

**ANNUAL MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr R Goodin – Chairman (**RG**), Cllr N Pellatt – Vice Chairman (**NP**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**) and Cllr R A Searles (RAS) (Cllr Searles left the meeting at 8.20pm) Meeting was still quorate.

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

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- 035/5/17 Election of Chairman and signing of the Acceptance of Office and Agreement to Abide by the Code of Conduct:** )LGA 1972 s15(2). The Chairman remains in their seat until they have been reinstated or a new Chairman is voted in. LGA 1972 S15(4). (Chairman has the casting vote) LGA 1972 S15 (3).  
Cllr Pellatt nominated Cllr Goddin to take the Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Searles and agreed by all. Cllr Goddin accepted the position and took the chair.
- 036/05/17 Election of Vice Chairman and signing of the Acceptance of Office and Agreement to Abide by the Code of Conduct:** *Local Elections (declaration of acceptance of Office) Order 2012/1465, sch 1*  
Cllr Searles nominated Cllr Pellatt to take the position of Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Land, all agreed. Cllr Pellatt accepted the position.
- 037/05/17 To receive any apologies for absence:** LGA 1972 sch12 para 40 – Quorate is one third but no less than 3 members LGA 1972 sch12, para 45  
Apologies received from Cllr Lee, Cllr Fallon, and Cllr Young (personal reasons), Cllr Keena also gave his apologies due to work commitments. Cllr Hart (SCDC) also sent her apologies. Council was quorate.
- 038/05/17 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:**  
Cllr Pellatt declared an interest in items relating to the football team item (058/05/17)
- 039/05/17 Dispensation:**  
Cllr Pellat and Cllr Fallon for items concerning the pavilion and football team as they are both members of Meldreth Football Club. The documentation needs to be completed by the councillors and agreed at the next meeting. **Action: NP/JF**
- 04005/17 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 five members of the public in attendance.  
Mrs Clare Silver – Chair of the Meldreth Futures Working Group read out their recent report. This will be discussed by the Parish Council under item 051/05/17.  
A request was given to have on next months agenda the item of the Parish Council's computer system and website needs as it may need a total upgrade to meet the needs now being put upon it.
- 041/05/17 To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017:**  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land and seconded by Cllr Pellatt. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 042/05/17 District Councillor Report:**  
Appendix 1
- 043/05/17 County Councillor Report:**  
Appendix 2  
Additional items:  
Cllr van de Ven reported that the donation from Meldreth Parish Council to Melbourn Village College for the contribution towards the enrichment programme had been very much appreciated.  
The Greenways which are to link villages will be natural pathways and not tarmac paths. Cllr van de Ven has been successful in setting up a Bus Users Group who will review the proposed bus service changes in the area. It has also been noticed that there is a lot of traffic coming from Bassingbourn and Whaddon for the station, this is giving pressure on street parking and it is expected that this may increase as from September there will be no 6<sup>th</sup> form transport from these villages so they will use the train.

It is hoped that RDCT will be able to provide a bus service for 6<sup>th</sup> form students which may help alleviate the cars coming into the village for this purpose.  
Cllr van de Ven thanked the Parish Council as voting takes place tonight for the CCC seat. Cllr Goddin enquired whether consideration had been given to the traffic congestion problems associated with the proposed work happening at Harston, while they complete the cycle routes. Cllr van de Ven said that this will be difficult but the contractors will be doing their best to alleviate an already busy road while the works take place.

**042/05/17 Election of Planning Committee: RG, NP, JF, CAL, DL and RAS,**

It was propose by Cllr Searles that Cllr Goddin join the Planning Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Land. All other councillors to remain the same. All agreed.

**043/05/17 Nominations to the following: Working Groups/Key Representatives and Trustees**

It was proposed by Cllr Land and seconded by Cllr Pellatt that the above responsibilities be held by the following Councillors and residents who make up some of the working groups. Agreed by all.

Item	Cllrs appointed
Cemetery WG	Alan Land, Joan Fallon, Alan Keena, Clerk
Meldreth Recreation Ground WG	Alan Land, Joan Fallon, Nigel Pellatt, Alan Keena
Finance WG	Nigel Pellat, Richard Goddin, Joan Fallon, Clerk
Policies WG	David Lee, Clerk
Complaints and Personnel WG	Alan Land, Richard Goddin, Clerk
Village Hall Representative	Nigel Pellatt
Triggs Charity Representatives (education)	Joan Fallon
Parish Charities Representatives	Joan Fallon
Flood Avoidance Sub Committee	Joan Fallon, David Lee, Mr Paul Ray, Cllr ven de Ven
Mary Course School Fund Representatives	Alan Land, Rob Searles
Tree Warden	Margaret Lynch
Planning Committee	Richard Goddin, Rob Searles, Nigel Pellatt, Joan Fallan, Alan Land
Marley Eternit WG	Andrew Young, Joan Fallon, Alan Land, Dave Lee, Cllr Hart
Meldreth Futures WG	Andrew Young, Richard Goddin, Alan Land (Clare Silver, Joan Gane, Roger Faires, Pat Gilmore, Juliette Walter, Nicky Sell and Faye Holliday)
Mettle Hill WG	Richard Goddin, Andrew Young (Julie Draper, Helen Munday, Philippa Hart, Roger James)
Highways Volunteers	Graham Borgonon, Paul Ray, Pat Gilmore, Hilary Duncan, Hilary Marsh, Lyn Wallbridge and Richard Remnant
Tennis Working Group	Richard Goddin, Andrew Young (Richard Evans, Jerry Cottrell, Christine Knight)
Pavilion Working Group	Andrew Young, Richard Goddin
Network Rail User Group	Richard Goddin
Melbourn Area Youth Development	Vacant
Melwood Conservation Representative	Mr Graham Borgonon
Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) Rep	Steve Marshall
River Mel Restoration Representative	Steve Hawkins
SPEP	Mr David Smith

It was proposed by Cllr Searles and seconded by Cllr Pellatt that Cllr Goddin and Cllr Young sit on the Tennis Club working group.

The vacant position of MAYD (youth club) be left until a new councillor has been co opted.

044/05/17

**Tennis Courts:**

Cllr Goddin gave his report to the Council whereby he stated that the working group has now been set up see item 043/05/17. There is to be a meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May where the next part of the refurbishment will be discussed. The Parish Council congratulated the Tennis Club in their successful grant application from Amey Cespa which has awarded them £30,000 towards the project. Cllr Goddin believes that the Tennis Club due to their experience and due diligence have inspected all tenders and their choice of contractor has been agreed on their experience and past projects. The estimated total cost of the project is set at £58,000, the Parish Council have contributed £5000 with the rest coming from the Tennis Club themselves, therefore it was felt that as the Tennis Club had done all the work and had the financial risk and that they had the technical expertise it would be better to allow the Tennis Club to oversee the project. This meant that the grant would go to the Tennis Club and that they would arrange payments of all invoices, this would then not allow the Parish Council to reclaim the VAT, but this is no longer a requirement and the Tennis Club were happy with the arrangement.

It has also been agreed, in principal, that each party (Tennis Club and the Parish Council) would earmark £1500 per annum to go towards future maintenance.

The booking system is still being looked into.

Cllr Searles proposed that the Tennis Club take charge of the contract, (there is no objection to the Tennis Club being the contracted party, subject to the Parish Council being involved through the working group), seconded by Cllr Land all agreed.

There was also the question of closing 8 of the village hall car park spaces, nearest to the Tennis Courts for the contractors while work is being carried out. Clerk to notify the Village Hall, as yet there is not date of commencement.

**Action: Clerk**

045/17

**Parish Councillor Vacancy:**

The Parish Council have now received permission to co opt a councillor onto the Parish Council, notices have been posted on the notice board and in Meldreth Matters. Deadline for applications is 19<sup>th</sup> May, co option can take place at the June meeting.

046/05/17

**Train Station:**

Response from the Parish Council regarding the decision from Network Rail to halt the extension of the platform project. Cllr van de Ven has received a reply, as yet the Parish Council had not.

047/05/17

**Proposed closing of the railway crossing on footpath 10:**

The Parish Council have forwarded a response to this proposal to the Secretary of State for Transport. Cllr van de Ven has also responded.

048/05/17

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

All items were covered on the agenda.

049/05/17

**Planning Extracts:** Cllrs. Land, Searles, Fallon, Lee, Pellatt and Stewart (Full Planning Minutes are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).

**Planning meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017:**

**Land rear of No. 79 High Street, S/1124/17/OL** - Erection of 18 dwellings (including affordable) with all matters reserved except for access. Councillors had conducted a site meeting.

Parish Council recommendation: Refusal: The Parish Council also requested that this should go to Planning Committee.

**4 Whitecroft Road, S/1187/17/FL** - First floor and loft extension. The previous application was refused due to its overbearing size and materials proposed. Parish Council recommendation: Refusal.

**Land between Burtons and West Way, off Whaddon Road, S/2939/16/FL** – Amendment. Ecology Report update, Amendment to Plot 5, Landscape details and visibility splays. Parish Council recommendation: No Recommendation, all agreed

**Planning meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017: verbal report**

**23 North End, S/1333/17/TC** - Reduce mixed Cypress and Leylandii hedge by 1/2 metre to create on flat level, trim sides. Reduce Cypress in height by 3 metres and trim sides. Application was noted but there were no comments made by the Planning Committee.

**120 High Street, S/1447/17/TP** - Horse Chestnut: fell due to severe storm damage.

Sycamore: remove most of the large low branch, back to the first union. Lime: remove the large stem which leans towards the house. Limes: re pollard back to previous pollard points.

The Horse Chestnut and Lime tree are CA and not TPOs. This application was withdrawn as the residents had not requested the works to be done. Applicant will contact SCDC to enquire how this happened.

**SCDC Decisions:**

S/0700/17/FL – 114 High Street (Court Stables). This application was considered by the Chair of the Planning Committee and the Head of Development Management on 24<sup>th</sup> April at SCDC. Having considered the application against Development Plan policy and taking into account all other relevant material consideration please be advised that officers will now be proceeding to finalise their delegated report refusing the application.

**050/05/17**

**Church Wall:**

Clerk has contacted Mr Llewellyn (architect) who is in the process of putting together a specification, once this has been received it will be sent to Ms Wignall (SCDC) for approval.

**051/05/17**

**Meldreth Futures Working Group:**

Following the reading of the report during the public sector the Parish Council discussed the issues raised in further detail.

Cllr Goddin reported that the funds donated to Melwood had not yet been spent as they were looking at the type of equipment needed and were in the process of trying out various types of machinery. It was agreed that this would be fine but that they need to keep the Parish Council up dated. Cllr Pellatt was concerned that the point of giving donations was for the groups to spend the funds and not keep hold of them for a long period of time. In the case of Melwood it was understood this was for the best outcome but it was felt that the application form needs to state a time limit of spending the funds or they are to be returned.

Melbourn Village College – It was proposed by Cllr Pellatt that the application from Melbourn Village College for funding for disadvantaged students be rejected, this was seconded by Cllr Land, all agreed. It was felt that the Parish Council were not in a position to give funds for this type of application as it was not in their powers as a Parish Council. The Futures Group also recommended refusal of this application.F

Preschool – The Meldreth Futures Working Group were not happy that the funds had been spent on other items to those originally requested as this may have changed the recommendation of the MFWG and the Parish Council's decision. The original request was to update an old computer, musical instruments and storage. Due to another grant specifically for musical instruments they did not need the fund for this part, and the remainder of the fund was spent on storage and other items with the main part of the donation being used for training of one member of staff, this was felt to not be in accordance to the agreement. After much discussion the Parish Council agreed to write to the Preschool stating they they were not happy with what they had done as the money was not spent on what it had been intended for.

Cllr Pellatt reported that he did not think it would be advantageous to request for the funding to be returned but he also stated that would the Parish Council have given the funds if it had been known that it would be used for training purposes.

Cllr Pellatt proposed that the financial application form needed to be updated, this was seconded by Cllr Land all agreed.

- Date that the money should be spent by.
- The money is to be spent only on the items requested.

It was also suggested that a letter confirming these points be sent with the payment to the recipient once it has been agreed.

**052/05/17**

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

The application will be now be going to the planning meeting in June 2017. Clerk has contacted Mr Philip Kratz and has copied in Cllr Hart. It is hoped that Mr Kratz will be able to attend the meeting in June on behalf of the Parish Council.

**053/05/17**

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report – Cllr Fallon sent in a report stating that the equipment appears to be in good working order. The wood on rocking horse has been repaired.

The Clerk is still awaiting quotes for the tree and hedge work needed in the recreation ground. However, the tree at the top of footpath 8, near Howard Road needs to be done separately as it appears to be moving, it is still hoped that the Elm tree can be saved, however this may not be but won't be known until the work is carried out. Clerk has received a quote for £190.00 for this work, it was proposed by Cllr Land that this work be carried out, seconded by Cllr Goddin all agreed. Clerk to arrange.

**Action: Clerk**

- 054/05/17 Recreation Ground:**  
Clerk is still arranging site meetings to look at the ditch. Cllr Goddin inquired about the neighbouring ditch which also need to be cleared as this will have an effect on the recreation ditch.  
Clerk informed the meeting that she had been trying to get some guidance from SCDC on this ditch. Cllr Pellatt suggested writing again to both SCDC and to the land owner opposite to enquire about them clearing the ditch which they, according to Riparian law they are responsible for. Cllr Goddin also suggested asking the contractors to quote on the works for this ditch. Both ditches need to be cleared to avoid any backing up of water.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 055/05/17 Pavilion Construction:** (LGA 1972 s111)  
Cllr Pellatt reported that it is looking very good and that water will be made available for the Tennis Courts refurbishment when they need it.
- 056/05/17 Security for Pavilion:** (Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31)  
Cllr Pellatt and Cllr Young have met with the contractor to look into the positioning of the CCTV security system. Update at next months meeting.  
**Action: AY**
- 057/05/17 Pavilion Management Programme:**  
Articles for Cleaner and Overseer have been submitted to Meldreth Matters and notices are in the local One Stop shop.  
Cllr Pellatt reported on this item but abstained from any decision.  
The original specification did not include plastering so this has been done as a separate item. The football club have paid for the plastering and it was agreed in principal that the Parish Council would reimburse the football team this money. It was proposed by Cllr Land to reimburse the Football Club the £700, seconded by Cllr Goddin.
- 058/05/17 Football Club Rental Payments:**  
Cllr Pellatt reported that he had met with the Saturday Club regarding missed rental payments. The Saturday Club have been helping out the Sunday Club in the past with the pavilion and by marking out the pitch, however they also suggested that they would provide the paint and contractor to paint the rooms in the pavilion which can now be painted. It was proposed by Cllr Land that as long as they use a professional painter and decorator this would be fine, seconded by Cllr Goddin. It is hoped to start the decorating on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was also agreed that the rent be set at £300 per annum and invoiced every four months.
- 059/05/17 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**  
Mrs P Gilmore and the Clerk will attend Paxton Nature Reserve on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2.30-5.30pm Clerk has booked tickets and the event is free.  
The proposed wild flower area at the burial ground has been sprayed.
- 060/05/17 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	March Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Talk Talk	22.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984	DD
D P Gardens	615	0	Grass and verge cutting April	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs

**Payments awaiting Approval**

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Inland Revenue	confidential	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	bacs
SMART pension	confidential	0	Pension contributions	LGA 1972 s112	dd
Melbourn Warden Scheme	375	0	3 & 4 quarter to 31.3.17	LGA 1972 s133	bacs
Arco	65.09	10.85	6 further High vis jackets for volunteers	LGA 1972 s133	bacs
CAPALC	394.56	0	Membership	LGA 1972 s133	bacs

					<b>Pg 12</b>
D Chappel	125	0	Village maintainance	LGA1972 s133	Bacs
Meldreth United Football Team	700	0	Plastering reimbursement	LGA 1972 s133	2575

**Community Benefit Payment**

Melbourn Village College	1043	0	Donation	S137	2
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**Deposits**

Office rent April	90
Office rent x 3 missing	270
A J Mills – memorial stone	55

**061/05/17**

**Insurance:**

Cllr Pellatt is presently looking over the insurance documents and quotes, which vary and Cllr Pellatt needs to see why there is such a difference. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that Cllr Pellatt due to his expertise in this area, inspect the document and make the decision as to which company would be best. The review date is 1<sup>st</sup> June, this was seconded by Cllr Land. **Action: NP**

The matter of insuring an event being carried out with Melwood for a children's event in June was also discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Pellatt that Melwood would be better getting their own separate insurance to cover this event, this was seconded by Cllr Land. Cllr Pellatt suggested contacting a company called Events Insurance as they are designed for just this sort of event. Clerk to contact Mr Huett. **Action: Clerk**

**062/05/17**

**Tree Survey:**

Clerk has put together a tree policy, this to be sent to Mrs Lynch, Tree Warden for any feedback. **Action: Clerk**

**063/05/17**

**Mettle Hill:**

Cllr Goddin reported that there has been a meeting with affordable housing contractors to look at the possibility of putting in affordable housing. One of the contractors suggested the Parish Council look into Community Land Trust however this is a complicated procedure and relies heavily on raising money from other areas. However, the one advantage is that it is supposedly easier to get planning if you have a Community Land Trust in place.

Affordable housing will not give the same kind of return that Park Homes will give. It may be easier to get planning permission for Park Homes and it may fit in better with the village, however there are positives and negatives with both schemes.

Cllr Pellatt asked who would manage the Park Home project when they, possibly after 10 years, withdraw from the scheme, Cllr Goddin said that it may be to get in a separate management committee.

The other choice is to clear the land, make it secure and leave it, this would have a cost of £30,000.

**064/0517**

**Annual Parish Meeting (village meeting)**

Will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the main room of the Village Hall.

**065/05/17**

**Councillors' Reports:**

There were no Councillor's reports.

**066/05/17**

**Agenda items for the next meeting:**

9.40 pm Chairman closed the meeting, Clerk and public left the room

**067/05/17**

**Clerk's appraisal:**

Cllr Pellatt and Cllr Land had previously met the Clerk to discuss her appraisal. It was proposed by Cllr Pellat, to increase the Clerk from LC27 to LC30 this was seconded by Cllr Goddin and agreed by all.

9.55 pm Chairman opened the meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm

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

**Meldreth Primary School**

I have today received notification of a public consultation to view Meldreth Primary School's expansion plans. I will forward the Project Newsletter under cover of an email to all parish councillors. Increasing numbers on the school roll and the possibility of further housing developments are cited as the reason for the proposed expansion to a 210 place school with discrete one year entry and the accommodation for the village pre-school to be relocated from the Village Hall.

The consultation will take place on Tuesday 16th May at Meldreth Primary School from 3.30-7pm. All are welcome.

**Marley Eternit**

There are still unresolved matters on this application and the earliest it will go to Planning Committee is June. Highways still has a holding objection regarding the safety of the developer's preferred new access. Case officers have negotiated with the developer over the likely remediation costs of the site and reached an improved position as regards the affordable housing element, although at 25% it is still a distance from the 40% which is council policy on developments over 2 houses.

**Elections**

Local elections have taken place today to elect our county councillor and, for the first time, a mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It will be interesting to see what voter turnout here will be; presumably it will assist that we have the county seats being contested simultaneously, unlike some areas of the country where the only vote is for a new mayor. It seems a shame that the general election was called a few days too late to be rolled into the vote today. It is very costly to stage elections and may be hard to persuade voters to turn out twice in swift succession.

**Wimpole History Festival**

A new event to welcome in our locality! Some of you may already attend events at the Cambridge Literary Festival and this is a spin off with history as its focus. The event is being held over the weekend of 7th-9th July at Wimpole and has gathered an impressive array of speakers, ranging from Chris Patten to Lucy Worsley. There are also speakers aimed at young historians, including Francesca Simon and Helen Moss. For more information, please see online at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate/features/wimpole-history-festival-2017>

**Litter**

As I reported a few months ago the government seems to be following through in its attention to crack down on litter being thrown from vehicles and fly tipping. Car drivers will be able to be issued with penalty notices if it can be proved that the litter was thrown from their vehicle, irrespective of who did the throwing. There are several black spots in this ward where litter is habitually thrown and fly-tipping takes place. I will be enquiring of the council how this new law is proposed to be enforced in the district: although a once or twice yearly volunteer litter pick makes a big difference it relies on goodwill and a ready supply of volunteers but it does not address the behaviour of who is throwing the litter and doing the fly-tipping, nor does it make much of a difference to the costs the council incurs in cleaning up after irresponsible litter louts. Vehicles used by fly tip-pers have already started to be seized in parts of the country. There are also plans to prevent councils from charging householders for the disposal of DIY waste at recycling sites.

**Open Eco Homes Workshop South Cambs Hall 7-9pm Tuesday 9th May**

This is aimed at parish councils and district councillors and is a workshop to organise volunteers to set up Open Eco Homes events in their localities. It is aimed at helping volunteers set up Open Eco Homes events in South Cambridgeshire as part of the district council's Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership programme. Open Eco Homes is like Open Gardens but for those passionate about low energy/renewable energy/sustainable homes. I hope to get along to this event, but will not be able to attend until 7.45pm. Please will anyone attending from the parish council please let me know.

**Flat pack homes**

The district council has announced its intention to launch a project to look into the inclusion of sites exclusively to deliver flat pack homes, at a unit cost of £85,000, in order to address the acute affordable housing crisis in South Cambs. This is at a very early stage but I hope to be able to report more fully in due course.

**Rural Services Network - Rural Opportunities Bulletin**

The Rural Services Network champions rural communities and regularly publishes a bulletin summarising the grant funding which can be sourced by, among other, rural communities groups.

I have sent the April bulletin to the parish clerk and please contact either Judy or me if you need any help in obtaining funding for your organisation.

**Rainfall**

Figures suggest that rainfall in the region is 50-70% lower than yearly averages at this point of the year. It may be that I will be reporting on shortages and hosepipe bans near future.

## County Councillor Report

Biodegradable bin liners: It turns out that not all bin liners sold as 'biodegradable' are of a high enough standard to be able to be processed with our green waste. Therefore, bin liners are not to be put into green bins. The information provided about this is somewhat obscure, and I've posted the query I received about this, and the County Council's lengthy response, on my website blog.

Multi-use all weather 9 kilometre trail at Wimpole Hall: The National Trust is working with Sport England to create an all-year-round multi-use path at ten National Trust estates around the country, including Wimpole Hall. The idea is for the trail to be easy to use by everyone, including wheelchair and push chair users. The project is planned to start this year and will comprise a circular route, about 9km long, around the estate. There are echoes of the Greenways project here, and together these could comprise a very welcome recreational asset for our area.

Meldreth Station Booking Office: Govia Thameslink Railway have confirmed that a permanent post for the Meldreth Station Booking Office has now been offered through a recruitment exercise. Hopefully we'll have more definitive news at next month's Rail User Group, on 13 June, 7 for 7:30, at Foxton Village Hall. Unfortunately, the lack of temporary staff cover has meant that the station is still frequently unmanned.

Cam Vale Bus Users Group: About 20 regular bus users attended the Bus and Community Transport Information Evening held on April 19 at the Elin Way Community Room. Royston and District Community Transport also attended and provided much useful advice. It was agreed that bus users in our area would benefit from a dedicated bus users' group. Those present christened it the Cam Vale Bus Users Group, and it will meet again in late June of so to adopt a constitution – details to be confirmed. For the time being, I've posted the minutes of this group on my website. Would the parish council and/or Solar Fund Group like to be involved in finding out more?

Shuttle service to Meldreth Station: One of the very useful things I have learned while election canvassing in the new 'Melbourn and Bassingbourn Division' is just how much traffic flows through to Meldreth from Bassingbourn and Whaddon, largely because those villages have such poor public transport – and because Whaddon, so close to Meldreth, has no off-road path. In particular, it seems to be sixth formers who rely on Meldreth Station. A shuttle link service would be good for everyone – providing lifts and freeing up parents who may be needing to get to work, and reducing road traffic. Royston and District Community Transport is prepared to provide an early morning/late afternoon shuttle service. The job now is to conduct a household transport needs survey in those villages needing the service, to understand the strength of demand and cost out the options. The idea would be to start in September. As discussed at the Cam Vale Bus Users' group, should a commercial provider put forward a proposal to run a shuttle, RDCT would welcome this – but as our local community transport provider they are also prepared to step in and get started.

A10 cycle path Directional signage and 'dual use' signs indicating the paths are meant for walkers, too, are now being placed at key points along the whole route. While the tarmac is down, it's essential that these other aspects of work are tended to. Meanwhile, it's good to see the beneficial effect of the AstraZeneca maintenance grant and improved cut-back of vegetation. It has now been confirmed that works to create dual use path through Harston is scheduled to begin at the end of July and will take 4-6 months. If anyone would like to join the annual A10 ride this Sunday and needs a bike, please get in touch.

Station tubs: Flower tubs at Meldreth Station will be ready soon for summer planting. We now have Duke of Edinburgh and Girl Guide volunteers helping with watering.