

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 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 C A Land (**CAL**), Mr D Lee (**DL**), 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)

- 342/03/15 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies were received from Mr A Keena and Mr J Fenner.
- 343/03/15 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.
- 344/03/15 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 was one member of the public in attendance. There were no public items discussed.
- 345/03/15 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015:**  
Amendment: 324/02/15. 'RAS congratulated the working group on the work being done but also suggested that a 'No Development' option be considered, at the present time, provided that the site remains safe and secure'.  
The minutes were then proposed by CAL and seconded by CJF to be correct. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 346/03/15 Report from District Councillor:**
- 1. Fillcup Field, Meldreth Rd - Planning application S/2944/14/L**  
Cllr van de Ven and Cllr Hart have been busy this month receiving and responding to correspondence concerning this planning application for a site between Meldreth and Shepreth. As you recall it came before Meldreth planning committee last month and further detail was requested on traffic routing and vehicle size. Cllr Hart has been informed by the SCDC planning officer allocated to this application that over 100 letters and emails have been received, most of them objections. Traffic is a key concern, together with environmental and visual impact and proximity to the L Moor. Borehole extraction will not be taking place.
- 2. Eden Farm**  
It has been confirmed that Eden Farm have left the premises at the station yard, with the lease being taken over by their holding company Kitwave. The freeholder has been asked to ensure that the premises are secure while they are empty.
- 3. Rogue traders**  
Cllr Hart has learnt of malpractice and verbal threats on the part of contractors engaged to carry out services at local residences. Please be advised that any verbal or physical threat be reported to the police and malpractice to the Trading Standards Authority.
- 4. SCDC Budget and increase in Council Tax**  
A 31% reduction to the grant the Council receives to deliver services in 2015/16 means savings in the region of £670,000 are needed to balance the books with senior councillors warning further reductions to funding are to follow.  
To meet the savings target next year, the Council meeting backed the proposed budget that would deliver savings equivalent to £11.23 for every band D household next year and agreed that council tax would need to rise by an average of £2.45 a year to protect services. The proposed charge for an average band D home would increase from £122.86 to £125.31 which equates to an increase of 1.99%.
- 5. S.106 agreements**  
For developments under 15 dwellings, S.106 agreements will no longer be applied which means that a community can no longer seek contributions for open space or community facilities. However, SCDC will continue to secure Affordable Housing, through the use of a Condition requiring an Affordable Housing Scheme for all planning permissions where such a contribution would have been required through a s106 Agreement.
- 347/03/15 Report from County Councillor:**
- 1. Council Tax:** An increase of 1.99% in council tax was voted through the County Council meeting earlier this month. It is not enough to prevent massive cuts that continue due to a reduction in overall government revenue support grants.

**2. Street lights and switch offs:** Contrary to expectations and due to budget cuts, ironically, the County Council has not been able to roll-out its 'residential area' street lighting switch off programme to all villages – this requires a 'Central Management System' to be installed and will take place in cities, towns and larger villages. Meldreth will be included but Shepreth, Whaddon and other smaller neighbouring villages will not. There will be difficult anomalies in every village and for Meldreth one which SvdV anticipates is that Station Road is classified as 'residential.' That means lights will likely be turned off from midnight-6am. The Parish Council will be given the option of paying to keep any lights illuminated. The cost will be very small though there are no details at the moment. A concern from residents is that early morning rail commuters should have an illuminated safe walking route to the station where possible. This road is also a key link road to Melbourn and the A10 bypass. It was suggested that the Clerk find out via CCC which lights are being proposed to be turned off.

**Action: Clerk**

**3. Community and bus transport:** The 'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' project overseeing the bus subsidy cuts is being reconfigured yet again, though now with a much stronger remit to consider overlapping interests with adult social care, health and education transport. Whippet has been taken over by Tower Transit who have expressed a particular interest in rural bus services. Cllr van de Ven will be chairing the Steering Group.

**4. City Deal cycle scheme funding:** Following the disappointing decision from the CD Executive, the A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign has asked local businesses if they would write a letter in support of the A10 scheme. Strangely, the list of schemes singled out by the Executive were assessed specifically excluding their deliverability and cost. Because the City Deal is structured on triggers that depend on the delivery of schemes, the challenging natures of those schemes that were selected could present problems. The A10 scheme is largely shovel-ready and scores highly on deliverability. Business support has been overwhelming.

Meanwhile, funding from central government's Cycling Ambition Grant was announced Monday; this is going to eight cities including Cambridge, and can be deployed within a six-mile radius into South Cambs. So a chunk of that funding will go to the Foxton-Cambridge route, subject to County Council committee approval next week. Work should actually start almost immediately, and on Monday the cutting back of hedging between Foxton and Harston was carried out, in preparation. The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign meets next March 19, 7:30, Barrington Village Hall.

**5. Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group** meets for its AGM on March 11, 7:30, at the Melbourn Hub. Through our Community Rail Partnership we have good contact with Network Rail. SvdV has asked them to come out again to look at the station bridge. They will be returning to bring the post and wire fencing into good repair throughout. Unfortunately they will not be looking to do anything else at present.

**6. College Farm Bends drains:** Mike Cooper says that the drains on the field side need to be cleared by their private owner before he can clear out the highways drains. Update from the Clerk is that the landowners have been contacted and RAS has agreed to meet with them if needed.

**348/03/15**

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

Street Light Survey is in the process of being completed.

**349/03/15**

**Planning:** Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Fallon, Land, Pellatt and Stewart (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board. **There was no planning meeting on 19th February 2015**

**Planning Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 (verbal report)**

**11 North End, S/2014/15/FL & S/0215/15/LB** - Erection of conservatory and veranda and internal alterations to garage. Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'No Objections' with comments. 'If SCDC are minded to approve this application then a condition to be inserted that the converted garage remains ancillary to the occupation of the main building and not a separate residence'.

**SCDC Decisions: 29 North End, S/2617/14/LB** has been granted permission for demolition of existing 1970's extension and removal of outbuilding, alterations and extension to the Grade II listed building. **84 High Street, S/2928/14/FL** has been granted permission for a single storey side extension. **32 Station Road, Barn, Fieldgate Nursery, S/1545/14/FL & S/1547/14/LB** has been granted permission for conversion of barn into annex for staff accommodation associated with Fieldgate Nurseries.

**350/03/15**

**Fenny Lane Cross Roads:**

CAL has spoken with the landowner and they have agreed to get the ivy removed from the trees, this may have to be carried out after the birds have finished nesting.

The Rosebay Willowherb will be cut down and monitored by the Parish Council's grass cutter as and when the ditch is cut. There have been no further reports of Himalayan Balsam within this ditch. SH had previously removed it in the past.

- 351/03/15 Solar Farms:**  
Update on Bury Lane Solar Farm (SunEdison)  
Clerk has written to Emily Marshall and is currently awaiting a response. SH reported that the project of which SunEdison approve, has not actually been agreed, at a parish council meeting and may not be viable. This is in connection with having a ramp installed on the North side of the station. Other items need to be addressed first to see if this project is actually a viable option. SH to meet with Cllr Hart to discuss further. **Action: SH/PH**  
Documentation regarding Community Benefit for substation has been signed and sent back (Lightsource).
- 352/03/15 Mettle Hill:**  
PH reported that a meeting has taken place. JF has being costing the ground clearance and the first quote received is £27,500.00. A 'Ground Clearance Investigation Report' will also be needed at a further cost of £3000.00. JF is seeking further quotes. The idea of Self Build is also being looked into.  
SH reported that SCDC is again looking at possible sites for building on. PH reported that you can register your land for possible self build for free; however RAS stated that Mettle Hill would not be in agreement with the current Local Plan.
- 353/03/15 Playground:**  
1. Monthly Report – All equipment appears to be in good working order.  
2. The removal of the hedging around play equipment and the trees along footpath has been completed, with the chippings being delivered to SH for the footpaths.  
3. Roundabout – Mr D Chappel has responded that the wood needed for the project is specially treated and would be very costly; it might be a better option to go with the original contractor. Clerk, CJF and CAL to re-look at the costings for replacing the platforms or replacing the roundabout. **Action: CJF/CAL/Clerk**  
4. Clerk to place an order for one 5 a-side football goal, from Wicksteed at a cost of £259.00 Mr D Chappel will install.
- 354/02/15 Pavilion:**  
NP suggested that the plans are relooked at to see if it would be an option to include an office space. SH suggested that two prices be sought on to include an office space and one without. DS does not think that the pavilion is the right place to have the office and that it is better situated in the community rooms. However, the pavilion does belong to the Parish Council and at the present time rent is paid to SCDC for the office space. It was also suggested that the pavilion needs to be available to a wider audience. NP will get more plans. **Action: NP**
- 355/03/15 Village Maintenance:**
- Flambards lay-by – Reply from Highways. Correspondence has been sent to Mr Cooper CCC, who has replied stating that 'I have checked our records and I am very sorry but the contents of my letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2006 appear incorrect'. If Highways are not responsible for the lay-bys, then who is? Further investigation is needed. **Action: SH/Clerk**
  - Ditch at the recreation ground has been skimmed.
  - RAS has received a verbal request from the Vicar to correct the spelling mistake of 'Holy Trinity' on the sign opposite the station entrance. CAL will get costings for a new board. **Action: CAL**
- 356/03/15 Station Road Fence:**  
The damaged fence near the Station – Network Rail will repair the damaged sustained by the vehicle accident but will not be replacing the fence. **(see item 347/02/15.5)**
- 357/03/15 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
- Street naming at Station Yard, High Street – Is still being considered by the relevant authorities (fire, ambulance and post office)
  - Royston & District Community Transport sent their thanks for the recent donation.
  - Good Companions (over 60's) sent their thanks for the recent donation (see item 364/03)

- Clerk to order two signs for the Village Hall Car park warning people to take extra care during icy or wet weather. Mr P Ray has agreed that one of these signs can be placed on the building. RAS also suggested ordering another sign 'No overnight parking'. **Action: Clerk**
- Clerk contacted SCDC 'Home Link' regarding the faulty street light (item 319/02/15) to see what housing association was responsible, response was sent to Cllr van de Ven 'I have spoken to one of the housing officers and they have advised it will either be Cambridgeshire County Council or South Cambs environmental health team.
- Memorial Bell – action is presently with the PCC as the donation of £2000 will be used as a 10% contribution towards the remaining grant coming from AmeyCespa. The money will be held by the Parish Council until a go ahead has been given by the PCC.
- Parish Liaison Meeting at Cambourne on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 6.30-7.45pm. DL and SH to attend. **Action: DL/SH**
- Parish Planning Meeting at Melbourn Village College on 12<sup>th</sup> March 6.30 – 8.30pm. RAS and DS to attend. **Action: RAS/DS**
- Working party needed to go through the Standing Orders as they may need to be updated. CAL to assist the Clerk. **Action: CAL/Clerk**

**358/03/15**

**Village Hall:**

Car park update – disabled bay. Clerk has met with contractor who has agreed that putting in hatching marks is the best way forward. The company will be carrying out work in the area and will include this work at the same time; this will help keep the cost down. Clerk also mentioned that the area can get quite slippery during icy conditions, Mr Candler stated that this was the surface requested but that all surfaces can be slippery and recommended that a sign be placed within the car park area warning users that the area can be slippery (see item 357/03).

**359/03/15**

**Almshouses:**

Emilie Agnes Elin Almshouses – Mrs Lesley Farbridge has resigned and Mr Robert Long has taken her place as a Trustee for the Almshouses. Dr Sandra Webb has been reappointed as a Trustee. Messrs Hewitsons no longer act for the Almshouses as the Trustees are now covering all paperwork themselves. Clerk to write to acknowledge these changes are with the parish council's agreement. **Action: Clerk**

**360/03/15**

**Parking Issues outside the One Stop Shop:**

RAS reported that a meeting has now taken place with Mr David Lines and Mr Gavin Wiseman from Highways; Cllr van de Ven; Mr Doug Oliver – local resident; Mr Tom Ray – One Stop; The Manager from the One Stop, RAS and SH in attendance. One Stop are concerned that they are unable to get their delivery lorries on site in order to deliver goods. They deliver 2 to 3 times a week, however they have no control over other deliveries which also supply the shop, these include milk, bread and frozen items. It was suggested that deliveries take place between 7 and 9am and that the drivers liaise with the shop so that cones maybe placed outside the shop, so that the lorries are able to park near the shop. One Stop will contact their other suppliers so see if they will agree to the same plan. This will be monitored for 6 months; however it is feasible to put in a single yellow line with parking restrictions, with One Stop funding 80% and the Parish Council 20%, but this would be a last resort.

**361/03/15**

**Speedwatch and Signage:**

**Crossroad at Fenny Lane and Whitecroft Road:**

Cutting back of the hedge at the corner – Clerk and SH still to walk the area.

**Action: SH/Clerk**

The footway at Biddall's Blvd will include the removal and replacement of all the signs.

The barriers at the crossroads will be reinstated by Highways.

Meldreth did not get the Minor Highways Improvement grant to erect village entry "gates" at this area.

- See cut back of ivy from trees – report from CAL (see item 350/02/15)

**362/03/15**

**Councillors' Reports:**

**DS - MAYD** have held a meeting where funding was discussed for the next financial year which begins in April 2015. The Service Level Agreement is being written and that there will be a 3 year contract with GroundWorks. There will be another meeting soon.

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**Neighbourhood Panel Meeting** – DS attended this meeting with Mr G Borgonon one of the main subjects discussed involved anti-social behaviour, and Meldreth scores quite highly. It is hoped that the Youth Club will help decrease these figures.

**DL-** The drain outside the shop is still blocked. SH reported that Highways are aware of this.

**CJF** - The High Street sign is down at the Station, SH has already reported this via the CCC website. SH also reported the builders will be asked to reinstate the verge and that Highways will reinstate the road markings.

**RAS** - Haslingfield has a 40mph speed limit before the present 30mph limit with 20mph within the village centre and that Hauxton have done the same. Would it be an option to approach Shepreth Parish Council to see if they would be willing to join Meldreth in setting a 40mph speed limit along North End/Meldreth Road between the two villages? Clerk reported that in the past Shepreth had approached Meldreth who supported this idea. . Clerk to contact Shepreth Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

**363/03/15 Finance Working Group: (NP, RAS, SH, Clerk)**

Finance group to meet on 19<sup>th</sup> March, following the planning meeting, to look over the Financial Risk Assessment. RAS has given his apologies as he will be unable to make this meeting. **Action: FWP**

**364/03/15 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	£ 1,093.12	February salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Grass cutting (February)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 20.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
J Damant	£ 78.46	exp – Norton and stamps	LGA 1972 s113

**Payments for approval**

Inland Revenue	£ 220.32	February PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
Staples	£ 158.88	Ink and keyboard	LGA 1972 s113
Alan Keena	£ 14.99	Ink	LGA 1972 s113
Over 60's	£ 240.00	Reissue of cheque (name changed) S137	
D P Gardens	£ 173.00	Tree work in burial ground	OSA 1906 s9/10
D P Gardens	£ 290.00	Reissue of cheque 2425	OSA 1906 s9/10
SP Landscapes	£ 540.00	Ditch cleaning at Rec	OSA 1906 s9/10

**Deposits:**

OPC February Rent	£ 90.00
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All Payments were proposed by RAS, seconded by CAL all agreed.

**365/03/15 Annual Parish Meeting:**

It was agreed to hold the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30 in the Village Hall, Clerk to enquire if the Village Hall will be available. It would be more appropriate if the overhead projector is needed. **Action: Clerk**

**366/03/15 Burial Ground:**

Rabbit fencing will be carried out within the next few weeks.

**367/03/15 Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Financial Risk Assessment; Pavilion plans; Fenny Lane Cross Roads; Annual Parish Meeting (Village Meeting); Cllr Reports – Parish Planning and Parish Liaison meetings; Standing Orders; Flambards Lay Bys; Solar Farms; MAYD; Highway Issues - White gates, speeding issues with Shepreth, other speeding issues; Bollards at the Stocks and War Memorial; Village Hall Car park – signs and hatching.

**368/03/15 Action Points: if not already covered:**

There were no action points.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.32pm, The next meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 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