

MEETING OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th September 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Cllr R Goddin – Chairman (**RG**), Cllr R A Searles – Vice Chairman (**RAS**), Cllr C J Fallon (**JF**), Cllr N Garner (**NG**), Cllr P Gilmore (**PG**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr N Pellatt (**NP**) and Cllr A Young (**AY**)

In attendance: J Damant (Clerk) and District Councillor Hart and District Councillor Hales.

- 509/09/18 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 and accepted from Cllr R James (personal reasons). County Councillor van de Ven also sent her apologies.
- 510/09/18 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 from any councillor.
- 511/09/18 Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item]**
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 512/09/18 To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting dated 5th July 2018:**
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land and seconded by Cllr Fallon, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 513/09/18 District Councillor Report: Appendix 1**
No questions were raised.
- 514/09/18 County Councillor Report: Appendix 2**
Cllr Young enquired if Meldreth Parish Council could take up the invitation from the police to attend a meeting or to liaise with other parishes for a group meeting.
- 515/09/18 Office IT Computer System:**
Cllr Young is looking into companies who would be best suited to put together a new website for the Parish Council. Clerk to forward to Cllr Young names of some companies.
Action: Clerk

Working Group Updates/Reports:

- 516/09/18 Church Wall:**
The working group is still investigating this matter and looking into what the best options would be.
- 517/09/18 Meldreth Futures Working Group:**
This is nothing to report this month.
- 518/09/18 Mettle Hill**
Cllr Goddin reported that meetings have taken place and they are presently looking at options including legal and financial obligations. It is hoped that a proposal will be presented to the Parish Council by the end of the year however a lot more background work is needed to ensure that whatever the Parish Council decide it has been totally investigated.

Meeting closed: 7.55
Cllr Hales enquired that when the Parish Council are looking into this scheme that they consider installing a fire hydrant in the area.
Meeting opened: 7.58
- 519/09/18 Meldreth Traffic Working Group (MTWG):**
Update including installation of bollard at Stocks junction then see item 526/09/18
The working group recommend the wooden Glenwood Posts from Glasdon UK.
It was agreed by all that the Clerk send out the letter regarding maintenance of the area near Fenny Lane crossroads.
Action: Clerk

Cllr Gilmore has been trying to contact Highways with regards to looking at the options of repeater signs and rumble strips for the Fenny Lane crossroads area, but has had no response from Highways.

Cllr Gilmore will contact Cllr van de Ven to see if they can assist.

Action: PG

Cllr Gilmore will carry out another survey on the hedges.

Action: PG

Clerk apologised that the recent letter which was supposed to have been sent to residents with overhanging hedges went to residences of the village that had been surveyed to have footway or pothole damage.

520/09/18

MAYD:

2018: invoice 00229

Request has been received for £2148.00 in respect of Meldreth Parish Council's contribution towards the running of MAYD for 2018. Figure is based on actual attendance in 2017.

2017: invoice 00233

Request has been received for £2,089.00 in respect to Meldreth Parish Council's contribution towards the running of MAYD for 2017

Total being requested for both periods (2017/2018) is £4,237.00

Cllr Garner reported that the Service Level Agreement has not yet been agreed by the Parish Council, this will need agreeing before any invoice can be paid. There is to be a meeting next week with MAYD where this will be discussed. Cllr Garner and Cllr Gilmore will bring to the council their recommendation at the next meeting.

Action: NG/PG

Planning:

521/09/18

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

(Full Planning Minutes are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).

Planning meetings held on 2nd and 9th August are available on the website.

Planning meeting held on 6th September 2018: verbal report

Major Projects

522/09/18

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

Cllr Goddin has been assisting the Clerk in trying to get this matter resolved. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the electrician to see if he has contacted North Herts Partnership who offered to assist with trying to find the cause of why the cameras are not working, if they are not able to carry out the work then the Clerk can look for another electrician.

Action: Clerk

Ongoing Projects

523/09/18

Playground:

Monthly Report from Cllr Fallon – report was circulated.

Clerk has contacted Mr Chappel regarding the gates and the stepping stone. Clerk will purchase the bin from B & Q at a cost of £114.00 this is so that the litter picker can store rubbish until SCDC pick it up.

Action: Clerk

The drain in the recreation ground is still blocked, Mr Gilmore will assist in clearing it. It appears that soil entered the ditch following the contamination on the recreation ground.

Action: JF/PG

Quote received from Wicksteed for resurfacing the matting, Clerk awaiting an updated quote from Sovereign and arranging one other site meeting.

Clerk reported the comments made by Rospa regarding the swings, Wicksteed reported that this is not a recall notice but an information notification and that it was incorrect for the type of swings that Meldreth have. Wicksteed have notified Rospa of this inaccuracy.

Chain spares for cradle swings and handles for springy horse have been ordered cost £124.70

524/09/18

Soldier to commemorate the ending of WW1:

- Power to acquire – it was agreed that the Parish Council may not have the power to purchase this item as the 'of direct benefit' was too vague and councillors were not comfortable with the wording. Cllr Garner also reported that according to NALC it would be up to the parish council to make a judgement. Cllr Garner also reported that this could be seen as a type of war memorial and this should be funded by private donations, the parish council can donate to such a project but they are not allowed to fund it themselves. Other councils who have purchased such items have done so through fund raising. It was proposed by Cllr Young that the Parish Council may not have a power and therefore should not proceed with purchasing the soldier figure, this was seconded by Cllr Searles all agreed.
- It was then suggested that a commemorative bench may be another option. It was proposed by Cllr Young to purchase a bench this was seconded by Cllr Land.

Bench to be purchased from David Ogilvie for a cost of £647.00.

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Placing of bench to be discussed later, as it is important to purchase the bench as the Centenary is 11th November.

- Location/security – not discussed as not needed.
- Base installation costs – not discussed as no longer needed.

525/09/18

Street light survey:

Update on the cost of replacing all 13 lights. Clerk is still awaiting a response from Balfour Beatty.

Action: Clerk

526/09/18

Bollards at the Stocks area:

Following the MTWG recommendation it was proposed by Cllr Young to purchase three posts to be installed on each corner of the Stocks area junction, this was seconded by Cllr Garner and agreed by all.

It was suggested that by putting in a concrete base this would help alleviate strimming problems which can damage the wood.

Clerk to organise.

Action: Clerk

527/09/18

Recreation Ditch:

Cllr Goddin reported that the contamination in the recreation ground had now been dealt with and thanked everyone for their assistance in the matter.

It was agreed by all that the Parish Council should write to Anglian Water with regards to some sort of compensation. It was proposed by Cllr Young that Anglian should contribute towards some new trees for the recreation ground area, this was seconded by Cllr Goddin.

Types of trees would be Copper Beech and a type of Silver Birch, but further discussion may be needed on type. Cllr Goddin will contact Anglian Water.

Action: RG

A letter to be sent to residents along Howard Road who back onto the recreation ground ditch explaining what is happening with the ditch clearance which will take place on 2-4th October.

Action: Clerk

528/09/18

Cycle Stands:

CCC are looking at installing cycle stands near the station. This is part of the S106 for Melbourn. Possible positioning is at the junction near the war memorial near the notice board. It was agreed by all councillors that the positioning of placing cycle racks at this junction would be dangerous and asked why they could not be placed within the station complex.

Administrative /Other

529/0918

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

- Traffic Management Training – This is being organised by CCC and will take place on 19th and 26th September 9am-5pm. This course will provide successful trainees a qualification to close sections of the public highway for pre-planned events. Cllr Gilmore to attend.
- Cambridgeshire Local Council Conference 2018 will be held on 23 November at Huntingdon 9.30 to 3.45 (Clerk and Cllr Goddin will be attending)
- CAPALC training
- Cilca refresher course – cost £75
- M11/J11 Park and Ride Engagement Group Meeting will take place on 17th September 5.30 to 6.30pm at Comberton Village College.
- Chairman training at LCPAS (Bury St Edmunds) 19th September 10-12pm £40.
- Clerk has reported the blocked drain at the junction of Whitecroft and Station Road along with residents
- Mr Chappel will refurbish the bus shelter near the war memorial prior to November 11th.
- Mr Chappel gave a verbal quote of £200-£300 to refurbish the roof of the bus shelter near the stocks, Clerk has given Mr Chappel authority to proceed with the works.
- Clerk has notified Meldreth Landscapes regarding the damaged safety fence situated at the village hall carpark.

530/09/18

Matters arising: (no actions, information only)

Defibrillators: Both are now operational (North End telephone box and Village Hall). Clerk is reporting the defibrillators on a weekly basis to Community Heartbeat.

Finance

531/09/18 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	1321.25	0	July Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Inland Revenue	254.74	0	July PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112	bacs
SMART	confidential	0	July Pension contributions	LGA 1972 s112	DD
Talk Talk	23.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1984	DD
D P Gardens	505	0	July Grass and verge cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
BT	403.57	67.26	Telephone	TCA 1986	dd
Melbourn Parish Council	92.12	0	Pension training	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs
Relate	500	0	Donation	S137 (CB account)	bacs
Staff	1312.16	0	August Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
Inland Revenue	252.00	0	August Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs
SMART	confidential	0	August Pension	LGA 1972 s112	dd

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
G Van Poortvliet	56	0	Bookkeeping	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
SCDC	15.00	0	Room hire for defib training	LGA 1972 s144	bacs
Meldreth Village Hall	194.62	0	Room hire Jan-June 18	LGA 1972 s111	
Wicksteed	326.34	54.39	5 aside goal	LGA (misc) 1976 s19	bacs
Stationery Cupboard	266.63	44.44	Paper and ink	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
Stationery Cupboard	14.21	2.37	Diary and mouse	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
Birketts	702	117	Legal costs (Eternit	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
Talk Talk	23.31	0	Broadband	TCA 1986	dd
SCDC	1307.98	0	Election fees	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs
Acacia Tree Services	402	67	Village Hall Trees	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
Acacia Tree Services	720	120	Churchyard Cherry tree	OSA 1906 s9/10	bacs
Bassingbourn PC	206.40	0	Cllr Training	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
Moncraft	37.50	0	Scanner	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
Coton Electrical	75	0	Defib (North End)	PHA 1936 s234	bacs

Deposits

Funerals	290.00
OPC rent	90.00

All payments apart from SCDC Elections were proposed to be correct by Cllr Land and seconded by Cllr Fallon agreed by all.

Cllr Goddin asked if the Clerk could check with SCDC how this figure was reached with regards to the election costs.

Action: Clerk

532/08/18

Mary Course Fund:

Clerk reported that the account is no longer a fixed bond and monies can now be withdrawn. The Parish Council have contributed three years (2014,2015,2016) donations to the primary school totalling £180.00 this can now be reimbursed. The last two years 2017 and 2018 can be paid directly to the primary school. Cllrs Searles and Land to authorise payments as they are the official signatories on this account.

Action: RAS/CAL**Other Items:**

533/09/18

Burial Ground:

It was proposed by Cllr Gilmore that the Rules and Regulations Policy could now be agreed this was seconded by Cllr Garner. It was agreed that these could now be distributed to funeral directors. It was also suggested that a notice go into Meldreth Matters stating that there were now new Rules and Regulations which can be obtained from the Clerk and a set to be placed at the burial ground.

Action: Clerk

A letter will also be sent to as many burial families as can be identified, starting with the most recent burials. This is to explain that the changes could affect existing graves and memorials.

Action: Clerk

534/09/18

Rail User Group:

Update from Cllr James regarding the situation with the new train service and how it is impacting on the village. This was deferred until next meeting.

535/09/18

Emergency Plan:

SCDC would like all parishes to submit an Emergency Plan. Template has been circulated to all councillors. This is not a legal requirement but a best practice document. Councillors will look at other Emergency Plans which other parishes have completed to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: All Cllrs

536/09/18

Christmas Tree Festival 2018:

Will take place on 1st & 2nd December. Item deferred until next month.

537/09/18

Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Gilmore reported that the safety fencing along the carpark on Elin Way is damaged. It is not known who is responsible for this piece of land, CCC or SCDC (if the carpark is for the Sheltered bungalows). Cllr Hales will enquire.

Action: Cllr Hales

Cllr Gilmore would like to have an agenda item regarding employing a Lengthman.

Cllr Young reported that the bags of sand on the verge near the burial ground were still there. Clerk responded that it was believed they were left by one of the grave diggers and that the Clerk has informed them numerous times to remove them. Cllr Young stated that they are dangerous where they are as a car could hit them. Clerk to contact the grave digger and funeral directors again to get them removed.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Searles reported that the new LDF does include changes for Meldreth. Flambards Green is now a Protected Amenity and no longer a Green Space, while the recreation ground is now a Green Space and no longer a Protected Amenity area.

Cllr Searles reported that the damaged barrier and the damaged road sign along North End have still not been repaired. Clerk will chase Highways for the barrier and SCDC for the road sign.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Land reported that the barrier at Fenny Lane crossroads was not replaced can the clerk enquire if Highways are going to reinstate the barrier.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Fallon reported that the large delivery lorries from Tesco are driving up Elin Way which is not suitable for them. Clerk to enquire with the One Stop, who are owned by Tesco and who they are probably delivering too, if they can stop and drive the regular route.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Fallon asked if the Clerk could arrange for the grass cutting and tree maintenance by carried out along Poly Acre as it is very overgrown.

Action: Clerk

538/09/18

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Policies –Standing Orders 2018; Press and Media, Safeguarding; Financial Standing Orders, Emergency Plan, Rail User Group, Lengthsman

539/09/18

Clerk's Appraisal:

Cllr Goddin and Cllr Young are proceeding with the Clerk's appraisal

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be held in the Green Room of the village hall on 4th October 2018 at 7.30.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1

District Council Report

September 2018

Universal Credit (“UC”)

South Cambs will be playing its part in the rollout of Universal Credit in Cambridgeshire taking place from 17th October next month. Both your district councillors have attended training on this imminent change to the way benefits are already paid in most parts of the country. The Council administers the housing benefit part of UC and has been working with the Dept for Work and Pensions (“DWP”) to ensure that claimants transition successfully to the new benefit and will not be left out of pocket. Should any of our residents have trouble accessing a computer in order to make a claim or notify the DWP of a change in their circumstances, then please contact either of us and we will point them in the right direction.

Local Plan

The Local Plan has finally been signed off by the Planning Inspector, and clocks in at officially the longest Local Plan inspection ever. South Cambs residents have not been well-served by the amount of time this process has taken. The press release issued by SCDC on Monday which contains a useful summary of the Plan will follow under cover of a further email.

Cambridge Ahead

Members of the Council attended a presentation by Cambridge Ahead to hear about its in-depth analysis of what are the challenges facing the economy and residents of Greater Cambridge. A compelling case was given to show that the Office of National Statistics’ growth projections are way too low and that we are already experiencing exponential growth in terms of jobs and the consequent demand which they put on housing and infrastructure. We also heard a convincing argument that if housing and infrastructure do not keep up with economic growth then the tendency for life-sciences, tech and bio-medical companies to agglomerate might uncouple and mean the companies in this elector vote with their feet and move overseas. To echo a fact in our annual report to Meldreth PC, housing in Cambridge City is now much more densely occupied than a century ago, with young millennials sharing housing in order to be able to afford near to where they work. Meanwhile housing in our villages is under-occupied, with half the number of people than a century ago now living in older housing stock. The district council is putting a new Housing Strategy in place which needs to accommodate these competing pressures and anticipate a fast-moving economy.

South Somerset DC

Cllr Hart paid a visit to a fellow Liberal Democrat run Council to learn about their programme of Income Generation. The Council has pledged not to cut services and at the same time has a green agenda at heart of everything it does. It was an inspirational visit the detail of which has been fed back to our colleagues at South Cambs.

Breastfeeding room

We are very pleased to report that South Cambridgeshire Hall, SCDC’s HQ office in Cambourne has a dedicated room for any mother wishing to breastfeed privately on the premises. The Lib Dem administration has gone further and made it clear that anyone wishing to breastfeed anywhere on SCDC premises is welcome to do so without fear of discrimination.

Meldreth Parish Council September 2018, County Councillor Report

Malton Lane flooding remedial works: These are set to be done imminently (maybe already now?)

Police presence in villages – my report from a meeting with Police: The way Police services are delivered in the villages has clearly changed. In recent years Police Community Support Officers were often out and about on village streets, and the quarterly Neighbourhood Panel public meetings meant that any interested residents had a chance to be informed about what was going on, and to convey their concerns in person to the Police.

That visible presence has gone. Anyone who now subscribes to eCops will be aware of the daily reporting of incidents around South Cambridgeshire villages – some less significant but others giving cause for concern. Last month I met with a Cambridgeshire Police Inspector to understand the reasons for change, and to seek reassurance that our community is not being ignored. Key points:

- Police priorities are domestic violence, modern slavery, sexual offences, child sexual exploitation, dwelling burglary. This involves focusing on issues of vulnerability and harm and shutting down criminal gangs.
- Terrorism and cybercrime are dealt with by the Home Office.
- South Cambs has a very large number of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers 'who want to do more' – suggesting that there is capacity for 'community resilience' via community groups.
- The Crime and Disorder Partnership is the engine for district-wide problem solving and deals with hare coursing, fly tipping and 'nightmare neighbours'.

Work in progress:

- Better direct liaison with the parishes and councillors.
- A quarterly on-line survey to be introduced via all channels including eCops, twitter, school student mail, etc – designed to facilitate anonymous reporting.

Useful resources:

- Crime mapping at Cambridgeshire Insight. <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/>
- Report a crime on-line – anonymously if you like: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/> (click 'Report a Crime' at the top of the page.) You can also subscribe to eCops via the website.

I'd like to propose that Police representatives are invited to meet either our parish council on its own or a collective of parishes in the area, to help impart these changes to ways of working and also to make sure our local concerns are heard.

Train Services update: On the basis of user feedback, the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group and Community Rail Partnership has brought to GTR's attention unacceptable peak time gaps and the justified perception that the three stations are being sacrificed for the bigger picture. In addition, a representation has been made to the Inquiry by the ORR (Office of Rail and Road). To address the key question of viable commuting lifestyles to and from our stations, and the restoration of the full timetable, a meeting with GTR has been agreed next month.

Meanwhile advice is being shared on compensation, and particularly 'consequential costs' – not widely advertised by train operating companies but to which rail users are entitled. There is further concern that the compensation framework offered by GTR does not allow claims against the missing peak time service now embedded in the interim timetable.

Our Community Rail Partnership Project Officer Sarah Grove and I have a meeting with senior GTR representatives in late September, to discuss all concerns, and principally the restoration of key services. All reports are posted at www.meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk

I've written separately to the clerk to ask if Sarah could attend your October meeting, to briefly introduce herself and the work of the CRP to you.

Buses: The subsidized 127/128 service has now been amalgamated into the 127, with a mix of tweaks but essentially needing a significant injection of support. The Campaign for Better Transport invited the Cam Vale Bus User Group to contribute to its feedback to the Mayor in conjunction with his Bus Review, together with the Cambridge Area Bus Users Group and other public transport campaigners. I attended the meeting for the Bus User Group. The strong consensus was that bus franchising should be deployed.

As I've reported previously, current arrangements for funding this service are unsustainable and the future beyond this financial year is unknown.

The Stagecoach 26 bus running from Royston through Melbourn, Shepreth, Foxton and Harston has now been replaced by the Stagecoach 'Busway A', part of the Guided Busway network and running all the way to St Ives via Trumpington Park and Ride, Addenbrooke's, Cambridge Station, Cambridge North Station, and up the Busway. This is a commercial service and offers free travel for bus pass holders. (Yes, I have often asked Stagecoach whether this service could pass through Meldreth; the answer is consistently no as they insist the necessary patronage doesn't exist.)

Public Meeting 25 September: CamBedRailRoad – notice posted in September Meldreth Matters

It's understood that the preferred option for the final Oxford-Cambridge 'East West Rail' link will be announced in the fourth quarter of 2018. This will almost certainly see the final Bedford to Cambridge link running via Bassingbourn, Whaddon, Meldreth and joining at Shepreth, though without passenger access unless Bassingbourn Barracks is developed. It is understood that only the one option will be published for consultation.

Together with Cllr Hales and Cllr Hart, I attended a presentation by the Cam Bed Rail Road group (CBRR) setting out an alternative option that would follow roughly the A428 corridor and serve existing and future settlements at St Neot's, Cambourne and Bourn. As District and County Councillors part of our role is to consider strategic transport across the district and county, and on that basis alone this option deserves consideration.

The window of opportunity to consider alternatives options is now limited. I have organized a time and venue for a public information meeting to be presented by CBRR: Shepreth Village Hall on 25 September, 7:30PM.