

MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st September 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 R Searles (**RAS**), 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**)

Guest Speaker: Sarah Marsh, Connecting Cambridgeshire.

Motion to exclude Public and Press: *Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Item 151/09/16.*

124/09/16 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr A Keena due to work commitments.

125/09/16 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:

Cllr Pellatt and Cllr Fallon declared an interest in item 142/09/16 as members of the football team committee.

126/09/16 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 8 members of the public in attendance.

Sarah Marsh was invited to address the meeting with regards to Connecting Cambridgeshire. Ms Marsh explained about Connection Cambridgeshire and the BT coverage regarding Superfast Broadband. In reality a fibre service will be a different speed compared to Superfast and the nearer to the cabinet the better the service and anything over 2km will receive no service. The cabinets are situated near the Stocks and the station. There are two areas within Meldreth (Marys Way and Burtons) who are unable to receive Superfast this is due to the following factor:

When BT made a bid for Meldreth they were informed that another provider was going to cover these particular areas and thus were not allowed to bid for them, subsequently the other provider did not fulfil this.

BT are now going into Phase 3 which is hoped to be completed by 2020 and can now bid for those areas which were not been covered in the previous phases. Ms Marsh stated that they are presently awaiting a response from BT to see if Marys Way and Burtons will be included, this is expected in November 2016.

It was also stated that not all providers will be offering Superfast.

There were members of the public who stated that areas in Chiswick End are unable to receive a good service and that the internet is consistently being knocked out which is not good for business. Cllr Young also stated that in some areas the lines get flooded which also causes internet breaks.

Connecting Cambridgeshire assist with the set up of broadband but they are not responsible for the running of it, that is down to the providers.

127/09/16 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7th July 2016:

Item 103/07/16 omitted CAL as the seconder to this proposal.

Following this amendment it was proposed by RG and seconded by AY the the minutes were correct, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

128/09/16 Report from District Councillor:

The summer has been dominated by the Marley Eternit planning application. The application for outline planning permission for 150 houses on the old Atlas factory site on the Whaddon Rd, could, if given the go ahead, bring about a 19% increase in the numbers of households in Meldreth. The working group of the Parish Council decided to carry out a village wide consultation in order to gauge the views of residents, but to delay its commencement until the end of the summer holidays in the hope that more residents would have returned from holidays. These responses are needed by the Parish Council to refer to in order to inform its response to SCDC planning department.

Q. RG inquired if the landscaping issues at the solar farm had been addressed yet. Cllr Hart will follow up along with the Clerk. RAS also suggested contacting the enforcement officer.

Action: PH/Clerk

129/09/16

Report from County Councillor:

Cambridge traffic congestion measures: Please take a look at the latest consultation from the Cambridge City Deal, at www.gccitydeal.co.uk/congestion. The consultation is open until Monday 10 October, and asks for views on an 'eight-point package of measures to tackle congestion' in Cambridge. Of particular interest will be proposals for Peak-time Congestion Control Points (PCCPs). Cameras with automatic number plate recognition would be located at fixed points in the city, and drivers passing those points in peak hours would be subject to a fine. The suggested locations are on Queens' Road, Grange Road, East Road, Hills Road, Mill Road and Coldhams Lane. Buses, taxis, bicycles and emergency vehicles would be exempt. The proposals also include a Workplace Parking Levy – an annual fee charged to employers with staff parking spaces. The level of the fee, and the number of parking spaces at which the fee would start to be levied, have not yet been suggested, but the consultation points to Nottingham as an example, where employers with more than 10 employee parking spaces pay an annual fee of £375 per space, and can choose to pass that cost on to their employees. A peak time congestion charge at entry points to the city, which would generate income to subsidize a high quality bus service in the wider area, was rejected by the City Deal Board members. A consultation event will be held at Melbourn Village College: 14 September, 5-7:30 PM.

New path to Meldreth Station: A planning inspector has ruled in favour of an appeal for 199 houses off New Rd Melbourn. While the village was strongly opposed to the application on the basis of concern about public infrastructure coping with a significantly increased population, good work was done to ensure a decent developer contribution toward improving public infrastructure. Key for knock-on effects in Meldreth will be a significant upgrade to the footpath across the field to Meldreth Station, which we hope will encourage more people to walk not drive. We now need a ramp and are continuing to work closely with Govia Thameslink (GTR).

Post-16 Education Transport provision: As previously reported, central government withdrawal of financial support to local councils has meant the ending of post-16 education transport subsidy. GTR has confirmed that the Cambridgeshire Student Connect rail discount which we brokered for our stations with First Capital Connect in 2009, offering 50% off the adult fare (compared to 33% elsewhere in the country), continues to be available. Due to the nature of GTR's contract, the Dept for Transport must confirm all schemes on the basis that they are revenue generating – this scheme has demonstrated a strong modal shift to rail in particular for Hills Road students.

Network Rail Consultation on level crossing closures: The agenda item tonight should refer also to the crossing south of the Station Rd bridge. NR are no longer proposing to close the Flambards crossing.

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group (item 136 on tonight's agenda) – this is a regular RUG meeting and takes place 20 September at Melbourn Village College. Unfortunately Melbourn Parish Council is now not quorate due to a large number of resignations; nevertheless we will press on with Meldreth Station access and sustainable interchange connection issues.

MAYD notice in the Laurentian: It would be good to get a regular blurb in the Laurentian.

Note on drains: Cllr Van de Ven has been assured that all the streets that have been logged for jetting will get done, but it is taking time to get round everywhere– the waiting list is months long. Unfortunately this is a reflection of the state of county council finance.

Kneesworth Road path work: Cllr van de Ven has asked for an update on timescales.

Fenny Lane junction road safety assessment: The Road Safety officer has now provided us with a list of proposed measures, which I have forwarded to Cllr Searles. It was suggested that a site meeting be arranged to look at the safety assessment. RAS and Cllr van de Ven to organise.

Action: VdV/RAS

130/09/16

Matters arising: (no actions information only)

City Deal meeting at SCDC has been postponed awaiting another date.

131/09/16

Community Highways Volunteering Scheme:

RAS reported that this is an initiative to get parishes to take up some of the items no longer being carried out by the local authority such as cutting back of vegetation, cleaning road signs ect. You need to register what items are going to be carried out by the Parish Council. AY enquired if this could be lead by a resident, which it could however it needs to be started by the Parish Council. An article to be placed in Meldreth Matters asking for volunteers and an explanation on what this scheme is about.

Action: Clerk

132/09/16

Network Rail – Closure of the Level Crossing near Fieldgates (not Flambards):

Proposed closing of crossing C04 is now on its second consultation. Public meeting to be held on 8th September 2pm-7pm at Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge. CB1 2EW. CAL and AY to attend.

Action: CAL/AY

133/09/16

Speedwatch:

A contract has now been signed between the parishes of Meldreth, Whaddon, Littlington and Steeple Morden for the maintenance and purchase of new speedwatch equipment which will be shared between the four villages speedwatch teams. There is now a major need for more volunteers to make this scheme a success, it takes 3 to 4 people for each session, the more people the more sessions can be done. RG enquired if speed cameras could be used, RAS reported that the police were not in favour of this, speedwatch is primarily an education process.

Associated item:

On 27th July there was a meeting attended by Cllr Young, Cllr Fallon, Mr Borgonon (speedwatch) and Mr Paul Jenkins (police) to discuss speeding issues in the village. Due to the recent results from the traffic survey it was hoped that the police would be able to schedule a higher profile in the village. Mr Jenkins is very much in agreement that good communication with speedwatch is vital and he will also look into a higher police visibility. Mr Jenkins reported that he had carried out a speed spot check the day before which had resulted in the seizing of a vehicle which was speeding and had no insurance.

134/09/16

Grass cutting on SCDC land:

A meeting has taken place with the Clerk, Mr Dennis Vacher (CCC) and Mr D Pettit (grass cutter). CCC will carry out one further rough cut, which will take them to the end of the grass cutting year (October). The new season begins again in March, Clerk has given copies of the map showing the areas along North End, Howard's Road and Elin Way which were previously cut by SCDC and have now been assigned to CCC. As Meldreth have taken over the grass cutting from CCC these additional areas now have to be included onto Meldreth's grass cutting specification, which is on a three year contract. It was proposed by AY to accept DP Gardens quote for £65.00 to include the missing areas, these will be included onto next year's grass cutting contract, seconded by JF, all agreed. Clerk will contact DP Gardens.

Action: Clerk

135/09/16

Solar Money Working Group:

RDCT application.

Church roof application.

Tennis Club

Station Ramp application. (this should be the Rail User Group)

Melwood Conservation Group

Bike racks

Kick/basket ball equipment

The Church, Tennis Club and RDCT applications to be discussed at next month's meeting.

Clerk will make enquiries about costings for bike racks this will also be on next month's agenda. Home Help was received but not in time for this agenda so will also be included at next month.

Rail User Group: It was proposed by AY that the Rail Users Group should receive £700, this was discussed and it was agreed that the funds should come from the precept and NOT from the solar fund, seconded by RAS, all agreed.

Melwood Conservation Group: It was proposed by AY to offer £1100.00 (A&B – Equipment) from the solar fund, this was seconded by RAS all agreed. Items (C&D – maintenance and event support) £450.00, should come from the precept and be put into reserves for Melwood. Proposed by AY, seconded by RAS all agreed. To be finalised at next month's meeting.

The Parish Council would like to extend its appreciation and thanks to the members of the solar working group for all their hard work. It is hoped that members would be interested in helping to set up a new working group '**Meldreth Futures Group**'. This group will not only look at incoming solar applications, but also items for S106 as well as looking at large capital projects. Clerk to write to members. It is also hoped that other residents would like to part of this working group.

Action: Clerk

136/09/16

Railway Station Access:

Group meeting date is scheduled for 20th September.

137/09/16

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 21st July 2016

27 High Street, S/1621/16/LB & S/1620/16/FL Proposed alterations and conversion of storage barn into habitable accommodation and alterations to listed building. Meldreth Parish Council recommend 'Support' with comments. If SCDC are minded to approve this application then there should be a condition restricting the barn being turned into separate habitable accommodation.

SCDC Decisions:

S/1091/16/FL, 10 Whitecroft Road has been granted permission for proposed first floor extension above existing garage.

S/2519/14/FL, 104 High Street has been granted permission for erection of six residential flats, bin store, cycle store and new link with additional commercial (B1 office) space for existing commercial unit.

Planning meeting held on 4th August 2016

61a High Street, S/1759/16/FL - Provide a first floor bathroom, internal alterations, raise central roof area new single garage. Recommendation Support with no comments

11 North End, S/1679/16/FL & S/1680/16/LB - Timber conservatory to rear of garage conversion. Recommendation Support with the following comments - 'If South Cambridgeshire District Council are minded to approve this application we Councillors ask that a condition is imposed so that the annexe cannot be used as a separate dwelling'.

Planning meeting on 18th August 2016 – There was no meeting

Planning meeting on 1st September 2016 – There was no meeting

There will be an Extra Ordinary planning meeting on 9th September at the Village Hall to discuss the proposed 150 dwellings at Marley/Eternit, S/1901/16/OL

138/09/16**Marley Eternit: Proposed development of 150 dwellings**

The working group have been meeting regularly during the summer and have now issued a questionnaire which is hoped all residents will complete. There have been two previous questionnaires, which residents have taken the time to complete, these were issued at the public meetings held by Marley/Eternit.

The planning application has now been received, by the Parish Council, and will be discussed on 9th September at 7pm at the Village Hall.

AY reported that the questionnaire have been delivered to all households and are due to be collected on the weekend for collation next week. There has been a good response from the online system which is automatically recorded. The questionnaires due for collection need to be collated manually and then incorporated with the online responses. The results will be available for the planning meeting on 9th September.

It was decided that it would not be appropriate for members of the Parish Council to meet with Mr James Munnery until the planning meeting has taken place.

If the application gets approved by SCDC then the Parish Council need to be looking at S106 contributions, this will be vital for negotiations. S106 are contributions given by the developers via SCDC in regards to the impact the application will have on the community. It was suggested that Meldreth should look at Melbourn Parish Council's plan. The new working group 'Meldreth Futures Working Group' will be vital in this procedure.

The Marley/Eternit Working Group will present the questionnaire results at the planning meeting.

139/09/16**Mettle Hill: Update from Cllr Goddin.**

RG gave a report on what has been happening with the Mettle Hill Working Group which has now been set up, but more volunteers maybe needed. However, the planning application with Marley/Eternit is taking precedence at the moment. The working group are looking what residents requested via the questionnaires, they have met with a Park Homes provider to find out what is involved and how it would be set up. The Parish Council will be the freeholder of the land but it may not be possible to get the land back, if required, as it involves peoples homes and they would be protected. The question of management was raised and the park home company would manage the site for a time period, but they could then hand it back to the Parish Council as the landowner they are ultimately responsible. Questions such as management and on what items, be it park homes, allotments or conservation ideas need to be looked at carefully. Self build and workshops both need individual planning permissions and demand for these uses is difficult to predict. Cllr Hart reported that SCDC would have a register as part of the Local Plan. RG stressed that this is not an easy process and needs to be properly understood as to what the implications will be. There is to be another meeting later in September.

140/09/16**Playground:****1. Monthly Report**

All the equipment appears to be in good working order.

The zip wire the rubber grip is missing and children can get there fingers caught in the chain link we did ask the firm to fix this: Clerk to contact Sovereign again. **Action: Clerk**

The new gate does not shut properly it needs the nuts tightening: Clerk to contact Sovereign.

Action: Clerk

Dog signs:

We also need to put a sign 'no dogs allowed' on the new gate and 'please shut gate': clerk to enquire if Dave Chappell can make these as he did with the other signs on the play area.

We also needs the dogs signs ';keep dogs on leads' at the small gate from Howard Rd and on the lamp post on Polly Acre: Clerk to order these signs and ask Dave Chappel if he can put them up.

Action: Clerk

Proposal to have the remainder of the hedge removed from the play area now that the new fencing has been installed. Clerk to get quotes.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk still awaiting the swing seats from Wickstead.

141/09/16

Recreation Ground:

Ditch: The ditch at the back of the recreation ground has been cleared though there have been some complaints on the standard of work. The stumps were not removed as it was felt that the bank may become unstable. Clerk is presently setting up a site visit with SCDC to look into clearing the ditch which leads from the recreation ground ditch along to Bell Close, this ditch is the property of SCDC and is presently overgrown and blocked and thus the water is not able to flow.

The Recreation Working Group are not not happy about the clearing of the ditch. It was agreed that a site meeting be arranged with CAL and JF along with the contractors and payment of the ditch to be held until this meeting. It was agreed that CAL can then request the release of payment.

Action: Clerk/CAL/JF

Tree Branch: A branch from a Green Gage tree situated on the ditch has fallen onto a residents shed. Clerk has arranged to have this removed and for the neighbouring trees, which are mostly Elders to also be inspected. CAL to look at this with the contractors.

Action: CAL

142/09/16

Pavilion: NP and JF declared an interest as members of the football committee and took no part in the discussion.

Quotes from three companies have now been received (Roban Builders Ltd, KTL Building Services and Taylor and Turner Builders Ltd).

The Parish Council discussed the quotes. DS stated that the work will need to be done in stages. It was proposed by DS to accept the offer from KTL, this was seconded by AY all agreed. At the moment there is £25,000 ring fenced in S106 funding for this work but the final cost is £33,785. The remaining £8785 to be precepted for in next year's budget, this was proposed by AY and seconded by CAL all agreed.

AY thanked DS and all those who have been involved with this project for their hard work and time in getting this finalised.

DS also reported that the railings and dip outside the building will need to be factored in at a later date.

143/09/16

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

Training: there is to be councillor training on the following dates. The sessions are being held at Meldreth Community Rooms and run by CAPALC on September 7th, October 12th and November 9th.

Land ownership: a question of ownership of land at Gables Close was investigated by the Clerk, who forwarded the matter to SCDC who now state that SCDC own the land in question and not what had been conveyed to the residents that the land in question belonged to the Parish Council, they are now in contact with the resident.

Bell Close: fallen branch has been reported to SCDC.

Litter bins at Tavern Yard: the large communal bins at Tavern Yard are not properly signed, this has been reported to SCDC Environmental Team.

One Stop: There has concern regarding the delivery vans at One Stop and blocking residents site lines, this was reported to the Manager at One Stop by a resident and they are looking into the matter.

Guides: A thank you letter has been receive from 1st Melbourn Guides

Fallen Tree Branch causing damage to a shed: Due to the high winds a branch has fallen from a tree at the recreation ground onto a residents shed on Howards Road, Clerk arranged for Herts & Cambs to remove the branch at a cost of £420.00, this was agreed by the Chairman. As this was an emergency further quotes were not requested, other tree work in this area will also be carried out to avoid any further branches falling.

Devolution Seminar: At Melbourn Hub on Tuesday 20th September 6-8pm

- 144/09/16 Local Highway Improvement (LHI) initiative:**
Application deadline is the 30th November 2016
RAS reported that improvements to the kerbing near the church and along North End have already been agreed. Cllr van de Ven has the costings. CAL to complete form. **Action: CAL**
- 145/09/16 MAYD: (Melbourn Youth Club)**
Due to Melbourn Parish Council not being in session the donation of £300 for MAYD has not yet been released. DS reported that the clerk at Melbourn is still paying Groundwork, who oversee the youth club so he suggested that the donation now be released. **Action: Clerk**
- 146/09/16 Village Maintenance:**
Benches and bus shelters to be varnished. Clerk to contact Dave Chappell. **Action: Clerk**
- Clerk has received communications regarding cycles travelling at speed along the footpath in the recreation ground leading from Bell Close to the High Street, especially around the bend near Bell Close. Clerk enquired with Mr Peter J Taylor (Highways) who stated that putting up a warning sign that pedestrians use this footpath would be a good idea. If you put 'no cycling' it would also mean that mobility scooters, wheelchairs ect would not be able to use this footpath. **DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING**
- 147/09/16 Traffic Survey:**
Following the meeting (see item 132/09/16) the question of placing '20 is Plenty' signs was also discussed. Mr Jenkins encouraged the use of '20's Plenty' but as they are not legally enforceable he stressed that communication between the police and speed watch as a key factor. He also stressed that the existing flashing speed signs need to work and might benefit from relocation. A site meeting with Highways is currently being arranged.
- 148/09/16 Councillors' Reports:**
JF – Update on a new member for the Triggs Charity. Mrs Linda Carter has been nominated.
JF also reported that the football club has received a grant of £1000.00 though they need to match fund this.
- 149/09/16 Pensions:**
The Parish Council legally have to put into place a pension scheme for its employees. Clerk is trying to put a report together, at the moment is looking at Ensure, LGPS and Nest.
- 150/09/16 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	1185.21	0	July Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Staff		0	August Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Talk Talk	20.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984	DD
D P Gardens	540	0	Grass cutting July	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
D P Gardens	550	0	Grass cutting August plus strimming around tennis courts	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
Sovereign Play	2564.28	427.38	Railings at Rec	LGA 1972	Bacs
BT	264.32	44.05	Telephone	LGA 1972	DD

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
J Damant	30.09	0	Expenses	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
Herts & Cambs	1548	258	Ditch clearing	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
Stationery Cupboard	111.71	18.62	Ink and office supplies	LGA 1972	Bacs

					Pg 2090
Esson	467	0	Printing for Eternit	LGA 1972	bacs
Unlimited Logos	216	36	Signs for Eternit	LGA 1972	bacs
Econgard Services Ltd	90	15	Fire extinguisher contract	LGA 1972	bacs
Meldreth Village Hall	302	0	Room rental	LGA 1972	2534
LCR (Nalc magazine)	17	0	Subscription	LGA 1972	2535
Sally Walmesley	144.49	0	Clerk holiday cover	LGA 1972 s112	2536
Sally Walmesley	15.75	0	Clerk expenses	LGA 1972 s133	2537
Derek Stewart	16	0	Ink	LGA 1972	2538

Solar Account

Meldreth preschool	1500	Cheque reissued (cheque 2524 misplaced by preschool)	2538
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Deposits:

Burial fees	80
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Additional payment: Unlimited Logos (Marley/Eternit) £126.00 vat £21.00.

All payments were proposed by RG, seconded by JF all agreed.

151/09/16 Burial Ground:
Working Party to clean and check grave stones. **DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING**

152/09/16 Litter Picker Salary: Public and Press requested to leave the room
DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING.

153/09/16 Agenda items for the next meeting:
Recreation Ground – ditch and trees,
Playground - play area hedge and equipment, dog signs
Village Maintenance – bus shelters and benches
MHI scheme
Highway volunteers
Mettle Hill
Marley/Eternit
Solar funding
Burial ground
Litter Picker
Pensions
Cheque authorisation
20 is plenty signs

There being no further business the conduct the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.45pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th October 2016.

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