

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes un Approved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 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**), Mr D Stewart (**DS**), and Mr A Young (**AY**)

**In attendance:** J Damant (**Clerk**)

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**Guest Speaker: Mrs Juliette Walters on CPR training and AED (automated external defibrillator) machines**

- 266/02/16 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies received from Mr A Keena due to work commitments.
- 267/02/16 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 interested declared.
- 268/02/16 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 five members of the public in attendance.  
**Guest Speaker:** Mrs Walters brought along to the meeting an AED machine and a resuscitation manakin whereby a demonstration was given on how one of these machines would be used in the unfortunate event of a cardiac arrest, she also explained on how these machines work and that if a shock is not required the machine will not give it. CPR is also very important and Mrs Walters is very keen to get as many people trained in CPR, at the moment the children in Year 6 at Meldreth Primary School do receive this training. Questions were raised on the suitability of placing a machine, Mrs Walters suggested contacting the local ambulance service for their recommendation. It is suggested that these machines should be placed in areas which are easily accessible at all times, there is a risk of vandalism but education is the answer, as these machines Save Lives. It is also important to have volunteers who are prepared to check the machine on a weekly or daily basis. If parishes got together and purchased a block order it may be cheaper, check with the British Heart Foundation to see if they have a preference on the type of machine, however most machines work in similar ways.  
**Residents from Biddalls Blvd:** were seeking information regarding the land at Mettle Hill, the Parish Council explained that at the moment all interested parties need to submit a proposal to the Parish Council, they would then be invited to present this proposal to resident's at the Village Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- 269/02/16 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016:**  
Following the amendment from Cllr Har'ts report in January 2016, this paragraph was omitted from the minutes:  
'I see that Cllr Stewart has been contacted by a resident whose house backs onto the recreation ground concerned about possible re-siting and expansion plans for the pavilion. I am sympathetic to the resident's concerns and remain to persuaded about the utility of investing in and upgrading this building'.  
The minutes were proposed by SH, seconded by JD all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 270/02/16 Report from District Councillor:**  
**Reminder and point of clarification**  
It may be useful to clarify that although the agricultural land the subject of the "alternative" proposal by the Marley team has been farmed for many years by Cllr Hart's father, it has been farmed under a rental agreement and is not in the ownership of Roger Hart Farms Ltd. The farm business has no rights over the land.  
**Shared Services**  
South Cambs District Council continues to explore sharing services with neighbouring councils for cost cutting/ and economies of scale reasons.  
**Local Plan Schedule**  
The Planning Inspector has now published a schedule for considering the revised Local Plan. Hearings will not resume until June 2016 and there will then be several weeks of hearings, in blocks of weeks with gaps between, which Cllr Hart anticipates will possibly push into

next year. The Inspector will then adjourn for deliberations so we could be looking towards the back end of 2017 before a decision is reached.

#### **Scrutiny Committee**

The contact centre has shown improvements and they are still encouraging residents to use the website. A new programme is seeking opportunities to commercialise additional services.

#### **Council Tax**

Needs to be raised otherwise there will be major cuts. It is proposed to have a £5 per year raise over the next five years on a Band D House.

#### **Refuse Bins**

Cllr Hart had received a letter from a resident concerning placing refuse bins in the front of dwellings, it now appears that new builds are required to have bin stores.

#### **Planning**

Cllr Hart sat on SC Planning Committee on Wednesday. Among the applications was one for a massive 106 hectare 50 MW solar farm on land North of the A428. Several solar farms mainly sited on agricultural land have been approved in South Cambs, but last year the government issued new guidance which was aimed at discouraging the siting of solar farms on good quality agricultural land, categorised as Best and Most Valuable Land. This was the first such application on BMV land coming before Planning Committee post the issue of the guidance and it was unanimously refused, both for misuse of BMV quality land and because the proposed site was too large in scale. It remains to be seen whether the application will be appealed.

271/02/16

#### **Report from County Councillor:**

**Pot Holes:** Pot hole measurement requirements are now more explicit: The Council website says: 'If you feel the issue presents a danger to the public, please call the police 101.

Please be aware that we will not repair defects below our agreed intervention levels:

If you are reporting a pothole or road damage on quieter or residential roads, we will not repair it if it is under 50mm deep (about 2 inches). On all other roads, it must be over 20mm (about 1 inch) deep before we will repair it. For footways, we will not repair it if it is less than 25mm (1 inch) high or low'.

**Social Care 2% extra Council Tax:** The Chancellor is allowing local authorities to raise an extra 2% in Council Tax specifically for social care. For Cambridgeshire that would bring in an additional £4.8 million, a lot of money though even with its massive cuts will have to be made. Parish Councils are being encouraged to write with their support for the rise.

**High Street footway:** Highways has responded to my request to cost the footway work and look for funding, though there are no guarantees. The cost of resurfacing between One Stop and the station on the west side of the road would be £17K. Cllr van de Ven has arranged to take the new Highways officer to inspect it when they visit Meldreth later this month.

**Drainage:** In advance of the drainage information evening on the 29<sup>th</sup> February, a date has been set for the relevant officers to tour Meldreth's drainage network. RAS will be joining the team. They will look at areas where residents have proactively improved drainage systems on their property, and work that the parish needs the County Council to do.

**Flood Risk audit:** Unfortunately the on-line map is somewhat superficial – much detailed information that would paint a more helpful picture is not there. Cllr van de Ven has asked if detailed local knowledge from the Highways team could not be added in. RAS reported that the audit was never finished, they started the procedure 3 years ago but concentrated on certain areas of the village and never completed the remaining areas.

**Fenny Lane/Whitcroft Road junction:** Due to the fact that the junction appeared on the accident cluster list, its status for funding purposes has changed and therefore be able to access some modest work from the Road Safety team. They are not able to help yet but have agreed to liaise in April, on a plan to meet and figure out what remedial measures are possible.

**Superfast broadband anomalies in Meldreth:** There are two neighbourhoods that have been entirely missed out from the superfast broadband roll-out. These are Burtons and Marys Way. The way the roll-out contract works is that where commercial providers have not indicated a plan to roll out superfast broadband, the County's programme steps in. So, Melbourn and Foxton are largely covered by Virgin but Meldreth and Shepreth were not earmarked, so became part of the county programme. Shepreth Parish Council has invited the Connecting Cambridgeshire team to a parish council meeting – if Meldreth would like to do the same that can be arranged.

272/02/16

#### **Solar Farms:**

**SunEdison (Bury Lane)** on the one-off Community Benefit payment of £50,000.

- Update on Agreement. Documentation from SunEdison needs to be updated. DL will update the agreement which can then be sent to SunEdison.

**Action: DL/Clerk**

**Lightsource (Substation)** Decision of donation to RSPB Fowlmer. This has now been handed over to the Solar Money Working Group.

- 273/02/16 Solar Money Working Group:**  
Minutes were circulated and the group are presently looking into several of the options, further discussions are needed.
- 274/02/16 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**  
Precept request has been sent to SCDC  
Dog Bin – response from SCDC on placement of new bin has now been received.  
Mud on road – Clerk has contacted Mr Burlton who was aware of the situation and the roads are being cleaned.  
Clerk is still trying to contact the landowner for the land near Sudely Grove. AY will make enquiries as all avenues the Clerk has tried have not come with any results. **Action: AY**  
Mettle Hill - Clerk has sent out letters to all those who had shown an interest in Mettle Hill asking for their proposal along with an invitation to put forward these proposals at the Village meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- 275/02/16 Melrose:**  
Update on landscaping issues at Melrose.  
Concern on the asbestos cement located in the proposed community orchard which adjoins Melrose. Clerk is still awaiting updates on both accounts. **Action: Clerk**
- 276/02/16 Planning:** Cllrs. Land, Searles, Fallon, Hawkins, Lee, Pellatt and Stewart (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).  
**Planning meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January.**  
**33 North End, C/11/17/07/02 - Tree Work – Crown lift Beech Tree**  
Meldreth's tree officer Mrs Margaret Lynch, has arranged a site meeting with the resident. It was suggested that the Clerk ask for an extension so that the comments from the Tree Warden can be incorporated. However, it was felt that the work should be kept at a minimum. The solar array would require a heavier pruning and this is felt to not be justified. The trees form an important part of the street-scape near the church. **Action: Clerk**  
**11 The Grange, S/2858/15/FL - Single storey rear and front extension.** Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval** with comments. 'Have there been discussion with No. 12 The Grange regarding a 'Party Wall Agreement'?'  
**37 Station Road, Melbourn, S/3097/15/FL - Erection of detached Annex containing five hotel rooms, laundry room and disabled WC.** Meldreth Parish Council recommend **Approval** with comments. 'Meldreth Parish Council were not previously consulted on the previous application S/0899/15/FL, which was refused.  
**29 North End, S/3127/15/DC - Discharge of conditions for application S/2617/14/LB & S/2618/14/FL.** Due to the documents not being received in time, this application has been **deferred** until the Planning Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.  
**11 North End, S/3004/15/LB & S/3005/15/FL - To erect a conservatory to the rear of the property.** Meldreth Parish Council recommend **No Objection** with comments. 'If SCDC are minded to approve this application a condition to be inserted that the converted garage remains ancillary to the occupation of the main building and not as a separate residence  
**Planning meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Verbal Report**  
29 North End, S/3127/15/DC - Discharge of conditions for application S/2617/14/LB & S/2618/14/FL. Meldreth Parish Council recommend **'No Objection'** with no comments.
- 277/02/16 Eternit:**  
Update on regarding the proposal of 170 houses on their brown field or the Arable land. There will be a public exhibition on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall from 2 - 8pm. The leaflet design has been circulated along with comment forms from Eternits. It was suggested that some of the wording in the comment form should be changed and that the reference to Meldreth Parish Council in the leaflet be omitted as it could be misleading. Comments to be sent to the clerk who will then contact the company with the suggested changes. Clerk has still not heard back from Eternit's in regards to the 4 banners the parish council had requested. It was proposed by AY, seconded by SH, that if Eternit could not organise the banners then the Clerk would do so and the costs to be met by Eternits. **Action: Clerk**  
Clerk to make enquiries to see if the Atlas building at Eternits has been listed, need to go contact Historic England, might also be useful to contact the History Group. **Action: Clerk**  
Clerk will put together a rota for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>. **Action: Clerk**

- 278/02/16 Financial Regulations:**  
Documentation had been circulated. It was proposed by AY and seconded by SH to accept the new regulations, all agreed.  
Clerk to contact Lloyds to see how some of these changes ie three signatories on the bacs payments can be achieved. **Action: Clerk**
- 279/02/16 Parish Footpaths:**  
Cllr had received the recent minutes and spreadsheet for works for the footpaths. The footpath team is also opposed to any proposal to close the railway crossing on footpaths 6 and 10 (by the River Mel to Melbourn and by Station road near Fieldgate Nurseries).  
Cllr van de Ven reported that Network Rail have promised that there will be a consultation on this matter.
- 280/02/16 Playground:**  
1. Monthly Report – all equipment appears to be in good working order and the new pieces of equipment are being well used.  
2. Update to extend the fenced area around the play equipment. Clerk has received on quote, will be requesting two further quotations. **Action: Clerk**  
3. Quotes to trim vegetation on the ditch and remove tree stumps within the ditch along with other various tree works around the recreation ground.  
Following discussions it was proposed by RAS, seconded by AY and agreed by all to accept the quote from Herts & Cambs for £600 + vat . Clerk to contact them. **Action: Clerk**
- 281/02/16 Pavilion:**  
DS reported on the progress so far.  
There does not appear to be any FA grants available. He also enquired if it would be possible to lease out the pavilion to the football team to then manage, NS was not aware of any other clubs who do this. AY reported that any refurbishments not matter how small will require a disabled toilet. If it was a matter of decorating then no but any updates to the structure would bring in the new building regulations. NS will contact Bassingbourn to see if they have had to do this, Clerk will make enquiries with the Planning Department at SCDC.  
**Action: NS/Clerk**
- 282/02/16 Rugby Group Benevolent Fund:**  
Deferred to next meeting
- 283/02/16 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:** Other items may be included for information.  
**Training** - Clerk to attend Finance Meeting run by SLCC on 12<sup>th</sup> February at Sawtry - cost £20.00  
**Street Lighting (CCC)** – The Parish Council were informed that some of the street lights would be turned off during the hours of 12am till 6am. The Parish Council enquired if some of these lights could be turned back on at 5.30am, this was for residents travelling to the station for the early trains. Since this further discussions have taken place within CCC and the lights will now be turned off from 2am till 6am. Unfortunately, there is no option to have the lights turned back on at 5.30am the only option the Parish Council has it to pay £7.70 per light and have them turned on for the whole night. **Agenda item for next meeting.**
- 284/02/16 Local Highway Scheme:**  
Update from RAS and SH – **Deferred to next meeting.**
- 285/02/16 Grass cutting contract:**  
Contracts have been sent out.
- 286/02/16 Footway at Biddal's Blvd:**  
Update from Cllr van de Ven – nothing to report, deferred until next meeting.
- 287/02/16 Pet Crematorium:**  
Nothing to report and to be removed from agenda
- 288/02/16 Councillors' Reports:**  
RAS – It has been reported that vehicles have gained access onto Mettle Hill, the police have been notified. As the land is privately owned the cars can not be removed by the police, however the Parish Council can ask SCDC for a 7 Day removal notice. If the cars have not be removed by Monday then the Clerk to progress with a removal notice.  
**Action: Clerk**  
AY suggested that the bund will need to be filled in.

**289/02/16 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	£ 1,121.15	0	January salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	0	Grass cutting (January)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 20.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984

**Payments for approval**

Inland Revenue	£ 221.85	0	January PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
J Damant	£ 7.43	0	Expenses	LGA 1972 s113
D Chappel	£ 60.00	0	Swing seat and relaying of paving slabs as play area	OSA 1906 s9/10
Eon	£ 61.80	2.94	Electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133
Bassingbourn PC	£ 117.00	0	Cllr training x 2	LGA 1972 s113
Melbourn Mobile	£ 75.00	0	1 <sup>st</sup> quarterly charge for 1	LGA 1972 s113
Melbourn Mobile	£ 150.00	0	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarterly charge for 2	LGA 1972 s113
Stationery Cupboard	£ 34.42	5.74	office supplies	LGA 1972 s113
Sally Walmesley	£ 59.96	0	Clerk cover for November	LGA 1972 s112
Sally Walmesley	£ 7.29	0	Clerk expenses for November	LGA 1972 s113
SCDC	£ 25.00	0	Room hire for Clerk training	LGA 1972 s113
Richard Burns	£ 125.00	0	Water heater for pavilion	LGA 1972 s113
Meldreth Village Hall	£ 143.00	0	Room rental	LGA 1972 s113
Staples	£ 429.46	71.58	Printer and laptop	LGA 1972 s113

**Deposits:**

OPC Rent	£ 270.00	Three months rent
Jeremy Rule	£ 140.00	Burial fees

Payment were proposed by JF, seconded by AY all agreed.

**290/02/16 AED Machine:**

Decision on whether Meldreth should look into getting a machine and placing it within the village. - Deferred until the next meeting, Clerk meanwhile will contact other parishes to see if they would be interested as it may be possible to get a reduction in price if there are more being purchased.

**Action: Clerk**

**291/02/16 Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Street Lighting  
Mettle Hill access concerns  
AED Machines

There being no further business the conduct the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
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