

**MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes unApproved** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st June 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr R Goddin (**RG**) Chairman, Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr A Keena (**AK**), Cllr D Lee (**DL**), Cllr R A Searles (**RAS**) and Cllr A Young (**AY**)

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

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- 068/06/17**    **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*  
Cllr N Pellatt and Cllr C J Fallon both for personal reasons. Cllr van de Van had also sent in her apologies.
- 069/06/17**    **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.
- 070/06/17**    **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 six members of the public in attendance.  
**Items raised by the public.**
- Resident at Chiswick End reported there appears to be rubble/hardcore being stock piled on land on Chiswick End and would like to know if this is a long or short term project? Clerk will ask the landowner.
  - Resident enquired if the Parish Council can be involved in the Local Development Plan process which they had read about in the latest SCDC magazine. Cllr Hart explained that the Local Development Plan has been suspended and is now with the Inspector.
  - Resident enquired whether the Parish Council had heard from Network Rail regarding the proposed level crossing closure, they also informed the council that they had received a reply and that there will be a local planning enquiry, Clerk responded that they had not received any response.
- 071/06/17**    **To sign and approve Minutes of meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017:**  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Young all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 072/06/17**    **Parish Council Vacancy:** *has arisen in accordance with LGA 1972s87 and has been declared and publicly notified in accordance with LGA 1972 s232*  
SCDC have given permission for the Parish Council to fill the vacancy via Co option. Parish Council to now vote a new Councillor onto the Parish Council. New Councillor to then sign the Acceptance of Office.  
The Chairman welcomed all those who had attended the meeting and reported that Mrs Garner had given her apologies, the Chairman stated that nominees do not have to be in attendance so this would not affect Mrs Garner's application. The remaining nominees address the council as to who they were and why they wished to be considered.  
There were four nominees in total and the Parish Councillors took a ballot vote, Clerk recorded the results and it was an overall majority for Dr James receiving 4 votes out of a possible 6. Dr James agreed to take a seat and signed his Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Proper Officer (Clerk).  
The Chairman thanked again all those who had shown an interest and explained that next May 2018 all seats will be up for election and he hoped that those nominees who had not been successful this time would still put themselves forward next year.
- 073/06/17**    **District Councillor Report:**  
Report had been circulated. Appendix 1.
- 074/06/17**    **County Councillor Report:**  
Cllr van de Ven had forwarded her report, there were no questions raised by the councillors. Appendix 2
- 075/06/17**    **Election of a Councillor onto the Planning Committee:**  
Cllr Fallon has resigned from the Planning Committee.  
Cllr Goddin proposed Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Land, all agreed.

- 076/06/17 Tennis Courts:**  
A funding request of £2000 has been received from the Tennis Club. Cllr Goddin read out the letter, it was proposed by Cllr Young that £1,281.00 be given out of the precept this was seconded by Cllr Searles. The Parish Council had set aside funds in the 2017/18 budget for the tennis courts. The remainder of the request for £719 for the purchase of junior kits so that the club can start to promote junior players to be given from the Community Benefit fund (solar fund). Proposed by Cllr Searles, seconded by Cllr Lee, all agreed. Work is due to start on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, and it was felt by all councillors that the project is well known to them so they could make the decision without it going to the Meldreth Futures Working Group for their recommendation. The Tennis Club raised £30,700 and contributed £23,300 themselves. They received £5000 from the Community Benefit but due to a change in contractor and that they had to match fund 11%, (£3,300), of the grant from Amey Cespa (net £26,700) it has left them slightly short.
- 077/06/17 Annual Parish Meeting (village meeting)**  
Notes from the meeting were circulated. Appendix 3  
Concerns raised by residents at the meeting were:  
Speeding within the village. This will now be looked at see item 078/06/17.  
Footways. Another concern is that of the state of the footways. It was suggested that the Clerk write to the Highways Authority, enquire with Cllr van de Ven who the best contact would be to address this to, and ask for a site meeting to look at the village's footways and what can be done to improve them. **Action: Clerk**
- 078/06/17 Village Traffic Working Group:**  
Following the Annual Parish Meeting where residents expressed their concern with speeding, it was felt that more needs to be done. At the moment there are various groups of people working hard to make Meldreth a safer village from the Highway volunteers who cut back footways and foliage to the members of speedwatch all of whom do a very important job, however it was felt that the groups may work better if there was a common cause. Cllr Searles stated that the markers at the Fenny Lane crossroads have now been erected and the white lines will be done shortly, see Appendix 2. Cllr Young will lead the group with Cllr Searles and Goddin along with the District and County councillors. Mrs Gilmore will also be part of this group.
- 079/06/17 Proposed closing of the railway crossing on footpath 10:**  
Cllr James will forward his letter to the clerk, see item 070/06/17.
- 080/06/17 Matters arising: (no actions information only)**  
There were no items.
- 081/06/17 Planning Extracts:(Town and Country Planning Act 1990 schedule 1, paragraph 8)**  
Cllrs. Land, Searles, Fallon, Lee, Pellatt and Stewart (Full Planning Minutes are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).  
**Planning meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017:**  
**24 North End, S/1423/17/FL** Single storey rear extension and brick cladding to original building. The Parish Council recommend Approval with no comments.  
**Malton Workshop, S/1473/17/FL** The proposal is for the change of use for the whole site to B1/B8 storage/light industrial building. There is provision for new parking areas included in the design. The Parish Council recommend No Recommendation with comments. 'It was noted that car park spaces have increased from 22 to 62 an extra 40 spaces which seems not in line with the number of employees'.  
**113 North End, S/1640/17/TP** Fell two Multi stemmed TPO Willows on land next to 113 North End along the road towards Shepreth. The Parish Council would like the two Willow trees to be high pollarded and not felled. They would then match the Willow trees on the opposite side of the road.  
**Planning meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017: verbal report**  
**11 Whitecroft Road, S/1365/17/FL** Proposed replacement porch. The Parish Council recommend 'Approval' with no comments. All in favour.
- 082/06/17 Church Wall:**  
Mr Llewellyn has sent his recommendation to Ms Celia Wignall (SCDC), awaiting her response.

083/06/17

**Meldreth Futures Working Group:**

There have been not further proposals and there have been no recent meetings. Work is continuing on the website. Cllr Goddin stated that nothing should be put on the website prior to the Parish Council seeing it first. There has been no response from the preschool in regards to the letter recently sent to them.

Cllr Young reported that more needs to be done to let residents know that there is this fund available to them. Notices have been put in Meldreth Matters but very little response is coming forward. It was suggested that maybe a different type of notice which will catch peoples attention may work better, to be discussed further by the Meldreth Futures Working Group. The map is also still being worked on, it is hoped that a lot of information can be incorporated on either one or two maps, these will show footpaths, dog bins, trees, as well as pubs, recreation facilities etc.

084/07/17

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

The application has been deferred again and will now be going to the planning meeting in July 2017. Marley will have 25% affordable housing allocation and not the original 40%. There is still an access objection from the Highways Authority, however this is no longer a strong objection. Mr Philip Kratz has agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of Meldreth Parish Council. Cllr Hart then explained that she was seeking advice as to how best she can serve Meldreth with this application, as she is now a member of the Planning Committee she would have to declare an interest in this item and would not be able to speak or vote, however there are other options, one is to have a substitute take her place on the panel, but they would be an independent district councillor, however this would allow Cllr Hart to speak. A meeting to be arranged with Cllr Hart, Cllr Goddin, Mr Peter Draper (Marley working group member) and Mr Kratz to put together a concise report to be given at the meeting.

085/06/17

**Playground:**

1. Monthly Report, all equipment appears to be in good working order. There have been some suggestions from the Rospa inspection.

2. Rospa Inspection has been carried out. The Recreation Ground working party have looked over the report, Clerk to contact Mr Chappell to put into place Rospa's suggestions. Ground surface to be inspected and grass seeded and filled, where possible. The Kick Wall is now rotting and it is advised to replace those components where possible and plan a total replacement. This equipment ie a kickball/basket ball area is part of the S106 request regarding Marley/Eternit.

The treads for the slide no longer comply with the depth requirements, advice is to monitor.

There appears to be damage sustained by a strimmer around the bases of the wooden posts, Clerk to contact D P Gardens.

**Action: Clerk**

Playground Quotes:

Clerk putting together the quotes so that work may commence once the nesting season has finished.

The tree at the top of footpath 8, near Howard Road is to be done separately as it appears to be moving, it is still hoped that the Elm tree can be saved.

086/06/17

**Recreation Ground:**

Clerk is presently getting quotes to have the ditch cleared and the vegetation on the banks cleared.

087/06/17

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

Cllr Pellett and Cllr Goddin have checked the recent works in the pavilion and payment for the final part of Stage Two has been made. This is for works for the shower room, WC and Ref's room.

Cllr Goddin will enquire with KTL who much longer the project is likely to take. **Action: RG**

088/06/17

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

CCTV has been ordered, Clerk to chase next week if items have not been received.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Young also noted that there were no spare keys for the pavilion, Cllr Young will arrange for further sets to be cut.

**Action: AY**

089/06/17

**Pavilion Management Programme:**

There has been no response for the Overseer volunteer position.

There has been a response to the cleaner position. Cllr Goddin and Cllr Young to meet with prospective person, Clerk to arrange.

**Action: Clerk**

090/06/17

**Football Club Rental Payments:**

Cllr Pellatt was absent so no action discussed.

091/06/17

**Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Mrs P Gilmore attended Paxton Nature Reserve on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2.30-5.30pm. Clerk was unable to attend due to work commitments. Mrs Gilmore gave the Parish Council some information she had received from the event and stated that she felt it was an extremely informative day and much information was given. Paxton Parish Council had managed to carry out the whole project by grants and it is this information which might be beneficial to the Parish Council. Mrs Gilmore gave the Clerk the brochures. Clerk stated that the Parish Council were members of Cambridgeshire Acre who had put on the event. Clerk to contact Mr Norkett to see if it would be possible to have a meeting with Meldreth Futures Group and Parish Councillors and any other interested parties. **Action: Clerk**

Chestnut Trees at the stocks and burial ground to be looked at by Acacia Tree Surgery. Clerk met with Mr Freed from Acacia Tree Surgery and looked at the Chestnut Tree. The tree appears to be well, however it could do with taking off some of the lower limbs, bring in the crown by 2 or 3m so is off the road, the tree however appears to be in good health and is not suffering from red canker

Burial ground tree – the Chestnut tree has Red Canker so its life expectancy is predicted to be 5-10 years, this can be shortened if there is a dry summer. Recommend to be looked at after the summer on a regular basis (two years)

The trees along Fenny Lane were also looked at and appear to be fine, but they can be included on an bi annual inspection, at the moment they are quite small so easily managed by any garden service company.

Dog Bin: Clerk is still waiting for a site meeting or a possible position to place a new dog bin near the war memorial. Cllr Hart said she would also enquire. **Action: Clerk/PH**

Litter bin on the corner of Elin Way/Whitecroft Road has now been repaired.

A new bin to be ordered to replace the bin knocked over at the stocks.

Flambards Bridge has now been repaired, thanks to the Melwood.

Clerk to attend the Emergency Planning on 16<sup>th</sup> June being held by SLCC. Cllr Goddin to attend the Parish Liaison meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June at Cambourne. Clerk to attend a Tree Course presently being put together by Huntingdon Council. Margaret Lynch has also been notified. South Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference – Huntingdon on 11<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 – 16.00

092/06/17

**Street light survey:**

The Parish Council enquired with Balfour Beatty about getting the lights along North End (SC1-SC9) and Chiswick End (SC10-SC13) thirteen lights in total surveyed to see if they needed replacing and if so what would be the best option. The cost of carrying out the survey would be £399.85 exc vat. Cllr Searles will meet with Balfour Beatty to make sure the correct information is available re: light pollution. Cllr Young enquired if the survey could be extended to cover all footway lights and if so would there be a reduction in cost. Cllr Keena stated that he believed it was a set amount per light. Clerk to enquire. **Action Clerk**  
Cllr Keena also stated that there may be a time limit on the survey and if so it would make doing the whole village null and void as there is no way the Parish Council can afford to replace all the lights. Clerk to enquire what the time limit would be. **Action Clerk**  
Clerk reported that during the budget meeting where the precept was set it was agreed that this would be a long term project with a couple of lights being replaced on an annual basis and that North End and Chiswick End had been put forward to be the first lights to be replaced.

It was proposed by Cllr Searles that Balfour Beatty do a survey for Chiswick End and North End lights at a cost of £399.85 and to set up a discussion to establish correct information, seconded by Cllr Land. **Action: Clerk**

093/06/17

**Open Eco Homes:**

Report sent in by Mr G Borgonon who attended. Nine people attended this event and the main emphasis was to promote eco homes in villages instead of mainly houses in the city. There are 37 SPEP villages active or semi active and repair cafes seem to be popular with 6 having been held in South Cambs. New imaging cameras (this size of a smart phone) were showcased and are being evaluated for availability later. The Meldreth Parish Council website has a SPEP page which Mr Borgonon updates.

094/06/17

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 (shaded):

#### 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
BT	316.21	52.7	Telephone	TCA 1984	Dd
KTL Building Services	4370	0	Stage 2 pavilion completed	LGA 1972 s133	bacs

#### Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Inland Revenue	confidential	0	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	2570
SMART pension	confidential	0	Pension contributions	LGA 1972 s112	dd
CWC	81.76	0	Water for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133	bacs
G Borgonon	14.75	0	Expenses for bridge at Flambards	OSA 1906 s9/10	bacs
Big Day	54	9	Banner for village meeting	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
Meldreth Lunch Club	220	0	Payment from last year not presented redo as a bacs payment	S137	Bacs
Rospa	117.6	19.6	Inspection	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
ICO	35	0	Registration	LGA 1972 s133	Cheque
Community Action Suffolk	1276.15	0	Annual insurance	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
J Damant	12.45	0	Expenses	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs

#### Deposits

Office rent May	90
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095/06/17

#### Audit:

The finances have been looked over by the internal auditor who is happy with them, but they had not been signed off. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that he would be happier that the internal auditor sign the finances off, before the Parish Council sign off. Clerk to see if an extension can be given so that this can be arranged. A possible extraordinary meeting may need to be held. Cllr Goddin will also look over the finances.

**Action: Clerk/RG**

096/06/17

#### Insurance:

Cllr Pellatt had agreed to look over the insurance documents as he was not happy with the quote received from AON. As Cllr Pellatt had been unable to carry this work out it was proposed by Cllr Keena that the Parish Council stay with Community Action Suffolk who have been the parish council insurers for a few years and the quote is only increased by a few pounds, this was seconded by Cllr Land all agreed.

097/06/17

#### Tree Survey:

It was agreed that this be deferred until the Clerk has attended the tree course being put together by Huntingdon Town Council as it may need some changes.

098/06/17

#### Mettle Hill:

Cllr Goddin updated the Council on what has been happening with Mettle Hill and that all avenues are being looked into.

099/06/17

**Councillors' Reports:**

Gllr Goddin expressed his disappointment with CAPALC. When advice was requested relating to the co-option procedures, though a response had been received it was not felt to have been very beneficial and further clarification was sought which was never received.

100/06/17

**Agenda items for the next meeting:**

Councillors to contact the clerk for any other items they wish to have on the agenda.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm. The next meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. (There will be no main meeting in August).

**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  
June 2017****The British Queen**

I am delighted to report that after considerable setbacks and delays, the planning permissions for both the applications respectively to convert the adjacent barn to provide overnight accommodation and a barber premises and to extend the kitchen and eating areas of the pub have been granted today.

**Marley**

The application is currently scheduled for July Planning Committee (Wednesday 5th July).

I have spoken to Philip Kratz, the planning lawyer, who is still more than happy to speak on our behalf. We agreed I would be in touch after tonight's meeting to schedule a briefing meeting with him, Peter Draper as a representative of MEWG and, please, a representative of the parish council.

I am now a member of South Cambs Planning Committee, and will raise the issues concerning my position with regard to the Marley application with you all verbally this evening.

**Filcup Field**

Residents living nearby the site have raised queries regarding certain site clearance activities. I have contacted the applicant who tells me that the site clearance is for cosmetic purposes, and that the scheme is yet to find a financial backer. I have sought further assurances regarding observance of pre-commencement conditions.

**Planning performance**

The planning department performance is going backwards again and I understand that the number of live applications is heading over the 600 mark. Members have been invited to attend briefings about a new shared service with Cambridge City Council and although this makes a great deal of sense geographically and given the synergy established by the joint approach to the Planning Inspector by the two councils regarding the Local Plan, experience to date with shared services in the IT, legal and building control departments has not been happy.

**Parklife Milton Country Park Sunday 25th June 10am-5pm**

This is a free event run by the District Council offering a wide range of activities from canoeing and paddle boarding to archery and den-building. For the full range of activities, advanced booking and other information please go to [www.scambs.gov.uk/parklife](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/parklife) or contact Community Resources on 01954 713070.

**Tenancy Inspections**

South Cambs housing officers should have contacted all their tenants to inform them that they will be visiting them to discuss aspects of household tenancy and to carry out inspections of the property. Details of how the visits are to be organised are to be found on page 5 of the Council's Tenant and Leaseholder magazine which all tenants should receive.

**Handyperson Service**

Following the success of the trial service, the District Council is now offering this service to all its tenants and leaseholders. This includes minor joinery, minor gardening jobs, security such as fitting locks etc, minor plumbing jobs and electrical work and DIY support. All materials must be provided by the tenant and charges are £10 per half hour (+VAT) and £20 per hour (+VAT). To arrange an appointment telephone 0800 085 1313.

**South Cambs Magazine**

I received my copy in the last week. Please let me know if you have yet to receive yours.

## Meldreth Parish Council June 2017 County Councillor Report

### County Council business

Due to the ongoing election purdah, the new County Council's decision-making committees are not yet underway.

### Meldreth School Expansion

For confirmation – this from County team today: “The expansion is 100% going ahead and is a named capital project in CCC’s Education Capital Programme. The expansion is due to be completed for September 2018. Now we have completed the consultation event our next step is to submit the planning application, which is a Reg3 planning application that will be submitted to CCC’s planning department. The contractor and design team are just in the process of finalising the documents for the planning application for submission. Expect to submit planning application next month.”

### 128 bus complaints

Thank you to those people who have taken the trouble to get in touch with a couple of specific concerns about the 128 service. Because this service is County-subsidized I am feeding any comments directly to County.

### Kneesworth Road junction update: Crack Seal and Dragon Patch

From County Road and Safety team:

“The marker posts are now erected at the Meldreth crossroads. I have spoken to the Local Highways Officer Peter J Taylor regarding the condition of the carriageway within the vicinity as the centre section is failing and although it does not meet intervention as yet, it would not be viable to lay a new centre line on it. Peter is going to add it to the list for crack seal repairs within his area and until this is done I will delay the replacement of the lining at this location.”

I have responded to say that I would hope a resurfacing application to the road can be achieved rather than just a crack sealing. The answer was that they might go for a dragon patch, which adds to the colour of new vocabulary now used to deal with our crumbling roads. What is a dragon patch?

County: “You may have seen the “dragon” as it is called on our roads around the county. It basically blows bitumen emulsion into the defect followed by chippings.”

At least we are better informed. Thanks to the County officers for doing their best in a difficult situation.

### New shuttle service?

Bassingbourn and Whaddon parish councils have agreed to pursue with Royston and District Community Transport the possibility of an early morning shuttle service to Meldreth Station. First we will work together on a transport needs survey to ascertain the level of interest. The anecdotal evidence of private car journeys to Meldreth is strong.

## NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH (VILLAGE) MEETING 2017

Apologies were received from Mr P Ray, Cllr Pellatt and Mrs C Knight.  
There were 26 in attendance.

Cllr Land as the Chairman for the last year, welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to read out his report, he also welcomed Cllr Goddin who is the now the new Chairman.

The Clerk read out the Financial report which is also included in the pack. This year the precept is for £60,000 with monies also being taken out of reserves. There are a few major projects being looked into such as replacing lights along North End and Chiswick End, the ditch at the recreation ground which is to be cleared and the banks to be reinstated to a better level. There are also projects which have been put aside regarding the Marley/Eternit proposal for 150 dwellings, these include the footway across the station bridge, however this is also part of the discussions going on with Network rail and the possible closing and re routing of the crossing. If none of these come to fruition then the Parish Council will need to look at other funding avenues in order to get this work done.

Q. Will Network Rail have a responsibility to find an alternative route?

A. Cllr van de Ven responded that the re routing is not acceptable as it puts a greater risk on users. Network Rail are applying to the Secretary of State at the moment.

CCC Report:

Cllr van de Ven read out her report.

Q. The footways are continuing to deteriorate, why is CCC spending money on cycle paths and not the footways?

A. This has been raised many times at CCC, the money being used for cycle paths does not come from CCC it comes direct from central government, so is a totally separate funding department.

Q. Where does our council tax go?

A. Mostly on adult social care.

Q. Is the Mayor able to support the council?

A. No the council supports the Mayor. The Mayor provides a single point of decision making for the government rather than the system in place at the moment whereby the government has to deal with various local authorities. The Mayor will have new powers one being bus franchising which may be of benefit.

SCDC Report

Cllr Hart read out her report.

There was an update concerning the proposed development at Marley which will now be going to planning at SCDC in July, this has already been postponed a couple of times. The main obstacle is the objection from Highways which concerns the proposed access which they want re routed.

The only money coming into communities at the moment is coming from developments.

The planning application at the British Queen is awaiting a bat survey. However, processing applications are once again falling behind.

Mr Simon Holmes – Melbourn Village College

Read out his report and wished to express his thanks to everyone in Meldreth who support both the schools (primary and college). Both schools are excelling especially in the area of mathematics and the also thanked the Parish Council for their support in regards to funding for transport for students to attend after school activities.

Meldreth Futures Working Group

Cllr Young addressed the meeting and asked for suggestions for ideas on what the monies could be spent on to be forwarded to the group or the Clerk. All suggestions will be looked into. There is a report attached to the pack but this year funding has been given to MADS, Guides, WI, Melbourn Village College, Melbourn Tea Party, Christmas Tree Event and Meldreth Preschool.

Q. Is the equipment for MADS there's?

A. No the Parish Council purchased it so that MADS can have main use of it, but it is available for anyone using the Village Hall when not in use for MADS productions.

Question from floor:

Q. A petition was done regarding '20's Plenty' of which many residents signed. Is the Parish Council doing anything about this as the speeding within Meldreth is getting worse.

A. The Parish Council have been looking into this and the result is that the '20's Plenty' signs are not allowed by Highways. It is not advisable to have signage of a different speed limit to what is the legal speed limit as it causes confusion. The result regarding the 20's Plenty has only recently been given to the Parish Council from the relevant Highways department. Cllr Young responded that the scheme has been looked into and the question of legally reducing the speed limit will now be looked into. There is now to be a meeting with Highways to investigate this matter further as to, can it be done, and if so where.

There are also no repeater signs along North End, however this is to do with the spacing of lights. The Parish

Council have tried to get repeater signs installed but it does not conform to Highways regulations. Speedwatch is a good deterrent but more volunteers are needed to run the scheme. Speed watch now has the latest equipment which is shared with other villages. Mr Borgonon responded that though more volunteers are always needed the main reason that the scheme has not been running recently is that it needs another volunteer to come forward to help run the back office. Speedwatch has been running for eleven years.

The speed limit along North End was reduced this year but the Parish Council had to apply through the correct channels and have Highways and the police on board with the proposal.

Q. Can flashing signs help?

A. This is no longer a part of Highways programme. The Parish Council would need to investigate and apply through the correct channels again though the cost would be covered by the Parish Council you need clearance from Highways.

Cllr van de Ven also reported that as she is now the County Councillor for Bassingbourn she has become aware of traffic behaviour from some of the surrounding villages which is having an impact on Meldreth, normally for the use of the station. With her help a scheme has been set up with RDCT to run a bus service from Bassingbourn and it is hoped that by doing this that car use will be reduced.

The question of legally reducing the speed limit would need to go to a public consultation regardless of the petition, however the petition would be of supportive use.

Q. Have other villages introduced a 20mph limit?

A. There is an organisation who are trying to install 20mph in urban areas. Haslingfield has also accomplished something which has reduced the rat running through the village.

Q. What is happening with the primary school and the proposed extension?

Neither Cllr Hart or Cllr van de Ven were able to attend the recent opening event to look at the plans. The school is due to be expanded and a consultation has taken place. The expansion is in anticipation of the Marley development. Cllr Hart also stated that she can not say that the expansion will definitely happen if the Marley development does not go ahead. The preschool will also be included in this expansion. Neighbours of the school responded that they had been informed that this was a definite regardless of what happens at Marley.

Q. Who is responsible for clearing the gutters.

A. Cllr van de Ven stated that this was a matter of CCC. Cllr van de Ven also explained about the Flood Avoidance group who work with her and Highways to inspect drains. A village walk, which occurs annually is due soon to inspect all drainage issues within the village.

Q. Can the footways be inspected at the same time?

A. Yes, this is done regularly, both Cllr van de Ven and members of the Parish Council walk the footways and put in areas of need, but it is up to the Highway Department as to what works will be carried out.

The meeting closed at 20.45pm