

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes un Approved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 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 D Lee (**DL**), Mr N Pellatt (**NP**), Mr D Stewart (**DS**), and Mr A Young (**AY**)

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

- 292/03/16**      **To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies received from Mr S Hawkins
- 293/03/16**      **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 interests declared.
- 294/03/16**      **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 was one member of the public in attendance.
- 295/03/16**      **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016:**  
Following a minor amendment to change initials from NS to NP on 281/02/16 the minutes were proposed by NP and seconded by DS all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 296/03/16**      **Report from District Councillor:**  
**Self Build Housing:**  
The government is very keen on self build and South Cambs is running a pilot to promote this as a means of people getting affordable housing in our District. In order for the council to benefit financially from this they will be selling off quite a lot of their own land as single plots for this purpose. Some of these will be where we currently have run down garages which are no longer let out. Residents who are interested in going down this route need to put themselves down on the Self Build Register (on South Cambs website) and they will endeavour to match each applicant with a plot.  
**South Cambs Council Tax:**  
South Cambs Council Tax is going up by the maximum allowable under government rules which is £5 per annum for a band D house. A further £180,000 of savings will still be required despite this but it would have been much worse if Council Tax had been frozen. Local members were glad to support a proposal that meant all South Cambs tenants including Sheltered Housing tenants will benefit from a reduction in their rents – the Government rent reduction scheme did not include Sheltered Housing
- 297/03/16**      **Report from County Councillor:**  
The junction at Frog End and A10 is going to go ahead as planned.  
The Oil Club will be donating their rebate of £150 to Camsite.  
The Bike Bank maintenance course has been very successful. Students from Melbourn Village College attended the course during half term period and the bikes were donated by Cambridgeshire Police. Students repaired the bikes and were then allowed to keep them.  
City Deal will be funding the Cambridge to Royston cycle route.  
Boundary Commission – Meldreth will now be part of Melbourn, Whaddon and Bassingbourn and it will be 30% larger grouping, they will no longer be part of Shepreth.  
**Superfast Broadband Meldreth gaps:** Connecting Cambridgeshire officers are working to address the gaps in provision in Meldreth, mainly in Marys Way, Burtons, and also some areas of Station Rd and West Way.  
**Bus and Community Transport User Meeting:**  
1. 26 people in attendance, several apologies. Representation by South Cambs District Council (SCDC), Cambs County Council (CCC), Royston and District Community Transport (RDCT), Kenzies Coaches, Meldreth Solar Fund Committee, Meldreth and Shepreth Parish Councils.  
2. Significant reliance on 128 bus and Royston and District Community Transport: mainly shopping and health, in Melbourn and Royston.  
3. Outline of County Council budget crisis: need to scale back to fulfilling legal obligations only. Legally obliged to run national Concessionary Bus Pass scheme according to basic requirements only - no exceptional discretions. Legally obliged to provide school transport.  
4. Withdrawal of all bus subsidies: stay of execution 2016/17, but must plan for life after the 128 bus that now runs a once-daily Shepreth-Meldreth-Melbourn-Royston circular service.

5. County Council recognizes the preventive function of community transport in enabling people to live independently and is doing its best to prevent cutbacks to grants that keep community transport providers in place – though this is not a legal obligation.

6. Explanation of rationale behind central government's 'Total Transport' grant now in play in Cambridgeshire: multiple-use journeys of County-run school transport. Ely area pilot to start in September. Challenges include reluctance to allow children to travel with wider public.

Ideas and points raised in discussion:

- Link to 26 commercial Stagecoach service in Melbourn would be useful.
- Link to step-free Shepreth Rail Station would be useful.
- Bassingbourn link maybe, though possibly unwieldy.
- A good deal of willingness on the part of passengers to pay for journeys now free.
- Kenzies Coaches confirmed RDCT's estimation that it would cost about £45K to run a like-for-like replacement of the current Cozy's 128 bus service.
- Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) as explained by Clare Gibbons – a couple of scheduled services and then DRT during middle of the day – appealing.
- Network of privately run school-run buses – Comberton, Bassingbourn, Sawston, Melbourn Village Colleges, and private Cambridge schools – should be explored for multi-usage.
- Special outings – Christmas shopping, seaside, etc – wanted.
- Village residents driving for private Tesco shopping could be invited to offer seat(s) to residents lacking access to private transport, for small contribution.
- A volunteer driver for RDCT offered to explore using Community Access Point (public computers) at Elin Way Community Room for helping with on-line shopping for residents.
- More information about arrangements already in place for people with mobility difficulties needs to be effectively disseminated – e.g. accompanied shopping within Royston Tescos.
- More detailed information about RDCT and 128 bus passenger client groups in Meldreth, Shepreth and Melbourn would be useful – CCC and RDCT to follow up.
- Cllr van de Ven to liaise with Solar Fund committee, RDCT, CCC, SCDC, Meldreth and Shepreth PCs to scope out ideas for possible new service(s), including costs of operating and travelling.
- A well-planned questionnaire in the village magazines on residents' travel needs would be helpful to this end. Cllr van de Ven to liaise with team above.

#### **Drainage Walk and Information meeting:**

In attendance: SCDC Ecology Officer, two County Council Highways officers, County Council Flood Management Officer, District and County Councillors, Parish Councillor and ten members of the public.

Worked through agenda, covering 2006 household flooding that triggered formation of Flood Avoidance Subcommittee, improvements to village drainage since then, areas requiring further and continuing work.

#### **Notable points**

Water table is much higher than it was a few years ago, following cessation of operations at Barrington Cemex and reduced operations at Marley Eternit.

Battle of the bulrushes: A great menace to ditches, bulrushes grow back easily. Advice is to seek Environment Agency permission to apply herbicide under professional supervision.

Chiswick End new development: it would appear that SCDC planning did not seek Ecology Officer input for protection of water vole habitat; also, permission from CCC is required to create bridge. The Parish Council need to be vigilant in identifying local issues that SCDC Planning should consult on given the high turnover of planning officers.

Contact should be re-established with Anglian Water: Jonathan Glerum.

SCDC street cleaning – how frequently is this done? Straw from turkey farm lorries and other debris is accumulating along the highway, not helping in the quest to keep drains clear. District Councillor to request SCDC to clear the streets and kerbside particularly in North End.

Flood Asset Register does not contain the level of detail we would expect. To be chased by CCC.

Peter Taylor has located numerous helpful drainage maps which he will copy and send to Rob for the Parish Council to hold (these should not be put on line).

Broken pipe work under the road adjacent to Keys Cottage High Street to be addressed.

Flambards ditch near rail station – obstructions need clearing.

170 homes proposal for Whaddon Road will require scrutiny by CCC Flood team to ensure development does not compromise integrity of drainage system serving existing village settlement.

Helpful advice and information should be posted in Meldreth Matters on a continuing basis.

Flood Avoidance Subcommittee to convene soon: Dates to be circulated ideally for March.

Action required on the College Farm pond: Parish Council should request Peter Taylor to jet out the drain from the College Farm pond to the running Stone Lane ditch and thence to the Guilden Brook.

**Action: Clerk**

**Education contribution, Foxton:** The County Council removed its requirement for an education contribution by the developer in the 95 houses appeal, on the basis that NHS demographic predictions did not justify it.

**Meldreth and Melbourn school growth:** The County Council is considering ways of planning for growth of both Meldreth and Melbourn Schools. This pre-dates their knowledge of the Eternit site planning application. Cllrs Hart and van de Ven will be meeting the officers next week to learn more.

298/03/06

**Meldreth Drainage Walk:**

RAS reported that they were able to understand an ongoing issue along North End/College Bend. The spring is running again that feeds the College Farm pond and as the water levels are rising more springs may emerge. The college pond drain runs along the edge of the highway and flows out into the running ditch at Stone Lane. Peter Taylor (Highways) is being very supportive. The hedge along Meldreth and Shepreth has now been cut back. There is new interest in the Flood Avoidance Sub Committee and Cllr van de Ven will contact Mr Taylor regarding the broken pipe under the High Street.

**Action: SvdV**

It was also reported that many of the drains are being blocked by straw from the farm vehicles it would be better if loads were covered. CCC clear the drains but not on a regular basis. SCDC sweep the roads, AY reported that it was last done in October 2015.

299/03/16

**Footway at The Blvd:**

The new footway at The Blvd has not been done correctly and street signs are still in place, across the footway, making it difficult for pedestrians, the surface is also of poor quality. Cllr van de Ven reported that Emma Murdon has done an estimate of £17k to repair the footway and bring it back to a higher standard. Cllr van de Ven is trying to find out why this occurred. AY also reported that there are large potholes in this area and it may be that the footway is collapsing. Cllr van de Ven will investigate.

**Action: SvdV**

300/03/16

**Solar Farms:**

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

It was proposed by AY, seconded by JF that the Parish Council sign the agreement, all agreed. The Chairman signed the agreement, witnessed by the Clerk. This will now be forwarded to Sun Edison.

**Action: Clerk**

301/03/16

**Solar Money Working Group:**

DL reported that no meeting took place last month, but there is to be a meeting within the next two weeks. Three members attended the Community Transport meeting. RAS enquired whether the group were near issuing their final report? DL is not sure at this moment but that a short list will be agreed soon.

302/03/16

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

Clerk is still trying to contact the landowner for the land near Sudely Grove.

Precept request has been sent to SCDC

Dog Bin – New dog bin has been erected in the recreation ground.

Rabbit fencing has been repaired in the burial ground.

303/03/16

**Melrose:**

Update on landscaping issues at Melrose. Response awaited from Planning at SCDC  
Concern on the asbestos cement located in the proposed community orchard which adjoins Melrose. Response awaited from Planning at SCDC. Cllr Hart will make enquiries.

**Action: Clerk/Cllr Hart**

304/03/16

**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 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

**8 Dwellings proposed at Station Yard: S/1140/15/FL.** The application was for 8 dwellings, 4 of which were to be affordable. This is now being looked at to have 8 dwellings, 3 of which to be affordable, this complies with the requirement of Policy H/3 of the adopted LDF, which secures a minimum of 40% affordable housing (3.2). Meldreth Parish Council are being asked if they still retain their recommendation of approval on the basis of the provision of 3 affordable units on the site. Meldreth Parish Council agree to the reduction from 4 to 3 affordable flats.

**Old Mill Site.** Mr Buzzing and Mr Chris Evans (architect) presented the council with the amended plans for the barn situated on the Old Mill Site. The concern over parking has been improved by increasing the parking spaces to 13, including a disabled bay. Out of office hours the commercial spaces can be used by residents and visitors. There are 4 commercial parking spaces and there should be no spillage of parked cars from this development onto the High Street.

**Planning meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 – Verbal Report**

**97 North End, Blenheim House, S/0315/16/FL** - Demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Alterations to internal layout. Single storey flat roof extension and two storey extension to rear.

Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'no objection' with comments. 'The applicant has already created a new access bridge and has destroyed part of the hedge in the process. The Parish Council contacted the planning department informing them that this was happening and did enquire as to whether planning permission was necessary. The Parish Council have no concerns over the proposal to the house, however is a revised application needed showing the new access point so Highways can be consulted?

**305/03/16**

**Eternit:**

Update on regarding the proposal of 170 houses following the public exhibition on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. Clerk is still processing the returned questionnaires. AY will then look over the responses. It was suggested by Cllr van de Ven that a door to door consultation should also take place. A rota will be drawn up for doing this. It was also suggested that Meldreth look into S106 agreement. Clerk will contact James Fisher.

**Action: Clerk**

It was also suggested to contact members of other parishes who have been through this process. Clerk to make enquiries and if possible to set up a meeting, this meeting will not be to discuss the application, as none has yet to be submitted, but to gain information on what Meldreth may need to do if and when it is submitted.

**Action: Clerk**

It was suggested that a working party be set up: CAL, JF, DL and AY agreed to be part of this. Atlas Man – unable to get listed building status on this as the History Group have tried in the past and were not successful. If the development went ahead the History Group would like the facade to be either placed within the development or given to the village.

**306/03/16**

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report - CAL and JF have checked the play equipment and recreation ground. It would appear that somebody is using a metal detector and leaving holes, notice to be put up. The dog bin is now erected but there is still dog fouling occurring in the recreation ground. - clerk has put a notice in Meldreth Matters for March. CAL suggested that the neon spray may help, clerk to obtain the spray.

**Action: Clerk**

All equipment appears to be in good working order. Along the wooden trail there are places where the grass is wearing so matting may be needed along with further matting along the zip wire. Quotes to be sort.

**Action: Clerk**

2. Quotes to extend the fenced area around the play equipment. Have now received two awaiting a third.

**Action: Clerk**

3. Ditches - It has been requested that work on the ditch at the recreation ground be postponed until after the frogs have spawned, this has been agreed with JF. Herts & Cambs suggest waiting until after Spring.

4. Basketball/football quotes: Clerk has received from Kompan, Wickstead and Hags. The tarmac may have to be sourced separately. Hags are the only ones who have quoted for this but they have put in a proviso for the grass being damaged. In order for them to lay tarmac in the required location they will need to drive vehicles across the grass which may cause damage, so there will be an extra charge for this, just in case it is needed.

**307/03/16**

**Pavilion:**

Bassingbourn have a disabled toilet in their pavilion. Clerk is still trying to contact SCDC to see what, if any, the regulations are. DS suggested that one way around this is to put a compatible toilet outside. DC is in the process of getting three builders to give quotes and is also looking into an anti slip floor surface and a hut which would be able to store the football equipment.

**Action: DS**

JF has spoken to an electrician who stated that there can be three showers, DS stated that the electric supply was single phase and the potential load of two cold fed showers, wall heaters and water heating could potentially exceed 24KW. It would not be a good idea.

**308/03/16**

**Rugby Group Benevolent Fund:**

DS will look over this.

**Action: DS**

309/03/16

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:** Other items may be included for information.  
**Litter Pick** scheduled for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Clerk has arranged for 30 litter pickers which will be on loan from SCDC who will also pick up the rubbish. Mrs P Hart organising.  
**Community Fair** – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2-6pm at Burgess Hall, St Ives PE27 6WU  
**CCC Electoral Review Cambridgeshire** – copy of report on [www.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143)  
**Hedge along Sudely Grove:** Have left a message with Tim Elbourn as he may know who the landowner is on Sudely Grove, waiting to hear back.

**Bank:** In the process of contacting Lloyds to change signatory authorisation status and to get documentation for change of signatory.

**Footway Lighting:** Invoice has come in for street lighting – Clerk to carry out survey to check the 37 footway lights.

**Speed Limit Reduction:** Have emailed PolicyandRegulations at CCC to enquire what is happening with the speed limit reduction along North End and Shepreth Road, project being done with Shepreth. Response was that they apologise but they are very busy at the moment but will be contacting us soon.

**20mph Speed Limit:** Letter from resident who is not in favour of a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph along Whitecroft Road, re article in Meldreth Matters, whereby a resident wants to canvas the village to have a reduction in speed. They are not in favour of a 20mph throughout the village. They believe the place for this type of speed limit is outside schools but that the speed bumps, parked cars along this road deter drivers from speeding so would make it superfluous. Whaddon's 20mph is along a section of Bridge Street and not the whole village as stated in MM.

**Buses:** Options development was emailed to cllrs. Area M Village north of Royston. Bus 128. Monday to Saturday. Option 1: Stop over in Royston has been extended to 2.5hrs. Works with 127 options 1.1, 1.3, 1a&b and 2.3. Elin Way 10:58 to Royston arriving at 11:20, Royston 13.50 arriving Elin Way 14.12. Option 2: Stop over in Royston extended to 2hrs 20mins works with 127 options 1.2, 2.1b and 2.2. Elin Way 11.08 to Royston arriving at 11.30; royston 13.50 arriving Elin Way 14.12

310/03/16

**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. It was proposed by RAS and seconded by AY that some of the lights along Station Road should be kept on, agreed by all. Clerk to arrange.

**Action: Clerk**

311/03/16

**Local Highway Scheme:**

LHI 2016/17 – Although Meldreth were not successful in their bid For LHI funding RAS reported that as the junction at Fenny Lane crossroads is now designated as an accident cluster site and therefore can be dealt with under the road Safety budget from April The Parish Council have precepted £3,000 towards works and RAS has had written confirmation from CCC Highways that around £10,000 will be provided by them.

312/03/16

**A10 Corridor traffic survey:**

Jose Hales from Melbourn asked if neighbouring parishes would be interested in joining with Melbourn to have a wider area traffic survey done, Meldreth agreed to this during the month as Mr Hales needed to know on short notice. It was felt that it would be a good idea to survey all the roads feeding onto the A10 from the A505 to Harston (M11). All participating council will share in the data obtained.

The cost for each road to be surveyed is £145.

It was agreed that the following roads should be surveyed.

- Station Road (Meldreth side)
- Whitecroft Road from the 30mph sign
- Kneesworth Road, leaving the village from West Way (this may be covered by Bassingbourn.
- High Street – Stocks end

- North End – (this may be covered by Shepreth).  
Clerk to inform Jose Hales.

**Action: Clerk**

313/03/16

**Mettle Hill:**

- Proposals for alternative uses for Mettle Hill – these are in the process of being circulated to councillors. It was suggested by AY that Tingdene Park Homes be invited to the next meeting. Clerk to arrange.

**Action: Clerk**

- Access issues – not discussed. The cars which were on the land have now been removed.

314/03/16

**Grass cutting contract:**

**Grass cutting quotes:** March to October season Have received two back. DP Gardens £6,480.00. If this is accepted would remain the same for 3 years and paid monthly at £540.00. No VAT. Buchans: £7864.80 per year exclusive of VAT, subsequent years will be subject to CPI. Awaiting a third quotation. If a further cut is needed to contact the present grass cutter to carry out a monthly cut.

**Action: Clerk**

315/03/16

**Councillors' Reports:**

**DS** – MAYD is on the list of nominees for the Annual Awards Ceremony on the 10th March at the SCDC offices in Cambourne.

**DL** – Dan Goodfellow, formerly of Meldreth, is now diving with Tom Daley, it would be a nice gesture to send a card and put a notice in Meldreth Matters. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**

**AY** – What is the outcome of the submitted proposals for Mettle Hill? CAL reported that there was none. The land will stay in the ownership of the Parish Council. T & R have not yet been defined. The consultation gave an indication of what the village wanted. The final decision will be with the Parish Council.

**JF** – would like to use a skip to remove all the rubbish at the pavilion. Proposed by CAL, seconded by JF agreed by all. Cost will be £150.00.

**Action: JF**

316/03/16

**Financial Assistance:**

It was proposed by RAS and seconded by JF that £350 be donated to the Melbourn Library, agreed by all.

317/03/16

**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	£ 1,150.06	February salaries	LGA 1972 s112
D P Gardens	£ 514.16	Grass cutting (February)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Talk Talk	£ 20.31	Broadband	TCA 1984
BT	£ 157.57	Telephone	TCA 1984

**Payments for approval**

Inland Revenue	£ 221.85	January PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
J Damant	£ 67.55	Expenses incl Norton	LGA 1972 s113
D Chappel	£ 128.60	Rabbit fencing repairs and erecting new dog bin	OSA 1906 s9/10
Staples	£ 235.91	office supplies	LGA 1972 s113
CCC	£ 1,180.25	Street lighting	
		1/10/14 to 30.9.15	LGA 1972
SLCC	£ 15.00	Clerk finance training	LGA 1972 s113
JAB	£ 100.00	Emergency tree work	OSA 1906 s9/10
Sally Walmesley	£ 119.92	Clerk cover	LGA 1972 s112
Sally Walmesley	£ 9.00	Expenses	LGA 1972 s113
Stationery Cupboard	£ 136.68	Toner Ink	LGA 1972 s113

Finances were proposed by NP, seconded by RAS all agreed.

Staples: The printer ordered last month has been sent back and awaiting a credit note, new printer ordered along with paper and ink.

**Deposits:**

Mettle Hill Fighting Fund	£ 4550.96
Funeral fees	£ 265.00

- 318/03/16      AED Machines:**  
Clerk has approached other parishes and is presently working on how many would be interested. Is also in contact with the BHF and Ambulance Service for their recommendations on machine and where best positioning would be within the village.
  
- 319/03/16      New Councillor:**  
SH will be standing down as of May 2016, process to co-opt will begin so that a new councillor will be able to take over in May.
  
- 320/03/16      Agenda items for the next meeting:**  
Mettle Hill proposals  
AED's  
Planning Proposal at Eternit's – report from Working Group

There being no further business the conduct the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
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