

**MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 D Lee (**DL**), Cllr N Pellatt (**NP**), Cllr R A Searles (**RAS**) and Cllr A Young (**AY**)

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

- 297/03/17 To receive any apologies for absence:**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Stewart and Cllr Keena (personal reasons)
- 298/03/17 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.
- 299/03/17 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.
- 300/03/17 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017:**  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Fallon, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 301/03/17 Report from District Councillor:**  
Appendix 1 (attached)  
Extra items discussed  
Cllr Searles enquired about the trees along North End, of which one came down during the recent storm and caused substantial damage. Cllr Searles has been in contact with Peter J Taylor (CCC) who kindly sent a map showing where the responsibility lies in regards to the ditch and trees. (See item 316/03/17). Cllr van de Ven suggested that a village tree walk be arranged. Cllr van de Ven will arrange. **Action:SvdV**
- 302/03/17 Report from County Councillor:**  
Appendix 2 (attached)
- 303/03/17 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**  
**Elections:** Both District and Parish Council elections will take place in 2018 and then every fourth year after 2018.  
**Street Sign:** The Paddocks, North End are still chasing SCDC to changing or removing the sign at the bottom of their driveway where a street sign was placed, the two issues are that permission was not sought as the home owners believe the land where the sign has been placed is their property but more importantly that the sign does not list their property.  
**Clerk's appraisal:** to be done after the planning meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February.
- 304/03/17 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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017:**  
**Bury Lane, Meldreth S/2655/16/FL** has been granted permission for erection of glass houses and ancillary storage area.  
**73 High Street, (Maycroft) S/3476/16/DC** Mr S Kanoria, Advina Health Care Ltd Discharge of condition 11 of Planning Application S/0984/14/VC (windows, doors and sills). The information supplied was insufficient to assess the appearance of the windows and doors so no comment can be made.  
**SCDC Decisions:** S/3387/16/FL, Bury Lane Fruit Farm – erection of staff accommodation building and car park. Has been Withdrawn.  
**Planning meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017: verbal report**  
**Southfield Farm, Whaddon Road, S/0581/17/OL** - Outline planning permission for replacement of annex with new separate dwelling with all matters reserved. Parish Council recommended 'no recommendation' with comments. 'It appears from the elevations that it is larger with the addition of a double garage integral with the building but this does not correspond to the attached plans'.

Cllr Young enquired if the roof height for the buildings being built at 104-108 High Street are the correct height as he had received a request from a resident that the roof line seemed high for the surrounding area.

**Action: Clerk**

305/03/17

**Meldreth Futures Working Group:**

**Terms of Reference:**

It was proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Goddin that the Parish Council accept the Terms of Reference, agree by all. Motion carried.

**Financial Application Form for Solar Fund (Community Benefit):**

It was proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Fallon that the Parish Council accept the Financial Application Form, agree by all. Motion carried.

Applications:

Clerk has received and an application from Melbourn Village College, Pupil Premium Champion.

306/03/17

**Church Wall:**

Clerk, Cllr Land, Mr J Price and Ms Celia Wignall (SCDC) met at the church to look at the church wall which is in need of repair.

Following a discussion it was suggested that the Clerk contact Mr Llewellyn to enquire what the cost would be for him to attend a site meeting with Ms Wignall so that a specification could be put together. Ms Wignall suggested that having an architect present would be beneficial.

**Action: Clerk**

The quote received from Mr Llewellyn, who is an approved architect by the Diocese, for carrying out a specification and schedule of works would cost £572.00 and this would be needed for tenders, however it is advisable that SCDC are also included in this process as planning permission will also need to be sought.

307/03/17

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

Nothing new to report at the moment (see item 301/3/17)

308/03/17

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report

Clerk has contacted Mr Chappel to repair the wood on the rocking horse, and guard on the zip wire, still ongoing.

Playground Quotes: Specifications have been sent out to three companies for the works required at the recreation ground (hedges and trees). One has been received awaiting a further two.

309/03/17

**Recreation Ground:**

It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that the clerk proceeds in asking for quotes to clear the ditch, build up the banks and clear the foliage. Further discussions will be needed once costings have been received.

**Action: Clerk**

It was also suggested the Clerk contact Mr Kratz to see who best to contact in regards to a land lawyer to pursue ownership matters.

**Action: Clerk**

310/03/17

**Pavilion Construction:** (LGA 1972 s111)

- Building project update – Cllr Pellett reported that he had been to the pavilion several times over the past month and reports that he is very happy with the works being carried out. Stage 1 has been completed and Stage 2 is very near completion.
- Signing off of plans – it was proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Goddin that the schedule of works can be formally signed off, all agreed.

Cllr Pettatt also asked if the Clerk could send out the invoice for the Saturday Club.

**Action: Clerk**

311/03/17

**Security for Pavilion:** (Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31)

Clerk has received quotation from Briar Security to install CCTV and an alarm to the pavilion due to the recent break in. However, Cllr Young suggested that the cost was high and that there may be a more cost effective option. Cllr Young will investigate further in regards to installing CCTV.

**Action: AY**

Clerk to contact the contractors 'KTL' to see if they can recommend anyone with regards to installing an alarm system.

**Action: AY**

312/03/17

**Pavilion Management Programme:**

It was agreed that an article be put into Meldreth Matters and a notice at the local shop advertising for a self employed cleaner to work 3 hours a week at the pavilion. **Action: Clerk**

It was also agreed that an article be put into Meldreth Matters asking for a volunteer to oversee the Management of the pavilion.

**Action: AY**

Cllr Young will also send out the draft 'User Agreement' for the pavilion to all councillors, to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action: AY**

313/03/17

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

**Speed Reduction signs:** Clerk has emailed CCC regarding the speed reduction signs along North End between Shepreth and Meldreth. Clerk has received a response and that CCC are chasing the contractors for a date of works.

**Burial Ground:** weed killing to be carried out.

**Training:** Clerk to attend an SLCC legal training course on 17<sup>th</sup> March, cost £10.00.

**Community Safety Day:** to be held at Cambourne on 18<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30 to 12.30

**Affordable Housing Training:** to be held at Cambourn on 13<sup>th</sup> March 6-8.30pm

**Time banking:** A workshop arranged at Histon on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 by Cambridgeshire ACRE Planning training: Melbourn Parish Council have a training day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, at the moment Cllr Land and Young are able to attend, clerk to notify Melbourn. **Action: Clerk**

**S137 Allowance (2017- 18)** - The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has informed NALC that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for local (parish and town) councils in England for 2017-18 is £7.57.

**Website:** The domain name will now be sent direct to the Parish Council and not to Mr Borgonon, the company is 34SP.

**CAPALC:** the draft membership agreement has been sent to all Councillors to complete.

314/03/17

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

**Payments awaiting Approval**

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Inland Revenue	Not known	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	2570
KTL Buildings Services	6500	0	Pavilion refurbishment Stage 1	LGA 1972 s133	2571
CCC	1208.28	0	Footway lighting	PCA 1957 s3	bacs
SLCC	157	0	Membership	LGA 1972 s111	2572
Smart Pension	59.03	0	Pension contribution	LGA 1972 s112	DD
BT	237.13	39.52	Telephone	TCA 1986	DD
Cambridgeshire Acre	54	9	Membership	LGA 1972 s133	2573

**Deposits**

OPC Office rent Feb	90
OPC Contribution for SLCC	78.5

315/03/17

**Standing Orders:**

Clerk to send copies to Councillors to look over and recommend any changes they think may be needed or incorporated into the Standing Orders.

**Action: Clerk**

316/03/17

**Trees along North End:**

During the recent storm, a tree along North End have come down, in accordance to item 318/03/17 it appears that the trees are the responsibility of the land owner; however, in the past this has been disputed with the land owner and CCC.

Cllr Searles reported that the landowner has always claimed that the trees along this ditch are the responsibility of the Highway Department (CCC). According to the recent map, Cllr Searles has now received from the Highway Department showing the the area that CCC are actually responsible for, it would suggest that the landowners is correct. In the past Highways were responsible for 1m but this has now extended. Cllr Searles and Cllr van de Ven will respond the the Highway Department to make the other trees safe in the area.

**Action: RAS/SvdV**

**317/03/17**

**Tennis Courts:**

The Tennis Club are actively investigating all avenues for possible grants. The Parish Council have now received the paperwork regarding the quotation received from ETC of which the Tennis Club have chosen to carry out the works to refurbish the tennis courts.

**318/03/17**

**Trees along the ditch at the layby opposite the Church:**

Clerk and Mrs Lynch (Meldreth Tree Officer) met with Mr Peter J Taylor CCC Highways Officer who informed them that the ditch up to the lip of the land on the lay by side was the sole responsibility of the landowner and not Highways. This would indicate that all the trees growing along the ditch are the responsibility of the landowner's who border the ditch. Riparian responsibility for road side ditches 'Riparian owners should note that ordinary watercourses include road side ditches; you may therefore be responsible for the maintenance of these where they border your land. This applies to the **entire width of the channel, not just to the centre point**, If flooding on the highway occurs due to an obstruction in the ditch, or drainage of the road into the ditch is prevented the Council as the Highway Authority may exercise legal powers requiring riparian owners to clear it'. In regards to riparian maintenance with regards to ditches not on the road side 'If the watercourse forms a boundary between properties you generally are responsible up to the centre of the watercourse'. CCC 'The rights and responsibilities of a riparian owner', sourced from Environmental Agency guide 'Living on the Edge' 2012.

Clerk to notify the landowner of the recent development.

**Action: Clerk**

**319/03/17**

**Community Flood Groups and Flood Plans:**

Meldreth have a Flood sub committee who oversee flooding issues.

**320/03/17**

**Emergency Plan:**

Clerk is unable to find any information on the Emergency Plan which was originally done by SCDC.

**321/03/17**

**Mettle Hill:**

Cllr Goodin reported that he had met with the Planning Department at SCDC in regards to what the Parish Council would be able to do with Mettle Hill in regards to planning, but was a little disappointed as to how the meeting progressed. It was suggested that Cllr Goddin and Cllr Young put a report together on how to proceed. This to be placed before the Parish Council at the next meeting for discussion and possible action.

**322/03/17**

**Councillors' Reports:**

Cllr Searles reported that the road at North End is due to be closed for three days from the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Young enquired about the 20's Plenty signs, Clerk reported that she had asked Mr Peter J Taylor who informed her that the report submitted by the Parish Council has been forwarded to another department as he is unable to give authorisation. Clerk has also been awaiting a response from Balfour Beatty.

**323/03/17**

**Agenda items for the next meeting:**

There were no items reported at the meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27pm. The next meeting will be held in the Green Room on April 6th 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

**District Councillor report - March 2017****Marley Eternit**

I reproduce below part of the email I have received from the case officer this morning:-

"In the last few weeks, the applicant has been reviewing the third party assessment of the viability case and I am expecting as imminent their response soon - I have been told by the end of this week. Conversations are ongoing with highways and the issues regarding education have been escalated at the County Council as officers at the District Council do not have confidence in what they are asking for and that is simply an untenable position. I'm trying my best to move it forward as once the viability issue is finalised we are then down to highways and then I need to make a balanced assessment."

So not much change from last month.....I have asked whether the applicant has now received our s.106 ask and hope to have further information for you this evening.

**Litter pick**

The annual litter pick takes place this Saturday morning, meet at the Stocks at 9am. The more the merrier! My thanks to Graham Borgonon for organising.

**Planning Pre applications**

From time to time I receive notification from the SCDC planning department about pre-applications for schemes over 10 houses/larger schemes in my ward. It is my policy not share this information on the grounds that the pre-application may never reach a full application.

**SCDC magazine coverage**

I have learnt that there are a number of households in Meldreth who have possibly never or not for some time received their copy of the South Cambs magazine. No household in North End to my knowledge has received it for some time and there may be other pockets where there is no coverage. The district council contracts Royal Mail to carry out the deliveries as part of the mail delivery, so there is no obvious reason why copies of the magazine are not reaching residents. Please can residents let me know if you do not receive the magazine and I can then build a more accurate picture of where the gaps are.

**Bin collection**

Many of the same residents who do not get their council magazine also did not receive the flyer about changes to bin collections. The roll out of the new collection took place this week on Tuesday; I received a couple of phone queries beforehand, but otherwise had to assume that residents made the adjustment successfully and that their bins were duly collected. If anyone experienced any problems, please can they let me know.

For an up-to-date collection calendar go to the SCDC website, click on the bins icon and then put in your postcode.

**Support Group session**

Pinpoint and Contact a family are running a workshop/support session for parents and professionals who run support groups for children and young people aged 0-25 who have additional needs. The group is running on the 22nd March from 10am-2pm at Papworth Trust.

To book your place please email [carole@pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](mailto:carole@pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) or call the office on 01480 499043

## County Councillor Report

### Results of County Council Annual Budget Meeting

Cambridgeshire is one of the very few councils nationally to have opted not to take the 1.99% standard council tax rise. This is what government permits, and it allows councils to address inflationary and demographic pressures - though it makes only a small difference in addressing the enormous funding gap resulting from government's total withdrawal of revenue support grant. The 1.99% rise would cost a Band D property 42 pence per week.

The council did opt to levy a 2% rise specifically for social care, as permitted by government, but this will be a drop in the bucket in terms of addressing the social care crisis that is contributing to NHS hospital bed blocking and cancelled operations.

The Conservatives, UKIP and Independents rejected the 1.99% rise. The Lib Dems and Labour both supported it. The social care rise was supported by all party groups except UKIP.

UKIP proposed that reserves be used in lieu of any council tax rise. Council reserves stand at £16 million, against an annual expenditure of £500 million, excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The Conservatives argued that the council can transform the way it delivers services to such an extent as to make substantial savings negating the need for the 1.99% council tax rise, but this is speculative.

What I voted for: My group, the Lib Dems, argued for the 1.99% rise in order to provide some support the following services - though much greater financial support is needed to bring services to a decent standard.

#### Children's services:

Increase services supporting parents and their babies  
 Maintain special needs support in schools  
 Increase support for the local social care team  
 Keep more Children's Centres open

#### Services for Vulnerable Adults:

- Increase the hourly rate for the staff providing home care
- Increase services to help people leave hospital as soon as they are well enough
- Reverse cuts to voluntary sector contracts for mental health services

#### Roads and Transport:

- Remove the charge for parking at Park and Ride sites in Cambridge
- Subsidise bus routes and community transport
- Improve maintenance of roads, pavements and cycle-ways

Other pressures cited in the Council's budget papers are associated with Brexit, including general financial uncertainty and uncertainty as to future government support to local authorities. For example in 2020 local authorities will be allowed retain Business Rates. However, they may be asked to fund new services currently supported by government. At council level we are also scrutinizing the impact of Brexit on staff recruitment and retention in health and social care.

### Cycle Path Opening 15 March

The new path linking Melbourn and Shepreth is nearing completion and will be formally opened on March 15, 10:30AM, with a ride from Melbourn to Wyeval Garden Centre where refreshments will be served courtesy of Wyeval. It has been noticeable through the winter months that even the unfinished path is a popular route for walkers and joggers. As you know, all cycle schemes are funded by specific grants from outside bodies, not the council.

The County Council is now running a survey on six cycle schemes including the overall A10 scheme. The A10 link is: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/a10cyclelink/>

### Meldreth Station issues and Rail User Group 14 March 7:30PM Shepreth Village Hall

Since the story about booking office closures appeared in the local press, we have at last got confirmation from Govia Thameslink that they are advertising for a permanent post to run the service. Recruitment and training will take about three months, they say. Govia Thameslink will be attending the March 14 Rail User Group to answer questions about the booking office and ticket machine. Network Rail will be attending to ask questions about platform lengthening. The agenda and minutes will be posted at [meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk](http://meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk).

### **26 bus and 27 bus**

Stagecoach is now consulting on an hourly service for the 26, which would terminate at Trumpington Park and Ride. This would strengthen the service's long-term viability. However, at the bottom of the consultation leaflet under 'Pros and Cons' it states that it would no longer run the 27 bus, which is the only connection from Meldreth to Cambridge by bus, on the basis that it has a very low ridership. As you know, the County Council has no statutory responsibility to subsidize bus services and in their current financial situation I doubt that the 27 bus could be run on a subsidy. We don't have ridership information by village and so it isn't clear the extent to which Meldreth people depend on it. I'm in touch with Royston and District Community Transport and the County Council for advice and ideas, including the enhanced case now for a shuttle service to Meldreth Station.

### **Foxton Crossing and impacts on the A10**

Partly on the basis that the crossing is now at breaking point in terms of disruption to A10 traffic flow, but primarily for safety reasons, I could not support Network Rail's proposal to close the pedestrian gate leading to Barrington Rd. The project would have involved a very significant financial investment that would have disincentivized Network Rail in tackling the overall level crossing problem.

For the CEMEX application, I understand that the quarry restoration project is desired by Barrington and would protect against expansive development there. I have indicated that it seems far preferable to use rail over road for big projects like this, but that the crossing needs sorting out in order to enable this to run without placing further pressure on the A10.