

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

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

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

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- 057/06/15 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies were received from Mr S Hawkins and Cllr P Hart.
- 058/06/15 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.
- 059/06/15 Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item]**  
Cllr John Spencely – Bassinbourn Parish Council  
Cllr Lee Ginger – Chairman Whaddon Parish Council  
There were 4 members of the public in attendance.  
A proposal was discussed concerning the vehicle movements entering and leaving Eternit. At the moment the vehicles access Eternit via Mettle Hill both entering and leaving the site. The proposal is to have a one way system whereby vehicles will enter the site via Mettle Hill but when leaving the site they will leave via Whaddon. There are less vehicles than in the past; however they are larger and if two vehicles meet along Chestnut Lane, where the road is narrow, it causes constriction, the idea to have one way routing would hopefully alleviate this (see item 077/06/15).  
The other proposal is to set up a group consisting of councillors from neighbouring parishes who would be able to work together on items which affected them all from traffic issues to housing and social schemes (see item 064/06/15).
- 060/06/15 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015:**  
The minutes were proposed by JF, seconded by NP, agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 061/06/15 Councillors' to sign their Register of Interests:**  
Councillors signed their Register of Interests, this is done annually to take into affect any changes. There were no changes reported. It is for each councillor to make sure these documents are correct.
- 062/06/15 Report from District Councillor:** Report circulated  
**FILCUP FIELD - GREENHOUSING AND ASSOCIATED ENERGY**  
You may already have been notified that this revised application was last week recommended refusal by Shepreth PC planning committee on a majority decision. Cllr Hart is in the process of taking the temperature among Meldreth and Shepreth residents and is also evaluating the planning application on material planning considerations but there is no denying that opinion is widely divided on the wisdom of the siting and the merits of the proposal.  
In the first phase of the consultation over 100 responses were received at SCDC, the majority of them from Shepreth and the overwhelming majority opposed to the application. A good deal of the objections concerned traffic through Shepreth; now that the routing of development vehicles has been detailed it is apparent that the applicant contemplates using Meldreth roads via which to reach the A10 and the A1198.  
Cllr Hart will be liaising with the planning officer in the course of the next couple of weeks, and it is likely this application will come before Planning Committee on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.
- LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
The Planning Inspector has suspended her deliberations on the Local Plan pending further information gathering concerning the development strategy, green belt and housing and transport delivery.  
An Extraordinary General Meeting has been called to debate the Council's response and to ascertain the likely further delay.

The district is open to opportunistic applications on land outside village envelopes during this uncertain period. At Planning Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> June the CEMEX application at Barrington for 220 houses was passed by 6 votes to 5. However the application for 199 houses at a Melbourn was turned down by a large majority. The difference with the way each application was treated by the committee boiled down to the Barrington site being previously developed land whereas Melbourn's is greenfield.

063/06/15

**Report from County Councillor:**

1. The Boundary Commission has recommended changes to county which would split the current Melbourn Division thus: Shepreth, Foxton, Heydon and the Chishills would be aligned with Chrishall Grange, Fowlmere, Foxton, Thriplow, Whittlesford, Hinxton and Duxford; while Meldreth and Melbourn would be joined with Whaddon, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, and Littlington. The new boundaries create significantly larger divisions (approximately 9000 voters instead of 7000) and a smaller number of councillors overall. The current Melbourn Division, arranged largely around the catchment area for Melbourn Village College and a strong association to the A10 transport corridor, gives way to two very different clusters, one with no secondary school and the other with two. The details can be viewed and comments made on the proposals until July 6<sup>th</sup> at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143>
2. The County Council is consulting on reductions to discretionary support for post-16 education transport. A public consultation has just been launched and closes on 24 June. Areas that will see change include mileage reimbursement for parents of children with a Statement of Special Educational Need; removal of the allowance for free travel for a second child in the same family currently in post-16 education; and the introduction of charges to new post-16 students with Special Educational Need and Disability. The 50% rail discount that Cllr van de Ven negotiated with the train operating company still stands and operates outside of the council's remit. Unfortunately the council website has not been great when it comes to displaying public consultations – they are hard to find and that undermines the whole purpose. Cllr van de Ven has asked if this one can be extended. For now: [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools\\_and\\_learning/496/school\\_transport/3](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools_and_learning/496/school_transport/3)
3. Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group: All welcome at the next meeting on 29 June, 7 for 7:30, at Foxton Village Hall. The agenda will be posted at <http://melbourn.org.uk/railusergroup/>  
Would Meldreth parish council like to have a designated member to come along to the Rail User Group meetings?
4. Following on from the Oil Club rebate donation to Mind in Cambridgeshire, Mind is aiming to provide both group and one-on-one support at the Melbourn Hub, available free of charge for the wider community and made possible by funding it receives from Cambridgeshire County Council for outreach work. This service would be for people aged 18-65, offering practical support and advice about more specialist support if needed. As you know, the Hub building itself is financed by the Melbourn Parish precept, although all the services it provides are open to surrounding villages. Therefore Cllr van de Ven will be asking neighbouring parishes if they might wish to consider a contribution to the Mind in Melbourn project, for example toward room hire.
5. Cllr Hart has once again reported the broken High Street sign and was assured it would be repaired, Clerk has also reported this.
6. The clearing of the ditch at College Farm bend is now taking place by the landowners, for which many thanks.
7. Footways along North End have been inspected by Highways and are not felt to have deteriorated enough to warrant any works at this time. RAS said that these footways are not DDA compliant as they are not wide enough. Cllr van de Ven is also dealing with individual issues concerning damaged footway and verges outside dwellings.

064/06/15

**Joint Partnership with other Parish Councils:**

Possible working group to look at issues which may affect Meldreth and other parishes. The idea of a joint partnership whereby parish councillors from neighbouring parishes get together seems a very good idea. CAL and DL will represent Meldreth and Cllr van de Ven would also like to be involved. Traffic is one area which affects all parishes along with housing and social items such as youth work and dog fouling. There are many projects which could also benefit from joint partnerships between the councils. Clerk to contact Shepreth, Bassingbourn and Whaddon. CAL suggested the first meeting be held in the Community Rooms at Elin Way.

**Action: Clerk**

065/06/15

**Solar Farms:**

Update from SunEdison (Bury Lane) on the one-off Community Benefit payment of £50,000. RAS has sent a model contract with the bribery clause to SunEdison but the Clerk reported that nothing has been received back. Clerk to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**

Ideas of how to spend this money have been:

Solar panels on the village hall; solar panel on the primary school; station footways (to Melbourn and leading off a ramp (yet to be built but hopefully funded by Network Rail)); play equipment for under 7s; Educational bursary and Mettle Hill developments.

Update from Lightsource (Substation) and the contract for the yearly Community Benefit.

The first payment of £12,474.23 has been received. RAS asked if the Clerk could enquire with the company how they came up with the figure. Is it based on an assumption on power generated, as the site has only just started running. **Action: Clerk**

At the moment the Clerk has two definite residents who wish to be part of the working group, but others are needed. Ideas for both projects are needed and some of the ideas already expressed can be utilised under both projects.

066/06/15

**Car park Issues at the Station:**

Update from Rail Users Group on the survey being carried out to see how many cars are using the car park.

Cllr van de Ven reported that there are not many vacant car parking or cycle spaces. The survey carried out in response to the possible development in Melbourn was incorrect when they noted that there were vacant places at the station as this is not the case.

067/06/15

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

Warning sign for carpark has been received

40mph speed limit along North End/Meldreth Road was discussed at the Shepreth Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May (see item 075/06/15).

068/06/15

**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 held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

Planning Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Verbal Report

**Fillcup Field, Land to the north of Meldreth Road, 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 vehicle store, farm workers log cabin and associated plant.

Meeting closed for Chairman to get clarification on vehicles.

CAL enquired with Mr Naylor what the actual size of the vehicles were, Mr Naylor responded that the vehicles had not yet been purchased but the HCV would not be over 10 tons, the trailer is still an option.

Meeting opened.

A vote was taken: 0 for recommending approval, 6 for recommending refusal.

Parish Council recommend **Refusal** with comments. 'If SCDC are minded to approve this application a condition should be set to only 1 vehicle is use to bring in the raw materials for the bio-digester to avoid dangerous passing on the North End bends'.

**105 North End, S/1005/15/FL** - Rear single storey extension. Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.

**76 North End, S/1154/15/FL** - Proposed first floor extension and new front porch. Parish Council recommend **Approval** with no comments.

**19a Whitecroft Road, S/0345/15** - Application for variation of conditions 1 (drawings), 3 (soft landscaping) and 4 (glazing) of planning reference S/1336/13/FL. The Parish Council feel that they can not make any recommendation on a technical issue between the applicant and the planners.

**11 North End, S/1213/15/FL & S/1214/15/LB** - Alterations to existing chimney stacks and chimney pots. Parish Council recommend **Approval** comments 'That the bricks being used on the new build match the existing bricks.

**87 North End, INFORMATION ONLY, S/1038/15/PH** - Prior approval for a conservatory to rear of the property. Noted

**36 Howard Road, S/1316/15/FL** - Front and rear single storey extensions. Parish Council recommend '**No Objections**' with no comments.

069/06/15

**Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2013 in connection with the British Queen:**

Mr Tobin had been delayed so RAS suggested deferring this until July when Mr Tobin would be able to attend. Clare Gibbons (SCDC) has verified that the pub is not listed as a Community Asset but that it was Grade II listed. DL also suggested that it might be a good idea to list the village shop and post office as an Asset of Community Value. Clerk to contact Clare Gibbons. **Action: Clerk**

070/06/15

**Annual Village Meeting 2015:**

Update on matters discussed and possible actions required. This to also include items 064/06 and 071/06. Report has been done, will be circulated to councillors and then put on the website along with the report which went out at the meeting. **Action: Clerk**

071/06/15

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report

The Recreation Ground Working Party met in June. There is still broken asbestos, old tree stumps on both sides of the ditch along with a concrete post and some wooden planks. The gate from Howard Road to the Rec is damaged and not closing, it might be better to remove it completely. The pollarded tree behind the new houses needs the small branches removed. **Action: Clerk**

The footpath leading from Elin Way, between the houses to the recreation ground is breaking up and is now becoming a trip hazard. Clerk to make enquires as to how is responsible for this path. **Action: Clerk**

The alley path from the High Street to the entrance of the rec is breaking up (fp8). Clerk to contact Highways. **Action: Clerk**

The pavilion is getting worse and work needs to be done.

The chains for the swings need to be changed along with a new swing seat. Clerk to order.

The large rocking horse needs new footrests on both sides. Clerk to contact Dave Chappel who was doing this work. **Action: Clerk**

2. Quotations have now been received (Wickstead, Hags and Sovereign). The working group decided that refurbishing the roundabout would not be cost effective as it was not a certainty that all the parts would be available or that it could be fixed so it was decided to remove the roundabout and replace it with a 'Witches Hat' and a Zip Wire for the time being. At the recent village meeting other items for the play area were suggested, a toddlers climbing tower age up to 7 yrs and adult outdoor gym equipment. Clerk is presently getting quotes for these. **Action: Clerk**

3. A new dog bin is needed in the recreation ground near the entrance to Howard Road, Clerk reported that SCDC have now passed on information on the type of dog bin to purchase and that they will empty the bin along with the others at the rec. **Action: Clerk**

072/06/15

**Mettle Hill Working Group: (MHWG)**

Report from Philippa Hart and Julian Fenner on the proposals put forward at the Annual Village Meeting for new uses for the disused travellers' site on Mettle Hill. The MHWG is convening again to finalise the summary of its presentation to the Annual Meeting. As most of you who were able to attend the meeting will know, there is still a great deal to do to settle upon a use which will be of net benefit to the village and upon which as many people as possible can agree. For this reason, it may be the case that if a questionnaire is to go out at this stage it will be just the first and will seek to establish certain principles: do we want to sell the site, yes or no? Do we want to open the site for a different use? Do we want a residential use on the site? Should the village pay for the site to be cleared and/or made safe? How important is it that the site be income-producing? The group will decide on a short term action plan at their next meeting.

073/06/15

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Clerk has emailed Mr Cunningham regarding his ditch on College Bend. The land in question is not his. Clerk has received another possible owner of this land and has contacted them, still awaiting confirmation that they are the landowner.

Community Pubs Event, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at the Plough, Shepreth 9.30-14.00

**Village Hall Car park:**

Disabled carpark bay – still waiting to be done. Have emailed Steve Chandler at North Herts Surfacing again today for an update.

Warning signs - have been received, one will be placed on a pole the other will be placed on the Village Hall, Mr Paul Ray has given permission but Clerk to arrange a site meeting prior to doing any work.

**Street naming at Station Yard:** Still waiting for the authorities to agree (police, fire, ambulance, post office).

**Emergency Plan:** Still ongoing

**Meldreth Pre School:** The preschool would like to hold a village fete on 11<sup>th</sup> July. CJF reported that there are no football games scheduled. It was agreed that as there is no football the Pre-School could have their fete. Clerk to enquire if they need the pavilion or whether they are using the village hall.

**Action: Clerk**

**Finance:** Cheque for £60.00 for Meldreth Primary School (Mary Course Fund) to be issued from the Parish Council, this is the second of three annual payments. £180 will be reimbursed to the Parish Council once the time limit on the bond for the Trust Fund has matured. This will be included under additional payments.

**Residents letter:** Clerk was made aware that the letter to Mr & Mrs Rogers was not received, copy of this letter with a cover letter has been hand delivered. Copies attached. RAS suggested that the original letter be sent to Meldreth Matters for inclusion in the next publication stating that until June's edition of Meldreth Matters was published the Parish Council were unaware that their letter had not been received. DS also reported that Mr Burlton is looking into clearing his site located at Station Road. Clerk to write to the landowner who owns units 1-3 in this area asking them to make arrangements to have the area tidied up.

**Action: Clerk**

**Biddals Blv Footway:** Have emailed Jon Finney awaiting a response.

**Churchyard:** Request to carry out a joint gravestone inspection between the PC and the PCC. CAL will meet with the PCC. Clerk to arrange.

**Action: Clerk**

**Hedge:** Corner of Mettle Hill and Whitcroft Road, hedge needs to be lowered. Site obscured when approaching from Kneesworth. CAL will contact the landowner and will also ask to have the ivy removed from the trees in this area as well.

**Action: CAL**

**Tennis Club report – attached**

**Flood Risk Management:** Consultation on the revision of Cambridgeshire's Strategy for Flood Risk Management. CCC has a duty to produce a strategy in partnership with key stakeholders involved in flood risk management. The strategy is now to be updated and the public consultation will run for six weeks from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/custom\\_scripts/cons\\_details.aspx?ref=369](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/cons_details.aspx?ref=369)

District and parish councils and community groups and residents in areas which suffer from non-urgent local flooding (ie from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses) can report flood incidents online using Cambridgeshire County Council's interactive map found on their website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Local Government Boundary Commission:** Draft recommendations [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) Draft recommendations have been published for the future electoral arrangements for CCC. Consultation closes 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015. It proposes that 61 county councillors should be elected to CCC and there will be new electoral division boundaries across the county. Final recommendations will be made in September 15 and subject to parliamentary scrutiny the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into affect at the county elections in 2017. RAS will look over the document and circulate a response to councillors. **Action: RAS**

074/06/15

**Audit 2015**

The internal auditor has now signed off the audit.

Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement of the Audit for agreement by councillors. The audit was proposed by NP and seconded by CAL to in order, all agreed. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Return. This will now be sent to the external auditors.

**Action: Clerk**

075/06/15

**Highway Items:**

- Chicanes - Meldreth to consider implementing chicanes when the next MHI Scheme is received. Steve Thulborn (CCC) will then meet for a site visit to discuss the matter further.

- Speed limit along North End/Meldreth Road – Shepreth are in support of Meldreth in trying to get the speed limit reduced to 40mph. RAS to respond to CCC **Action: RAS**

076/06/15

**Bollards:**

Placement of bollards at the War Memorial and Stocks. Deferred until next month.

077/06/15

**Whaddon and Bassingbourn Parish Council:**

Concern regarding HCV traffic going to and from the Eternit site. See item 059/06/15. RAS responded that though this is a very good suggestion that CCC Highways need to be informed. At the moment it has been a gentlemen's agreement with Eternit that their vehicles enter and exit the site via Mettle Hill, however with a new proposed route Highways should be notified. Cllr van de Ven will get the contact for Highways. JF reported that Cllr van de Ven needs to contact the Planning Authority and the Operators Licence for the lorries to see about changing their route. It would seem a very good idea and very good of Whaddon to suggest this action, whereby vehicles leaving Eternit's could now access the A1198 via Whaddon.

078/06/15

**Holy Trinity Church Wall:**

A structural engineer will be inspecting the wall capping and hopefully will submit a report with recommendations for the Parish Council.

079/06/15

**Communication:**

Suggestion for agenda's to be sent via email to recipients. Clerk to put an article in Meldreth Matters to see what the response would be.

**Action: Clerk**

080/06/15

**Meldreth Manor School:**

Meldreth Parish Council have been invited by Scope, owner of Meldreth Manor School, to take part in a local consultation on their plans for the future. Clerk to contact Scope.

**Action: Clerk**

081/06/15

**Councillors' Reports:**

RAS reported that the grass at Whaddon Road/Fenny Lane junction need cutting back further as this is not helping with sight lines. Clerk to contact grasscutter. **Action: Clerk**  
 DS reported that a MAYD have had a meeting where the contract with Groundwork was discussed. The first year costings are £8845; year 2 £9751 and year 3 £9715. The youth club is being well attended with 26 attendees ranging from 11 to 14yrs.  
 DL reported that the hedge in the High Street opposite Maycroft Residential Home is overhanging the footway. Clerk to write to the owners. **Action: Clerk**  
 CJF reported that the grass is very high at the junction of the A10 and access to Melbourn is overgrown. Clerk to contact Highways. **Action: Clerk**

082/06/15

**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	£ 1126.71	May salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 20.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
BT	£ 218.93	Telephone	TCA 1986

**Payments for approval**

Inland Revenue	£ 225.96	May PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
GV Borgonon	£ 34.87	CAP – ink	LGA 1972 s111
Staples	£ 86.66	Stationery for office	LGA 1972 s111
T & J Bird Signs	£ 176.40	Banners for Annual meeting	LGA 1972 s111
Clerk expenses	£ 12.08	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s113
Stationery Cupboard	£ 185.86	Photocopying for APM	LGA 1972 s113
Primary School	£ 60.00	Mary Course Fund	LGA 1972 s113

There will be reimbursement on office supplies from Orwell Parish Council of £104.70

**Deposits:**

G V Borgonon	£ 19.00	CAP
SCDC	£ 614.26	Reimbursement of overpayment of Office rent
OPC	£ 90.00	Office rent
Lightsource	£12,474.23	Solar annual payment for substations

**083/06/15****Flambards Close:**

Deferred until next month.

**084/06/15****Burial Ground:**

The fence at the back of the burial ground needs re fencing as the rabbits or dogs have pulled it down. Quotes being sought. This has halted the seeding of the area. Quote for £50 has been received to trim back the buxus near the shed and take away the debris. It was decided to see if the tree can be trimmed back if not then it is to be removed.

**085/06/15****Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Shepreth/Meldreth speed limit  
Article 4 – community assets  
Boundaries Commission  
Flooding  
Trees and hedge on Whitecroft Road/Fenny Lane junction  
Footway at Biddals Blvd.  
Gravestone inspection  
Joint Parish Council Partnerships  
Eternit routing  
Annual Village Meeting Notes – update  
Mettle Hill – update from Working Party

**086/06/15****Action Points: if not already covered:**

There were no action points discussed.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.45pm

Next meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> July in the 'Green Room' of the Village Hall.

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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