

MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr C A Land (**CAL**) - Chairman, 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**)

**In attendance:** J Damant (Clerk) and Cllr P Hart (SCDC)

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- 270/02/17 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies received from Cllr S van de Ven (CCC) and Cllr N Pellatt (personal reasons)
- 271/02/17 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.
- 272/02/17 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 no members of the public in attendance.
- 273/02/17 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017:**  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Searles, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.  
It was noted that item 278/02/17 notes Meldreth Am Dram this should read Melbourn Am Dram (MADS)
- 274/02/17 Report from District Councillor:**  
Appendix 1  
Cllr Hart also reported that they had been looking into getting an updated register of the Meldreth Housing List.  
Cllr Young wished to thank Cllr Hart for all the work they had put in regarding Marley Eternit.
- 275/02/17 Report from County Councillor:**  
Appendix 2  
No questions raised.
- 276/02/17 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**  
Train at Barrington CEMEX: The current application lasts for another three years but there is another application just in, for a further 15 years'. Response from Barrington Clerk  
Clerk has written to Mrs Carol Newell regarding the the tree at 15-17 Whitecroft Road development (256/07/17)  
Business and Club information has now been removed from the website.  
Clerk has ordered and received 6 new High Visibility waistcoats.  
S106 money and Community Benefit (Solar money) now have a separate account for each fund.
- 277/02/17 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017:**  
**The British Queen, 94 High Street, S/3056/16/FL & S/3057/16/LB** - Extensions and Alterations in conjunction with re-arrangement of the external site area and provision of a garage building. This application was approved by the Parish Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, this application is just a technical amendment to the original application therefore the Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with no comments.  
**Scrapyard, Chiswick End, S/3529/16/OL** - Erection of 5 dwellings with associated access and car parking. Parish Council '**Object**' with the following comments: The traffic survey is fundamentally flawed as it only measures traffic to the final three houses in Chiswick End and the survey should have been carried out at the entrance of Chiswick End as our concerns on the amount of traffic on the blind bends at the Whitecroft Road end have not been accounted for. Structure of the asbestos cement road is inadequate and if SCDC is minded to approve this development, the road will need to be upgraded to a standard that could be adopted by County Highways. There are no turning points along this road so vehicles have to either use residents drive- ways or reverse. If SCDC are minded to approve then a turning head would need to be provided as part of the new development.

It was also mentioned during the Parish Council meeting that there was a badgers set in the vicinity of the proposed development.

There is also a possibility of an archaeological condition being imposed on the site.

The large Willow trees along the stream behind the proposed development may have TPOs. The Parish Council would also like to request that the application be referred to the District Council Planning Committee.

**97a North End ,S/3375/16/FL** - Retrospectives planning permission for an open fronted wood framed shelter Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with conditions. 'That it can not become a separate dwelling and remains ancillary to 97a North End.

**Planning meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017: verbal report**

**Land Adj 7 Brewery Lane, S/0008/17/FL** Conversion of existing barn into 1 x 2 bedroom unit and 1 x 4 bedroom unit. Parish Council recommend 'Support' with no comments.

**Land btw Burtons and West Way, Off Whaddon Road, S/2939/16/FL** - Residential development to provide affordable housing comprising 4 no 2 bedroom flats and 1 no 2 bed detached bungalow. Access road, residents and visitors parking and open space. Parish Council recommend 'No Recommendation' with comments. 'Is this going to be affordable housing as an exception site with Meldreth connections getting priority? Concern was also raised about refuse lorries picking up refuse and backing out onto Whaddon Road.

**4 Whitecroft Road, S/0219/17/F** - First floor and loft extension. Parish Council recommend 'No Recommendation' with comments. 'Design of the roof line does not fit in with the design of other dwellings in the road.

**SCDC Decisions: Bury Lane, Meldreth S/2655/16/FL** has been granted permission for erection of glass houses and ancillary storage area.

Cllr Hart reported that they were enquiring as to why the British Queen application had taken so long to go through the planning procedure at SCDC.

278/02/17

**Meldreth Futures Working Group:**

**Terms of Reference:** – a draft copy has been amended and for all councillors to review for the next meeting so that it can be agreed and signed off. It was also requested that at least one Parish Councillor be in attendance at meetings, this will be put on the responsibility list which is due to be reviewed at the Annual Parish Meeting. The next meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Green Room and there are a further two members.

**Action: All Cllrs**

**Application Forms:**

**MADS:** The application was to purchase two microphone systems at a cost of £479 each (£958.00) in total. It was proposed by Cllr Young that the equipment be purchased by Meldreth Parish Council and kept at the village hall. The equipment can be used by all but MADS will have priority for their productions. Clerk to contact the Village Hall Committee to confirm they are happy to house the equipment.

**Action: Clerk**

Clerk to let MADS know the decision.

**Action: Clerk**

**RDCT:** It was proposed by the MFWG that further information is needed to support this application. Clerk to contact RDCT for clarification regarding the questions raised by MFWG.

**Action: Clerk**

279/02/17

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

Requests:

Agreement of precept allocation for 2017/18

It was proposed by Cllr Searles to request a precept of £60,000 from SCDC, seconded by Cllr Fallon, all agreed. The budget is £117,446 this is the amount of funds needed to carry out works required in the village. With a precept request of £60,000 the remainder will be taken out of reserves, this will leave enough in reserves as stated by CAPALC and the auditors to manage the parish. There are variables in this due to having to set aside funds for items which may not be needed, such as legal fees for Marley Eternit.

List of projects to be implemented in 2017/18. After discussion it was agreed that funds should be left in for the footway at Station Road though this is not the full amount which would be needed as it is hoped S106 and grants may also be used.

The footway lights along North End – it was agreed that a survey be carried out on the lights, so that a replacement project be implement, it was proposed that this will be a long term project and that other footway lights will be looked at. The Parish Council have 43 footway lights though not all may need changing. Clerk to contact Highways and SCDC for their advice.

**Action: Clerk**

280/02/17

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

Cllr Hart has had an update from the case officer. He has received the independent viability report which casts some doubt on the developer's construction cost estimates. Our s106 ask has been sent to the developer and SC officers are continuing to work together with the county on the education contribution claim.

The developer may be making a further submission to deal with Highways' concerns. Once all the threads are pulled together, the case officer will be in a position to come to a judgment on this application. His report has to be written by the middle of the month prior to Planning Committee so all these factors would have to be resolved within days to make the March committee so it looks very much like there is further slippage into April.

281/02/17

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report.

Clerk has contacted Mr Chappel to repair the wood on the rocking horse and to install the guard for the zip wire. All other equipment appears to be in good working order.

Quotes for hedge and tree maintenance to be redone. Clerk and Cllr Fallon to re look at all the work required.

**Action: Clerk**

282/02/17

**Recreation Ground:****Ditch: update**

Clerk is in correspondence with Mr Brian Heffernan regarding contractors and responsibility of SCDC and residents. There is no further update but the Clerk is awaiting information that can be sent out to residents explaining what will be involved. As minuted last month the ditch maintenance if also being held up as the ditch on the other side leading from Footpath 8 towards Bell Close needs to be cleared, this is not the Parish Council responsibility as they are not the land owners, but in order for the water to flow this ditch needs clearing as well. It is hoped that by having Mr Heffernan CCC and Mr Matthews SCDC some of this work will be sorted. Clerk will copy Cllr Hart into the emails.

283/02/17

**Pavilion Construction:**

Building project update – Cllr Pellatt was not in attendance but Cllr Keena reported on his behalf. Everything is going to plan and is on schedule. Cllr Pellatt agreed for the installation of a dark blue floor as it was advised that this colour is better for not showing dirt.

Signing off of plans – these need to be done as soon as possible. Cllr Pellatt has the documents. These need to be signed of at the next planning meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

284/02/17

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

Speed limit between Shepreth and Meldreth being reduced to 40mph. This is a joint venture between the parishes of Shepreth and Meldreth. Response received from Policy and Regulation at CCC is that the statutory process to install the speed restriction was carried out in July 2016 and went through without issue, the order was then placed in September. The Clerk is presently awaiting an update as to when the work will commence. Shepreth have been copied into all correspondence.

285/02/17

**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	1262.58	0	February Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Talk Talk	20.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984	DD
D P Gardens	540	0	Grass cutting January	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs

**Payments awaiting Approval**

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Inland Revenue	246.14	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	2565
Village Hall	127.87	0	Village Hall rental	LGA 1972 s133	2566
CAPALC	1050	0	Cllr training	LGA 1972 133 (this will be off set by other parishes paying for their part.	2567
Eon	94.3	4.49	Pavilion electric	LGA 1972 s133	2568
Stationery Cupboard	145.37	24.23	Office supplies, ink and paper	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs

Arco (additional)	65.09	10.85	High Vis jackets for highway volunteers	LGA 1972 s133	2569
SLCC (additional)	157	0	Membership	LGA 1972 s144	2570

All Payments were proposed by Cllr Keena, seconded by Cllr Godding all agreed.

- 286/02/17 Pension report:**  
Documents are now with LGS Services.
- 287/02/17 Pavilion Management Programme:**  
Cllr Young reported that an agreement has been updated and will be circulated to all Councillors to view. At the moment the items being looked into are that all users of the pavilion will have to sign and abide by the agreement. It is hoped to have a non salary appointment of a Manager to oversee the pavilion and report to the Parish Council representative who will then report back at the Parish Council meeting.  
There will also be a paid position of a cleaner.  
It is hoped to have an online booking system.  
All organisations using the pavilion will be given 2 or 3 keys and there will be a charge if a key is lost as locks will need to be changed.  
Clerk to enquire about cleaning positions. **Action: Clerk**
- 288/02/17 Tennis Courts:**  
Clerk signed the Land Permission Form so that the Tennis Club can request outside grants, and a letter of support.  
Further clarification needs to be sought regarding access to the courts, booking of the courts and the collection of payments.  
It was agreed that there would be allocated £5000 from 2017/18 precept and that an annual amount of £1500 be reserved from 2018/19. This is so that monies will be set aside for any future works which may be needed.
- 289/02/17 Tree health and safety surveys:**  
Possibly new service for Parish Councils whereby SCDC will carry out tree surveys on Parish Council trees, there will be a charge but at the moment they are looking to see if parishes would be interested in the idea. It was felt by all that this scheme may be beneficial but further information regarding costing would be needed.
- 290/02/17 Community Flood Groups and Flood Plans:**  
Setting up of a Community Flood group and/or flood plan in order to increase the flood resilience of your community. This is made up of volunteers. To be discussed at a later date.
- 291/02/17 Indemnity Forms:**  
38 High Street S/0272/10/F  
£3104.38 off site provision and/or future maintenance of outdoor sports play space and informal open space infrastructure (The Public Open Space Contribution) and £513.04 for off site provision or improvement of community facility space (The Community Space Contribution).  
It was proposed that Cllr Land and Cllr Searles sign the documents, all agreed.  
Cllr Searles would like clarification as to when the monies need to be spent. The Parish Council have 10 years to spend the monies but is this the date of when SCDC receive or when it gets handed to the Parish Council. In the case of 38 High Street the document was dated May 2015 but did not reach the Parish Council until being signed off at this meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- 292/02/17 Emergency Plan:**  
Clerk to send out documents to councillors. **Action: Clerk**
- 293/02/17 Mettle Hill:**  
Cllr Goddin reported that the working group have now concluded their initial review of park homes. Initial indications are that a 35yr overall lease could produce an income of around £50k per annum for the first ten years and then £22k per annum for the next 25 years, being 55% of the projected net rentals after costs. All subject to reviews in line with RPI. Other proposals being looked in to are affordable housing and industrial/business units. Cllr Searles enquired if the land could be an exception site for Meldreth connections, the brown field area could be used so has less of an impact on the village footprint. We will be meeting SCDC planning to discuss the options
- 294/02/17 Clerk's appraisal:**  
Cllr Land and Pellatt to carry out the appraisal after the planning meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**295/02/17 Councillors' Reports:**

Cllr Young reported that he had carried out a site survey for where these signs could be placed. Clerk has forwarded this information onto Mr Peter J Taylor (CCC) and Balfour Beatty who wanted to know the size of the signs as they are to be placed on the light posts. As the signs are advisory they do not need legalities. Once Highways and Balfour Beatty have responded the Parish Council can decide on the best locations and the clerk can order, it is thought that 25 signs in total will be needed at a cost of £900. Cllr Fallon reported that the Football Club had received a grant from Cemex.

**296/02/17 Agenda items for the next meeting:**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm. The next meeting will be held in the Green Room on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017.

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

## DC REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

### **Litter Pick**

Volunteers are sought for the village litter pick which this year will take place at 9am on Saturday 4th March. This coincides with the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean weekend and you will see posters up around the village to co-ordinate our litter pick with those being held around the country.

Keep Britain Tidy Chief Executive Allison Ogden-Newton says: "The Great British Spring Clean is about getting all those people who care about their environment to take action. We know that more than 50% of people are concerned about the appearance of their local area and so we want them to feel that they can do something about it and they are not alone in caring. If 500,000 people help us pick litter for just two hours each that means that our country will benefit from one million hours of clean-up care."

Our litter pick will be registered on the Spring Clean webmap. Additionally, if before the litter pick there is a badly littered area near you that needs some TLC, tell Keep Britain Tidy about it by sending a good-quality photo with the location to [info@greatbritishspringclean.org.uk](mailto:info@greatbritishspringclean.org.uk) so that they can highlight in their publicity.

### **Changes to bin collections**

Bin collection in Meldreth and Shepreth will be changing to a Tuesday from the end of this month. The reason given for the change is that, now that the bin collection service is shared with Cambridge City, rounds have been rationalised to reduce by 20,000 the number of miles our bin lorries need to travel to collect our waste.

Our green and blue bins will be the first to be collected on a Tuesday on February 28th. All households should have received a flyer giving the collection schedule through to May. All assisted bin collection arrangements should transfer over to the Tuesday collection.

Please let me know if you are experiencing any difficulties with the altered service.

### **Meldreth Womens' Institute**

I was very saddened to read in February's Meldreth Matters that the future of Meldreth WI may be uncertain. My grandmother, Kathleen Hart, was widowed in her early fifties - the age I am now - and found a lifeline and good friends through her membership of Meldreth WI. As a child I remember accompanying her on WI outings to places of interest. Just a quick look at the WI website <https://www.thewi.org.uk> reminded me what a powerful campaigning organisation the WI has been and can be so it is not all recipes and craft. Surely there are a lot of women in Meldreth who would welcome the opportunity to meet up regularly and solve the problems of the world?!

### **In a similar vein.....International Women's Day**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is working with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to create an event for International Women's Day on the 8th March 2017. The theme of the event will be around bringing communities together with a particular focus on keeping you and your community safe. The event will be designed around what women tell us are the issues of greatest concern to them and that they would like to learn more about.

Themes could include domestic abuse, cyber security, safeguarding children and adults, inequality and community cohesion. We want as many communities as possible from all walks of life to get involved in not only helping us plan the event but to encourage as many women as possible to attend. If you have any suggestions or would like to be a part of the event, please contact the Engagement Officer, Sarah Morgan - [sarah.morgan@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sarah.morgan@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

### **Schools Funding**

After recent improvements in historically low funding to Cambridgeshire schools another round of funding changes has resulted such that in the Bassingbourn Melbourn Locality of 17 primary schools only 6 are to see an increase in budget and 10 will see a decrease. This is because of the way that certain additional funding is allocated and basically means that schools in non-deprived areas may see their budgets cut. While it may be fairer to allocate money to needier children, the real problem is that the government is short-changing schools by not inflation-proofing its grant. Even if there had been no other changes, schools would be about 8% worse off in real terms by 2019.

### **Housing delivery**

Last month I gave some depressing statistics about affordable housing and the difficulty people working in our district experience in being able to afford to live near to their place of work. Even our flagship tech and science industry says its highly skilled workforce cannot afford to buy anywhere to live in Cambridge and I was pleased to sit on Planning Committee this week and give approval for a 63 block of one-bed roomed flats, 40% affordable, at Orchard Park with just this demographic in mind.

However it is housing delivery which is so poor across the district. SCDC has granted planning permission at the required rate for housing trajectories, but the rate of delivery means that only half of them are being built at the rate they are supposed to be delivered. The council is judged not on approvals but upon delivery, so measure need to be taken to put pressure on developers to build out their sites. Perhaps the new Mayor will perform miracles!

### **Speaking of which.....Mayoral Candidates**

Having personally been opposed to another layer of government, now that devolution is happening we have to concentrate on what this region might get out of it. We will have a new £20m annual fund for the next 30 years (£600million) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs. There's £170 million for affordable housing, including £100 million for affordable, rent and shared ownership – particularly in response to housing issues in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. There is a proposed specific

£70 million fund to meet housing needs in Cambridge which Cambridge City Council have indicated would be spent on new Council housing (and without which the City Council would have not supported the Mayor). Other things to look forward to include the delivery of the Wisbech Garden Town and the Wisbech-Cambridge rail connection, transport infrastructure improvements such as A14/A142 junction and upgrades to the A10 and the A47 as well as Ely North Junction, Rail improvements including a new station at Soham and investment in a Peterborough University with degree-awarding powers.

The Labour party candidacy is due to be announced tomorrow on February 3, with Cambridge city councillors Fiona Onasanya and councillor Kevin Price running for selection. Cambridge city councillor Rod Cantrill will be standing for the Liberal Democrats, Cambridgeshire County Council member Paul Bullen will represent UKIP and Peterborough parish councillor Julie Howell is running for the Green Party. Entrepreneur Peter Dawe is standing as an independent candidate.

## Meldreth Parish Council February 2017 - County Councillor Report

**County Council Feb 14 budget meeting:** It is still unclear what the consensus will be on council tax rise. The Liberal Democrat Group believes we cannot afford **not** to raise as much money as possible for essential public services. The 'hidden' victims of these cuts are people in need of social care services. Parish councils will be well aware of the range of financial contributions being asked of them to make up the gap.

**Oil Club donation to Home-Start:** This year's small Oil Club rebate of £115 has been donated to Home-Start. Due to falling budgets, health and social care services are being radically restructured, and Home-Start will receive no more County Council funding at all – in spite of being specifically cited in the council's care plan as a key provider.

**128 bus:** With every expectation that bus subsidies would be removed once and for all in the forthcoming County Council budget, painstaking cross-party work by the small County Council 'Total Transport Steering Group', which I have chaired over the past two years, has looked forensically at the impact of subsidized transport on local communities and new ways of deploying valuable and scarce funds. As a result there is no proposal in the budget coming to the Council on 14 February to remove bus subsidies. This is not to say that the battle is over, because it is being fought every year.

**26 bus – possible new hourly link to Park and Ride?** I've been to visit the Stagecoach manager to ask whether the company would consider bringing back the hourly 26 service that passes through Melbourn. A good number of Meldreth residents who use the service have been in touch. Stagecoach explained that for passengers travelling on a free bus pass, the bus company is reimbursed only 50% of the fare – down from 75% previously. They did not agree to resume the hourly service, but other options were discussed including altering the current route to terminate at Trumpington Park and Ride, running hourly. Passengers could transfer to the Guided Bus for Addenbrookes or the Park and Ride bus into the city centre. Stagecoach will consider this, probably running a questionnaire to gauge support. If so, we must help to disseminate the questionnaire.

**Out-of-hours GP service – move from Chesterton to Addenbrooke's?** The GP surgery out-of-hours service that has been based at Chesterton Hospital is considering moving to the Addenbrooke's site, in order to situate the service where relevant specialist help will be available – including back-up GP coverage. About 10-15% of people who arrive at A & E don't require A & E services and are asked to head to the GP out-of-hours service instead. Out-of-hours is normally accessed by dialling 111. This proposal would mean a £3.50 parking charge, standard at Addenbrooke's – whereas the Chesterton site parking is free.  
<http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/contact-us/consultations-open/consultation-on-a-future-model-for-an-integrated-out-of-hours-base-at-cambridge-university-hospitals-nhs-foundation-trust-addenbrookes.htm>

**Meldreth Station booking office and ticket machine:** Many complaints have come in over the past several weeks about random closures of the Meldreth Station booking office and failure of the ticket machine. If you find yourself unable to buy a ticket at any of our stations due to a ticket machine fault, the Rail User Group has been told by Govia Thameslink Railway that you should go ahead and board the train, and purchase your ticket at your destination. This doesn't address the problem of buying a ticket on line to collect from a ticket machine. Any problems, please get in touch. As for the ticket office, please do continue to let us know if you find the office closed, as the Rail User Group is pressuring Govia Thameslink to hire a permanent member of staff – and to advertise the post within the local community. This is a good moment to remind people that the Rail User Group meets March 14, 7:30PM, at Shepreth Village Hall. I have invited Govia Thameslink to send a senior representative on account of these persistent problems.