

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr S Hawkins (SH) - Chairman, Mrs C.J. Fallon (CJF), Mr A Keena (AK), Mr C A Land (CAL) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

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- 218/10/14 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies were received from Mr R Searles, Mr J Fenner and Mr N Pellatt
- 219/10/14 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.
- 220/10/14 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.
- 221/10/14 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014:**  
The minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by CAL all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 222/10/14 Report from District Councillor:**  
Mettle Hill – Following the site visit it was agreed that the site needs securing along with the access. There is money in the fighting fund which will be used to secure the frontage. It will also need a change in planning.  
Solar Farm at Bury Lane – Work has now started and Cllr Hart will organise a meeting with the developers to discuss what monies are available.  
Bonfires – There are guidelines on SCDC website.  
Agricultural vehicles – large tractors are going on the verges and footways causing damage.  
Local Plan – This has failed the planning inspector. All aspects of the local plan are to be re looked at. There is not enough land to accommodate the amount of housing proposed. The findings will be delivered in 2016.  
Neighbourhood Plans – are being rethought, there is to be a free training event on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.  
SH requested that Cllr Hart clarify the incorrect reporting in the Royston Crow (see item 226/10/14) whereby the incorrect information had been reported.
- 223/10/14 Report from County Councillor:**  
**Great Northern cycle and trains policy:** Cllr van de Ven is meeting Great Northern, the new train operating company, on Friday to look at the possibility of increasing cycle parking provision at Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Stations. Meanwhile, overcrowding on the 7:45 train, includes an excessive number of bicycles, and the Rail User Group supports Great Northern's policy changes on safety grounds. The Rail User Group is continuing to promote the use of station cycle parking with a bike at origin and destination, or folding bikes in lieu of full-sized bicycles.  
**Other Great Northern news:** The new train company is spending a good deal of energy working to progress items on the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group wish list, including disabled access onto the London-bound platform. We have also reminded them of the need for a shelter on the Cambridge-bound platform. Shepreth's two level crossings will be upgraded to full barrier crossings in 2017/18, in line with increased frequency in off-peak trains, and longer trains. It appears to be Network Rail's policy to upgrade half barriers to full barriers whenever possible. Cllr van de Ven has queried the Meldreth Road crossing, as it is the station crossing which is seeing astonishing levels of risk taking, by all age groups. The full barriers are down for a longer period of time than the half barriers.  
**North End and College Farm bend drains:** Cllr van de Ven has asked Highways when jetting/clearing might happen, as this was promised last year.  
**128 Bus review:** A preliminary meeting has been held with county council officers, ahead of two public consultation events in November which I hope people will be able to attend. Cllr van de Ven has provided officers with feedback which they have received from local people over the past couple of years, that a regular service via Melbourn to Royston, particularly on Royston market days and passing by Morrisons, is valued – also that the current 128 bus is the wrong sort of bus, as step-free access is badly needed.

**Frog End junction and Melbourn By-pass serious accidents:** Cllr van de Ven has met with the Road Safety team to try and understand any trends in accident causes. There are some very strong statistics indicating the cause of frequent serious accidents at Frog End, and they have asked if a bid can be made from the road safety budget to implement remedial works. The fatal Melbourn by-pass accident in late June is not associated with any obvious trend.

**Cemex housing development in Barrington:** Cemex will imminently be applying for planning permission for 220 houses in Barrington, on the site of the old cement works. Barrington Parish Council and Cemex have both been in touch to invite comments. There are concerns about the ability of existing road and transport networks to accommodate the population influx for the wider area, including access points on the A10

**Rail works** - CAL reported that during the works when the buses were running in place of the trains, they were not informing rail users that in order to catch the bus they needed to wait on the High Street as the bus did not enter the station car park area, this has caused some rail users to miss the bus. It was suggested that better signage be used to inform users that the buses will be stopping outside the station area.

224/10/14

**Co option of a new councillor:**

It is with regret that the parish council announce that Mrs Duncan has resigned from the council. Clerk will now post a notice on the notice board, this will have a time period of 14 days, once this has been reached SCDC will give authorisation for the parish council to coopt a new councillor, unless another election is required.

225/10/14

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

Notice concerning cutting back of hedges will appear in October's edition of Meldreth Matters.

Minor Highways Improvement Scheme (MHI) application has been submitted for village gates and road markings.

Riparian Owners and flooding issues from CCC – information is now on the website.

Telephone box on Elin Way will now be removed. This was originally agreed when it was damaged a few years ago. However, BT then replaced all the glass.

Parish & Cabinet Liaison Meeting 6.30 at Cambourne – RAS and AK to attend

Street name suggestions to the new development at Station Yard have been submitted.

'Memorial Close, Railway Close and Cooper's Close'.

Neighbourhood Panel Meeting scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> October. DS to attend.

226/10/14

**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 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Land North West of A10, Meldreth, S/1928/14/FL** - Electrical Substation

Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'Refusal' with comments. 'Meldreth Parish Council are not opposed to the building of the substation which they believe can be successfully assimilated into the landscape. However, they do object to the timing of this application, which is running ahead of the two solar farms that it will serve. It is understood that each of these two applications and S/1427/14/FL, which has only just been received by the Parish Council, should be judged on their merits and it is believed that if all are approved that this will give an unacceptable concentration of solar farms in the immediate area and that this will markedly change the landscape character around us'.

**SCDC Decisions: 8 Howard Road, S/0263/14/FL** – permission has been granted for the demolition of a single storey flat roof side projection and conservatory at rear, and replacement of two storey side and single storey rear extension to form three bedroom terraced dwelling.

Other Items: S/1130/13/FL(APP/W0530/A/14/2224034) – Scrapyard at Chiswick End.

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. Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of SCDC, which was to refuse. The Parish Council have previously recommend approval and they have no further comments to make at this time.

**Station Yard** - Station Yard - the non-working hours originally stated were between 2.00am and 5.00am. These are now replaced with the three shift patterns (days, afters & nights), which run consecutively one after another. This effectively creates 24 hour operations in-between the start and finish hours that occur over several days. (Recommendation of refusal already given to the planning officer at SCDC)

Planning Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 – Verbal Report

S106 Payment for 8 Howard Road (S/0263/14/FL) £3,104.38 and £513.04. RAS and SH to sign. RAS to sign on his return.

**Land adj The Tavern Yard and the Station Yard, S/2162/14/FL** - Erection of four bungalows (two semi-detached and two detached) Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'Approval'** with no comments.

**13 Chiswick End, S/2154/14/FL** - Demolition of existing single storey dwelling – erection of two detached one and a half storey dwellings and creation of new access from Chiswick End to serve Plot 2. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'Approval'** with comments. 'The Parish Council would like that any trees removed should be replaced and materials used should be in keeping with neighbouring buildings. It is critical for this to meet the rural vernacular style of (some) houses in Chiswick End.

**Land between Railway and Sewage Disposal Works, Royston Rd, Melbourn, S/1427/14/FL** - Solar Farm and Associated Development. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'No Objections'** with comments. 'The Parish Council have no objections but would like it noted, ie email sent to Mr P Sexton on the 25<sup>th</sup> September stating the extent of the proliferation of solar farms in our immediate area.

**Other Items:** Bury Lane Solar Farm – In response to an article which appeared in the Royston Crow publication this evening the Chairman would like it noted that it was part of the terms of the planning application that only major items ie, inverters which would use the Chiswick Industrial access via the bridge, all other equipment including the solar panels would use the access route at Ashwell Stret.

227/10/14

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report – CJF reported that the equipment appears to be in good working order. Equipment is still to be painted. Dogs have been seen running loose in the play area despite signs requesting that 'No Dogs' are allowed in this area. If this continues it may be necessary to ban dogs from the recreation ground all together. Notice to be put in Meldreth Matters requesting that dogs in the recreation ground be kept on leads and that under no circumstances are dogs allowed in the play area.
2. Lock for double gate has been ordered.
3. Self closing mechanism for small gate has been fitted.
4. Update from JF/CAL on hedging around the play equipment. One quotation has been received, two further quotes are now required.

228/10/14

**Pavilion:**

Deferred to November.

229/10/14

**Recreation Ground:**

**Ditch Area at the back of the football pitch:** The foliage at the back of the ditch of the Recreation Ground has been cleared. Ditch still to be cleared, however if it is dug deeper the water will then be below the pipe which runs to the other ditch leading behind the bungalows towards Bell Close. Quotations for clearing the bottom of the ditch to be gained.

**Action: Clerk**

**Ditch Area leading to Bell Close:** Resident has been contacted regarding the fence which is leaning over the ditch, Cllr Hart is also aware that the ditch area which belongs to SCDC needs clearing and thus allowing the resident access to repair/replace their fence. Clerk and Cllr Hart to inspect the ditch.

**Action: Cllr Hart/Clerk**

Removal of the trees along Polyacre – Two further quotations are needed. **Action: Clerk**

230/10/14

**Mettle Hill:**

A site meeting has taken place and another meeting is to be scheduled. The large 'Keep Out' signs have been removed. SH has the other 'spare' signs and will erect these, they will need extra reinforcing so that they can not be removed easily.

**Action: SH**

231/10/14

**Village Maintenance:**

Ditches and trees along College Bend, North End – Clerk has not heard back from the land owner.

**Action: Clerk**

Ownership of trees along Fenny Lane. The trees were planted by the Parish Council and therefore are their responsibility.

Pg

Footways along North End – These are still on the schedule of works but there is not time limit it depends on funding.

Footpath 9 – Meads path at Melbourn End. Clerk to contact Highways to see if they can help in clearing.

**Action: Clerk**

Footpath 8 (Howards Road) – nettles need clearing from around the garages. This will be done when the contractors are next in the village.

Owners of the trees along Fenny Lane which are pushing the fence over have been contacted.

Residents along the High Street with encroaching hedges have been contacted.

Highways have been notified concerning cars parked along Allerton Terrace and to have another sign erected.

PCSO have been notified concerning cars parking too near the chicane along the High Street.

DS reported that the footway on Whitecroft Road between Elin Way and Oakrits is also overgrown. Clerk to contact Highways.

**Action: Clerk**

The shrubbery has now been cleared from Fenny Lane

The footpath from Malton Lane to Barrington (Riverside Walk) has now been cleared.

**232/10/14**

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

- South Cambs Parish Council funding fair on 28<sup>th</sup> October at Cambourne Village College

- Parish Liaison Meeting at Cambourn 8<sup>th</sup> October – RAS and AK to attend.

- MHI representatives for the meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 from 9:30am at Whittlesford Highways Depot. RAS and DS to attend.

- Bus Questionnaire – Meldreth Matters, website, noticeboards and shop. Have requested 30 questionnaires and 1 poster.

- Clerk is still progressing the dog bin for the recreation ground.

**Action: Clerk**

- The stocks area will be cleared of leaves soon.

- It was suggested that Mr Fenner lay the remembrance wreath, if he is unable then DS will step in.

**Action: Clerk**

- Minor Highways Improvement Panel Meeting – RAS and DS to attend.

**Action: RAS/DS**

**233/10/14**

**Village Hall Car park:**

Works has begun, there are some issues regarding the surface which will be addressed when the lines are to be painted along with one disabled space. Company has been out to inspect and are waiting for the surface to settle. There was also concern raised that a drain had been tarmacked over. Contractors will meet with Parish Council representatives on 6<sup>th</sup> October. CAL to attend with Clerk.

**Action: CAL/Clerk**

Some damage has been done to the neighbours fence at the Village Hall car park. Mr P Ray has written to the parish council asking as to who is responsible. SH reported that he believed that this should be dealt with by the Village Hall. The parish council own the land and the carpark but they do not own the village hall. It would appear that the damage was sustained during a village hall event. Mr Ray has received one quotation to repair the fence. It was suggested by SH that the Clerk ask for another quotation and further discussions need to take place. Advice will be sought by NP as the insurance representative. SH and CAL will inspect the damage

**Action: Clerk/SH/CAL**

**234/10/04**

**Speedwatch and Signage:**

- bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitecroft Road - ongoing

- clearing of ivy from trees - ongoing

- cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road. Clerk has contacted Eternit again but has not received a reply. SH will inspect as it would appear that some of the hedge has been cut.

**Action: SH**

**235/10/14**

**Councillors' Reports:**

**RAS** – Flood Working Party. The questionnaire has been completed and sent to Sayathirry Krishnamoorth (CCC).

**DS** – MAYD. Meldreth Matters have published an article on MAYD. The next meeting will be overseen by Melbourn Parish Council. They will be giving 'Youth Accreditation Service Level Agreement' for future funding.

DS also reported that the bollard at the war memorial is leaning over. Clerk will contact Highways.

**Action: Clerk**

**CJF** – The flooding working party have met and completed the questionnaire. SH enquired whether the area under the railway bridge had been mentioned as this also has a tendency to flood.

It was agreed by the group that the drains need further jetting and that all ditch owners need to check their ditches to make sure that the water is running smoothly. Cllr van de Ven will contact Highways with these concerns and other concerns she has received concerning the drains within the village.

**Action: SvdV**

**AK** – reported that there appears to be some discrepancies over what Cllr van de Ven reported last month regarding the discount for students when using the train. There is confusion on the discount when applying either online, over the phone or in person, the information is not uniform. Cllr van de Ven will make enquiries but did state there as the new company has only just taken over there may be some discrepancies. **Action: SvdV**

236/10/14

**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	£1,108.33	September salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Grass cutting (Aug)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1984

**Payments for approval**

Inland Revenue	£ 219.10	Sept PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
UK Safety	£ 142.79	PAT testing for office	LGA 1972 s113
PKFLittleJohn	£ 480.00	External Audit	LGA 1972
MAYD	£ 450.00	Youth club (replacement chq)	LGA 1972
Arcos	£ 33.86	High Vis Jacket	LGA 1972 s113
D P Gardens	£ 80.00	Village maintenance	OSA 1906 s9/10
Stationery Cupboard	£ 44.66	Office supplies	LGA 1972 s113
MD Landscapes	£ 1,800.00	Burial ground	OSA 1906 s9/10
MD Landscapes	£ 180.00	Ditch at Recreation ground	OSA 1906 s9/10

**Deposits:**

Burial plots	£ 240.00	purchase of 3 plots
OPC	£ 90.00	Aug/Sept Rent
Ivett & Reed	£ 125.00	Funeral fees
Burial Plots	£ 160.00	purchase of 2 plots
Precept	£26,587.50	2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment

Payments were proposed by CJF, seconded by CAL all agreed.

**Audit:** Meldreth has passed its audit. There were a couple of questions raised by the external auditors, but these are concerned with inconsistencies in the Disclosure boxes – which should have all been ticked NO and confusion with the precept and grant received by the Council and where it should be recorded. The grant (which is received as part of the precept) should actually be recorded as 'other receipts'. The overall figures are all correct.

**Arcos:** Clerk has opened an account with Arcos and ordered a High Visibility Jacket.

237/10/14

**Appointment of Treasurer:**

Deferred until next meeting.

238/10/14

**Burial Ground:**

Soil was removed the next day by MD Landscapes.

Quotes to rotavate and lay grass seed on cleared area to stop weeds.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Hart suggested contacting Mr Jim Eggleton for advice on the proposed garden areas for the burial ground.

**Action: Clerk**

Shed can now be painted and cleared. Clerk will contact residents who had previously offered their help.

**Action: Clerk**

CAL reported that there is more rabbit damage, Clerk suggested that now the soil has been removed the remainder of the fencing, at the front, can now be completed.

**Action: Clerk**

CAL reported that the gates need attention as they are not closing properly.

**Action: Clerk**

239/10/14

**Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Pavilion, Bollards at Stocks,

240/10/14

**Action Points: if not already covered:**

There were no action points discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 (21:15hrs). The next meeting will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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