

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 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 S Hawkins (**SH**), 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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- 119/09/15** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Mr Keena and Cllr Hart (SCDC)
- 120/09/15** **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.
- 121/09/15** **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 three members of the public in attendance.
Residents from Sudely Grove, Station Road are concerned about HCV parking overnight in the nearby layby. Would it be possible to have a sign erected stating that there is 'No Overnight Parking'? Cllr van de Ven reported that she had also been in contact with Gavin Wiseman (CCC). See item 127/09.
- 122/09/15** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2nd July 2015:**
Minutes were proposed by RAS, seconded by DL and all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 123/09/15** **Report from District Councillor:**
There was no report this month.
- 124/09/15** **Report from County Councillor:**
Cuts: A very difficult year is coming up in terms of unavoidable, very harsh cuts, the effects of which will be felt in 2016/17. Some services cannot be touched and that heaps the pressure on non-statutory services. Among the many areas of concern is the future of subsidized transport and in particular, support for community transport services. Decisions have not been made yet.
Meldreth Manor and Orchard Transition Service: The trend over the past ten years is for increased placements at County Special Schools. Scope cited the key factors in the unsustainability of Meldreth Manor: one is the pattern of local authorities placing children in mainstream schools. Another is difficulty of staff retention and recruitment, due to competition with Cambridge area health providers.
Room hire, Rail User Group and Cycling Campaign: These two groups will be meeting in the Elin Way premises over the next couple of months, one meeting each, continuing the practice of rotating round the villages with a stop in each once per year. It was proposed by CAL that the Parish Council continues to pay for room rental at Elin way for two sessions at a cost of £20 in total, seconded by SH all agreed.
Recent household flooding: As reported in August's Meldreth Matters: Reports that storms commencing July 16-17 brought renewed household flooding to a number of properties. County Highways has identified broken pipe work under the High St near the school which it will repair and near the Stocks; the latter is foul sewage and they have notified Anglian Water.
Mind in Cambridgeshire at the Hub: The first full day took place at the end of July and was very successful in terms of several self-referrals even before the date was publicized.
- 125/09/15** **Solar Farms:**
SunEdison (Bury Lane) on the one-off Community Benefit payment of £50,000.
The Parish Council have received the agreement; however, the agreement asks for projects to be listed, this still has not been agreed so before this can be officially signed the question of releasing monies on which projects still needs clarification. Will the company release all the monies on one listed project or on an 'as and when' basis.
Projects will be identified and passed by the Parish Council and then SunEdison will be notified, the monies released and will it be done on an invoice base. Clerk to ask for clarification.
Action: Clerk

Update from Lightsource (Substation) - Monies have been received.

Working Group – There are now 5 volunteers. DL and CAL will be the Parish Council representatives. DL will draw up the Terms of Reference.

Action: DL

126/09/15 Matters arising: (no actions information only)

Joint Partnership with other Parish Councils - another meeting to be arranged.

Website training still to take place with Clerk, CAL and Mr Borgonon

Clerk has arranged training for the new 'Transparency Code' policy on 24th September 1pm to 3pm.

Councillor training to be held in Meldreth on 24th October 9-3pm

127/09/15 Overnight Parking along Station Road:

Cllr van de Ven reported that Mr Wiseman informed her that a sign could be erected as HCV should not be parking in the lay-by. RAS reported that there is also a freight advisory map which shows where HCV are allowed to park up overnight. Cllr van de Ven will get some costings for a sign and report back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council have no objection to erecting a sign but need costings before a decision can be made. **Action:SvdV**

128/09/15 Planning: Cllrs. Hawkins, Searles, Fallon, Land, Pellatt and Stewart (*Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board*).

Planning Meeting 16th July 2015

Land between Railway and Sewage Disposal Works, S/1616/15/VC - Royston Solar Projects Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of Planning consent S/1427/14/FL for Solar Farm and Associated Works. - Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'No Objection' to the detailed changes to the project however they note that the splitting of the site into three seems to be a way to get around the governments new limitation on the proliferation of large solar sites, they would like to draw your attention to the letter dated 25th September 2014, attached.

Planning Meeting 18th August 2015

Land at Station Yard, S/1140/15/FL - Erection of eight flats, bin store and associated parking A vote was taken with 3 in favour of refusal and 4 in favour of approval with comments.

Chairman used his casting vote. Meldreth Parish Council recommend Approval with the following comments. 1. Clarification with the final layout with reference to the width of the access route to the station car park which appears to be reduced from 5m to 4m.

2. Concern on the amount of car parking spaces. It is proposed that there will be 1 space to each unit this could lead to an over spillage onto the roads which is already a problem in this area. 3. Recommendation of approval is based on information from the applicant that there will now be 4 affordable units. The Parish Council are happy to see the high standard of design in keeping with the history of the site.

Planning Meeting 3rd September 2015– Verbal Report

Land of Whaddon Road, S/1447/15/FL - Erection of six affordable houses with associated car parking spaces. The Parish Council recommend 'Refusal' with comments.

If SCDC are minded to approve this application can they take into account the following:

1. There should be a pedestrian access route via West Way to avoid people walking along the busy Whaddon Road. In the absence of this a footway is needed to access the Fenny Lane Crossroad area as this is a designated accident cluster spot.
2. Water run off. Driveways should be semi-permeable or have a soak away.
3. Refuse vehicles. The access road should be wide enough for refuse lorries to reverse into and pick up bins. Will this be a shared bin arrangement or will there be individual bins, as the area indicated does not appear to be large enough to accommodate that amount of individual bins?
4. Sewage - Will the development have its own sewage disposal system separate from Burtons which is maintained with costs to Burton residents.
5. Bats. It has been noted that there are bats in this area, near 1,2 and 3 Burtons which may be roosting on the site.
6. There appears to be a lack of a children's play area
7. The block of three houses, closest to Whaddon Road, should be turned clockwise so it is parallel to No. 1 Burtons fence to avoid overlooking.

3 Woolpack Way, S/1972/15/TPO - Crown reduction Sycamore trees x 3 by 30%. Parish Council are in agreement with the Tree Warden and pass on their comments to the Tree Officer at SCDC. Crown reduction is not a problem. They clearly cause a lot of shade at the end of Woolpack Way. If the three trees nearest the road were removed entirely, it would not seriously affect the tree cover, since the 2 largest of the sycamores are behind them

90 High Street, S/1610/15/DC- Discharge of Condition 4 (Tree protection) of Planning Consent S/2824/14/FL for Detached double garage. This was for information only and has been duly noted, Parish Council had no comment to make.

129/09/15

Eternit:

- Proposed Planning – representative James Munnery contacted the Parish Council regarding Marley Eternit and asked to meet with the Parish Council, Clerk has had no response to an invitation for the October meeting. Clerk to make further enquires. **Action: Clerk**
- New signage – the old Eternit sign to be replaced by a sign for the Sports and Social Club – The Parish Council agree to a temporary sign for one week, it would need planning permission for a permanent site, Clerk to get clarification from the planning department. **Action: Clerk**
- Registering Eternit Sports and Social Club as a 'Community Asset' – Clerk has received a response from Clare Gibbons (SCDC) stating that the facility has to benefit the whole community. Eternit need to officially notify the Parish Council. CAL will get an update from the Sports and Social club. **Action: CAL**

130/09/15

Minor Local Improvements Grants: (LSTF)

CCC are inviting parish councils situated along the A428 corridor and the A10 south corridor to bid into funding to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and bus users. This funding had been provided by the Department of Transport. It was proposed by the Parish Council that more cycle racks would be good at the station. Clerk to reply to Mike Davies (CCC).

Action: Clerk

131/09/15

Village Maintenance:

Hedge and trees - along Whitecroft Road/Fenny Lane. Has now been cut back.

Pedestrian Sign - Is there a possibility of a pedestrian crossing sign near Fieldgate's.

Highways recommend two signs at a cost of £550 per sign including installation. The Parish Council discussed this but they also discussed the idea of extending the footway from the station bridge towards Fieldgates, this may be a better option than installing a pedestrian sign. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Highways.

Action: Clerk

132/09/15

Playground:

1. Monthly Report. Play equipment has been checked and appears to be in good working order. We are waiting for the new seat for the large swings. JF enquired whether the small ball frame can be moved next to the springers? Clerk to enquire with Dave Chappel.

Action: Clerk

Repairs to the rocking horse have been completed.

The trees in the play area appear to have a yellow mould, RAS will inspect.

Action:**RAS**

There is a tree branch covering the light in the alley by the ditch, Clerk to arrange having it cut back.

Action: Clerk

The ditch is overgrown and needs cutting back, clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk

Some hedging along Bell Close leading to the Recreation ground needs cutting back, this could be SCDC responsibility.

Action: Clerk

2. Zip wire to be turned around this would leave room to have the play area fencing extended therefore the ability to incorporate further play equipment. Clerk seeking quotes to extend the fenced area.

3. Installation of Play Equipment, first stage will commence on Monday 5th October for a duration of 5 working days on site. This will be followed by the installation of the wetpour surfacing which has been scheduled to start on Monday 12th October 2015, weather permitting

133/09/15

Pavilion:

DS suggested the whole project will have to start again as the previous planning permission had lapsed. The suggestion of using the lapsed building 'footprint' and demolition of the existing building was seconded by SH. NP mentioned running any future plans by the FA if grants were going to be sought. DS will work with DL and JF to provide a working format.

Action: DS

134/09/15

Meldreth Manor School:

A meeting took place where JF and NP were in attendance. NP reported that there are only nine children in the school and a similar number in the care home, this is felt by SCOPE to be non-viable. The consultation has been extended to 2nd October 2015.

135/09/15

Mettle Hill:

Questionnaires have been delivered to all households and are presently being returned. Following a recent letter received by the Parish Council from the Showman's Guild, who have also contacted Cllr van de Ven, unfortunately the Clerk has not been able to make contact. It was noted that sale of the Mettle Hill to showmen was an option on the questionnaire and response from all the village was awaited.

136/09/15

Correspondence and Clerk's Report: Other items may be included for information.

- SCDC – Consultation on moving to all-out elections. It is proposed to move to an all out election system from 2018 this would mean all SCDC councillor seats would be up for election once every four years at the moment it is divided into 'thirds' where elections are held for a third of the seats each year for three successive years out of four. SH reported though there are some disadvantages with the new proposal it would be more cost effective and it could mean more flexibility in district councillors and numbers, if done properly, could produce a better spread of councillors in the district.
- CCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) has been passed onto the footpath team Mr Graham Borgonon is now working with Peter Gaskin (CCC)
- Street Lighting charges will be increased as of 1st October 2015 by 15%
- Free Funding Support event 9th September 10.30-13:00 or 19:00- 21.00
- Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival – volunteers needed (28-29th November) – NP agreed to do the tree, SH also volunteered as a backup.
- Rabbit fencing has been completed in the burial ground
- New dog bin has been received awaiting installation
- Signs in the car park have been erected, however does it need moving or have another 'no overnight parking' sign, as some residents have said that it is not easily seen where it is. The Parish Council felt that one sign is adequate.
- Clerk has taken photos of the footpath at the recreation ground as it appears to be breaking up due to tree roots, this was also reported by JF. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Mike Cooper. **Action: Clerk**
- The trees at North End do not appear to have been cut back, RAS asked the Clerk to get an update from Mr Pepper. **Action: Clerk**

137/09/15

Highway Items:

Proposed speed limit along North End/Meldreth Road. Shepreth PC are in support of Meldreth trying to get the speed limit reduced to 40mph. RAS reported on progress with CCC. RAS has completed the paperwork and circulated to the Parish Council for comment, Clerk is to now send it to the Clerk at Shepreth for comments or approval by Shepreth Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

138/09/15

Flooding:

Mr & Mrs Duncan have completed work on their ditch at College Bend Farm and CCC have installed a new gully, this appears to have reduced flooding in this area. The Parish Council agreed to write to Mr and Mrs Duncan thanking them for the work done. The Parish Council would also like to thank Mr Mike Cooper (CCC) for all his help in getting the ditches in this area working well. **Action: Clerk**

139/09/15

Boundaries Commission CCC and SCDC:

SCDC - Clerk attended the Boundaries Commission Workshop for SCDC. It is proposed to reduce the number of District Councillors and redistribute wards so it is more even. The meeting discussed how relationships with District Councillors and Parish Councils were and how they can be improved upon. There are some wards which have over 3,000 electorates. It was proposed by RAS that the Clerk write to Patrick Adams (SCDC) stating that Meldreth should be joined with Shepreth and Melbourn and it would not be advantageous to anyone to be put with parishes the do not border us and are on higher ground over the A10. **Action: Clerk**

140/09/15

Footway at The Boulevard:

Clerk has contacted Jon Finney (SCDC) but has not received a reply. The Parish Council are confused that CCC would be suggesting they put in this footway on the Minor Highway Improvement Scheme when they were told that the costs are being met by the developer. **Action: Clerk**

141/09/15

Mobile Warden Scheme:

There is one resident on the scheme which the Parish Council will contribute towards, as agreed in 2014.

- 142/09/15 Co-option of new councillor:**
Clerk to notify SCDC. Notice will be put on the notice board and in Meldreth Matters.
Action: Clerk
- 143/09/15 Meldreth Manor School:**
See item 134/09/15
- 144/09/15 Street Lighting:**
Street lights along Station Road will be either dimmed or be turned off for part of the night (8pm or 10pm until 6am). If communities wish to keep their lights on there is an extra cost of £12.00 per light per year starting in 2016/17, increasing by inflation in future years, plus a small contribution of £65 per year covering administration of this proposal. It was felt that 6am is too late along Station Road, as many residents catch the 6am train. Clerk to suggest a time of 5.30am for some of the lights nearer the station.
Action: Clerk
- 145/09/15 Councillors' Reports:**
DS – There will be a MAYD meeting on 15th September.
- 146/09/15 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 in August
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Staff | £ 1,121.35 | July salaries | LGA 1972 s112 |
| D P Gardens | £ 514.16 | Grass cutting (July) | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Talk Talk | £ 20.31 | Broadband | TCA 1984 |
| BT | £ 250.75 | Telephone | TCA 1984 |
- Payments already made in September**
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Staff | £ 1,160.63 | August salaries | LGA 1972 s112 |
| D P Gardens | £ 514.16 | Grass cutting (August) | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Talk Talk | £ 20.31 | Broadband | TCA 1984 |
- Payments for approval**
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Inland Revenue | £ 221.65 | July PAYE/NI | LGA 1972 s112 |
| Inland Revenue | £ 248.95 | August PAYE/NI | |
| Meldreth Village Hall | £ 151.50 | Rent | LGA 1972 s113 |
| D Chappel | £ 173.62 | Village Maintenance | LGA 1972 s113 |
| JAB | £ 700.00 | Burial ground – rabbit fencing | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Margaret Lynch | £ 24.00 | Expenses for training course | LGA 1972 |
| D P Gardens | £ 125.00 | Village maintenance | OSA 1906 9/10 |
| Stationery Cupboard | £ 84.67 | Office supplies | LGA 1972 s113 |
| J Damant | £ 19.86 | Clerk expenses | LGA 1972 s113 |
| D P Gardens | £ 50.00 | village maintenance | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| Esson Printers | £ 303.00 | Mettle Hill questionnaire | LGA 1972 s144 |
| AmeyCespa | £ 2,000.00 | 10% donation for church bells | S137 |
| Glasdon | £ 244.72 | Dog bin for recreation area | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| SCDC | £ 30.00 | Social media training (clerk) | LGA 1972 s172 |
- Deposits:**
- | | | | |
|-------|---------|---------------|--|
| D Lea | £ 80.00 | Funeral plots | |
|-------|---------|---------------|--|
- Payments proposed by SH, seconded by DS all agreed.
- 147/09/15 Financial Assistance:**
Village Hall – The village hall have requested £3,150.00 for installing solar panels on the village hall roof. It was proposed by RAS that money from the solar funds can be used for this and as it a cause that would benefit the whole village the whole cost of £6,300.00 should be supported.
The project meets the requirements from both funding systems, however it would be a good project for the LightSource funding already received. Clerk to enquire if the reported government date of 1st October for a big reduction in the feed in tariff is going to have an effect on this project, if so the project needs to be agreed as soon as possible. Due to government changes in solar power it was felt that a decision had to be made as soon as possible and as the project meets all the requirements set out by both SunEdison and LightSource it was unanimously agreed to fund the whole cost of the Village Hall request from the LightSource Community benefit fund. Clerk to contact the Village Hall Trustees.
Action: Clerk

- 148/09/15** **Old Orchard near Melrose being put forward as a Community Asset:**
Response from Rob Mungovan SCDC – ' as the orchard does not have any public access at present it cannot currently be considered as an 'asset of community value'.
- 149/09/15** **Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2013/17: Deadline 2nd November**
RAS proposed that installing Chicanes along Kneesworth Road and Whaddon Road, seconded by SH.
SH will attend the workshop being run at Whittlesford by Highways and will complete the MHI documents.
- 150/09/15** **Agenda items for the next meeting:**
Pavilion
Footways
Recreation ground – footpath
Station Road – Footway (report from DL & DS)
Speed limit reduction between Shepreth and Meldreth
MHI

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st October in the Green Room of the Village Hall.

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