

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 8th January 2015 at 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 C A Land (**CAL**), Mr N Pellett (**NP**) and Mr D Stewart (**DS**)

In attendance: J Damant (Clerk)

Chairman's Discretion: extra item to be included 314/01/15 - Cooption.

- 288/01/15 To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr A Keena and Cllrs Hart and van de Ven who were attending Shepreth Parish Council meeting.
- 289/01/15 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:**
SH declared an interest in item 309/12/14 concerning the PCC (Memorial Bell donation).
- 290/01/15 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 four members of the public in attendance.
Matters raised by the public were:
The footways along the High Street are getting worse; they are very narrow in places and appear to be sloping making it very difficult to walk along safely. SH suggested that concerned residents put their concerns in writing to the County Councillor, Cllr van de Ven. There is a lot of water collecting along the gully in the High Street which is unable to exit through the storm drains as they are full of debris, this is causing concern as the water is pooling in the street. SH explained that the Parish Council are very aware of this and are presently doing a survey on all the drains which are supposed to have been jetted. When will the area around the train station be cleared. SH believed this would be soon.
- 291/01/15 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 4th December 2014:**
The minutes were proposed to be correct by RAS, seconded by DS all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 292/01/15 Report from District Councillor:**
Cllr Hart was absent from the meeting but had sent in a report, this was read out by SH.
Key points are:
- Energy Survey: Cllr Hart has had an energy survey of her house carried out on the reduced rate (£29) currently being offered to SCDC to residents and recommends that all residents make use of this while the government is still offering this scheme.
 - Changes to Planning: The government has announced changes to revise the threshold for the number of dwellings/aggregate size of development from previous level to now allowing applications for up to 10 dwellings or 1,000 sq m before triggering a requirement to provide affordable housing or developer contributions.
 - Councillor Surgery: The next district councillor surgery for all residents will be held in the meeting room upstairs at The Plough in Shepreth on Monday 2nd February between 1.30-2.30 pm.
- 293/01/15 Report from County Councillor:**
Cllr van de Ven was absent from the meeting but had sent in a report, this was read out by SH.
Key points are:
- Footway, Kneesworth Road: CCC Planning and Highways will inspect this imminently.
 - Melbourn prospective development of 199 homes off New Road: This will have an impact on various aspects of Meldreth life including parking at and in the vicinity of the Station; pressure on doctor's surgery and early years education spaces, both of which are at capacity, as well as impact on A10 traffic and junction points. Cllr van de Ven will be arguing against the development on the basis that speculative development outside of planning policy frameworks by definition has no accompanying infrastructure plan to anticipate and address the infrastructure needs of the increased population.
 - Meldreth Station Cambridge-bound platform: Great Northern will be installing a new shelter on the Cambridge-bound platform.
 - Cycling infrastructure for the whole of the A10 corridor between Cambridge and Royston is included in the proposed first round of City Deal funding, to be agreed later this month

- 294/01/15 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**
There were no matters arising.
- 295/01/14 Planning:** Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Fallon, Land and Stewart (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board.
There was no Planning Meeting held on 18th December 2014
Planning Meeting held on 8th January 2015 (verbal report)
104 High Street, S/2519/14/FL - Erection of 5 residential flats. The Parish Council recommended 'No Objections' with comments. 'The Parish Council have concerns on the increased parking on the East side of the High Street, considering there are already parking concerns on the West Side. SCDC to consider some sort of parking restrictions in this area.
90 High Street, S/2824/14/FL - Detached double garage. the Parish Council recommend 'Approval' with no comments.
98 North End, S/2882/14/FL - Single storey side extension. The Parish Council recommend 'Approval' with no comments.
84 High Street, S/2928/14/FL - Single storey side extension. The Parish Council recommend 'No Objections' with no comments.
12 Fenny Lane, C/11/17/071/02 - To shorten stem growing over drive by 25% to reduce lever arm and weight. To undertake crown reduction of 15-20% over entire crown to mitigate limited decay at base following 'Picus' test. The Parish Council recommend 'Comments'. The Parish Council's Tree Officer's comments will be sent to SCDC.
- 296/01/15 Footway at Biddall's Blvd:**
Concern has been expressed by the Parish Council regarding the footway with street furniture still being in place and the material used appears to be very loose and has not compacted down. CCC and SCDC will be inspecting the footway. RAS suggested that the Parish Council should recommend to not discharge this planning condition for the extra showman sites until the footway is rectified and fit for purpose.
- 297/01/15 Bury Lane Solar Farm:**
Clerk is still looking into projects whereby Parish Councils have set up separate Committees to oversee financial projects. **Action: Clerk**
- 298/01/15 Mettle Hill:**
Mrs Hart was absent but reported that the next working group meeting was on 12 January. RAS reported that the idea of park homes, which would allow mobile homes being available to older people was a possible option. The working group have also been looking into a Community Solar Scheme and had tried to get feedback for such a scheme at Reach, However this scheme appears to have not progressed as no information after May 2014 is available.
JF has inspected the site and drawn up a site survey which will be suitable to present to contractors. Red pegs have been placed at the back of the site.
- 299/01/15 Playground:**
1. Monthly Report – the play equipment appears to be in good working order.
2. Hedging quotations – three quotations have been received; £1000; £1325 and £1406. SH proposed that the Recreation ground working party let the clerk know who they would recommend, the clerk will then contact the company, seconded by RAS all agreed. **Action: Clerk**
3. Roundabout – Dave Chappell to look at the roundabout to see if he would be able to make the repairs, if not that CAL proposed that it is replaced. The cost of replacing the parts is £1,150.10 by Wicksteed, who originally put the roundabout in. These roundabouts are no longer available and to purchase a new roundabout would cost a minimum of £2000, this was seconded by CJF all agreed. **Action: Clerk**
- 300/01/15 Pavilion:**
NP has met with the architect and is due to now meet with the builder. SH suggested that it would be worth looking into extending the pavilion to include a parish office.
- 301/01/15 Emergency Plan:**
Clerk has received the template from SCDC, SH, CAL and the Clerk will start the process. JF suggested to also include air traffic accidents as that does not appear to have been included. **Action: Clerk/SH/CAL**

- 302/01/15 Village Maintenance:**
Flambards lay-by – SH has the paperwork, which states that Highways are responsible for the lay-by. SH will give copies to the Clerk who can then forward them to the Highway Department. **Action: SH/Clerk**
Ditch at Recreation Ground: Clerk has received a further quote from SP Landscapes
- 303/01/15 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
Footpath 9 (Meads Path on the Melbourn end). Clerk has asked Mike Cooper (CCC) for further clarification on this footpath, however RAS reported that this is the footpath he looks after and at the moment it appears to be in a good state. Clerk to forward to Steve Marshall who is looking after the footpaths, until a parish councillor can be appointed. **Action: Clerk**
Howard's Road – Clerk has spoken to the contractor and asked them to clear the nettles from around the garages. Cllr Hart to make enquiries if this does not happen.
Tree Officer - Mrs Margaret Lynch has agreed to be the Parish's Tree Warden.
Pecuniary Interests – JF has informed the Parish Council of a possible interest concerning the development at Northstowe. Information has been sent to the Monitoring Officer at SCDC. Mr Gary Duthie, Senior Lawyer SCDC does not have any concerns regarding JF with his work connections to Northstowe. However, JF must declare an interest if he feels it is relevant.
Buckingham Palace: Garden Party nominations in by 27th January for 12th May
Honours Nominations: Nominations by Monday 9th March
WWII Small Grants: Grants of up to £500 available for to local groups and organisations to support community activities linked to and inspired by the 70th anniversary. First part of the application to be in by 9th February.
- 304/01/15 Bollards at the Stocks Area:**
SH circulated some information/brochures showing bell shaped bollards which may look well at the Stock's area. It was also suggested that, depending on cost, one of these could be erected at the war memorial. Costs needed. **Action: SH**
- 305/01/15 Village Hall:**
- Car park update – bay adjacent to disabled bay to have yellow hatching or a 'No Parking' sign to stop people parking and blocking the exit for disabled users. A site meeting with Steve from North Herts Surfacing Ltd still to be held.
- Boundary fence damage – Andy Cole, Housing SCDC is still trying to find out who is responsible for the fence, the person responsible is on long term sick. As it is still not clear as to who owns the fence it was decided to wait until SCDC can give a definitive answer.
- Hire charges to increase by 0.50p per hour from the 1st February 2015.
- The paving slabs outside the village hall linking the car park to the footway are the responsibility of the Parish Council.
Street Light Survey (footway lights): Clerk will carry out the survey **Action: Clerk**
- 306/01/15 Speedwatch and Signage:**
- Bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitecroft Road. Clerk to contact Cllr van de Van to see what is happening with this item. **Action: Clerk**
- Cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road. SH and Clerk will do a site visit to check all the hedges at this junction. **Action: Clerk/SH**
- Clearing of ivy from trees near Fenny Lane: Clerk has emailed the land owner but has still not heard back. RAS suggested calling the owner. The trees need the ivy removing first to see if the sight lines at this junction can be improved, however if this does not work than the recommendation of CCC Highways to have the trees or some of the trees removed will need to be investigated further.
- 307/01/15 Councillors' Reports:**
DS – MAYD: There are no meetings for this month and future funding is being prepared.
CJF – the grass verge is being damaged along Howard's Road between 13 and 17. Clerk to check with SCDC. **Action: Clerk**
CAL – agrees with the public that the footways are getting very bad and that some of the hedges in the village need cutting back. RAS reported that he had also noticed this and had sent the information on two hedges on North End to the Clerk. It was suggested that CAL send the information to the Clerk so that letters can be sent out. **Action: CAL/Clerk**
- 308/01/15 Station Road Bridge:**
The recent incident on the bridge has raised concern regarding the overall condition of the

fence/hedge alongside the footpath. DS has carried out a site survey, which indicated that most of the existing fence is in need of urgent repair and upgrade, in order to satisfy current safety standards. It is believed that the fence in question belongs to Network Rail, Clerk to make enquiries.

Action: Clerk

309/01/15

Finance Group:

Donations for 2014/15

Meldreth Lunch Club - £120.00

Melbourn and Meldreth Lunch Club - £300.00

Melbourn District Villages Association (Library) - £250.00

Good Companions - £240.00

RDCT - £450.00

It was proposed by CJF that all requests be granted, seconded by CAL all agreed.

Holy Trinity PCC – Memorial Bell (interest declared by SH). It was proposed by RAS that a donation of £2000.00 be given to the refurbishment of the War Memorial Bell, seconded by CAL, all agreed. SH declared an interest and took no part in the decision. The Parish Council have no powers to donate money to the church; however the Memorial Bell is for the whole community and not just the church. It will also feature in the Emergency Plan.

Donations for 2015/16

It was proposed by RAS that the request for £450.00 be granted to RCDT for the next financial year, seconded by CAL all agreed. This payment will not be available until April 2015

310/01/15

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	November salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Grass cutting (November)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 20.31	Broadband	TCA 1984

Payments for approval

Inland Revenue	£ 222.55	Nov PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
Dave Chappell	£ 44.00	Resetting of Litterbin in rec	OSA 1906 s9/10
Eon	£ 42.07	Electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s144

Deposits:

Memorial stone £35.00; OPC Dec Rent £90.00; OPC contribution £300.00;
Memorial stone £35.00

311/01/15

Precept:

After discussions it was proposed by SH to request a precept of £55,500.00, seconded by CAL, all agreed. This will make a band D house £74.32, last year this was £74.29.

311/01/15

Burial Ground:

Still waiting to get the fencing done before any other work can be carried out. Clerk has received one quote and is awaiting for 2 others, site meeting on Monday with JAB.

312/01/15

Agenda items for the next meeting:

There are no agenda items to be added, however this can change.

313/01/15

Action Points: if not already covered:

There were no action points

314/01/15

Cooption – Chairman's discretion

All legal requirements have now been fulfilled, it was proposed by RAS that Mr David Lee be co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by DS all agreed. There have been no other nominations or interests by any other party. Mr Lee accepted and will sign his Acceptance of Office with the Clerk next week along with his Register of Interests.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th February 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