

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 5th February 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 D Lee (**DL**) and Mr D Stewart (**DS**)

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

- 314/02/15** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Mr N Pellett and Mr A Keena
- 315/02/15** **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:**
There were no interests declared.
- 316/02/15** **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 two members of the public in attendance.
Concern was raised regarding the parking situation outside the One Stop shop in the High Street. Lorries have to park near or outside the shop for deliveries which is not always easy, the situation seems exasperated on the weekends as lorries are blocking driveways in order to carry out deliveries. Would it be possible to have the white lines reinstated outside peoples houses, which has been done in the past but the lines have now faded?
- 317/02/15** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 8th January 2015:**
Following minor amendments the minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by RAS, the Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record, all agreed.
- 318/02/15** **Report from District Councillor:**
Cllr Hart read out her report which had been circulated to all councillors.
Cambridge Future Transport:
Cllr Hart attended the Area M meeting called to evaluate the feedback from the recent questionnaires concerning bus routes and alternative transport arrangements. The local service is one of the more viable services, with a lower level of subsidy per journey, despite the small number of passengers. It seems likely there will be tweaks to the service, rather than bus routes being cut. The county wide consultation is still ongoing so nothing can be certain yet, but the message from the meeting was reasonably positive.
Bin collection:
Cllr Hart had a couple of residents contact her about the gaps in collection over the Christmas period, both for the black and the blue bin. Cllr Hart can report that the reduction down to monthly for the green bin collection during the winter has not given rise to any complaints from Meldreth or Shepreth residents. The SCDC Environmental Health portfolio holder reported at Council last week that SCDC had received 97 complaints in total over the Christmas period out of 63,000 dwellings collected from, representing 0.15 of residents. None of the complaints at this level concerned green bin collection. The changes to the service anticipate a £830,000 cost cut from government next year, out of which £400,000 has been found already.
Thermal Imaging:
David Smith and Graham Borgonon very kindly visited Cllr Hart's home to use the thermal imaging to demonstrate where heat is escaping from it. No prizes for correctly guessing it is from the poorly insulated roof! If anyone would like to have their home imaged, do contact me and I will put you in touch with Graham and David.
- 319/02/15** **Report from County Councillor:**
Driveway immediately next door to One Stop: For many years Cllr van de Ven has received complaints about parking over the access drive by One Stop shoppers. To help remind drivers that clear access is needed, the resident has asked whether yellow lines could be put down over the drive?
City Deal and Cambridge-Royston Corridor: While CCC had been very firmly led to believe by senior officers that the Royston-Cambridge A10 corridor cycle link would be included in Tranche 1 City Deal funding the Executive, a body of five decision makers of which three are elected members and the other two represent the Local Enterprise Partnership and Cambridge University, excluded the A10 scheme and indeed all five South Cambs rural cycle schemes.

Those schemes that were selected are important (mainly about bus priority lanes) but Tranche 1 requires delivery within a specified time-frame in order to trigger Tranche 2 funding, and there is doubt as to meeting the deliverability requirement. The A10 scheme has already had money spent on feasibility studies and design by both Cambs and Herts County Council and the Melbourn-Royston segment is now shovel ready – on the understanding that it needed to be. There are serious questions to be asked about City Deal governance. It may be that the Foxton-Cambridge link could be provided through other funding sources, on the basis of Foxton sitting within a six-mile radius of Cambridge, though this is not definite. Support from Meldreth PC for the principle of the overall scheme, and its potential to mitigate against an increase in vehicle traffic congestion, would be appreciated. Modal shift along the A10 corridor through access to cycling and rail is a priority of the South Cambs/Cambridge Transport Strategy. SH stated that Meldreth Parish Council would support Cllr van de Ven and the initial scheme, all councillor's agreed that a letter of support should be written to Cllr Manning.

Action: SH

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership:

Two Network Rail (NR) officers attended the meeting last week, to discuss local station and Shepreth level crossing issues. NR is keeping an open mind on whether or not to upgrade the Meldreth Road level crossing to full barriers and understood from the meeting that currently there is no risk taking problem there – and that full barriers could create problems that do not now exist. Steady through-flow of traffic is critical.

Our understanding that the new Train Operating Company, Great Northern, would be introducing half-hourly off-peak services, to supplement half-hourly peak time, when the Thameslink programme kicks off, is apparently no longer accurate – goal posts have changed. The CRP has agreed to lobby for half-hourly off-peak trains at our stopping stations and Meldreth PC's support would be appreciated.

College Farm bend drains: Cllr van de Ven has again (third time) contacted County Highways to say that the drains appear yet to be cleared, and that the pooling is causing vehicles to swerve into the wrong lane on a blind bend.

Melrose streetlighting nuisance for Whitecroft Road property: Cllr van de Ven contacted Balfour Beatty; the offending light is in the control of the housing association, which it now understood not to be Jephsons. Clerk will contact Housing.

Action: Clerk

Winter gritting: Cllr van de Ven last night rode on the gritting lorry that does a Meldreth run. The job is done with precision and detailed attention.

320/02/15

Matters arising: (no actions information only)

Station Road Bridge – The accident which occurred on the bridge in December 2014 has been reported to Network Rail who are looking into it. Highways have also reported it.

Precept: request for £55,500 has been submitted.

Street Light Survey – Clerk presently carrying this out.

321/02/15

Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Burlton, Chamberlain, 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 22nd January 2015

Planning Meeting held on 5th February 2015 (verbal report)

104 High Street, S/2948/14/LB - Demolition, extension and alterations – demolition of conservatory and chimney, extension for 2 sun rooms, alterations to 2 roofs. Alterations to windows and doors. Conversion of store into studio including three roof lights and opening one doorway. Removal of hallway under stair cupboard, first floor cupboard and door.

Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No Objections**' with no comments.

104-106 High Street, S/2946/14/FL - Extensions to dwellings and cartlodge. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No Objections**' with no comments.

26 Flambards Close, S/0138/15/FL - Single storey rear extension

Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Approval**' with no objections.

Fillcup Field, Land to the north of Meldreth Rd, S/2944/14/FL - The construction of a glasshouse, 380kw Biomass boiler, 150kw anaerobic digestion plant, covered feed stock storage clamps, covered digestate loading area, covered vehicles store, farm workers log cabin and associated plant. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**No Objections**' with comments. 'Meldreth Parish Council would like to see a transport plan/traffic assessment with the proposed routes to the site, vehicle movements with vehicle sizes and a time table.

SCDC Decisions:

90 High Street has been granted permission for a detached double garage S/2824/14/FL

33 Whitecroft Road has been granted permission for a garage conversion and rear extension S/2772/14/FL

12/14 Chiswick End has been granted permission for a single storey rear and side extension, erection of greenhouse and widening of existing vehicular access S/1818/14/FL

12/14 Chiswick End had been granted permission for demolition and replacement of excising 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 replacement, removal of opaque glass in rear and reinstatement of clear glass window, new back door, re-render the property in a lime mortar finish and addition of security alarm S/1820/14/LB

98 North End has been granted permission for a single storey side extension S/2882/14/FL

322/02/15

Footway at Biddall's Blvd:

CCC have inspected the footway and have put in new specifications. CCC are negotiating with the landowner and the contractor.

1. the path as laid while replicating similar rural paths in the County its design is less than practical in this situation.
2. The surface of the path could be substantially improved by the application of a spray tar and clippings, which has been successfully laid in Gamilngay and Bourne. John Cobb the contractor who laid the path will be providing me with a cost for these works as soon as practical.
3. The works to stabilise the footway surface unfortunately cannot be undertaken until the spring (April/May) as the weather conditions at present are too onerous.
4. The village sign, distance to the give way and beware riders signs will be relocated/removed by the Highway Authority, but this will again have to wait until the new financial year as the remaining maintenance funds are being garnered against possible forthcoming winter damage.

323/02/15

Solar Farm: Substation (Black Peak Farm and Muncey's Farm)

The contract has been amended by Lightsource. It was proposed by CAL and seconded by CJF that the contract can now be signed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Proper Officer, all agreed. It was suggested that the Parish Council ask for clarification as to what would happen if Lightsource sold to another company, would the agreement still be honoured as this is a 20 year agreement.

Report from Mrs P Hart: A working group comprised of local district county and parish councillors has met to draw up a list of local projects to approve prioritise, cost and implement. The proposed list will be put before the Parish Council and will be used to demonstrate to possible funding sources that we have "shovel ready" schemes to attract funding.

Grants: Ian Dewer from CAPALC is happy to be part of a working group to look at how to spend monies coming in through grants and to help in trying to locate further grants for particular projects. He recommended putting together a 3-5yr plan.

An article to be put into Meldreth Matters asking for members of the village to either volunteer for the working group (there should be a cross section of the community) or for ideas as to what the money could be used for.

Action: Clerk

324/02/15

Mettle Hill (MHWG):

The MHWG met on Monday 12th January. JF very kindly carried out a full survey of the site over Christmas and tenders have subsequently gone out to three companies asking for cost estimates for clearing the former travellers' area. Site visits of live/work schemes and chalet parks have been undertaken, and we have had a representative from a property company specialising in live/work schemes visit the site and advise us. We estimate that we will be in a position to report substantively to the parish council by April and hopefully move towards a village-wide consultation by June.

RAS congratulated the working group on the work being done.

325/02/15

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – all equipment appears to be in good working order.
2. Hedging around play equipment and trees along footpath – will be completed when the ground is not so wet.
3. Roundabout – Clerk to contact Dave Chappell.

Action: Clerk

Other items:

Five aside goal posts: CJF to look at goal posts with the Clerk and if they are within the costings of the Standing Orders to be purchased.

Action: CJF/Clerk

Ditch Clearance at the recreation ground: SH suggested that a decision be made on this item as it has been ongoing for many months and quotes are not forthcoming. The football pitch is prone to flood and the ditch needs a sweeping of the debris so that the water is able to flow freely. It was therefore proposed by RAS, seconded by SH to accept the quote from SP Landscapes for the clearance of the ditch, all agreed.

326/02/15

Pavilion:

Deferred until next meeting as Mr Pellett was absent.

CJF reported that at the recent football meeting it was implied that a further set of plans may need to be drawn up to include disabled toilets and a possible space for the Parish Office.

CLr van de Ven questioned the placing of the parish office in the pavilion, however it was felt that as the pavilion is the property of the Parish Council it should be looked into. The present set up is that the office is situated at the Community Rooms on Elin Way which is owned by SCDC and the Parish Council pay a yearly rental fee.

327/02/15

Emergency Plan:

CAL and SH are in the process of putting the Emergency Plan together.

328/02/15

Village Maintenance:

Flambards layby – SH has located the original documentation which states from Highways (CCC) that the hard standing areas are indeed under the jurisdiction of the Highways Department. Clerk to forward this information to Highways.

Action: Clerk

329/02/15

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Footpath 9 (Meads Path on the Melbourn end) – Clerk has emailed Stephen Marshall.

Howard Road: The nettles and shrubs still do not appear to have been cut. I have emailed Andy Cole (SCDC) so see if he can help in this.

Street naming: Nothing back yet

Minor Highways Improvement Scheme: 'Meldreth Parish Council was unsuccessful but is placed on the reserve list (amber on the attached document). This means that if for any reason, it proves impossible to implement any of the approved applications it may be possible to proceed with their project, if this proved the case we will get back to you'

Bin Liner- The mettle bins are being taken so it was suggested that a plastic bin liner would be more advisable. SH will also see if a lock of some kind can also be implemented.

330/02/15

Bollards at the Stocks Area:

SH reported that after consultation with the Highways department who do not advise using large bell shaped bollards as they can cause fatalities when hit. They suggested placing oak bollards with a chain on the affected corners. This has been done in Ickleton and Harston and appear to be working. The areas in question are the corners of the triangle grass verge. It was also suggested that this be implemented at the war memorial area. SH will get costing, the parish council will have to fund and maintain the bollards.

Action: SH

331/02/15

Village Hall:

- Car park update – disabled bay. Clerk arranging a site visit.

Action: Clerk

- Boundary fence damage at the Village Hall carpark and No.3 Elin Way. This will now be repaired by SCDC as they are responsible for this fence

332/02/15

Parking Issues outside the One Stop Shop:

Mr Tom Ray from One Stop has contacted the Parish Council regarding the ongoing problem with delivery vehicles trying to gain access to the shop. Clerk to write to Mr Ray asking for a site visit in order to explore possible solutions. It was agreed that CLr van de Van also be included in these discussions. It was also suggested to enquire with Mr Ray if this type of concern has been expressed by other villages and if so how it was dealt with. One suggestion was to use to use smaller delivery vehicles.

Action: Clerk

333/02/15

Speedwatch and Signage:

- bollards for Fenny Lane/Whitecroft Road.

- cut back of the hedge at the corner of Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road. Clerk has contacted the landowner who stated that the ivy had been cut back during the summer of 2014 but only from the trunk of the tree and only the ones nearest the corner.

The other problem is the Rosebay Willow Herb which is growing in the ditch. Clerk has contacted Mike Cooper for advice. CAL will contact the landowner to arrange a site visit.

Action: CAL

- 334/02/15 Councillors' Reports:**
DS - MAYD The first meeting of this year is to take place soon.
CJF – Some of the hedges along Howard Road are very overgrown and encroaching onto the footway. CJF to give details to the clerk so letters can be written. **Action: Clerk**
SH – Clerk appraisal to be arranged.
- 335/02/15 Pay Awards:**
National Salary Award 2014-2016 have been received from NALC. New pay scales to be implemented from 1st January 2015.
- 336/02/15 Finance Group:**
Financial Risk Assessment. NP has looked over the document but a meeting needs to take place with the Finance Group. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**
- 337/02/15 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 | £ 1,120.12 | January salaries | LGA 1972 s112 |
| D P Gardens | £ 514.16 | Grass cutting (January) | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Talk Talk | £ 20.31 | Broadband | TCA 1984 |
| RDCT | £ 450.00 | Donation 2014/15 | S137 |
- Payments for approval**
- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
| Inland Revenue | £ 227.52 | January PAYE/NI | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Meldreth Lunch Club | £ 120.00 | Donation 2014/15 | S137 |
| M & M Lunch Club | £ 300.00 | Donation 2014/15 | S137 |
| MDVA (Library) | £ 250.00 | Donation 2014/15 | S137 |
| Good Companions | £ 240.00 | Donation 2014/15 | S137 |
| Village Hall Trust | £ 98.75 | Room rental | LGA 1972 s114 |
| Stationery Cupboard | £ 43.10 | Office supplies | LGA 1972 s113 |
- Deposits:**
- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| OPC Jan Rent | £ 90.00 | | |
| S106 | £ 3,617.42 | S/0263/14/FL (land adj 8 Howard Rd) | |
| S106 | £ 7,578.64 | S/0089/14/FL (108 High St) | |
| S106 | £ 4,962.74 | S/1336/13/F (19 Whitcroft Rd) | |
- 338/02/15 Article 4 of the SCDC Planning Directive:**
SCDC is currently seeking views concerning the proposed use of article 4 directions to help retain village pubs. Article 4 directions could be used to withdraw the permitted development rights which currently allow their conversion to other uses such as retail or offices, or for their demolition. An article 4 direction does not prevent the development but does require planning permission for the development to be obtained first. Councillors to complete as individuals, leaflets have also been placed in the village shop.
- 339/02/15 Burial Ground:**
Rabbit fencing have received 2 quotations. As this has been ongoing for a long time and gaining quotations has not been easy it was proposed by SH that the council make a decision on the two quotations presented. It was proposed by RAS, seconded by SH to accept the quotation from JMB contractors. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**
- 340/02/15 Agenda items for the next meeting:**
Clerk's appraisal
Financial Risk Assessment
- 341/02/15 Action Points: if not already covered:**
Clerk to put agendas and minutes on the notice board on Elin Way.
There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.52pm. The next meeting will be on 5th March
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.52pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March 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