

MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 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 (**JF**), Cllr R Goddin (**RG**), Cllr A Keena (**AK**), Cllr D Lee (**DL**), Cllr R A Searles (**RAS**), Cllr D Stewart (**DS**) and Cllr A Young (**AY**)

Cllr Keena arrived at 7.45pm

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

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**Guest Speaker:** Jose Hales - MAYD

**249/01/17 To receive any apologies for absence:**

There were no apologies as all Councillors were in attendance.

**250/01/17 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.

**251/01/17 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 5 members of the public in attendance.

Mr J Hales attended the meeting to give an update on MAYD. Mr Hales thanked the Parish Council for their continued support to the Youth Club and that it is now seeing a marked increase with the numbers of children attending, with 41 youths from Meldreth and a total number of attendees at 359, these figures are based on the past year (Jan-Dec) 2016. Ground Work have been running the Youth Club and it appears to be working well and they work very well with the children. There will now be two sessions running weekly this is due to there being a definite age difference between the children attending and it was thought that there should now be two sessions to accommodate this fact.

The current operating system is able to copy with extra numbers now as the sessions have been split into two and it is envisioned that if the numbers continue to increase there maybe a possibility of having three sessions. MAYD is unique and it appears to be very successful, it is also hoped that in future the youths will be able to get involved with parish projects as the children come from various parishes. The Parishes which make up MAYD are: Melbourn, Meldreth, Foxton, Shepreth.

The Tennis Club thanked the Parish Council for the £5000 donation but were disappointed with the amount as they have put £24,000 towards the refurbishments of the tennis courts. The article in Meldreth Matters was also incorrect regarding membership numbers and that the courts are not for the sole use of the Tennis Club but are open to anyone in the community. The courts are owned by the Parish Council and should be their responsibility, however the tennis club does carry out the maintenance programme. It was also stated that the works need to start within the next two months. The LTA have inspected the courts and have reported that they did not think they were fit for purpose. Cllr Goddin asked to see this as if the courts are not fit for purpose then there is the question of safety and that the courts may have to be closed until the courts have been resurfaced. The Parish Council stated that the £5000 already agreed has come from the Community Benefit Grant and that the Parish Council were still going over the precept for 2018/19 contributions, where by further funding will be given.

It was enquired as to why residents can only speak at the beginning of the meeting during the allocated item? The Chairman stated that if a member of the public wishes to speak during the meeting then the meeting, with the consent of the council needs to be closed/stopped and opened to the public for their comments and then closed to the public. The way the Parish Council conducts its meetings is set up by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and if the public are not happy in the way that meetings are being carried out then they need to contact NALC.

Questions were raised as to why it has taken so long to settle some of the payments for the solar fund, ie the Tennis Club, it was then stated again that £5000 had been allocated to the tennis club with further funding from precept once it has been agreed for 2017/18 financial year. Money for Good Companions was on the agenda and it was stated that the application received was for 2017/18 financial year.

It was also enquired as to why the Parish Council had not paid to have the landscaping done at the solar farm. This is not a Parish Council responsibility but is between the developers and SCDC. Cllr Hart will make enquiries as to why this has still not been done.

Questions were again raised about allocations of funding/donations.

It was noted that donations come from the Parish Council in two ways, Community Benefit (solar money) and the precept which is set once a year. Organisations wishing to receive funding need to request a form from the Clerk and the Parish Council, depending on whether it is to be allocated from the precept, will then forward this to the Meldreth Futures Group who over look all applications regarding the Community Benefit funding.

The question was again raised about moving Parish Council meetings to the Community Rooms as it was felt the disabled/vulnerable would benefit from the facilities at the community rooms rather than the village hall, this has been discussed see item 221/11/16.

252/01/17

**To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016:**

It was proposed by Cllr Young to accept the minutes, seconded by Cllr Searles, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record. Cllr Stewart abstained as he was absent for some of the meeting.

253/01/17

**Report from District Councillor:**

The Planning Department has now almost caught up with the backlog of applications. Major planning applications are any application of 10 dwellings or more.

During the public section of the meeting Cllr Hart also supported the public in the way that the Parish Council conducts its meetings with regards to not allowing the public to speak during the meeting and only at the beginning and that they took the rules to the extreme.

However, this was not felt to be the case as many times the Chairman has suspended meetings to allow for the public to make representation on an item being discussed.

However, what is not allowed is to have an open public discussion throughout the meeting.

254/01/17

**Report from County Councillor:**

See appendix 1

Other questions raised.

Q. Will the lengthening of the platforms result in longer trains?

A. Yes they will be 8 car trains running twice hourly

Q. Will this result in further hold ups along the A10 at Foxton?

A. There is presently a feasibility study being undertaken to create a small bypass, this was shelved by Network Rail; however it is now being relooked at. The station at Cambridge South at Addenbrookes is due to be fast tracked so all this needs for Foxton crossing to be re-looked at.

Q. Why is it only the north-bound platform (Cambridge) being lengthened.

A. This is to do with the end of trains being left under bridges and on level crossings.

Q. How long will the train at Barrington be running to the quarry?

A. For about another 3 years, the clerk questioned this as they had been informed that the train will run for another 18 years, this is not for works at the quarry but for transporting materials to fill in the quarry. Clerk will clarify this.

**Action: Clerk**

It was also reported that the ticket machines at the station have not been working, this along with no station office has resulted in much confusion in residents being able to obtain tickets. Cllr Hart also reported that it is not possible to get split tickets on the machine and many people are not able to use the internet which is another reason why a station office is vital for Meldreth.

255/01/17

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

There were no matters arising.

256/01/17

**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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016:**

**1 Woolpack Way, S/3224/16/FL** - Proposed single storey rear extension. The Parish Council recommend 'Support' with no comments.

**73 High Street, S/3181/16/DC** - Discharge of Conditions – Amended. For information only.

Noted that the Parish Council had not been sent tree reports or phasing plans. It was agreed to express concern about parking, it being noted that provision has been made for off-street parking for contractors and that the Parish Council should ask for a condition that there would be no on-street contractor parking during the period of work at the site.

**79 North End, The Warren, S/3362/16/TP** - Tree work. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the applicant asking for clarification on the proposed work and enclose the Tree Warden's report.

**SCDC Decisions:** 4 Howard Road, S/2551/16/FL has been granted permission for a single storey side extension involving the replacement of an existing out building.

**Planning meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017: verbal report**

**New Farm Shop, Bury Lane, S/3387/16/FL** - Erection of staff accommodation building and car park. The Parish Council recommend 'Support' with comments. 'The Parish Council would like a condition that the existing hedge which shields the proposed buildings from the A10 be maintained. Landscaping in not shown on the plans.

**64 Whitecroft Road, S/3517/16/LD** - Lawful development certificate for the creation of an outbuilding for home office use. Noted. No comments

**Other items: S/0965/12/DC 15-17 Whitecroft Road – Approved Landscape Conditions.**

Mrs Carol Newell, Landscape Officer SCDC wrote to the Parish Council having visited the site and reported that there are a number of plant failures and is in the process of contacting the developers. It is anticipated that the works will be undertaken by the spring of 2017. The Parish Council would like it noted that after three years they have now received the landscaping plans but it is not what the Parish Council originally thought was going to happen. There is no mention of the tree which was believed to have been recommend by the landscape officer to be planted on the North/West side of the entrance. Clerk to write to Mrs Newell. **Action: Clerk**

257/01/17

**Marley Eternit: Proposed development of 150 dwellings:**

Cllr Hart reported that she has spoken to the case officer at SCDC and that the viability is still being looked at regarding this application. The percentage of affordable housing is still being questioned and this is unlikely to be going to the planning meeting at SCDC before March.

258/01/17

**S106 Project for the flats at Station Yard (S/1140/15/FL):**

Cllr Hart has not been able to contact James Fisher (S106 Officer) to enquire as to what is now happening with this application. It is assumed that the commuted sum for S106 has now been agreed and that some of this should still come to Meldreth but this is not certain if Meldreth will received any S106 funding for this application. Residents have contacted the planning department with their concerns regarding how SCDC have handled this application.

259/01/17

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report. All equipment appears in good working order. There is a piece of wood which needs to be placed on the rocking horse. Clerk to arrange. **Action: Clerk**

Playground Quotes:

Quote for removal of hedges at the play area.

Quote for tree work at recreation ground (top of fp8 and Howard Road) removal of Hawthorn and maintenance on remaining Elm tree.

Quote of removal of ivy from trees along fp 8 leading towards the High Street.

Guard for zip wire

All quotes and zip wire to be done this month. **Action: Clerk**

260/01/17

**Recreation Ground:**

Ditch: update

A meeting has taken place with Brian Heffernan (CCC), Peter J Taylor (CCC), Cllr Goddin and the Clerk. (report has been circulated) see appendix 2

261/01/17

**Pavilion:**

Cllr Pellatt will now oversee the refurbishment to the specification as agreed by the Parish Council and KTL Building Services. Cllr Pellatt has met with the contractors and work is in progress.

262/01/17

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

Audit – SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment) Ltd has issued the following statement 'SAAA Ltd is pleased to announce that it has successfully concluded the procurement process and has awarded contracts for the supply of limited assurance audit reviews for smaller authorities. Three audit firms have been appointed for the five-year period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017: PKF Littlejon, Mazars and Moore Stephens.

Thank you letter from the Community Rail Partnership for the recent donation.

Clerk has been in contact with Quintas Energy and there is no requirement that the Parish Council use the total annual grant in the same financial year, as had been suggested by the District and County Councillor, 'after looking into the Community Benefit agreements with Meldreth Parish Council, we haven't found any reference to any time restraints'.

**Street Lighting:** The decision to turn off street lighting between the hours of 2am to 6am and to dim by 60% at all other times has been overturned at the recent CCC Full Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Granta Medical Practices and Barley Practice plan to merge in April 2017.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party: nominations sought.

Last month Cllr Hart along with Cllr van de Ven spoke about the change of ownership for Lightsource Solar which is now under Quintas and reported that the Parish Council had to put forward their projects by the end of the month (end of year). Clerk has made enquiries with Quintas regarding this and it has been confirmed that this is not the case.

Meldreth are correct in the way they are conducting their affairs with the Clerk notifying Quintas on when the money has been sanctioned and on what projects and that there is no reason that monies can not be earmarked for larger projects which may take more than one year's grant, or to carry over monies into the next financial year. What Melbourn Parish Council have agreed to do is for them to determine and does not affect Meldreth.

**Website:** The Clerk has had correspondence regarding the outdated information on the parish website regarding the business page, it was proposed by Cllr Young that all business information be removed as it is difficult to keep up to date information, seconded by Cllr Pellatt all agreed. Clerk to arrange to have the information removed.

**Action: Clerk**

South West Parishes Meeting at Melbourn Hub 6-8pm (Transport Issues)

**263/01/17 Boundary Commission:**

Letters have been sent.

**264/01/17 Heidi Allen MP:**

Feedback is being sought regarding public transport provision in South Cambs. If there have been concerns regarding public transport to email Heidi Allen directly on [heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:heidi.allen.mp@parliament.uk) using subject title 'Public Transport Feedback'.

**265/01/17 Energy Strategy for CCC:**

Draft Corporate Energy Strategy Consultation questionnaire. Feedback with comments via the online questionnaire. Consultation 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017

[http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Consultation\\_DRAFTCorporateEnergyStrategy\\_CCC/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Consultation_DRAFTCorporateEnergyStrategy_CCC/)

**264/01/17 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       | confidential | 0   | October Salaries      | LGA 1972 s112  | Bacs |
| Talk Talk   | 20.31        | 0   | Broadband             | TCA 1984       | DD   |
| D P Gardens | 540          | 0   | Grass cutting October | OSA 1906 s9/10 | Bacs |

**Payments awaiting Approval**

|                | Gross     | Vat |              | Power         |      |
|----------------|-----------|-----|--------------|---------------|------|
| Inland Revenue | Not known | 0   | PAYE/NI      | LGA 1972 s112 | 2560 |
| J Damant       | 6.05      | 0   | Expenses     | LGA 1972 s133 | Bacs |
| N Pellatt      | 18.75     | 0   | Expenses ink | LGA 1972 s133 | 2561 |

**Deposits**

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Funerals | 260 |
|----------|-----|

Payments were proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Goddin, all agreed. Cllr Pellatt abstained as he had a payment.

Cllr Goddin is now an official signatory.

265/01/17

**Work Place Pension Report:**

Cllr Goddin reported on what the Parish Council need to implement regarding setting up a pension scheme. Cllr Goddin stated that there are three things to consider.

1. Engage a professional payroll service and Cllr Goddin recommends LGS Services as they are known to the Parish Council regarding other parish council business.

Installing an independent payroll system would help reduce the risk of fraud and ensures continuity whether it is staff on sick leave or change of staff.

2. Engage a pension scheme, Cllr Goddin recommends SMART, the others looked into were NEST and Local Government Scheme.

3. Contributions.

The Clerk left the room while the Parish Council discussed the options.

On return it was reported that the Parish Council would like to secure the services of LGS Services and that SMART would be the pension scheme. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would contribute 5% of eligible salary towards the Clerk's pension scheme.

This will be for the first year and will be reviewed for years 2 & 3 and then on a yearly basis. Clerk to now contact LGS to start the proceedings. It was agreed that the payroll scheme should include the litter picker (who is not eligible for pension) and the Clerk will raise this with LGS.

**Action: Clerk**

266/01/17

**Precept for 2017/18:** (*Local Government Finances Act 1992 s41*)

| Applicant                  | Amount requested                               | Amount given | Source                         |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------|
| RDCT                       | 5000   |              | Sent to Meldreth Futures Group |
| Tennis Club                | 25000  |              | Precept for 2017/18            |
| Melwood Conservation Group | 450 + insurance amount estimated at £350 (800) |              | Precept 2017/18                |
| Homestart                  | 300  |              | Precept 2017/18                |
| Melbourn Village College   | 1043   |              | Further information needed     |
| Meldreth Lunch club        | 220  | 220          | Precept 2016/17 (£150)         |
| MAYD                       | 2,089  |              | Precept 2017/18                |
| Good Companions            | 300  | 300          | Precept 2016/17 (£250)         |
| MADS                       | 958  |              | Sent to Meldreth Futures Group |

**Extra comments:**

Melbourn Village College – no decision has been made on this as further information is needed. Cllr Fallon also suggested this application be forwarded to The Triggs Trust.

**Action: Clerk**

Meldreth Lunch Club - - This has been precepted for this year at £150.00, it was proposed by Cllr Young to agree the request of £220.00 and to also precept this figure for 2017/18, seconded by Cllr Goddin all agreed. This will be taken from S137

Good Companions – This has been precepted for this year at £250.00, it was proposed by Cllr Young to agree the request of £300 and to also precept this figure for 2017/18, seconded by Cllr Goddin all agreed. This will be taken from S137

Update of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December. A meeting did occur and another meeting is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> January following the planning meeting.

Tennis Courts – Cllr Young does not feel that the Parish Council can match fund the amount of £25,000 out of the precept. Cllr Goddin proposed an offer of £5000 from the precept to go with the £5000 already allocated from the Community Benefit fund. It was suggested by the Clerk that the finance group should look at this when discussing the precept allocation on the 19<sup>th</sup> January as they will be able to see if there is any extra funding available.

Cllr Lee also stated that the footway along Station Bridge should also be considered with the precept especially as it appears that there will be no S106 funding being made available for this project.

267/01/17

**Burial Ground Maintenance:**

The area near the shed has been fenced off. Weed killing will commence once the weather conditions allow. Clerk has the wild flower seeds which will be sown once the weeds have been attended to.

**Action: Clerk**

- 268/01/17 Pavilion Management Programme:**  
It was suggested that a working party be put together to begin the process of setting up a Management Committee or Working Party to overlook items such as bookings, cleaning and general maintenance. Cllr Young and Cllr Goddin will begin the proceedings. **Action: AY/RG**
- 269/01/17 Clerk's appraisal:**  
Chairman and Vice Chairman to meet with the Clerk in February. **Action: CAL/NP/Clerk**
- 270/01/17 Emergency Plan:**  
Clerk to send the new form to councillors. **Action: Clerk**
- 271/01/17 Mettle Hill:**  
Cllr Goddin reported that the working group will be visiting Tingdene Park Homes in January to see how this facility might work. They have been waiting to see what is happening with Marley/Eternit in regards to affordable housing. There have been informal discussions with the Planning department at SCDC who are looking for areas to develop affordable housing. Other suggestions under review are to establish an industrial site but the way forward remains unclear. The original consultation did not specifically consider affordable housing. Cllr Goddin asked whether the Parish Council, would in principal, be agreeable to selling the land, subject to safeguards on its use.  
It was agreed by the whole council that in principal they are would be open to the proposal of selling the land for affordable housing, though more investigation needs to be done. Cllr Goddin agreed to report more fully at the February Council meeting.
- 268/01/17 Councillors' Reports:**  
**Cllr Searles:** Can the Clerk make enquiries with CCC to see what is happening with the reduces speed limit along North End which is in conjunction with Shepreth Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**  
**Cllr Lee:** Would like to thank the resident who has written to SCDC regarding the flats at Tavern Yard, this also appeared in Meldreth Matters. The Parish Council have noted the comments however this is now in the hands of SCDC Planning Department.  
**Cllr Young:** is waiting for a site meeting to look at where to place the '20 is Plenty' signs. Cllr Land will contact Cllr Young with a date to meet. **Action: AY/CAL**  
**Cllr Goddin:** There are increasing amounts of mud on the roads at the moment. Cllr Young also reported that many of the verges were also being driven over by large vehicles. Cllr Searles suggested that the Clerk contact SCDC to see when the street sweepers will be operating. **Action: Clerk**  
**Cllr Pellatt:** Could the procedures for meetings be checked, he is concerned that there appears to be an underlying feeling of upsetting the procedures of the Parish Council. Cllr Searles will investigate. The Clerk reported that the agendas are correct and so are the procedures the Council abide by, it may be more of a question of stopping meetings for the public to comment however this can not be done throughout the meeting, otherwise they will run on too long as stated by Cllr Young. The Clerk will be meeting with Ian Dewar (CAPALC) Cambridge and Pet'bor Association of Local Councils) tomorrow so will confirm proceedings with him. **Action: RAS/Clerk**
- 269/01/17 Agenda items for the next meeting:**  
Precept 2017/18  
Clerk's appraisal

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.45pm. The next meeting will be on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 at 7.30pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

## Meldreth Parish Council, January 2017, County Councillor Report

**Meldreth Good Companions:** It was good to hear Julie Draper speak in support of the Good Companions during public participation tonight. Thinking about the often-made suggestion by members of the public that the parish council consider moving its meeting venue to the Elin Way Community Room, I wonder if such a move would make parish council meetings more inviting to a wider range of people in the community, as that venue is more suited to people with limited mobility.

**Gritting routes:** As I have reported to you during the course of the year, the formal County Council decision last February to freeze council tax, rather than proceed with the standard 1.99% rise to meet inflation and demography demands, has exacerbated the problem of budgetary constraints mainly arising from the ending of government support grant. The freezing of council tax was a Conservative-led decision, supported by UKIP, and not supported by my group (the Liberal Democrats). The 1.99% rise would have allowed winter gritting routes to remain unchanged; instead the network has had to be redrawn to a smaller scale. At last month's County Council meeting, responding to deep public concern, the Liberal Democrat group proposed to reinstate the pre-cuts gritting routes by drawing from reserves. This was unanimously agreed. However reserves are not a permanent solution. The council will once again, in February, be asked to consider a 1.99% rise.

**Street lighting:** Another motion to December County Council proposed that the decision to switch off late night/early morning street lighting be reversed. Again, this will have cost implications that cannot be solved without adequate revenue streams. Furthermore, as a cost saving exercise but without the knowledge of councillors, street lights have been significantly dimmed to the point where complaints have come in that they are not doing their job. This was raised at Full Council last month and will now have been rectified.

**Meldreth Station platform lengthening:** Works will start in mid-February to lengthen the Cambridge-bound platform. As reported, this is to enable eight-car trains to stop at the station in anticipation of the increase in service from 2018. Works will take place at night when trains are not running, but also during at least six weekends, and will last a total of six months. There will be some usage of car park space for equipment. The same programme will run at Shepreth and Foxton for the same reasons and at exactly the same times. Network Rail attended the Rail User Group meeting last month to present the information and answer questions – minutes are at [meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk](http://meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk).

**Ticket machine problems and random booking office closures, Meldreth Station:** These too were discussed at the Rail User Group meeting. Ticket machine problems are causing enormous frustration, though credit cards are now accepted, and the Permit to Travel machine is working too. The Rail User Group was assured that if nothing is working, people should board the train without a ticket and pay at destination. Any problems, please let us know (and please join the Rail User Group to help us lobby for improvements!). Recruitment for the vacant post at Meldreth Station is also causing concern – we're told this is because it's a small part time post. Thanks for the useful comments made at tonight's meeting which we can take back to Govia Thameslink.

**Community Rail Partnership:** The final of four equal funding applications to parish councils for contributions toward a paid Community Rail Partnership Post has been agreed in full by Shepreth Parish Council. Govia Thameslink has also contributed an equal sum, and South Cambs District Council hopes to be able to make a contribution – details being worked out. The CRP meets 5 January to sign new Terms of Reference that include the formation of a new Community Interest Company specifically designed to provide a financial and legal framework for the CRP.

**A grant of £1K** has now been received from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships for the purpose of refreshing the station platform gardens at all three local stations. This will include replacement of the tubs with a weather-proof variety. The plan is to launch the new gardens following completion of platform lengthening work.

**British Transport Police** attended our December Rail User Group and said that Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton experience about a quarter the level of reported crime and anti-social behaviour compared with stations with similar footfall, and they attribute this in large part to the station gardens – because well-tended environments are generally better respected.

### Recreation Ground Ditch

A meeting took place with Brian Heffernan, Peter J Taylor, Richard Goddin and the Clerk.

Brian Heffernan had asked Peter J Taylor to attend to see if he had any contacts ie Skanska, who may be able to carry out the required works to remove the silt from the ditch and build up the banks. What was discussed was that nothing on the recreation ditch can be done until the ditch on the other side which runs at the back of the sheltered housing and the proposed development towards Bell Close, as this ditch is totally blocked, so if the recreation ditch is cleared of silt the water still can not run anywhere and will therefore back up and flood the recreation ground.

They also discussed that putting in piping was not the answer and that building up the banks and making the ditch into a V shape was the answer they also don't like putting in large open pipes where children can get trapped. It was also discussed that another entrance gate be installed at the far corner thus making it easier for large vehicles to gain entrance onto the recreation ground, the access which is there is currently used by Anglian Water to gain entrance to their sewage works.

Another reason for this is that they recommend putting in a fence and fencing the ditch off but making it accessible for grass cutters etc. They were concerned that the ditch, if it floods the recreation ground is very deep, even with the bit of water it had today was still fairly deep and is therefore a safety issue.

Brian Heffernan is going to work with us on this as it is not going to be straight forward, he will also give me a template letter which I can send to residents along Howard Road concerning Riparian ownership, he also offered to come to an evening meeting with residents to explain further, if required.

Brian and Peter will talk to SCDC to see what they can do as some of the responsibility on both banks may rest with them.

#### **Action Plan:**

Peter J Taylor will give company names who can carry out the works for some costings.

Clear the far ditch (not pc responsibility). Peter J Taylor and Brian Heffernan will contact SCDC.

Clear the recreation ditch from everything, if they are going to clear the silt and build up the ditch they might as well clear all the foliage.

Look at installing a fence and gates.

Will need to precept up to £10,000; the cost of fencing, two large gates and clearing the ditch. If the silt can be laid on the recreation ground and seeded it would be cheaper than removing it, this would also give a slight lift to help any flooding issues.