

ANNUAL MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th May 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 A Keena (**AK**), Mr D Lee (**DL**), Mr N Pellatt (**NP**), Mr D Stewart (**DS**) and Mr A Young (**AY**)

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

032/05/16 Election of Chairman and signing of the Acceptance of Office and Agreement to Abide by the Code of Conduct: The Chairman remains in their seat until they have been reinstated or a new Chairman is voted in. (Chairman has the casting vote).
Mr A Keena nominated Mr C A Land, seconded by Mrs J Fallon, all agreed. Mr C A Land was re-elected as Chairman and took the seat. Mr C A Land then signed the Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.

033/05/16 Election of Vice Chairman and signing of the Acceptance of Office and Agreement to Abide by the Code of Conduct:
Mr D Stewart nominated Mr R Searles, who declined as he felt that there should now be some succession plan and he had been the Vice Chairman for 13 years and it should now be someone else's turn. There were no other nominations. Agenda item for next month.

034/05/16 To receive any apologies for absence:
There were no apologies as all councillors were in attendance.

035/05/16 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.

036/05/16 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 9 members of the public in attendance. The Tennis Club presented a report concern the Tennis Club. There does not appear to be a formal agreement between the Tennis Club and the Parish Council. RAS confirmed that he thought this was the case. When the second court was built the Parish Council handed over the running of the courts to the Tennis Club on the proviso that the Tennis Club maintained the courts. However, the Tennis Club believe that this should now change as they need a formal agreement in order for them to obtain grants. The tennis courts need resurfacing and the club is also looking into obtaining floodlights, though this is just a proposal at the moment. The Lawn Tennis Association will match fund any funding the club is able to gain. Christine Knight will contact the Clerk and look into putting an agreement together. The club is also looking for some funding from the Parish Council.

1. Concern was also raised by members of the public with regards to the possible loss of the funding of £50,000 from SunEdison. It is rumoured that the company is now in financial trouble and the contract has still not been signed, what is the reason as to why it has taken the Parish Council so long to obtain the funds?

There are various factors regarding this:

The Parish Council did not want to appear to be influenced by the possibility of a cash grant to favour a development which many residents were against and the Parish Council did not want to appear to be predetermining their position. Cllr Hart did notify the Council that they could look into a financial contribution prior to the application being approved by SCDC, however the Parish Council due to the feelings of some residents, were hesitant in doing this. On behalf of the Parish Council and with its permission, Cllr Hart made enquiries into what type of contribution would be given and with what conditions.

A meeting was held with SunEdison in October 2014 and a number of projects were identified for funding. Subsequently a further project was identified as the ramp at the station. However, this was never agreed at a parish council meeting and when the contract was sent to the Parish Council this project was in the agreement for the whole £50,000. This could not be signed as the Parish Council had not agreed to this, it had not been discussed or agreed at a Parish Council meeting, the contract

was also made out to Cllr Hart, who is not a Parish Councillor and if the Parish Council had allowed this it would have been an illegal decision. The Parish Council's contact then left the company but nobody notified the Parish Council and contacts with anyone in SunEdison proved difficult. The next contact was with the SunEdison office in Spain, who amended the contract, this has now been signed by the Parish Council and is awaiting SunEdison to sign. There has been no official notification to the Parish Council regarding the financial situation with SunEdison.

Cllr Hart then expressed her frustration and stated that another reason was the Parish Council insisting on having an 'anti bribery clause', which she felt was not necessary and that the Parish Council were trying to be 'whiter than white'. The Parish Council do not apologise for this as the previous agreement with another solar company, in the village, insisted that an 'anti bribery clause', needed to be included. RAS also reported that it has not been easy when residents had not come forward with ideas on where they thought this money should be spent. The question of the ramp also meets with other questions regarding Meldreth residents and that is one of access to the ramp, the footway along Station Bridge is not wide and then residents would have to cross the road to access the footpath, opposite Fieldgate Nursery to access the ramp to the station. DS reported that the Parish Council had recently looked into improving the footway but were looking at costs from £60,000 to £80,000 as the 'stink pipe' would also need to be moved in order to extend the footway.

2. A member of the public would like it noted that they are in support of introducing a 20mph speed limit along North End. RAS stated that unfortunately, police accident data does not support this, unlike Fenny Lane which has now been identified as an accident cluster spot. The Parish Council are presently waiting for the data from the traffic survey which is due to be carried out, this is in conjunction with other villages and will give a true report of not only where traffic is going, rat running, it will also give reference to the type of vehicle and speeds being travelled. It was also noted that Meldreth are very active with 'Speedwatch' but they are in need of further volunteers to run more sessions. The Parish Council have agreed to update the Speedwatch equipment which will now be shared with Whaddon, this will help in setting up programmes as the equipment will no longer belong to the Police but between the two parishes so will be more accessible, but in order for this to be successful it needs bodies to set up the programmes.
3. Another resident said he is not in favour of a 'blanket' 20mph speed limit through the village. There is no need to have it along the High Street, near the shop and school as traffic does not travel in excess through that area due to parked cars and speed bumps. He also stated that serious speeders will not respect a 20mph speed limit. RAS reported that the Parish Council have agreed to have a reduction to 40mph along North End between Shepreth and Meldreth, this has been a joint project with Shepreth Parish Council. RAS also reported that the '20 is plenty' is not enforceable at this moment, in the past a 20mph was investigated for the High Street but through the 'Safer Routes to School' scheme, speed bumps were installed instead.

Chicanes were mentioned as has occurred in Whaddon, RAS reported that this idea along with white gates is presently being looked into with CCC for the Fenny Lane area.

4. Royston Community Transport (RCT) presented a report as they are presently seeking funding. The Government has donated a mini bus to the RCT and they want to introduce a "Dial-a-ride" scheme but they now have to look at gaining funds in order to run the bus. The idea is to seek funds from the parishes which use the present scheme. They will need £10,000 for the first year and if successful this will need to be raised as they will have to employ employee drivers, at the present time it is run by volunteers. Agenda item.

037/05/16

To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7th April 2016:

The minutes were proposed by AY, seconded by JF all in favour. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

038/05/16

Report from County Councillor:

Drain jetting: Cllr van de Ven has spoken to Peter Taylor (CCC) earlier in the week on a drainage tour of Shepreth. Cllr van de Ven has been trying to find out when the drains will be cleared, as per the Flood Avoidance action list agreed with him. Mr Taylor in turn had been waiting for SCDC to get back to him on a date to sweep the streets.

Thank you to Cllr Hart for getting this sorted yesterday. Unfortunately, the frequency of turkey straw on the roads is more than the street sweeping schedule can keep up with and therefore presents long-term problems. Nevertheless Peter Taylor has been informed of the imminent street sweeping so that the jetting can now be arranged.

Kneesworth Road collapsing pavement and dangerous road edge gaps: Cllr van de Ven has pulled out all the stops to get this done. Highways assure her that funding is in place and they just need to set a start date. They will inform Cllr van de Ven when this will be done.

Meldreth Station ramp and footpath 9 – linking Meldreth station to pedestrian access from eastern approach: Cllr van de Ven would like to invite Melbourn and Meldreth parish and district councillors to meet together discuss this matter of common concern. At the end of the day, the whole of the scheme sits within Meldreth parish, but there are a variety of benefits to both parishes. It is a very difficult scheme to achieve but Cllr van de Ven feels that in the long run it would be a mistake not to look for a solution - not least due to station overflow parking issues in Meldreth. Cllr van de Ven suggests liaising with representatives of both parish councils and reporting back to formal meetings.

Meldreth Station Audit: Comprehensive audits of all three stations in our Community Rail Partnership are being prepared by Railfuture and Govia Thameslink Railway, to understand capacity issues and to plan responsibly for the future. These will be shared with parish councils as soon as they are ready.

039/05/16 Report from District Councillor:

Cllr Hart stated that they are not happy about the accountability and leadership of the Parish Council, this is in regards to the £50,000 from Sun Edison which the Parish Council have still to receive (see item 036/05/16).

040/05/16 Parish Councillors' to sign their Register of Interests Forms:

All Councillors informed the Clerk that there are no changes to their Register of Interests – noted.

041/05/16 Footway at The Boulevard:

The specification for the footway was incorrect, there is now funding to have this footway repaired and have the street furniture moved, see item 038/05/16

042/05/16 Solar Money Working Group:

Report from the Solar WG including projected costs and priorities.

Jessica Gittoes from Lightsource is enquiring if the Parish Council have come to a decision regarding a request from RSPB Fowlmere?

Request from the Guides has been forwarded to the Solar WG.

Request from the Preschool has been forwarded to the Solar WG

It was proposed by AY to accept the Guides request for £449 for a new tent and Meldreth Preschool request for £1,500.00 seconded by RAS, all agreed.

Cllr van de Ven enquired if permission has been given by SCDC to place cycle racks at the corner of Bell Close. Clerk to chase.

Action: Clerk

043/05/16 Request for funding from the solar fund from Cllr van de Ven:

The CCC have been putting together a S106 contribution request for the 199 houses proposed for Melbourn which is due to go to appeal in August. This contribution is to improve the connecting footpath between Meldreth Station, across the field, to Station Road, Melbourn. The S106 contribution must be matched by a 10% local contribution and needs to be in place as soon as possible. The full amount of the S106 contribution is £81,600 so the 10% from the Parish Council would be £8,160.00.

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership has applied to the Department for Transport for a grant of £70K, for a ramp leading to the London-bound platform at Meldreth Station. Notification will be received soon as to whether this has been shortlisted. This item was not discussed at the scheme for the ramp has been declined by the Department for Transport and CCC have said S106 money can only finance 10% of the cost of upgrading to footpath. However the proposal of upgrading the footpath from the station to Melbourn to be discussed further (see item 038/05/16)

044/05/16 SunEdison Solar Fund:

Cllr Hart has raised concern regarding the £50,000.00 which was to be received by the Parish Council from Sun Edison in regards to the solar farm situated on Bury Lane.

Clerk has sent the Agreement, duly signed by the Chairman, at the last meeting on 3rd March 2016 but as yet has not received the signed document back from SunEdison. It appears that the company may now be in financial problems.

The agreement has now been received by Sun Edison, Parish Council awaiting the returned signed agreement, for all other discussions on this see item 036/05/16 and item 039/05/16 NP stated that he was offended at Cllr Hart's comments and stated that the Parish Council had followed the correct procedure, the fact that Cllr Hart believed the council dragged its feet and was 'looking a gift horse in the mouth' is not enough to ignore protocol and nobody could envisage that the company were going to be experiencing financial problems, if that is the case. RAS again stated that the company have not been easy to contact and that has also contributed with the hold up along with the confusion regarding contracts made out to the wrong people and projects being identified that the Parish Council had not officially agreed to. RAS reported that in hindsight once contact with Emily Marshall had stalled the Parish Council should have looked for another contact, however they did not know she had left the company and the project was now being looked over by the Spanish office. However, the Parish Council have been chasing this for many months.

045/05/16 Election of Planning Committee:
Planning committee to remain the same, proposed by CAL, seconded by RAS all agreed. Councillors, Land, Searles, Fallon, Lee, Pellatt and Stewart.

046/05/16 Elections to the following: Working Groups/Key Representatives and Trustee:
Cemetery Working Group:

CAL, CJF, AK and the Clerk (*nominated by CAL, seconded by RAS*)

Meldreth Recreation Ground Working Group:

CAL, CJF, NP and AK (*nominated by DS, seconded by RAS*)

Finance Working Group:

CAL, RAS, NP and the Clerk (*nominated by JF, seconded by DS*)

Policies Working Group:

DL and the Clerk (*nominated by CAL, seconded by RAS*)

Complaints and Personnel Working Group:

CAL, RAS, DS and the Clerk (*nominated by CJF, seconded by DL*)

Village Hall Representative:

NP (*nominated by CAL, seconded by RAS*)

Triggs Charity Representatives:

CJF and Mr J Chamberlain (*nominated by DS, seconded by AK*)

Parish Charities Representatives:

CJF (*nominated by AK, seconded by CAL*)

Melwood Conservation Representative:

Mr Graham Borgonon (*nominated by RAS, seconded by CAL*)

Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) Representative:

Mr Steve Marshall (*nominated by RAS, seconded by CAL*)

River Mel Restoration Representative:

SH (*nominated by CJF, seconded by DS*)

Flood Avoidance Sub Committee:

CJF, RAS, DL, Mr Paul Ray, Cllr van de Ven (*nominated by CAL, seconded by CAL*)

Mary Course School Fund Representatives:

CAL and RAS (*nominated by JF seconded by DS*)

SPEP:

Mr David Smith (*nominated by RAS seconded by CAL*)

Melbourn Area Youth Development: (MAYD)

DS (*nominated by CAL, seconded by RAS*)

Tree Warden:

Mrs Margaret Lynch (*nominated by RAS, seconded by CAL*)

Solar Fund Working Party

DL and CAL (*nominated by RAS and DS*)

Marley/Eternit Working Group

CAL, AY, JF, DL (*nominated by RAS and DS*)

047/05/16 Matters arising: (no actions information only)

There were no matters arising as all items were covered within the agenda.

048/05/16 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 21st April 2016

104 High Street, S/2519/14/FL - Erection of six residential flats, bin store and new link with additional commercial (B1 office) space for existing commercial unit.

Meldreth PC recommend 'no objections' with comments. 'Are there adequate parking spaces for the commercial units in terms of numbers of employees and the spaces being provided

for residents. There is still concern on spillage of vehicles parking along the High Street in this area'.

104 High Street, S/0558/16/FL - New carport. Meldreth PC recommend Approval with no comments

4 Stone Lane, S/0800/16/FL - Demolition of the existing garage to south/west elevation and the conservatory at the rear, new dormer attic/conversion to the rear. Removal of the existing windows and replacement of same with different style windows including alterations to the window opening, alterations to the existing porch at the front and placement of external insulation to all external elevations to the house. Meldreth PC recommend Approval with comments. 'The Parish Council would like to see details of the proposed windows'.

Planning meeting held on 5th May 2016 – Verbal Report

Fillcup Field, S/2944/14/FL - Comments regarding three new drawings on the already approved development. Drawings have been submitted in response to condition 17 of the planning permission. This condition requires details of how the open air fill material and digestate are to be stored without giving rise to unacceptable levels of odours. Meldreth comments are 'The Parish Council welcomes the information that there is likely to be no more than one vehicle movement a week bringing in fresh farmyard manure. This will go a long way to appease the anger in Meldreth that all traffic to the site is being routed through the village and in particular through the accident cluster spot at the Fenny Lane crossroads. We also welcome the amendment to cover the storage area to reduce odour pollution and do not believe the increased visual intrusion will affect Meldreth residents since it is at the rear of the site. However, given that it is anticipated that the fresh manure will be loaded into the Biodigester in 24 to 48 hours we are confused by the the need for two 30m X 16m silage storage areas which seem to be capable of storing considerably more material. We would like to see conditions imposed, as suggested, to ensure limits to the amount of material and the time that it is on site.'

62 North End, S/0875/16/DC - Discharge of condition 4 (materials) of planning permission S/2290/15/FL - INFORMATION ONLY. Noted.

SCDC Decisions: 73 High Street, S/0563/16/LB has been granted permission for repair and reinstatement of existing gable wall of The Homestead, following demolition of the abutting Maycroft care home prior to redevelopment.

049/05/16

Marley Eternit:

AY reported that the group have been meeting regularly and it has been decided to wait as the company have not put in an application to SCDC at the moment. However, they have a 'plan of action' and once the application has been submitted this can be actioned. Cllr Hart has been in contact with Footprints who are overseeing the project to build 170 houses at the land at Marley/Eternit. There is to be a public meeting on Wednesday 25th May from 4-9pm at the School Hall. The meeting on the 18th is for the working group only.

050/05/16

Playground:

1. Monthly Report – All equipment appears to be in good working order. The Working Group have gone through the Rospa Report and have given actions to the Clerk.
2. Rospa inspection has been carried out. Recreation Working Group have looked over the report and Mr Chappel has been asked to paint the green bench in the play area and put a new cap onto the small gate, however it was agreed that the Clerk contact Hill Trident as the report also states that the gaps within the small gate could cause entrapment of fingers. The new zip wire was also raised by Rospa and the Clerk has contacted Sovereign Play, who installed the equipment, so see if they can remedy the concerns raised by Rospa, this includes the gaps on the platform and the swing seat. The Clerk will also purchase two new baby swings and new brackets for the larger swings. **Action: Clerk**

051/05/16

Pavilion:

DS is awaiting further quotation, it is hoped to be able to make a decision at the next meeting. **Action: DS**

052/05/16

Rugby Group Benevolent Fund:

JF and NP reported that an application has now been submitted from the Football team.

053/05/16

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

- A10 Corridor Meeting will now be held on Tuesday 17th May at Melbourn Hub, 7-9pm.
- Councillor training: To be arranged with other parishes, it is hoped to organise training in June.

- Request to place 4 gazebos and a badminton net with posts for a wedding reception taking place in the Village Hall in August - withdrawn
- Dog bin post on Elin Way to be repaired – wood was rotting and has now been repaired..
- Grass cutting Risk assessment received from Dennis Vacher (CCC) sent to D P Gardens
- Parish Council Pension Scheme – Wednesday 25th May at Brampton or Thursday 26th May at Fulbourn – for councillors to attend as it is the council who is the employer.
- Hedge along Sudely Grove has now been cut back.
- The Whaddon Road Sign has been reported to SCDC.
- A letter requesting funding from a Meldreth student has been forwarded to the Village Chariteis.
- Highways: there is to be a course on Local Council Public Advisory Service at The Priory, St Neots on 18th May from 10:00-2pm
- Planning: Parish Training will be on Friday 15th July 10:-1pm and 23rd November 1.30-4.30pm
- Fire Extinguishers in the pavilion have come to the end of their 10 year contract. The purchase of replacing these extinguishers is £285.00 and then there is is yearly service charge. For a 3year fixed term £42.60 each; 5 year fixed term £36.60 each.
- Econgard: To purchase CO₂ extinguisher is £43.00; Foam £41.00 and the annual inspection is £75.00. It was proposed to ask Econgard if they would like to take up the contract. Econgard already inspect the village hall. **Action: Clerk**

054/05/16 Information Commissioners Office:

Report from the Clerk as to why the Parish should be a member was circulated.

It was proposed by NP that the Parish Council agree to this, seconded by AY, all agreed.

Clerk to arrange paperwork.

Action: Clerk

AK left the meeting at 9.35pm

055/05/16 Mettle Hill:

Mr T Birch gave a presentation to the meeting with regards as to what he would like to do with the land at Mettle Hill. He proposed that if the PC was minded to have another showmen's site that local showmen would be better people to run it rather than the Showmen's Guild.

056/05/16 Councillors' Reports:

DS reported that MAYD has a new leader and will be looking for funding. Melbourn Parish Council are supporting the scheme with a payment £10,600.00

057/05/16 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	£1199.85	0	April salaries	LGA 1972 s112
Talk Talk	£ 20.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984

Payments for approval

D P Gardens	£ 540.00	0	Grass cutting(March)	OSA 1906 s9/10
DP Gardens	£ 540.00	0	Grass cutting(April)	OSA 1906 s9/10
D P Gardens	£ 45.00	0	Strimming in BG	OSA 1906 s9/10
Inland Revenue	£ 216.73	0	April PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
Playsafety Limited	£ 117.60	19.60	Rospa Inspection	OSA 1906 s9/10
G V Borgonan	£ 10.00	0	Domain name	LGA 1972 s113
Capalc	£ 390.98	0	Annual membership	LGA 1972
Stationery Cupboard	£ 102.25	17.04	Office supplies	LGA 1972 s113

Deposits:

Jeremy Rule	£50.00		Burial fees	
Bassingbourn PC	£24.16		Transparency training	
Whaddon PC	£24.16		Transparency training	
Fowlmere PC	£24.16		Transparency training	
VAT	£3,706.89		S106 repayment of VAT	

Payments were proposed by AY, seconded by RAS all agreed.

Mr Pellatt left the meeting at 10pm

058/05/16

Speedwatch:

Mr Borgonan has forwarded information regarding both the portable speedwatch speed indicator devices and the fixed devices. These signs can flash 'SLOW DOWN' or THANK YOU, with an indicator of the speed being travelled. These signs are different to the speedwatch equipment which were discussed at last months meeting.

To be re-looked at once costings and the survey results from the A10 have been received.

059/05/16

Speed limit changes on North End, Meldreth and Meldreth Road, Shepreth:

This is joint venture between Meldreth and Shepreth Parish Councils. The project has been agreed by CCC and the costings have now been received. Lining £449.36; Signage and posts £1333.92 and TRO Advertisement £1000.00. Total cost £2,983.28; this does not include administration fees and vat. Costings will be divided 50/50 with Shepreth.

Shepreth have been notified and have agreed to the work progressing. CCC have been notified that all is in agreement and that they can now proceed.

060/05/16

AED Machines:

Meeting being arranged for June for neighbouring clerks/councillors and Well Medical to talk about the latest ipad defibrillator. Final date still to be arranged.

061/05/16

New Councillor:

There have been two enquiries. If an election has not been called for then SCDC will notify the Clerk and a notification for co-option will be placed at the beginning of May. SCDC have notified the Clerk that the Parish Council may now co-opt. Deadline for responses is 25th May.

Action: Clerk

062/05/16

Village Meeting: 19th May in the Village Hall

Speakers will have 10 minutes to put their proposal to the meeting with a brief question and answer session.

063/05/16

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Election of Vice Chairman
A10 Meeting
Eternit/Marley update
Update from the Annual Village Meeting
Solar funding
Co option of new councillor;
Councillor training
Clerk vacation in June
Parish Council Website

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 10.45pm. The next meeting will be 2nd June.

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