MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 4th December 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) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

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

266/12/14 **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from NP. JF arrived at 8.05pm.

267/12/14 **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.

268/12/14 **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 2 members of the public in attendance. Cllr Hart was also present in her capacity as a member of the public.
Mrs Hart (not Cllr Hart), reported that the fooway at Biddalls Blvd has begun, however she is concerned that the footway runs across a field where farm traffic needs access and it would appear that a drop kerb is not being done and that the foundations at this point need to be stronger to accommodate the vehicle weights. Clerk to contact Highways and Planning to see if they are aware of the situation. Cllr van de ven suggested that the Clerk contact Emma Murdene for Highways. **Action: Clerk**

269/12/14 **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 6th November 2014:**
Amendment – 258/11/14. JF made a specific reference to the covering of exposed manhole covers and sewage digester with plywood to make them safe.
252/11/14. Should be 'The undergrowth of weeds near the tennis courts hedge needs addressing'.

270/12/14 **Report from District Councillor:**
Sustainable Energy Partnership (SEP) and Green Deal:
Cllr Hart attended the relaunch event for the SEP. Residents should be aware that their Parish Council is signed up to this partnership, which supports sustainable energy awareness raising and initiatives. Training has recently been held to increase the number of people eligible to conduct thermal imaging of resident's homes. Residents are able to borrow a green light bulb from SCDC which enables them to try out a range of low energy light bulbs in their homes. Residents are encouraged to take the opportunity to have an energy assessment undertaken of their home at a new reduced price of £29 under the Green Deal. This is available to all home owners (shared ownership is also included).
Community Chest:
There are still funds available. Residents are invited to submit their applications by Christmas.

271/12/14 **Report from County Councillor:**
Road works: High Street near Station entrance: Following sewerage works, Cllr van de Ven has alerted the Highways team to the fact that the yellow paint markings (including Bus Stop Clearway) have been compromised, the seal around the corrective works is not complete, and the verge has been torn up. Highways are due to send an inspector over.
Drains: College Farm bend and approach drains: following on from ditch clearance in front of College Farm Business Park, Cllr van de Ven has asked Highways to clear the highways drains.
Lightsource £250K community contribution to Meldreth: There have been some delays in the issuing of the necessary street works order to Lightsource by the County Council. Cllr van de Ven is hopeful this will be resolved soon; if not the whole project could fall into question.
Fibre Broadband anomaly: It has only recently transpired that some areas of Meldreth have not been accommodated by the superfast broadband roll-out – Marys Way and Burtons. Marys Way was left out because the development was built after the contract and mapping were completed (and this is true for most other developments, though Melrose has been included) and Burtons, which should have been included. It is thought that these two neglected areas will be addressed next year – more information soon.

Community Transport for vulnerable people: Cllr van de Ven is proposing a motion about the need for a more joined-up approach to community transport commissioning, given the danger of falling budgets and the viability of community transport schemes. Currently there is no coordination of NHS, Social Care and Passenger Transport in the funding and commissioning of Community Transport, which has now been shown to save the NHS considerable costs.

Rail campaign: Great Northern will be providing the Rail User Group with funds for platform gardens, to be drawn down as needed.

Under the new 'management contract' framework that governs the new franchise, we may need to make our case to the Department for Transport for the retention of some of these schemes. First and foremost, reduced parking charges have transformed our nearly empty car park into a well-used one, and our 50% 16-19 student discount fare has seen significant take-up.

As reported previously, plans for a second full barrier level crossing in Shepreth are questionable as it is felt this could create new problems due to the longer time the barriers would be down. RAS said he had seen no problems with the current half barriers. Cllr van de Ven will be meeting NR on site next month to discuss.

Funding for MAYD from our train operator. Earlier this year Cllr van de Ven received a complaint about graffiti in the Foxton Station waiting room. Great Northern said it was reluctant to redecorate as this was an ongoing problem. Cllr van de Ven suggested to Great Northern that they might consider providing a grant to the Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) Youth Club in order to support community development work.

GTR and Groundwork, the Youth Club provider, attended the November Community Rail Partnership meeting to discuss ideas. A draft proposal by Groundwork was brought to the table and GTR were very interested in supporting it – to be responded to at our next meeting, in January. The proposal is for a special ten-week film-making project on the problem of disabled access at Meldreth Station. This would entail a range of skills and would involve raising awareness of the issue of disability in our community. If the project is funded, it would take place in spring 2015, supplementing MAYD Youth Club evenings.

272/12/14 **Matters arising: (no actions information only)**

Permission has been granted from SCDC for the Parish Council to co opt, notices will be put on the notice board asking for nominations to serve on the Parish Council.

Clearing of ivy from trees on Whitecroft Road/Fenny Lane. Clerk has contacted the Landowner.

Bollard at war memorial has been reported to Highways.

273/12/14 **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 20th November 2014

1 Station Road, S/1240/14/FL - Installation of solar panel on farm land for the production of electricity. Additional information 'Method Statement'. Meldreth Parish Council recommend Refusal with comments. 'This additional information does not change the Parish Council's earlier recommendation of Refusal, however if SCDC is minded to approve then the Parish Council have concerns at the disruption and danger to people using the public 'Right of Way' between Melbourn and Meldreth which is used not just for access for the station but by children and people accessing the facilities in Melbourn'

29 North End, S/2617/14/LB - Demolition of existing 1970's extension and removal of outbuildings, alterations and extension to the Grade II listed building. Meldreth Parish Council recommend Approval with comments. 'It is hoped that the materials used can be agreed to be sympathetic to the other listed buildings close by.

29 North End, S/2618/14/FL - Demolition of outbuildings and existing extension. Meldreth Parish Council recommend Approval with comments. 'It is hoped that the materials used can be agreed to be sympathetic to the other listed buildings close by.

SCDC Decisions:

Land between Railway and Sewage Disposal Works, Royston Road, Melbourn – S/1427/14/FL, permission has been granted for a Solar Farm and Associated Development

102 High Street, S/2167/14/FL, permission has been granted for single storey rear extension.

Other Items: 19 Whitecroft Road, S/1336/13/FL, appeal has been withdrawn. 40 Bell Close, S/2228/14/LD – application for a Lawful Development Certificate has been granted.

Planning Meeting 4th December 2014 – Verbal Report

Station Yard, High Street, S/1699/14/FL - Alterations & extensions to existing buildings to form additional cold storage and loading facilities in conjunction with overall site reorganisation (revised scheme S/1107/10/). Additional Information – night time noise management scheme and operational hours. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments 'The Parish Council recommend refusal and would like to reiterate their earlier comments which should be on record with the application discussed at the Parish Council meeting of the 21st August 2014'.

Land south of Melbourn,S/2358/14/FL - Underground cable and associated works between solar farms and substation. Revised Site Area. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'Approval'** with no comments.

Land North West of A10 Meldreth, S/1928/14/FL - Electrical Substation – Amendment: Updated Highway Method Statement, Traffic Management Plan and Archaeological Evaluation. This was for Information Only. Meldreth Parish Council noted the report and have no comments.

33 Whitecroft Road, S/2772/14/FL - Garage conversion and rear extension. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'No Objections'** with no comments.

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. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'No objections'** with comments. 'The access road to the houses appears to be a shared access with the quarry so that domestic traffic and heavy commercial vehicles will be mixed together on the road, causing a potential hazard to pedestrians and vehicles, this is especially of concern with the amount of children there may be in this area'.

SCDC Decisions: Land North West A10, Meldreth, S/1928/14/FL has been granted permission for an Electrical Substation.

Other Items:

1 Station Road, S/1240/14/FL - Installation of solar panels on farm land for the production of electricity will be going to SCDC Planning Committee on 3rd December 2014. This has now been approved by the Planning Committee at SCDC.

Melrose Development: DS reported that he is concerned about the development at Melrose. According to the delegation report the following appear to be of concern.

a) There is a damaged tree which needs attention.

b) The LAP has not been finished.

c) The Community Orchard has not been finalised.

Clerk to make enquires with the Planning Department. **Action: Clerk**

Mrs Lynch has looked over the Landscaping Plan for the solar farm on Bury Lane and has a comment which she will submit as her role as the Tree Officer for the Parish Council (see item 283/12/14).

274/12/14 Bury Lane Solar Farm:

A list of possible projects was discussed. Cllr Hart reported that the money will not be available until the project is running and there there will be an Open Day. The money is to be used on community projects and not used as part of local authority costings. It was suggested that a working party be set up to look at the proposed projects and how best the money can be used. It also might be advantageous to have a separate committee which will have members of the Parish Council, to run these projects. Clerk to make enquiries with other Parish Councils. The money has to come into the Parish Council as they undergo auditing. **Action: Clerk**

274/12/14 Mettle Hill: (Mrs Hart is not acting as District Councillor on these reports)

In regards to the Contribution from Sun Edison of £50,000.00. Mrs Hart would like the Parish Council to consider Mettle Hill for some of this funding as it now appears that the recent figures printed in Meldreth Matters are incorrect and there is a shortfall. The Mettle Hill Working Group have recently met and other ideas beings discussed are Self Build, Live-Work Units and Chalet Park.

Community Owned Solar Scheme: Sun Edison who are submitting the £50,000 have indicated that they are willing to explore this type of scheme. It should be noted that such a scheme does not have to be on community owned land – the solar scheme at Reach is leasing land from a local farmer. Mrs Hart is currently getting feedback from Mr G Borgonon and Mr David Smith as the SPEP representatives.

JF will survey the site. **Action: JF**

Mrs Hart will contact Mr Borgonon in regards to publishing the Mettle Hill minutes onto the web page. **Action: Mrs Hart**

275/12/14 **Playground:**

1. Monthly Report. The equipment appears to be in good working order.
2. Hedging quotations. Clerk has a site meeting on 9th December.
3. Football posts – costs for precept purposes. CJF have costed these, they have now both been removed. The money for these should be available from S106 funds.
4. Dog bin – have had confirmation that if the Parish Council purchase the dog bin then SCDC will include it on their schedule. Clerk to purchase. **Action: Clerk**

276/12/14 **Pavilion:**

To be discussed at the next meeting as NP was absent.

277/12/14 **Village Maintenance:**

Flambards layby **–** Highways are not in agreement concerning the ownership of the layby. They state that 'the concrete bays in Flambards are not public highway and are thus not maintained at public expense'. Clerk is still looking into correspondence which supports that these were adopted by Highways; RAS and SH will also look at their paperwork to see if they have anything which can support this.

Hedge and weeds at the Tennis courts **–** the hedge is cut annually and they are trying to get the hedge thinned out, they are also trying to address the elders which are growing amongst the hedge and address the weeds.

278/12/14 **Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Highways have been contacted regarding the following:

- reinstatement of yellow lines at Flambards Close - will be done soon.
- another 'No Parking' sign at Allerton Terrace. Highways state that there are the required amount of signs and if cars are not parking in accordance with this then it is a matter for the police.
- Adoption of the layby at Flambard's Close (see item 277/12/14).

PCSO's have been contacted regarding cars parking on the High Street

- Highways have responded that the footpath 9 (Meads Path on the Melbourn end) is not part of the highways and the landowner should be contacted. RAS believes this is Highways and suggested that the Clerk respond to Highways and ask them if they know who the landowner is? **Action: Clerk**
- The vacancy for a coopted councillor will now be advertised.
- Clerk still waiting confirmation of the new street name for the new development near the Station.
- Cambridge Future Transport: Notices were put up and questionnaires were put in One Stop, but there were no responses sent back to the Clerk, however residents may have sent them back to CCC.
- Gully Cleaning: The Parish Council are presently inspecting the gullies and the Clerk is putting together a list, this will be submitted to Pauline Peachey, SCDC once it has been completed.
- The 70th anniversary of the end of WWII will be during the Summer of 2015.
- The telephone box on Elin Way will be removed.
- Vehicles parking along the High Street and obstructing the footway will be ticketed by the PCSO's.

279/12/14 **Village Hall:**

- Car park update – disabled bay to be have further yellow hatching or a 'No Parking' sign to stop people parking and blocking of the exit. Site meeting to be arranged. **Action: Clerk**
- Boundary fence damage **–** Andrew Cole (SCDC) still looking into ownership of the fence.

280/12/04 Speedwatch and Signage:

- bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitecroft Road. Clerk to enquire with Cllr van de Ven as to who is the best contact to chase this matter. **Action: Clerk**
- cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road. Some of the hedges appear to have been cut back.
- Clerk has contacted the landowner regarding the ivy growing on the trees near Fenny Lane crossroads and is currently awaiting a response.

281/12/14 Councillors' Reports:

RAS

Will attend the Parish Forum Meeting on 8th December at Cambourne.

DS

MAYD held a meeting on 27th November and attendance figures were looked at. There are now 21 members registered who are between the ages of 11 and 14yrs, three members of staff. Funding from Police and Crime Commissioners Fund - Cambridgeshire (PPCF) has been successful but the details of allocations are not available at this time. There will be a meeting at the Melbourn Hub in January 2015.

AK

Reported that the tree near No.2 Howard Road need attention. Clerk to inform the Tree Officer at SCDC. **Action: Clerk**

CAL

Could there be a 20mph speed limit enforces outside the school? RAS reported that this has been investigated in the past with Safer Routes to School. However a speed survey was never undertaken so could be relooked at. This would need a Proposal, Councillors to discuss this further. At the moment there are chicanes and mettle barriers in place.

CAL also enquired if the double yellow lines at the corner of Elin Way near the High street could be extended, Cllr van de Ven stated that a Traffic Regulation Order would need to be completed and this would be expensive. This is in response to cars parking on the corner during school pick and drop off times. RAS reported also that this might effect residents who need to park outside their properties.

The lighting at the underpass on Station Road is not working. Clerk to inform Balfour Beatty. **Action: Clerk**

Can the Parish Council re-look at the possibility of bollards being placed at the stocks as the verge is being damaged where vehicles are cutting across the area. **Action: SH**

SH

Read out Mr Chamberlain's report for PPP.

On the 15th Non-member a working party cleared and burned the leaves at the stocks area.

The following work to be carried out:

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

Footpath 6 to be inspected near Topcliffe Mill re river bank.

Footpath 9 (see item 278/12.14)

Footpath 8 (Whitecroft Road end) the path surround behind the garages need cutting back, Clerk has spoken to the contractors but this work has still not been done. Clerk has a meeting with SP Landscapes and it is believed these are the contractors for SCDC, if they are not then Clerk to contact Cllr Hart to make further enquiries as to why this area is always missed off the schedule. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Hart**

The path wardens will carry out the Annual Path Survey for 2015 work schedule.

Mr Chamberlain will be leaving Meldreth in the New Year and hopes that a Parish Councillor will take on the role of P3 Coordinator.

282/12/14 Finance Group:

Holy Trinity PCC, Meldreth Lunch Club, Melbourn and Meldreth Lunch Club, Melbourn District Villages Association (Library), Good Companions

All the above to be discussed at the finance meeting on 18th December.

Action: Finance Working Group

283/12/14 Tree Warden:

It was proposed by RAS to ask Mrs Margaret Lynch, who had indicated that she was willing to stand, if she would like to take on the role of Tree Warden, seconded by CAL all agreed. Clerk to write to Mrs Lynch. **Action: Clerk**

284/12/14 **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	£1,122.68	November salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Grass cutting (November)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 15.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
BT	£ 282.16	Phone	TCA 1984
Payments for approval			
Inland Revenue	£ 240.38	Nov PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
P Hart	£ 20.00	Mettle Hill printing expenses	LGA 1972 s113
J Damant	£ 5.83	Expenses	LGA 1972 s113
D Stewart	£ 22.01	Expenses	LGA 1972 s113
Stationery Cupboard	£ 199.45	Office supplies	LGA 1972 s113

Deposits:

OPC office rent	£ 90.00

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

2. Talk Talk invoices will increase by £5.00 from 11th December 2014.

285/12/14 **Burial Ground:**

Notice has been put into Meldreth Matters asking for volunteers to help in the burial ground. Clerk still waiting to hear back from companies concerning fencing and leaf clearing.

286/12/14 **Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Emergency Plan
Bollard at the Stocks

287/12/14 **Action Points: if not already covered:**

Emergency Plan: Clerk still to make enquires.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.47. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th January 2015.

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