

MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Cllr C A Land (**CAL**) - Chairman, Cllr N Pellatt – Vice Chairman (**NP**), Cllr C.J. Fallon (**CJF**), Cllr R Goddin (**RG**), Cllr D Lee (**DL**), Cllr D Stewart (**DS**) and Cllr A Young (**AY**)

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

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- 094/07/16** **To receive any apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Cllr Searles (personal reasons) and Cllr Keena (work commitments)
- 095/07/16** **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.
- 096/07/16** **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 no public in attendance.
- 097/07/16** **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2nd June 2016:**
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Pettatt. Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 098/07/16** **Report from District Councillor:**
SunEdison payment
Cllr Hart was delighted to learn that the £50,000 community contribution from SunEdison has now been received. A lump sum such as this can be used to attract match funding for large scale capital projects in the village.
- Devolution**
During the last month the devolution goalposts have been moved several times and, contrary to what was reported last month, the devolution deal district Councillors were asked to debate and vote on at an EGM at Camborne on June 28th was not a Cambs/Norfolk/Suffolk alliance, but a Cambs/Peterborough model. To recap, government wishes all areas of the country to follow the example adopted in some of our bigger cities and have an elected mayor with a combined authority. South Cambs would send its leader to sit on the Cabinet of this Combined Authority, which would therefore occupy a level of government higher than our district and county councils. It is hard to see how this is power being "devolved" down to localities. The financial package which goes hand in hand with devolution is an infrastructure grant of £20m pa for 30 years, a housing fund of £100m to be shared throughout the Cambs/Peterborough region over five years and £70m over five years for affordable housing in Cambridge. The mayor would oversee the formation of a non-statutory spatial plan to sit alongside the local plan. There will be provision down the line for the mayor to place a 2% levy in business rates, money which will be kept and spent within the region. Members of the council were told that this money would not come to the region if they did not pass the recommendations under discussion. The party passed the recommendation, and other constituent councils also decided that they could not be seen to be rejecting the financial carrot, which means that a public consultation will now be carried out during the summer months and the policy come back for debate in October.
More information about Devolution can be found on SCDC's website; the consultation is online and can be found by visiting www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/devolutionsurvey.
The consultation closes on 23 August.
- Q. Cllr Goddin enquired if Cllr Hart had been able to look into the landscaping issues regarding the solar farm on Bury Lane. Cllr Hart said that they will look into this again.
- Marley/Eternit**
Cllr Hart reported that the developer's appeal against the refusal of planning permission for 199 houses off New Road in Melbourn will be heard on Tuesday 12th July. An application for a mixed development of 25 houses extending Collins Close in Shepreth promoted jointly by SCDC and the County Council will be submitted in the coming months. Cllr Hart is waiting for news on an application apparently for 125 houses off Meldreth Road in Shepreth. It is understood that a number of speculative planning applications outside the local plan were turned down at July's SCDC planning committee, and the new director of the planning department, Stephen Kelly, has indicated how dimly planning officers should view applications about which they have received no notice and which do not give a necessary level of detail.

Cllr Hart has spoken to a senior planning officer in the last month and they have indicated that affected communities should ask for adequate time for consultation to be built into the timeline for consideration of any application.

099/07/16

Report from County Councillor:

1. The County Council has voted through a new Devolution Deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a combined authority. The new authority will have a paid mayor with considerable powers and this will constitute a new layer of government. Cllr van de Ven voted against the deal because they believe that the role of mayor is unnecessary, wasteful and takes decision making away from lower tiers of government – parish, district and county. The deal sets out aspirations and financial commitments but contains no business case. The mayor will be elected in May 2017.
2. At the June 9th meeting, City Deal Executive committed funding for a pedestrian/cycle path connecting the Frog End junction with Melbourn at the Science Park entrance. An application for central government funding for a path and bridge to Royston, from Royston Rd Melbourn, is being prepared by the Cambs/Pet Local Enterprise Partnership, though post-Brexit funding pots are less certain.
3. AstraZeneca have kindly agreed to provide supplementary grounds maintenance to the A10 pedestrian/cycle path. So the County Council will do its two grass cuts per year and the extra funding will allow three more verge cuts, cutting back of side vegetation, herbicide treatment, etc. This will start immediately and is set out for a two-year period.
4. The appeal for the 199 houses off Melbourn New Road will take place this month. An S106 contribution for upgrade of the path across Footpath 9 connecting Meldreth Station's London platform as far as the A10 underpass is clearly set out as a planning condition.
5. Half-hourly off-peak services will be provided on our stopping station services at Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton from 2018, with the roll-out of the Thameslink Service. The Rail User Group has been lobbying for this for many years. All trains will be eight-car, able to carry nearly 1500 passengers. At all three stations, Cambridge-bound platforms will be lengthened. On the London-bound platforms, there will be selective door opening.
6. The Rail User Group meets next on September 20 and will be focusing on access issues at Meldreth Station.
7. Community Rail Partnership: We have been invited to join up with a new Melbourn area Community Interest Company currently in the process of being formed, in order to facilitate provision of some paid administrative assistance for the rail campaign which has become so active. There is now District Council support in covering our membership of the national Association of Community Rail Partnerships. The County Council also provides significant strategic officer support. County and District councils are now compiling an appendix to the South Cambs Transport Strategy to address strategic improvements for all three stations, following on from the station audits carried out by Railfuture. We would like to apply to Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton Parish Councils for financial support, for a sum of £700 each, which together would enable one day per week for six months. This is a first step. An application has been lodged for support via the Solar Fund.

100/07/16

Network Rail – Closure of the Level Crossing near Fieldgates:

Cllr Land attended the recent meeting but reported that this item was not discussed in any depth. Cllr Stewart reported that there may be a possibility of getting a footway from Fieldgates to the station footpath if this crossing was to close. Cllr Young agreed that these crossing may get closed regardless and it would be better to see if a better footway could be agreed and therefore giving a safer access route. Cllr Lee stated that he is opposed to any closures.

It was proposed by Cllr Young that the Parish Council should write to Network Rail regarding the safety issues with regards to closing this crossing and that pedestrians need a safer route, the footway across the bridge does not continue southwards beyond the bridge but stops at an uneven, narrow grass verge which leads to St John's Farm corner. This was seconded by Cllr Stewart.

Action: Clerk/RG

101/07/16

Speedwatch:

It was agreed with speedwatch that Littlington would oversee this project. Meldreth have already agreed to being a part of this project and to share the costs. Awaiting confirmation and agreement for maintenance and insurance cover.

102/07/16

Grass cutting on SCDC land:

Clerk and Mr D Pettit (Grass Cutter) have met with Dennis Vacher (CCC). Areas previously understood to have been owned by SCDC turns out to be owned by CCC. A resident queried access over the verge to his property, when a land search was undertaken it was found that the land in question was actually owned by CCC.

SCDC then undertook a complete land search for all the villages and found that this was the case and therefore handed back the land to CCC who are now responsible for its maintenance. This was unexpected for CCC which is why it has taken a while to sort out. As Meldreth have agreed, many years ago, to take over this responsibility it will now fall onto the Parish Council to maintain these areas. The areas are around Elin Way and Howards Road, and a verge along North End. The verge along North End is an area which at the moment is maintained by residents but it needs to be remembered that if they no longer want or are able to carry this out it will come back to the Parish Council. CCC have just completed a cut and will do another one in September this will then cease and the areas will be included into the grass cutters specification for next year. Clerk is awaiting costings from Dan Pettitt (grass cutter). Mr Vacher also stated that there may be a slight increase in the grass cutting grant. Costings to be agreed in September's meeting

103/07/16

Solar Money Working Group:

Solar Money Working Group:

There are now two funds: Sun Edison's one-off payment of £50,000.00 and Lightsource's annual payment of £12,673.

Applications have been received from: RDCT, Rail User Group, Holy Trinity Church, Meldreth Tennis Club and Melwood Conservation Group.

It was noted that the applications were not complete and therefore they needed to be returned. Decision to be made in September.

RDCT application: The application completed was for the £450.00 for 2015/16 and £450 for 2016/17, these donations are normally given from the precept money, it was proposed that these requests be agreed and the funds to be released from the precept accounts. It was then requested that RDCT complete another financial application for the Solar Fund.

Station Ramp application - form to be returned and completed.

Church roof application - form to be returned and completed.

Tennis Club - form to be returned and completed. There is a site meeting for 21st July to look at the proposed changes to the tennis courts.

Bowls Club are not ready, at this time, to put in an application.

It was requested by Cllr Lee that all the applications should be given to the Solar Working Group, including the request from Melwood as this had only just been received and the Solar Working Group had not yet seen it.

It was then proposed by Cllr Young that the Solar Working Group should be disbanded at the end of the year 31st December 2016 and that solar funding applications are given two deadlines (twice yearly) where they can be discussed by the Parish Council. The solar working party was originally set up to look over the applications as it was not known how many would be received and it would allow the Parish Council to carry on with other work. It would appear that, though the applications will be an ongoing matter, that the Parish Council will now be able to include this within their normal working schedule. Cllr Lee also reported that, as of today, permission had been received from SCDC for cycle racks to be placed on the corner of Bell Close and High Street. Costing are now needed. Cllr Young also stated that tighter procedures need to be implemented for the solar fund.

104/07/16

Railway Station Access:

Group meeting date is proposed for either the 19th or 20th September.

105/07/16

Matters arising: (no actions information only)

Solar Fund: Clerk has contacted Christine Knight to arrange a site meeting for the Tennis Club, this is in connection to their funding request.

Sun Edison: £49,993.00 has now been received along with the signed agreement. There was a deduction of £7.00 for bank charges.

Letters to the boundary commission concerning both CCC and SCDC have been sent.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan from CCC has been forwarded to Mr Stephen Marshall.

106/07/16

Planning: Cllrs. Land, Searles, Fallon, Lee, Pellatt and Stewart (Full details of planning meetings are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).

Planning meeting held on 16th June 2016**Planning meeting held on 7th July 2016 – Verbal Report**

107/07/16

Marley Eternit:

Cllr Hart reported they the working party are currently waiting to hear from Marley/Eternit. It is expected that the application will be submitted at the end of July and will be for 150 houses. It is hoped that this will be extended so that a village consultation can be carried out in September. See item 098/07/16

- 108/07/16 Mettle Hill:**
Due to work commitments Cllr Young would like to hand over the setting up of the working party to Cllr Goddin. This was agreed by all.
- 109/07/16 Playground:**
1. Monthly Report
Cllrs Land, Fallon and Keena have inspected the site and report that the igloo, rocking horse, slide, witches hat along with the two springers appear to be in good working order.
Zip wire has been inspected and tightened by Sovereign.
Zip wire seat has not been replaced by Sovereign. Clerk to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**
The Clerk still awaiting the swing seats from Wickstead.
New fencing to extend the play area, along with another small gate was delayed until July.
The matting around the slide and large swings is in need of replacing. Clerk to get quotations. **Action: Clerk**
- 110/07/16 Pavilion:**
Cllr Stewart has still not received a third quote in time for a decision to be made. Cllr Stewart also reported that they have been looking into upgrading the water heating system so that it can include hot water for hand wash facilities along with fan heaters being placed in the changing rooms. Cllr Stewart also reported that it would be a good idea to look into the possibility of a maintenance programme, Terms of Reference, booking system and a cleaner/caretaker. Cllr Young suggested that it may be possible to look use the services of a cleaning contractor to oversea the cleaning of the pavilion rather than employing someone. Cllr Stewart stated that once the work has been completed a management plan needs to be implemented.
Cllr Stewart stated that due to the 'holdup' (needs a better word) that the work may not start until the autumn and that the football teams may need alternative venues. Cllr Pellatt stated that this is not a problem as long as the teams are aware they can rearrange their games. The fields at Eternit are not available, as from next season, as there are now five teams playing over the weekends.
Cllr Stewart also stated that he has got some racks which can go in to the store room.
- 111/07/16 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:** Other items may be included for information.
Parish Liaison Meeting at Cambourn on 13th July 6.30-8pm,
CAPALC: Clerk and Cllrs catch up day on 15th July at Bluntisham Village Hall (9.30-3.30)
Cost £30.00.
Keeping Britain Tidy: Clerk has contacted Shepreth Clerk and ordered the signs.
Neighbourhood Planning workshop, 20th July 6-8pm at South Cambs Hall.
Fire Extinguishers: As there may be a hold up on the pavilion the new fire extinguishers from Econgard will be installed next week.

Footpath 9 & 9a has been cut back.

Clerk reported the loose manhole cover to Anglian Water who said that it should be reported to Highways, this has been done.

Neighbourhood Planning Workshop on the 20th July 6-8pm (Clare Gibbons)

Village Hall: complaint sent to the Village Hall has been dealt with by the Chairman of the Village Hall
- 112/07/16 MAYD: (Melbourn Youth Club)**
It was proposed by Cllr Young to contribute £300.00, this was seconded by Cllr Pellett, all agreed. At the moment there are only two youths attending the youth club from Meldreth, however it is hoped that this can be increased.
- 113/07/16 Village Maintenance:**
There were no items discussed.
- 114/07/16 Traffic Survey: Appendix 1**
Cllr Young has looked over the report. It was agreed that the information should be put on the website and published in Meldreth Matters. The survey shows that there were 105,068 weekly traffic movements with no major peak times. Due to the percentage of vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit, Cllr Young proposed that the '20 is Plenty' be looked into, even though it is not enforceable it may help. The cost of a notice is £35.88 and are 300mm x 400mm in size and can be placed in various areas.

Permission is sought by Highways if the post is situated on Highways land. It was suggested to have a site meeting with Highways to look at the best positions to place the signs. Cllr Young, Cllr Searles and Mr Borgonon to meet with Highways, Clerk to arrange **Action: Clerk** Cllr Lee also enquired if the police could carry out some speed checks. **Action: Clerk** Cllr Lee enquired how this information will be helpful in regards to the proposed developments in the area. Cllr Young explained that the information from this survey will be put together with the other the survey information from the other villages and will be able to give an overall picture of the area.

115/07/16

Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Fallon: There was a Triggs meeting on 5th July and another member is needed. It was agreed to put an article in Meldreth Matters. The volunteer does not need to be a Parish Councillor, but the Parish Council have to nominate the individual.

116/07/16

Councillor Training:

Clerk is waiting for definite dates to be agreed, but they will be evening sessions.

117/07/16

Pensions:

Clerk is in the process of putting the report together, new information received recently has resulted in some changes to the report. September item.

118/07/16

Tennis Court Agreement:

The agreement was discussed and in principal it was agreed subject to a couple of changes to the pavilion and to include maintenance of the hedge but to not include the hedge of Mrs Fisher. Proposed by Cllr Pellett, seconded by Cllr Young.

Agreement to be redone and circulated to councillors. The Tennis Club need the agreement so they can start looking for grant funding.

119/07/16

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/internet payment for approval and signature including any additional payments:**Payments already made**

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Staff	1253.51	0	June Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Talk Talk	20.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984	DD
D P Gardens	540	0	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
J Damant		0	Expenses	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
Inland Revenue	196.5	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	Cheque
Playsafety Limited	96.6	16.1	Rospa Inspection	OSA 1906 s9/10	bacs
Keep Britain Tidy	300	50	Dog fouling signs	OSA 1906 9/10	bacs
RML IT consultants	72	12	Computer cleaning	LGA 1972 s113	bacs

Solar Account

Melbourn WI	£70.00	Donation	Plaque	cheque
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Deposits:

Sun Edison	49997	Solar money
Light Source	12673	Solar money
HM Revenue & Customs	11190.24	VAT return
CCC	652.37	Grass cutting grant
Ivett & Reed	25	Memorial plaque
OPC	180	Office rent

Payments were proposed by Cllr Fallon to be correct, seconded by Cllr Young, all agreed.

120/07/16 National Salary Award 2016-2018

These pay scales have been done over a two year period 1st April 2016 and 1st April 2017 SCP27 will increase by from 12.317 to 12.440 and then from 12.440 to 12.564. Clerk's salary to be back dated in July; for April, May and June salaries already paid = £31.86. It was proposed by Cllr Pellatt to accept the increase, seconded by Cllr Stewart, agreed by all.

120/07/16 Burial Ground:

Area at the front to be roped off and sprayed (4mx4m) in preparation for wild flower seeds at a cost of £45.00. It was proposed by Cllr Land to accept this quote, seconded by Cllr Fallon, all agreed.

Cllr Land also reported that many of the graves are now overgrown and need some attendance, these are the older graves who may not have any family to look after them. Maybe worth putting together a working party.

121/07/16 Clerk Vacation:

Clerk will be away in August 1.8.16 till 12.8.16.

Cllr Land proposed accepting Mrs Walmsely's offer to cover the office while the Clerk is on vacation, seconded by Cllr Fallon, all agreed.

122/07/16 Invite:

Church Wardens and Parochial Church Councils of All Saints Melbourn and Holy Trinity Meldreth would like to invite a representative of the Parish Council to the Licensing and Installation of The Revd Elizabeth Shipp on the 19th July at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Melbourn.

Cllr Land will attend.

123/07/16 Agenda items for the next meeting:

'20 is Plenty'

Pension contributions

Pavilion

Marley/Etenit

Mettle Hill

Solar Fund Donations

Speedwatch

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm. As there is no meeting in August the next meeting will be on 1st September 2016

Chairman

Date