

MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Cllr R Goddin (**RG**) Chairman, Cllr N Pellatt – Vice Chairman (**NP**), Cllr C J Fallon (**JF**), Cllr R James (**RJ**), Cllr A Keena (**AK**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr D Lee (**DL**), Cllr R A Searles (**RAS**) and Cllr A Young (**AY**)

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

- 141/09/17** **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 were received by Cllr P Hart (SCDC)
There were no apologies from the Parish Council as all councillors were in attendance.
- 142/09/17** **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 pecuniary interests declared.
- 143/09/17** **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 6 members of the public in attendance.
Mrs P Gilmore as a member of the Meldreth Futures Working Group addressed the council with an update on the project she has been doing regarding putting together a map of the village which will include all village amenities, however it maybe that a second map would also be helpful showing such items as street lights, dog bins ect. Mrs Gilmore also asked that if there were any other items the Parish Council feel should also be included would they please let her know.
It was asked as to where the maps will be placed once completed, Mrs Gilmore believes that they should be placed in the Clerk's office with another copy placed somewhere else, possible in the village hall. There are no copyright issues. There was also a question as to whether business could be included, this may have to be another map showing businesses and what they do, however it has to be remembered that businesses change so the map would need to be updated.
Cllr Young congratulated and thanked Mrs Gilmore for all her hard work.
- 144/09/17** **To approve and sign Minutes of meeting dated 3rd August 2017:**
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Young all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 145/09/17** **District Councillor Report: Appendix 1**
There were no questions raised by the Parish Council
- 146/09/17** **County Councillor Report: Appendix 4**
Cllr Searles was not aware that there was a children's centre in Melbourn and was interested in what they provided. Cllr van de Ven stated that they provide specialist support for the under 5's, this used to be a more universal service but has since been more targeted to vulnerable families.
There were no other matters raised.

Working Group Updates/Reports:

- 147/09/17** **Marley Eternit Working Group**
The group was set up to look at the issue of the proposed development however they have not met for sometime. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that the group now be disbanded but with the option to reinstate if or when needed, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.
- 148/09/17** **Meldreth Futures Working Group:**
Cllr Goddin declared a non pecuniary interest in the Christmas Tree application as his wife is the Chairman.
Cllr Young reported that there had been two applications which the Meldreth Futures Group have looked at.

They recommend the Christmas Tree application for £200 to help with the costs of running this village event. The other application from the Tavern Writers Gallery is still under review. It was proposed by Cllr Young to donate £200 from the Community Benefit, seconded by Cllr Land all agreed. Cllr Goddin abstained from the vote. Cllr Young also reported that the working group are presently looking into play equipment for older children.

149/09/17

Village Traffic Working Group:

Meeting will be held 26th September at 7pm in the Green Room. Items for discussion need to be with Cllr Young by the 22nd September.

Planning:

150/09/17

Planning Extracts:*(Town and Country Planning Act 1990 schedule 1, paragraph 8)*

Cllrs. Goddin, Land, Lee, Pellatt, Searles and Young (Full Planning Minutes are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).

Planning meeting held on 20th July 2017: No Meeting**Planning meeting held on 3rd August 2017:**

Land Rear of 19-21 Whitecroft Road, S/2553/17/OL - Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved apart from access for the erection of two dwellings and change of use of part field/paddock to ecological amenity land. Vote taken with four Councillors in agreement of recommending **Object** and one against. The Parish Council Recommended Object with comments. 'The proposed dwellings were outside the village framework and the integrity of the village envelope should be protected. Councillors were concerned that if this application was allowed it would set a precedent for encroachment into the countryside'. The Parish Council did not want the application to be referred to the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee

32 Station Road (Fieldgate Nurseries), S/2465/17/FL - Retrospective-replacement single storey storage shed. Vote taken with all Councillors in agreement of recommending **Support**.

7 Brewery Lane, Agricultural barn at rear of Brewery Farm, S/2346/17/FL - Conversion of existing barn into a single dwelling and includes a single storey extension to the west and proposed carport. Vote taken with all Councillors in agreement of recommending **Support**.

34 Chiswick End, S/2319/17/FL - Demolition and replacement of existing detached garage. Vote taken with all Councillors in agreement of recommending **Object**. The Parish Council Recommended Object with comments. The size of the proposed garage is not on the scale of a domestic garage being four times the size of what is currently there. The industrial nature of the proposed construction materials are not suitable for a residential village setting.

Scrap Yard, Chiswick End, S/3529/17/OL - Erection of 6 dwellings with associated access and car parking. It was noted that there was further information still to be received on this application. It was agreed to defer a discussion until the next Planning Committee meeting.

63 High Street, S/2507/17/TP - Robinia (T30) reduce height by 20% because of excessive shading and to encourage growth to lower branches. Ash (No TPO) reduce height by 20% because of excessive shading and to encourage growth of lower branches. There were no concerns raised.

Planning meeting held on 24th August 2017:

85 High Street, S/2528/17/LB - Installation of Gas Boiler that will require the addition of a horizontal flue and condensate pipe to the rear of the property, the removal of two oil storage tanks, and replacement of oil pipework with gas pipework. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with no comments. Cllr Young abstained.

Meldreth Primary School, S/0244/17/CC - Development of the existing 171 place primary school to include two single storey extensions, 2 canopies, additional car and cycle parking, hard PE court together with hard and soft landscaping to enable it to expand to a 210 place primary school. Documentation had not been received in time for this meeting, Clerk to ask for this to be deferred until the next planning meeting on 7th September. **DEFERRED**.

56 Whitecroft Road, S/276117/FL - Two storey rear extension and detached garage. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with no comments.

Orchard Lodge, 80A High Street, S/2724/17/FL - Erection to 'The Master Annexe' -single storey, two bedroom log cabin to be located to the side of existing property as ancillary accommodation. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with comments. 'If permission is granted for this application that the cabin it will not be sold as a separate dwelling to 80a High Street.

Scrap yard, Chiswick End, S/3529/16/OL - Erection of 5 dwellings with associated access and car parking. Additional information. The outline application has been changed from 5 dwellings to 6. One dwelling has been turned into two semi-detached dwellings. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with comments. All concerns raised in the the past appear to have been addressed.

4 Stone Lane, S/2845/17/FL - Proposed alterations and extension. Meldreth Parish Council recommend '**Support**' with no comments. Cllr Searles abstained.

Land Rear of 19-21 Whitecroft Road (amended), S/2553/17/OL. Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved apart from access for the erection of two dwellings and change of use of part field/paddock to ecological amenity land (**Amended red line area**). Meldreth Parish Council noted the amendment of the red line area, but the Parish Council still maintain their objections to the development.

Planning meeting held on 6th September 2017: verbal report

Meldreth Manor School, S/2953/17/FL - Erection of a new single storey school building and associated works, including demolition of adjacent single storey building. Parish Council recommend 'Support' with no comments. Proposed by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Land all agreed.

Meldreth Primary School, S/0244/17/CC - Development of the existing 171 place primary school to include two single storey extensions, 2 canopies, additional car and cycle parking, hard PE court together with hard and soft landscaping to enable it to expand to a 210 place primary school. The Parish Council have concerns about parking issues during the construction period. The carpark at the village hall belongs to the Parish Council and is used daily especially during school times. The Parish Council would like to reiterate that construction vehicles are parked on-site however school staff may use the village hall carpark. It must be made aware that the village hall carpark is well used by other users of both the village hall and and recreation ground and is also used by staff and parents of the nursery and is especially busy during drop off and pick up times from the nursery.

Land at rear of 19-21 Whitecroft Road, S/2553/17/OL - Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved apart from access for the erection of two dwellings and change of use of part field/paddock to ecological amenity land. **Information Only**. Amended block plan showing access road detail. The Parish Council noted the amendment but made no comment.

Cllr Searles would also like it noted that August has been an exceptional month with the Parish Council receiving 13 planning application.

151/09/17

Marley Eternit: Proposed development of 150 dwellings:

The application was discussed at the planning meeting at SCDC on 6th September Cllr Goddin, Mr P Kratz, Cllr Hart and Cllr van de Ven were all in attendance. The matter went to vote and it was 12-0 in favour of refusing the application on various issues. However, it must be noted that the applicant may still take this matter to appeal.

Cllr Goddin would like to thank everyone for all their help and support and a letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Kratz.

Cllr Young also proposed that notices should be put up notifying residents of the decision, so far, this was seconded by Cllr Goddin all agreed. Cllr Young will put wording together and Clerk to contact Unlimited Logos who did the last notices to see if they can do the same again.

Action: AY/Clerk

152/09/17

Green Spaces Review and the Local Plan:

Appendix 2. Parish Council noted the document.

Major Projects

153/09/17

Pavilion Construction: (LGA 1972 s111)

Cllr Goddin thanked Cllr Pellatt for his latest report which was circulated to councillors.

Locks:

It had been suggested that the changing rooms need locking during matches, it was proposed by Cllr Goddin that the Parish Council install a stable lock plate whereby individual teams can bring their own padlock, this was seconded by Cllr Land all agreed. Clerk to arrange fitting.

Action: Clerk

Painting:

Cllr Young suggested that a professional painter be contracted to finish off the painting, Clerk to arrange for spec and quotes.

Cllr Pellatt agrees that the gloss painting is not up to standard but the overall impression of the work carried out has been very good. Some issues could be attended to within the maintenance programme, this is were the pavilion gets painted every 3 or 5 years.

Cllr Fallon also suggested that the shower rooms which get a lot of moisture so need more tiles or a specialist bathroom paint.

It was proposed by Cllr Young that the Clerk arrange contractors for painting the pavilion and get their suggestions on how best this can be done, seconded by Cllr Goddin all agreed.

Action: Clerk

The seat in the referees changing room needs replacing, Clerk to enquire with Mr Chappell.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Pellatt would also like it noted again that the reason the Saturday Football Club were doing the painting was in lieu of unpaid usage fees.

154/09/17

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

Cllr Goddin thanked the Clerk for producing this document. Cllr Young will look over the document with the Clerk to help finalise some of the issues regarding the CCTV operatives. It was also suggested that a locked area, within the kitchen store cupboard be used to store and secure the CCTV equipment, at the moment there is a shelf but not specific locked area, this would then allow the rest of the cupboard to be used. Clerk to enquire with Mr Chappell this this can be achieved.

Action: Clerk

155/09/17

Pavilion Management Programme:

Cleaning will commence on Friday 15th September 2017. Cleaning to be monitored over a 6 month or 12 month period, to establish if it is needed or whether users will abide by their agreements. It is hoped that the pavilion is used by many groups/individuals not just the football and tennis clubs. It was also suggested by Cllr James that the pavilion be advertise and to monitor its use, this to be re-looked at in 12 months.

Pavilion Agreement (payments). It as already been agreed that the Saturday Club will pay £300 per annum, invoiced in three parts. The matter on what to charge village team users was discussed. It was suggested by Cllr Searles that a method of credit could be used, at the moment the Sunday team prepare the pitch and if a monetary value was put on this it would equal £300. The tennis club get a benefit from the courts one of which is for all users but one court is soley for the tennis club, however it must be remembered that the tennis club raised the majority of the money to refurbish the courts which are actually owned by the Parish Council, and is now a benefit for all residents who wish to use the courts.

It was proposed by Cllr James that a fee of £300 be set as an annual charge, subject to a credit which is to be agreed by the Parish Council over a 12 month based on a compensation benefit, seconded by Cllr Searles all in favour.

Sunday Club – credit of £300

Tennis Club – credit of £300

Saturday Club – payment of £300 (the Saturday Club are not a village club though they use Meldreth in their title)

General use is set at £5 per hour. (need to check this can't remember if it was 5 or 7)

All fire extinguishers have not been installed at the pavilion. They consist of two large 6kg extinguishers CO2 and foam by the main door and a small 2kg CO2 in each of the changing rooms.

156/09/17

Church Wall:

Clerk has still not heard back from Mr Llewellyn regarding the specification.

157/09/17

Mettle Hill:

Survey has now been carried out by Bidwells and their report has been circulated. Some questions were raised in the report regarding asbestos and isolation of sewage, water and electric. Clerk to check with CCC as they were the previous owners to see that all supplies have been disconnected. Clerk to also check with SCDC regarding building regulations to see if asbestos was used in the buildings. Cllr Searles enquired on who raised the matter of asbestos, Cllr Goddin reported that it was raised during the site visit.

Action: Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Land that based on the survey the Parish Council should now go out to companies who can carry out the work necessary to make the area safe, this was seconded by Cllr Young all agreed. Clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk

158/09/17 Local Highway Improvement Scheme: (LHI)

The deadline for submission is 30th September 2017. It was agreed to resubmit last year's application for the dilapidated verges along North End. Clerk to contact Cllr van de Ven to see if the wording could be better ie why did it get turned down and is there anything better the Parish Council can do to make the case stronger.

Action: Clerk**Ongoing Projects****159/09/17 Playground:**

Cllr Fallon reported that all equipment appears to be in good working order, however attention is needed to the rotten piece of wood on the trip trail stepping stone. The large swings matting also needs some attention. Clerk to contact Mr Chappell.

Action: Clerk

Clerk is meeting with Sovereign to look at putting in a play tower once the hedging has been removed on the 19th September, will check on the matting as well.

Action: Clerk**160/09/17 Recreation Ground:**

- Ditch Clearance – Tenders received to clear the ditch, this now needs to be done before any of the companies can tender for maintenance and repairs to the banks on the ditch. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin to accept SP Landscapes tender., seconded by Cllr Young all agreed. SP Landscapes will be clearing the neighbouring ditch for SCDC in November and it is hoped that both ditches will be cleared at the same time, once this has been done than further tenders will be needed to repair the banks along the ditch.

Action: Clerk

- Recreation Ground Maintenance: Tenders received to clear hedges at play area along with other maintenance work needed in the recreation ground. It was proposed by Cllr Young that SP Landscapes been offered the contract to clear the hedge/trees within the recreation ground, seconded by Cllr James all agreed.

Action: Clerk**161/09/17 Horse Chestnut Tree (Stocks)**

Tenders received to maintain the Horse Chestnut Tree situated at the Stocks. It was proposed by Cllr Land that Acacia be given the contract for the Horse Chestnut Tree, seconded by Cllr Fallon all agreed.

Action: Clerk**162/09/17 Street light survey:**

Survey to replacing the lights along North End (SC1-SC9) and Chiswick End (SC10-SC13). The cost of this survey was £399.85 and already agreed. Clerk has not heard back from Balfour Beatty as to when the survey will commence.

Action: Clerk**163/09/17 Football Club Rental Payments:**

Amendment to July's meeting. Rental fees for the Saturday Club were agreed during the May meeting to be set at £300 per annum, so the decision to have it at £350 which was agreed during the July meeting is void.

164/09/17 Proposed closing of the railway crossing on footpath 10:

Cllr James attended the public enquiry today and reported that the consultation will run for four weeks commencing 28th November. There were 72 reported objections for the whole scheme however this footpath was not mentioned. Cllr James thought it important to reiterate the Footpaths and Rail-user groups feedback and to also look into accidents on the bridge. The deadline for getting this information in is end of October. Cllr James will go through the documents which are in the Clerk's office.

Action: RJ**165/09/17 Defibrillators:**

- Village Hall – defibrillator and case have been ordered.
- Red telephone box – Mr Chappel has indicated that the maintenance work needed at the telephone box situated on North End is achievable. Once the box has been repaired Clerk will order the defibrillator which will be installed by Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT). Clerk has asked that the box be adopted by CHT on behalf of the Parish Council, but that the Parish Council remain responsible.

Action: Clerk**Administrative /Other****166/09/17 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

- Cambridgeshire Acre are holding workshops to look at the future of libraries (Monday 2nd October Cambridge Central Library at Lion Yard 18:30-21:00)
- Christmas Tree Festival to be held on Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd volunteers needed. Agenda item for next month.

- Residents letter regarding Sheltered Housing – Cllr Hart is aware of this. The Parish Council have looked at this but as this time do not feel that this a Parish Council matter. The running of Sheltered Housing is through SCDC and all correspondence should be directed directly to them. It was also noted that the Sheltered Housing Estate Warden was unaware of any matters.
- Parish Planning Forum - 12th September 18:00 to 20:00 – RG and Clerk will attend
- Report that the gully at the junction of the High Street and Gable Close has been done incorrectly and the incorrect materials have been used. The gully outside the school which was reported some time ago has still not been reset and resurfaced. Refer to Cllr van de Ven (CCC).
- A resident along the High Street is having problems with commuters parking outside their house, they have two parking bays outside the house but they are taken up by every day by commuters. Cllr van de Ven is aware of this. Can the Parish Council do anything to help in this matter? The Parish Council understand the concerns raised by the resident but they felt that the matter needs to be clarified with Highway (CCC) first to see what could be done to help alleviate the matter.
- Remembrance Wreath, Clerk has agreed that the Parish Council will lay a wreath this year. Cllr James, as the newest councillor will lay the wreath. The matter of organising the event to be discussed in October.
- There have been reports of straw along North End, Clerk to notify farmers that straw along with leaves can cause problems along this area as it blocks up drains which are not being jetted with the same frequency as before due to CCC cutbacks.
- Clerk it to meet with Carly Freed (SCDC) Housing Officer on 27th September, to look into the ditch at the back of Gable Close, residents would like to install a fence using Community Chest funds however it is not sure if this is a protected watercourse.
- Clerk is in the process of trying to install the dog fouling notices in a way in which they can be erected around the village at noted dog fouling hotspots.
- **There has been concern raised by residents on Woolpack Way who state that many visitors who are attending football matches are being directed by Satnav to Woolpack Way instead of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Fallon stated that all teams are notified as to where the recreation ground is but a notice might be of benefit. Clerk to enquire. CAN ANYONE REMEMBER WHAT WAS ACTUALLY AGREED, DIDN'T WRITE IT DOWN.** **Action: Clerk**
- Concern has been raised about the inadequate signage at the train station, this matter has been forwarded to the Rail User Group.
- Clerk is still trying to get tenders for fencing near the tennis courts and village hall.
- Letter of thanks received from the Tennis Club for the funds received.
- Footpaths – Peter Gaskin (SCDC) has thanked the footpaths team for all their hard work they have put in to keeping the footpaths in good order. He also stated that bridges are now covered by a separate team at SCDC.

167/09/17 Matters arising: (no actions, information only)

Clerk is still waiting to see if there is to be extra funding to help towards the extra costs taken on by the Parish Council regarding extra grass cutting which SCDC are no longer doing. These areas were originally undertaken by SCDC who have now passed the responsibility onto CCC, which in turn is passed on to the Parish Council as they agreed, many years ago to undertake CCC grass cutting areas.

168/09/17 Meeting with Cambridgeshire Acre:

Meeting date still to be finalised but will be in October and will be for members of the Parish Council and Meldreth Futures Working Group. Neighbourhood Plans will be discussed.

Finance

169/09/17 Pavilion:

Payment of £1,445.00 for additional works carried out by the KTL Building Services, this is above the agreed quote. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin to accept this payment seconded by Cllr Young. Cllr Fallon also stated that the door on the outside store rooms needs some attention, it was agreed that payment be withheld until this has been rectified. Clerk to contact contractors. **Action: Clerk**

170/09/17 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	September Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Inland Revenue	confidential	0	September PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	bacs
SMART	confidential	0	Pension contributions	LGA 1972 s112	DD
Talk Talk	22.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984	DD
D P Gardens	615	0	Grass and verge cutting May	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
KTL Building Services	11620	0	Stage 6,7,8 pavilion	LGA 1972 s	Bacs
BT	339.06	56.51	Phone	TCA 1986	DD
J Damant	24.07	0	Expenses	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
R Goddin	10.5	0	Expenses - keys	LGA 1972 s133	bacs
KTL Building Services	1445	0	Extra work at Pavilion	LGA 1972 s	
R G Goddin	29.1	0	Expenses – keys	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
Stationery Cupboard	195	32.59	Shredder and office supplies	LGA 1972 133	Bacs
Warden Scheme	175	0	Warden Scheme	S137	Bacs
Herts & Cambs	228	38	Removal of tree in recreation ground	OSA 1906 9/10	Bacs
CCC	3567.28	0	Traffic regulation shared with Shepreth	LGA 1972	Bacs
Birketts	306	50	Mettle Hill Survey	OSA 1906 s9/10	2580
Play Safety	10	0	Outstanding amount from inspection	LGA 1972 s	Bacs
G V Borgonon	24.97	4.15	CAP Ink	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
A Young	55	0	Expenses keys for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133 S106	Bacs
KTL Building Services	1445	0	Extra works for pavilion	OSA 1906 s9/10 S106	Bacs
J Fallon	59	0	Expenses for pavilion items	LGA 1972 s133 S106	27
A Young	342.42	0	Items for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133 CB	Bacs

Deposits

OPC rent	180
Burial fees	25

All payments were proposed by Cllr Searles, seconded by Cllr Pellatt all agreed.

171/09/17**Melwood:**

Retrospective funding application showing what has been spent as there was an underspend. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that Melwood reimburse the funds which will go back into the Community Benefit account, seconded by Cllr Land all agreed. Clerk to notify Melwood. Amount of £553.04 to be reimbursed.

Action: Clerk**172/09/17****Community Access Point (CAP):**

Decision from the Parish Council to continue with the scheme once the present computers have ceased to be functional. History Group still use the machines, however training which is now very limited is done with laptops and tablets.

It was proposed by Cllr Young that the Parish Council do not renew the computers at the Community Rooms, seconded by Cllr Goddin all agreed.

173/09/17

Community Gritting Scheme 2017/18:

Under this scheme the Parish Council agrees specific routes in their area which are important to the local community and agrees them with the County Council. Volunteers can then sign up to grit these routes using equipment provided by the County Council. This could be an item that the Village Traffic Working Group to look into for next year. The main routes through the village will be gritted, it is identifying those routes of the main road which volunteers would be interested in gritting.

174/09/17

Rural Travel Hubs: Appendix 3

Meldreth has been identified as a possible location for a transport hub to serve a wider locality. Cllr Goddin reported that he had met with Ms Kirsty Human (SCDC) who explained what the idea is. It is thought that by building hubs that it will help reduce traffic going into Cambridge, however Meldreth do not have a large car park so where would cars be parked if this is to be encouraged. Meldreth already have issues regarding parking from commuters who don't like to pay car park fees. It was agreed that the matter can be looked into further once there is further information.

It was also noted that in a recent report submitted from Peter Topping (SCDC) it stated that SCDC were working with 6 villages, one of which has been identified as Meldreth, the Parish Council are not aware of this as they have not been in contact with SCDC over this project.

175/09/17

Mobile Phone Mast:

There have been reports that residents with EE, Virgin and Three have been unable to get reception due to a damaged mast. Residents have been in touch with the various suppliers but the mast has still not be repaired. **This has now been rectified.**

176/09/17

Councillors' Reports:**Cllr Goddin**

Cllr Goddin reported that concern had been raised regarding high hedging along North End, the matter was discussed however it was thought unlikely that this is a Parish Council matter, however the matter will be discussed in October when this has been investigated further. The Mettle Hill Working Group are still investigating usage for Mettle Hill, the decision regarding Marley Eternit may have an effect on what can be achieved with this land.

Cllr Young

Can the clerk please forward the BT information.

Action: Clerk/AY**Cllr Keena**

The lights at the crossroads are intermittent, Cllr Keena to let the clerk know what lights these are, all lights have a number which is needed to report them.

The 'give way' sign at the crossroads at Fenny Lane on the Mettle Hill junction, is being obscured by overhanging foliage, Clerk to contact land owner.

Action: Clerk**Cllr Land**

Have the finger posts at the stocks been looked at. Clerk to notify Mr Chappell who has been away.

Action: Clerk

Can the clerk request that the gulleys get jetted along the High Street. Clerk did say that Highway Volunteer group have also requested this.

Action: Clerk**Cllr Searles**

Can the Clerk contact Peter J Taylor (CCC Highways) to find out why the traffic safety fencing along North End has not been erected as already agreed. To also contact Diane Duncan as the new road sign has not been erected either.

Action: Clerk

177/09/17

Agenda items for the next meeting:

- Burial Ground - Cars on two occasions have been parked inside the gates, these are not vehicles belonging to grave diggers, this may be a result of someone not knowing the rules or someone who has a wheelchair need. Maybe an idea to put a bolt that is lockable on the bottom of one of the gates.
- Office IT system
- Mettle Hill Working Group
- Tennis Club Working Group
- Christmas tree festival – volunteers needed
- Church Wall
- Street light Survey
- Dog fouling bin
- Remembrance Sunday

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.50. The next meeting is scheduled for 5th October 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

September 2017

Marley

This will have been heard at SCDC Planning Committee the day before the Parish Council meeting, but Cllr Goddin has understandably asked for early submission of reports owing to the lengthy agenda. No doubt you will receive news of the decision of the planning committee. At the time of writing, we are seeking advice from Philip Kratz who has kindly agreed to appear on behalf of Meldreth objectors again, concerning how best to present Meldreth's position before the committee where the application will have a full hearing again.

Local Plan update

SCDC Head of Planning has told members that 1675 homes are needed to be delivered in the District per year for 20 years and that it is contemplated that there will be 44100 jobs generated in that time.

The Local Plan has been suspended for almost as long as I have been a district councillor but it is something to be able to report that the examination in public finished July 2017! The Inspector's report is expected autumn 2017 which may require potential modifications to be made by SC Planning department. With a following wind, adoption of the Plan is hoped for early 2018, by which time the Council will be starting to consult in the next Local Plan!

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor

The Mayor, James Palmer, has had his plans to increase his budget for Staffing his office by £500,000 over his campaign pledge of £1.3million thwarted by the Combined Authority Scrutiny and Overview Committee calling the decision in. The Committee has also expressed concerns over consultancy fees which run into hundreds of thousands of pounds and which do not appear as staffing costs even though they are. The call in requires the Combined Authority Board to hold an EGM which takes place on Monday 4th September. I hope to have an update for you by next week's meeting.

Combined Authority Transport Strategy

Various projects have been given the green light by the Combined Authority to be explored which include a rapid transport strategy for Cambridge, possible dualling of the A10, improving the A47 to improve connectivity for the Fens. None of this is set in stone and in the meantime Planning Committee is passing planning permissions for hundreds of new houses in advance of any prospect of infrastructure improvements. As I have said previously, we have hitherto been lucky in Meldreth to have only had one really large application on the Marley site to have had to deal with.

Bin collection

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder has recommended to SC Cabinet that the council moves to a mixed recycling strategy. As I understand it this means that there will no longer be a separate paper caddy within the blue bin and all dry recycling will be able to be disposed of together. I will have more information in due course.

Elite Athlete Award Scheme

The Elite Athlete Award Scheme opened for applications on 1 September with £10,000 available to help support local elite athletes reach their potential. The scheme is open to both able-bodied and disabled athletes, who live in South Cambridgeshire, whether competing regionally, making progress nationally or representing Team GB. Grants can be used to fund any aspect of equipment, training or competition costs. The maximum grant award will be £2,000 per applicant. Full details and an online application form can be found at:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/eliteathlete>

Enquiries to:

duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713070

Community Chest Grants

There has recently been a windfall of £30,000 into the Community Chest administered by SCDC owing to a community project not getting off the ground. Local groups and charities are invited to apply for grants up to £1,000 for identified projects or contributions towards them. The Community Chest Grants scheme is available to voluntary and community sector groups and parish councils and funding is allocated on a first come, first served basis and awards are decided at the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's meeting (usually monthly). For further information on eligibility and information needed to support an application please go to

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

National Non Domestic Rates Local Discretionary Relief

Recent government changes to business rates, although they have benefited some businesses, have also resulted in a number of small businesses having their rates increase dramatically. The District Council has a ring-fenced amount of money and runs a discretionary scheme to businesses experiencing hardship as a result of the changes. For more information please go to <https://www.scams.gov.uk/.../around-300-south-cambridgeshire-businesses-could-receive-funds-rate-relief>

Neighbourhood Plans

There is a Parish Planning Forum at 6-8pm on September 12th where Neighbourhood Plans will be on the agenda. I have said before I would be happy to steer a Neighbourhood Plan for Meldreth, so if there is my appetite for this, please can the Parish Council consider offering its support.

Cllr Philippa Hart
Meldreth and Shepreth Ward
philippahart@btinternet.com 07811323572

Update about progress for the Local Green Space Review and the Local Plan examination

Dear Parish Council

Following on from my e-mail which I sent to you on the 30th of June 2017, this e-mail is an update about progress for the Local Green Spaces Review and the Local Plan examination.

Local Green Spaces - Review at request of the Inspectors

At his Planning Portfolio Holder meeting on 26 July, Cllr Robert Turner will consider a report which reviews the Local Green Spaces at the request of the Inspectors. The report responds to the Inspectors' letter to the Council in March 2017 with their interim findings on the Local Green Spaces (LGS) policy and the sites proposed to be designated. Their view is that the Council did not set the bar high enough when it carried out the assessment of this new national type of local space designation during the preparation of the submitted Local Plan. They particularly referred to the National Planning Policy Framework description of these areas, that they must be 'demonstrably special', of 'particular local significance', and the 'Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space'. They gave a number of examples where they considered sites did not meet these tests.

Council officers have carried out a review of the 172 sites identified in the submission Local Plan, to reassess each site against the tests and taking close account of the findings of the Inspectors. In doing so we have considered whether sites that are not suitable as LGS should either return to, or become new Protected Village Amenity Areas (PVAA) or Important Countryside Frontages (ICF), as advised by the Inspectors. These existing designations in the plan provide protection to suitable sites within village frameworks or adjoining village frameworks, but not to the level of green belt type protection which is the effect of LGS.

The review has concluded that most of the identified village greens, recreation grounds and wildlife areas continue to warrant LGS status. Informal areas of amenity land or playspace in housing areas within villages would be more appropriately PVAA. Meadows or fields on the edges of villages have been the most complex to assess, but given the Inspectors' conclusions, and the examples they provided of this types of site, a number are not recommended for LGS.

The results of this review included splitting some sites meaning that 196 parcels of land have been considered instead of 172 included in the submitted Plan. The review recommends that 82 sites are retained as Local Green Space, 24 sites are returned to PVAA, 43 sites are classified as new PVAA, 4 sites return to ICF, and 43 sites are no longer subject to LGS and not PVAA or ICF. The majority of this final category of site cannot be proposed as PVAA because they are outside village frameworks where the policy does not apply. However, they are located where countryside policies apply, and once a 5 year supply is regained will have that protection against development.

Once agreed by the portfolio holder the LGS report will be submitted to the Inspectors for their consideration. Whilst we appreciate that Parish Councils will be disappointed at the changes that need to be made to the Local Green Spaces policy, it is important that the Council responds constructively to the Inspectors' concerns so that the Local Plan can move forward towards adoption and the changes recommended reflect the clear steer provided by the Inspectors.

The report also captures some of the other options available for local communities in respect of those sites now affected by the review. These include Neighbourhood Plans, Community Assets Register, or registering of common land / village greens.

As part of the wider local plan process the Inspectors will identify modifications needed to make the plan sound, and this will include any changes to the original 172 LGS sites they consider need to be made in response to the work the Council has now undertaken. These changes will then be subject to public consultation (before they make their final report), which we anticipate will take place in the Autumn.

Spotlight on better travel options to get in to Cambridge at meeting with parish councils

29 June 2017

Senior councillors in South Cambridgeshire have thanked parish councils for their positive response to an initiative that aims to increase residents' travel options and cut the number of cars that travel into Cambridge.

At a meeting with parish councils this week, Cllr Francis Burkitt, South Cambridgeshire District Council's cabinet member for the Greater Cambridge City Deal, outlined the plan to investigate rural travel hubs, which could help people connect to public transport links closer to their homes.

Alongside cutting the number of cars travelling in to Cambridge, Cllr Burkitt also explained it could also help improve travel options to move around the district.

The positive response to the aim of giving villagers better access to public transport at the meeting this week follows Cllr Burkitt writing to all parish councils to initiate the idea last year and ask for their views on whether hubs could help them.

At the meeting, parish councils heard that this will now be taken forward by the Greater Cambridge City Deal, which will announce more details next week, including how local people can make sure their ideas and views are taken on board.

Cllr Francis Burkitt, South Cambridgeshire District Council's cabinet member for the Greater Cambridge City Deal and vice chair of the partnership's Executive Board, said: "I'm really pleased with the positive response we have had so far to rural travel hubs that could both increase and improve our residents' travel options as well as cut the number of people using their cars to get in to Cambridge. However, it is important to remember that this is very early days and we need to work out what our residents want out of a rural travel hub. At one end of the scale, it could be additional car and cycle parking near a train station or guided bus stop in one of our villages. At the other end of the scale, it could be a larger interchange that could involve re-routing buses to connect to other services so everyone gets a more frequent service. We've got no set ideas, and the first step is to ask everyone's views. The early conversation with representatives of our parish councils was really positive and I'd really encourage everyone to engage in the initiative when the details are published next week."

Cllr Peter Topping, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, said "The District Council has championed rural travel hubs as we must make sure that our villages get the transport links and infrastructure they deserve. Our villages are special places and the plans must be community led as it is not a simple one size fits all. The ideas, suggestions and expertise in our villages must be harnessed in this fact-finding stage to make sure that the project focusses on the things that can make a lasting difference to our communities. I am grateful for the positive response from parish councils so far as around a dozen were keen last year when we contacted them. Anyone who queues to get in to Cambridge each morning will tell you that a solution must be found and I would urge all those people to make sure they help shape these plans."

The Greater Cambridge City Deal's Executive Board approved a £100,000 feasibility study on rural travel hubs in March this year, and tasked South Cambridgeshire District Council officers with leading the initial stage of the project. The results of the study and views from local communities that will be gathered over the coming months are expected to be presented to the Board and Assembly in January 2018.

Marley Planning Committee representation: Philippa has kindly agreed to read my representation at the Sept 6th meeting, as I will be away that day.

Meldreth Station sign: It has been pointed out that the Meldreth Station signage could be made clearer and more prominent. If the parish council would like to approach this together with the Rail User Group, we can put the matter forward at the Oct 4 meeting of the Rail User Group, which will be attended by Govia Thameslink and Network Rail, at the Elin Way community room.

Third Party funding for highways projects: It is becoming more difficult to advance small highways schemes that County Highways are unable to support. The Local Highways Initiative (LHI) is one route, and the other is third party funding, which is premised upon a 100% contribution and now requires a payment of £250 simply to start discussion. There is no special leverage for councillors to get this process moving without the down payment.

Children's Centre consultation: While Meldreth itself does not house a children's centre, young families access those in Bassingbourn and Melbourn. As a result of this year's council tax freeze, the County Council needs to make an additional £5 million in cuts. The proposed scaling down and redesign of children's centre services will provide £1 million of that sum. Bassingbourn is one of 19 proposed for closure, while Melbourn will be 'redesignated' though information about what this means is vague. Overall, the change will mean the loss of universal walk-in services and a continuing trend to targeted need, and some would say, unhelpful stigmatisation. Many councillors have been working over the summer to persuade the council to hold local consultation events; for our area this will be on September 14, 5-7PM, at Bassingbourn Children's Centre. There is no event for Melbourn.

Mobile phone masts: Thanks for adding this to the agenda. It would appear that there has been some improvement in service. I've asked Heidi Allen's office if they could liaise with mobile phone providers, as this is something that does not fall in the remit of Connecting Cambridgeshire (which is limited to broadband).

Bus User Group and Community Transport: The 128 bus service has now moved to a new operator under a new contract. Unfortunately, we were not warned by the County Council that fares would be rising so dramatically. This has been very difficult for those without entitlement to a bus pass. The council says that fares have not risen for many years, and 'should probably have risen more.' On the plus side, we still have a bus service.

Meanwhile the Dept for Transport has issued new guidance for community transport providers that inhibits their potential to provide group lifts on a regular basis. This comes at a time when councils are reducing subsidies to run basic bus services, and community transport providers are trying to step up to the plate to help people who are left stranded. But by upgrading the service they provide, to meet need, community transport providers are entering new territory that the Department for Transport is now looking to regulate more stringently. This is because the Department for Transport is being asked by other transport providers (taxi and bus companies) for a level playing field of regulation. This is understandable of course, but it doesn't necessarily sort out lack of transport.