

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr S Hawkins (SH) - Chairman, Mr R A Searles (RAS), Mrs C.J. Fallon (CJF), Mr J Fenner (JF), Mr A Keena (AK), Mr C A Land (CAL), Mr N Pellatt (NP) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

**Under Chairman's Discretion – Include a new item to sign the Indemnity Forms 265/11/14.**

**241/11/14 To receive any apologies for absence:**

There were no apologies as all councillor's were present.

**242/11/14 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.

**243/11/14 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 five members of the public in attendance.

A representative from The Good Companions stated that with the increase in renting the community rooms along with a decrease in the numbers attending they are finding it difficult to finance the group. SH suggested that they contact the Clerk.

Representatives from Flambards Close stated that the hard standing area outside numbers 43,44 and 45 is breaking up and needs immediate attention, however there appears to be some discrepancy on who is responsible for this. There is a record from a meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006, 'A further matter tabled was the lack of clarity regarding the hard standing parking areas on the estate which appeared as part of the amenity area on the Lang Registry map. MPC had recently established with Highways Division of CCC, that these areas would be part of the adopted highway and maintained by them as such. A copy of the Highways Adopted Roads, map for Flambards now shows this clearly'. However, Highways are still insisting that this is not the case and they have no responsibility for this area. The Parish Council agree that this area is a layby and therefore is under Highways control and not for residents private parking, some members of the parish council were in attendance at these meetings and stated that this was their understanding of the situation. If the area appears on residents deeds then residents are responsible. Clerk to get confirmation from Highways.

**Action: Clerk**

**244/11/14 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014: Following minor amendments it was proposed by NP to accept the minutes, seconded by CAL all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.**

Amendments:

231/10 should read 'DS reported that the footway on Whitecroft Road between Elin Way and Oakrits is also in need of repair.

235/10 should read 'They will be giving 'Youth Worker Accreditation Service Level Agreement' for future voluntary staff.

**245/11/14 Report from District Councillor:**

SCDC continues to face a funding crunch, with a confirmed 10% cut in Central Government funding. Income savings in the region of £1.17m to £1.315m need to be found. These are expected to be met from changes to refuse collection and shared service arrangements with other councils, general procurement of goods and services and review of systems contracts, from further utilisation of South Cambs Hall at Cambourne. Other commercial projects include proposals for example for an in-house bailiff service, energy generation with solar arrays at the Cambourne office car park and Waterbeach depot.

The performance of the contact centre at Cambourne is under review, 26% of callers being 'lost'. Additional staff from the Revenues Department have been recruited to assist at peak times and there have been three new full time members recruited. If residents have concerns can they contact Cllr Hart.

**246/11/14 Report from County Councillor:**

**1. Anticipated budget cuts, Highways and Community Infrastructure:** 59% of the flexible budget will be cut (as opposed to ring-fenced grants etc):

- **Streetlighting:** likely to recommend switch-offs in residential areas during late night hours.

- **Gritting:** The proposal will be to reduce the network coverage from 45% - 30%. Cllr van de Ven has asked for a differentiation between prospective total isolation of some communities versus lessening of multiple routes in and out of others.
- **Grass-cutting reduction from 3 to 2 times per year:** Cllr van de Ven has pointed out that dual use segregated pedestrian-cycle paths have been overlooked as an anomaly – and only account for £9K of the £100K savings. This is a safety issue and it will be more costly to treat overgrown verges as defects.
- **Community grant cuts (including Cambridge CAB) – phased over three years.** Wholly negative impact on most vulnerable, with a threat of Judicial Review.
- **Libraries:** Mobile libraries almost certainly under threat.
- **Waste:** The entire Waste PFI contract is being reviewed and decision delayed for another year.

**2. Park and Ride:** New machines should have been installed during half-term, however complaints are still being received about the complications of using the service. A new on-line pay-as-you is now available and should be helpful, SH remarked that he had found the service very good.

**3. Cambridgeshire Future Transport:** A recent meeting at Melbourn Hub was attended by a good number of Meldreth residents. Linking up with 26 bus at Melbourn and linking to Shepreth Station among ideas raised. Critical that Community Transport budgets are retained and Cllr van de Ven does not believe that the Council is looking at its transport subsidies in a joined up fashion. Health transport case work: Cllr van de Ven, this week visited the Headway service at Fulbourn to follow up case work on transport options for people with acquired brain injury, due to changes in personal care budgets – feeling a very tight squeeze like everything, but with profound consequences for individuals. Community Transport could be better deployed by the County Council.

**4. Southwell Court Care Home, Melbourn:** Metropolitan Housing Association, which has not owned the home for very long, has announced that it plans to close and demolish the home. The County Council has a number of placements there and is working closely with residents and their families to help them find new placements.

**5. Groundwork/MAYD invited to Community Rail Partnership:** The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership meets next week and Cllr van de Ven is working on a youth project with sponsorship by Groundwork at GTR.

**6. College Farm bend drainage work:** County Highways has liaised with the landowner regarding ditch clearance taking place this week, which will then allow surface water drains in College Farm bend to be cleaned out.

**7. Superfast Broadband:** the Fibre Broadband Connection for Meldreth is now complete

**Other items:**

**Gulleys:** The report recently circulated to Parish Councils regarding the cleaning of gulleys within the parishes is being investigated by CCC. It would appear that though this report from the contractor states that gulleys have been cleared, this is not the case.

247/11/14

**Co option of a new councillor:**

The notice has now been placed upon the notice board, once the relevant time has elapsed and permission has been granted from SCDC, the Parish Council will be looking to coopt a new councillor.

248/11/10

**Parish Paths Partnership: Report from Mr Chamberlain, read out by SH.**

**Since the last report to the Parish Council, the following work has been carried out:**

A working party on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October cleared ground weeds and overhanging foliage on footpath 9a.

Mrs Wallbridge has strimmed footpath 3 near The Warren.

A working party will clear and burn leaves from the stocks on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

The following work is due to be carried out next month:

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

To inspect footpath 6 near Topcliffe Mill re river bank, before more chippings are laid.

Footpath 9 (Meads Path at Melbourn end) the path surround needs cutting back, is it possible to get some help from Highways?

**Action: Clerk**

Footpath 8 (Whitcroft Road end) the path surround behind the garages need cutting back.

Clerk has spoken to the workmen who said that this will be done, but as to date this has not been achieved. Clerk to make enquiries.

**Action: Clerk**

Mr Chamberlain also informed the council that he will be moving from Meldreth and hoped that another parish councillor would agree to be the new P3 coordinator.

- 249/11/14 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**  
Information from Highways – In August 2014, 309 gulleys were cleared in the parish, these were in Bell Close, Chiswick End, Elin Way, Fenny Lane, Flambards Cl, High St, Howard Rd, Kneesworth Rd, North End, Oakrits, Station Rd, The Grange, Whaddon Road and Whitecroft Rd. (See item 246/11/14) Councillors agreed to inspect.
- 250/11/14 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 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
**102 High Street, S/2167/14/FL** - Single Storey rear extension. Meldreth Parish Council recommend Approval with no comments.  
**40 Bell Close, S/2228/14/LD** - Application for Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed development – Timber swimming pool building – **INFORMATION ONLY**  
Information has been noted. Comment 'The drawings indicates that the measurement for the eaves height not exceeding 2.5 mtrs is shown as the underside of the soffit and not to where the slope of the roof meets the building'.  
RAS informed councillors that when applications come in with 'Information Only', the parish council may still comment. The planners at SCDC have made a judgement call, if the parish council believe that this judgement has been made in error then they may comment.  
**Land North West of A10, Meldreth, S/1928/14/FL** - Electrical Substation  
Planning application has been amended. Revised site layout showing temporary construction compound, hard and soft landscaping details and materials and finish of development. The Parish Council would like to refer to their previous comments regarding this application.  
Planning Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – Verbal Report  
**Land adj, The Tavern Yard and the Station Yard, S/2162/14/FL** - Erection of four bungalows (two semi-detached & two detached. Additional information: Noise Report. **(INFORMATION ONLY)**. Parish Council noted the additional information.  
**7a Whitecroft Road (The Sidings), S/2326/14/LD** - Application for a lawful development certificate for a proposed development – Internal alterations and conversion of existing garage loft space to additional living accommodation. **(INFORMATION ONLY)**. Parish Council noted the changes.  
**Former Cemex Cement Works, S/2365/14/OL** - Outline application for the demolition of all existing buildings and structures, and redevelopment to provide up to 220 residential units, formal and informal open space including allotments, car parking for Barrington Primary School, new pedestrian and cycle links to Barrington village and Foxton Station, and associated works – details of vehicular site access arrangements are submitted for approval, with all other matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) reserved for future approval. The Parish Council have deferred any decision until a later date. It was felt that residents should be allowed to comment. A notice will be put in Meldreth Matters asking if residents have any comments and if they do to contact the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**  
**Land south of Melbourn, S/2358/14/FL** - Underground cable and associated works between solar farms and substation. The Parish Council recommend No Objections with no comments.  
**Land North West of A10, Melbourn, S/1928/14/FL** - Electrical substation – planning application has been amended. The Parish Council recommend No Objection with comments 'The changes are enhancing the landscaping but the parish council's other comments still stand.  
**12/14 Chiswick End, S/1818/14/FL** - Single storey rear and side extension, erection of greenhouse and widening of existing vehicular access. Parish Council recommend Approval with no comments.  
**12/14 Chiswick End, S/1820/14/LB** - Demolition and replacement of existing lean-to extension to the south-west of the cottage with a new extension. Replacement of roof guttering, replacement of all single glazed windows with period style replacements, removal of opaque glass in rear and re-instatement of clear glass window, new back door, re-render the property in a lime mortar finish and addition of security alarm. Parish Council recommend Approval with no comments.
- 251/11/14 Mettle Hill:**  
Cllr Hart reported that the Working Group met on 21<sup>st</sup> October to brainstorm ideas for the possible uses the site could be put to. It was a very useful session and there was much enthusiasm for finding a use, or combination of uses which could have a transformative effect on the Meldreth community. All possible ideas need to be at least cost-neutral, and we

will always consider sustainability in terms of access, energy and land use. The working group are liaising with the planning department at SCDC to see whether suggestions being made will pass planning regulations. Until more is known that they are viable both from a planning point of view and that there would be a demand for the proposed use, we cannot report back substantively to the village. When these questions are answered we propose to consult with the village. Sun Edison are offering £50,000 for community projects, so the next phase is to come up with some ideas which this would cover..

252/11/14

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report – all equipment appears to be in good working order, just waiting for the apparatus to be painted.
2. Lock for double gate has been received.
3. Hedging quotations. - two quotes have been received, awaiting further quotes.

Other items:

The remaining five-a-side football posts have been dismantled as they were broken. SH suggested that a replacement figure be sought for the precept. **Action: JF, CAL, NP**

The hedge near the tennis courts needs cutting and the increase in weeds addressing.

Tennis Club to be informed by the clerk.

**Action: Clerk**

253/11/14

**Pavilion:**

NP reported that he is still arranging meetings with the architect and the building contractors, he is also going to meet with the builders involved with the Melbourn Hub. **Action: NP**

254/11/14

**Village Maintenance:**

The bollard at the war memorial has been straightened and the grass will be cut before the service on Sunday.

There is a damaged bollard outside 1 Station Road, Clerk to report.

**Action: Clerk**

255/11/14

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Electoral Review – The Local Government Boundary Commission for England are carrying out a consultation from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015. They will be recommending new electoral arrangements for CCC in particular, it will propose:

- total number of councillors elected to the council in the future
- number of divisions
- number of councillors representing each division
- division boundaries
- names of divisions.

**SPEP** – meeting will take place and Melbourn Community Hub on 19<sup>th</sup> November 7.30-9.30

**Dog Fouling:** Still no progress on the dog bin

**Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE):** presentation on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March at Fenland Hall at 2.30pm or Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at SCDC at 2.30. Purpose is to explain the review process.

**Street naming:** Nothing back yet

**Cambridge Future Transport** – notices have gone out and questionnaires put in the shop, so far nothing has been returned to the clerk.

**Local Green Space Designation:** Recreation Ground and Flambards – deadline for comments is 1<sup>st</sup> December. Ability to make comments as the land owner. Due to new national guidance published in March 2014 advised that landowners should be consulted directly. The Parish Council is however the landowner of these two pieces of land and it was they who have put in the request to have these areas designated 'green spaces'.

**Parish Precept** – tax base has been worked out at 746.8.

256/11/14

**Village Hall:**

**Car park update:** The resurfacing of the car park has now been finished, however RAS reported that he believed the area around the disabled bay will not work and suggested that if a car is parked in the marked bay next to the disabled space it will be blocking access to the path to the village hall and a wheelchair would not be able to use that route to the hall. Suggestion is to place yellow hatching for that space, inevitably a space would be lost but it would make the access path to the village hall much clearer. **Action: Clerk**

**Boundary fence damage:** It was proposed by RAS that the Parish Council agree to splitting the cost 50/50 and to use the Village Hall's contractor to repair the damaged fence, seconded by CAL, all agreed. The cost of the project is £275 in total. Clerk to contact Mr Paul Ray. **Action: Clerk**

257/11/04

**Speedwatch and Signage:**

- bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitecroft Road. - Clerk to make enquiries as to why this has not been done yet. **Action: Clerk**

- clearing of ivy from trees. Clerk to contact land owners again to see if the ivy can be removed. **Action: Clerk**

- cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road – SH to check to see if this has been done. **Action: SH**

258/11/14

**Councillors' Reports:****RAS**

**Parish Liaison Meeting** – RAS reported that his notes and those from SCDC have been circulated. One of the interesting ideas was that of the 'Emergency Plan'. It would be an idea to resurrect this project which Meldreth did start a couple of years ago. However, due to various changes coming from SCDC it was never completed. One of the areas which would be beneficial would be the concerns over flooding. This plan could address some of the issues, such as, where sandbags could be kept and where residents would be able to collect them in cases of heavy rain. Clerk to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**

**Minor Highways Panel Meeting** – RAS and DC attended the panel meeting where Meldreth's application was discussed to erect gateways on Whaddon Road and Kneesworth Road along with relevant road markings and 30mph speed signs. The project will cost £6000.00 and it was agreed that Meldreth Parish Council would contribute £1000.00 if the bid was successful. Decision will be made by January 2015.

**DS**

**MAYD** – Next meeting of MAYD is on 27th November when a current update of activities and attendance will be given. An interim report for the newly formed Youth Club has indicated good progress with attendance figures almost doubling each week. There is currently a bid in to the Police and Crime Commissioners Fund for Cambridgeshire to finance some holiday provision over the February half term period.

**Neighbourhood Panel Meeting** – DS attended the latest panel meeting where the question of parked cars was raised. The Clerk has raised the question of cars parking to near to the chicanes on the High Street (going towards Shepreth) with the PCSO's, however it was thought, by the PCSO's, that the vehicles were not causing an obstruction. RAS stated that it is becoming increasingly difficult to negotiate this area and it could be down to timing as to when this has been noted by the police. Cllr van de Ven suggested that instances could be logged with photographic evidence, this may help. Clerk to contact the PCSO's again. **Action: Clerk**

**NP**

The Village Hall Trust would like to know who is responsible for the slabs at the side of the village hall, which makes up the path from the car park to the footway on Elin Way. Clerk reported that it was believed that the Parish Council is responsible for this as they own the land.

**AK**

Reported that dog fouling is still occurring within the children's play area, where dogs are not allowed. CAL will monitor and report back to the council. **Action: CAL**

**JF**

Would like to be included in the Mettle Hill Working Group. Mrs Hart will add him onto the list. JF also stated that it should now be a priority to get the area secured and made safe. SH stated that this has always been the intention. The notices stating that the site is not to be entered have disappeared and SH will reinstate. **Action: SH**

**SH**

Clerk to contact Highways concerning the reinstatement of yellow lines at the corner of Flambards Close and another 'no parking' sign at Allerton Terrace. **Action: Clerk**

259/11/14

**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        | £ 1,122.00 | October salaries    | LGA 1972 s112  |
| D P Gardens  | £ 514.16   | Grass cutting (Aug) | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Talk Talk    | £ 15.31    | Broadband           | TCA 1984       |
| Public Loans | £ 3,728.25 | Loan repayment      | LGA 1972       |

**Payments for approval**

|                      |            |                              |                |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Inland Revenue       | £ 222.55   | Oct PAYE/NI                  | LGA 1972 s112  |
| CCC                  | £ 331.20   | Speedwatch signs             | LGA 1972       |
| CCC                  | £ 1,145.37 | Street lights                | LGA 1972       |
| Melbourn PC          | £ 140.00   | Councillor training          | LGA 1972       |
| Eon                  | £ 35.89    | Electric for pavilion        | LGA 1972       |
| Richard Burns        | £ 67.00    | Electrical work for pavilion | LGA 1972       |
| Mr G Borgonon        | £ 244.78   | Computer work for CAP        | LGA 1972       |
| Royal British Legion | £ 75.00    | Poppy wreath                 | S137           |
| Mackays              | £ 33.14    | Chain for play area          | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| North Herts Resurf   | £24,104.40 | Village Hall Car Park        | OSA 1906 s9/10 |

**Deposits:**

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| OPC office rent | £ 90.00 |
| Funeral fees    | £ 50.00 |

It was proposed by CAL that all payments are in order, seconded by JF all agreed.

**260/11/14****Community Benefit:**

Parish Council to consider their response to the offer of a community benefit payment from Lightsource Renewable Energy in respect of the new electrical sub-station and two local solar farms. SH read out the letter received from Lightsource. Both planning applications for solar farms in Melbourn have now been passed by Planning at SCDC. It was proposed by RAS to accept the offer of £250.00 per megawatt of installed capacity over a period of 20 years, seconded by DS all agreed. Clerk to contact Lightsource with the Parish Council's decision. There are no conditions on this money but it will be used for the benefit of the community.

**Action: Clerk****261/11/14****Appointment of Treasurer:**

It was proposed by RAS that NP be the Treasurer, seconded by RAS, all in favour. The Treasurer will help the Clerk with the accounts.

**262/11/14****Burial Ground:**

**Area near the shed:** Once the Horse Chestnut leaves have been raked up to then herbicide the area and leave until the spring when some ornamental wild flower seed (received from Rob Mungovan CCC) can be planted, these will go well with the proposed roses.

**Area near the school:** Clerk has received wild flower seeds from Rob Mungovan (CCC). The soil has been raked and the nettles removed. The area will also require monthly mowing. There are still some rabbits in the area which need to be removed and the front fence rabbit proofed before the seeds can be planted. Clerk to get quotations for the rabbit fencing and make contact to have the rabbits cleared.

**Action: Clerk**

Shed still to be painted, notice to be put into Meldreth Matters for volunteers. **Action: Clerk**

**263/11/14****Agenda items for the next meeting:**

**Gully cleaning** – Parish Councillor's were going to report back on the gully's in their areas.

**264/11/14****Action Points: if not already covered:****265/11/14****Indemnity Forms (added item)**

SH and RAS signed the indemnity forms, witnessed by the Clerk for the following planning applications:

8 Howard Road, S/0263/14/FL, £3,617.42

108 High Street, S/0089/14/FL, £7,578.64

19 Whitecroft Rd, S/1336/13/FL, £4,961.93

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.07 (22:07hrs). The next meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 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