping scheme being laid out in accordance with the details shown on drawing number 625-2A and the landscape plan dated 24.04.14. S/1143/14/FL 63 High Street – permission granted for erection of garage.

Planning Meeting held on 21st August 2014

Eden Farm, Station Yard High Street, S/1699/14/FL

Alterations and extensions to existing buildings to form additional cold storage and loading facilities in conjunction with the overall site reorganisation (revised scheme S/1107/10). Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'Refusal' with comments.

'The Parish Council have no objections to the transformer or the lack of office buildings, however concern was expressed about the delivery times. Traffic movements at 4am are not acceptable in a small village.

The warehouse working hours would be acceptable if personnel and their equipment stayed inside the building however past experience is that this is not the case and residents sleep have been disturbed by shouting, dropped pallets etc during these hours.

If SCDC are minded to approve this application the Parish Council would want to see a restriction on night working and propose that there are no warehouse operations between 10:00pm and 7am and there are to be no vehicle movements before 6:00am or after 10.00pm.

The Parish Council would also want to see a landscaping and sound attenuation plan as a condition particularly to meet the recommendations in the acoustic assessment report.

There have been a number of instances of large vehicles failing to make a clear entry to the site and on occasions have driven across the grass triangle verge with the war memorial and damaging the protecting bollards. The Parish Council would also like to see a Highway report on the suitability of the access roads as shown in drawing number PB-2014-40/01'.

SCDC Decisions:

S/1413/14/FL, 25 North End, permission has been granted to replace 5 velux roof lights on the rear (west) elevation with 2 dormer windows.

S/1354/14/FL, 26 Flambards Close, permission has been granted for single storey rear extension.

Planning Meeting 4th September 2014 – Verbal Report

Bury Lane Fruit Farm, Melbourn Bypass, Meldreth, S/1887/14/VC

Variation of condition 2 of planning reference S/2616/13. Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'Approval'. Meldreth Local History Group would also like to be involved this information and their letter of request to be included in the Parish Council's response.

1 Station Road, S/1240/14/FC. Installation of solar panels on farm land for the production of electricity. Vote. 4 for Refusal, 2 for Approval. Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'Refusal'. The Parish Council are worried about the proliferation of solar panels in this area and feel that the visual affect would be unsightly. It was suggest that the possibility of using roof space on the buildings at Valley Farm maybe a better option.

Land North West of A10, Meldreth, S/1928/14/FL. Electrical Substation. RAS suggested that this decision be deferred until the next planning meeting on 18th September, that way feedback from the proposed solar farms will be available. The information has not be read by all councillors as it was not received in time.

201/09/14

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – the equipment appears to be in good working order. Equipment to be painted, CAL to give the paint to Mr Chappell.

Self closing lock for the small gate at the play area and a large lock/chain for the larger gate. JF and CAL to meet with Mr Pettit to discuss the trees along the footpath and the hedging around the playground. **Action: CAL/JF**

202/09/14

Pavilion:

NP has received the third builders quote. Will now contact the architect and present at the next meeting. **Action: NP**

203/09/14

Mettle Hill:

See item 195/09/14

204/09/14

Village Maintenance:

Ditches and trees along College Bend, North End. Clerk has contacted the land owner who is presently away but will investigate on his return. **Action: Clerk**

Verge along Fenny Lane. Mr Pettit to clear tree shrubbery, a tree came down in the high winds, majority of the tree was taken but some branches were left behind. There will be a root left so a decision as to what to do will be made once the area has been cleared.

JF will enquire with Miss Hunter as to who owns the trees, Clerk to enquire with Mr M Burlton.

Action: Clerk/JF

A large hole has appeared on Station Road near the War Memorial, Clerk to report.

Action: Clerk

Clerk to enquire with Highways as to where North End footways are in the time scale of being resurfaced.

Action: Clerk

204/09/14

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

- South Cambs Parish Council funding fair on 13th September at Cambourne Village College
- Ownership of gardens adjacent to 32 Whitecroft Road and in front of the substation. Cllr Hart has dealt with this.

- Hedges to be cut back where they are encroaching onto the footways. Clerk to put notice in Meldreth Matters.

Action: Clerk

Letter of complaint regarding the drain opposite the One Stop Shop is still blocked. Highways are aware of the situation.

Letter regarding Deadly Nightshade growing in the hedge on the path along Chiswick End, response from Highways is that this is not a plant which is listed as requiring immediate action. Hedgerows are the responsibility of the land owner so should be referred to them.

Clerk making enquiries to who the landowner is.

Action: Clerk

Letter from resident who has reported items straight to Highways: Footpath along North End is deteriorating (outside 41/45) and a sinking manhole cover opposite the church.

Speedwatch Signs: Have now been installed.

Lunch Club in Meldreth: The first lunch has been served and appears to be successful; they will be doing a lunch every two months to begin with.

Waste and recycling services: Green bins will be collected monthly in December, January and February only. Christmas period: collections will take place up until 27th December and resume on the 5th January when normal collection will resume.

205/09/14

Village Hall Car park:

Works will be commencing during the school half term in October.

206/09/04

Minor Highways Improvement Scheme (MHI):

Clerk and RAS to discuss, however it does not appear that gates and road lines are permitted on this project.

Action: Clerk/RAS

207/09/14

Transport Strategy Consultation:

Was covered last month, should have been removed.

208/09/14

Cambridgeshire Future Transport (Area M – includes Meldreth)

Consultation on 22nd September in The Hub at Melbourn. Cllr Hart and Cllr van de Ven will be in attendance.

208/09/14

Speedwatch and Signage:

- bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitecroft Road. Clerk to enquire what is happening.

Action: Clerk

- clearing of ivy from trees. Clerk to enquire as to when this will be done.

Action: Clerk

- cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road. Clerk to enquire as to when this might be completed.

Action: Clerk

209/09/14

Parish Paths Partnership:

Report from Mr J Chamberlain

Since the last report to the Parish Council the following work has been carried out.

Two working parties have laid wood chipping between the railway level crossing to Woolpack Way.

A further working party has laid wood chippings on footpath 2 at the North End.

Mr Ray has strimmed footpaths 11 and 13 from Chiswick End.

A working party has strimmed and cutback the foliage on footpath 9a (Station Road to Meads Path). This will be repeated again later in the month.

The following work will done over the next two months.

Chippings to be laid on footpath 6 between the back of the British Queen and Topcliffe Meadow.

To inspect footpath 6 near Topcliffe Mill re, River bank before further wood chippings are laid. Annual leaf clearance at the Stocks area.

Footpath 9 (Meads path at Melbourn end) needs cutting back. Would Highways be able to help with this? Clerk to enquire.

Action: Clerk

Footpath 8 (Whitcroft Road end). The path surrounds behind the garages need cutting back. Clerk has made enquiries in the past with SCDC to have this done.

Action: Clerk

Mr Chamberlain would like to extend his thanks and gratitude to Sally and David Wright who have now resigned. Sir David and Lady Wright were two of the original members. Mr Chamberlain also reported that he and his wife Eve will be relocating to Melbourn and it is hoped that a member from Meldreth will take over his role as the P3 coordinator.

210/09/14

Councillors' Reports:

CAL

The trees along parts of Fenny Lane are pushing the fence into the footway. Clerk to contact the landowner.

Action: Clerk

Hedging along the High Street is encroaching into the footway. Clerk to contact landowner.

Action: Clerk

NP

Cars a continuing to part outside Allerton Terrace, very close to the chicane. He also noted that the sign is not visible. Would it be possible to move it or have another sign positioned in the middle? Clerk to contact Highways.

Action: Clerk

SH would like clarification as to how councils can enforce parking issues and how yellow lines can be enforced. Mr Borgonon will be attending the Neighbourhood Panel and will ask the question.

Action: Mr Borgonon

DS

MAYD are still active though Meldreth had been missed of the summer correspondence, this has now been rectified. There is to be a meeting on 25th September with Groundwork. The youth club will resume on 30th September and will be meeting on a monthly basis.

RAS

CCC sent out a questionnaire regarding flooding issues. The Flood Working Party will complete this and give an update at the next meeting.

Action: RAS

There is another car being parked permanently along the High Street near the chicanes which is causing an obstruction. Clerk to enquire with the PCSO as to what can be done.

Action: Clerk

211/09/14

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	£1094.40	August salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£514.16	Grass cutting (Aug)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
BT	£198.07	Telephone	TCA 1984

Payments for approval

Inland Revenue	£438.30	July & Aug PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
Staples	£ 75.12	Stationery	LGA 1972 s113
D Chappell	£118.00	new litter bin	OSA 1906 s9/10
B Huett	£175.00	internal audit	LGA 1972
CAPALC	£ 25.00	clerk training	LGA 1972
Village Hall Trust	£137.50	village hall rent	LGA 1972 s113

Deposits:

CATalyst Lunch Club	£71.09	reimbursement of funding towards insurance.
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Finances were proposed by CAL, seconded by JF all agreed.

It was suggested by RAS that a Councillor take on the responsibility of Treasurer to work with the Clerk. To be discussed at the next meeting.

212/09/14

Website:

Mr Borgonon presented the new website to the Council which has been updated. Mr Borgonon would like to thank Matthew Patman for all his help and expertise in upgrading the website. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Patman.

Action: Clerk

- 213/09/14 Street naming for new development near the station:**
The two suggestions previously submitted by the Parish Council have not been accepted. Another three suggestions are: Memorial Close, Railway Close and Cooper's Close.
- 214/09/14 Burial Ground:**
The soil has still not been removed. It was suggested that new tenders be sought. **Action: Clerk**
Shed has now got doors, Clerk will go to Norbury's to get paint for the shed, and this will be done once the shrubbery has been cleared. Clerk has asked Mr Pettit for a quote to clear the shrubs but not the soil. **Action: Clerk**
Headstones: Some damage has been done at the burial ground to headstones. Clerk has put the grass cutter in contact with the relevant party.
- 215/09/14 Christmas Tree Festival:**
Mr Fenner and Mr Keena will decorate the tree. **Action: JF/AK**
- 216/09/14 Agenda items for the next meeting:**
Pavilion, Burial Ground, Treasurer, Hedging/trees at the recreation ground, dog bin.
- 217/09/14 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