

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th February 2019 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Cllr R Goddin (**RG**) - Chairman, Cllr R A Searles (**RAS**), Cllr J Fallon (**JF**), Cllr N Garner (**NG**), Cllr P Gilmore (**PG**), Cllr R James (**RJ**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr A Young (**AY**)

In attendance: J Damant (**Clerk**) and County Councillor Susan van de Ven and District Councillor Philippa Hart

Motion to exclude Public and Press: *Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted on item 671/02/07*

654/02/19 **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 from Cllr Pellatt for personal reasons these were accepted and agreed by the Council.

655/02/19 **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 declarations of interests.

656/02/19 **Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item]**

Cllr Goddin welcomed Cllr Mike Hallett (Bassingbourn Parish Council). Bassingbourn are very concerned regarding the East/West rail link proposal and the lack of time that is being given to parish councils. Meetings are taking place which have been organised by East-West Rail and they began on 11th February and finish on the 2nd March in Cambourne. In the telephone dial-in for parish councils, it was stated that there would be a consultation with Parish Councils which is being coordinated with SCDC; however, no dates have been forthcoming. The time scale is now very short with the consultation finishing on the 11th March, the route will be selected later this year and the plan is to have the line operation by the mid-2020s. There is almost certainly be a statutory consultation to follow but that is too late as by that time the route will already have been chosen. There will be public presentations on 16th February in Bassingbourn and on the 26th February at Orwell. Cllr Hallett stated that at the present moment the Parish Council did not know what the feelings were by Bassingbourn residents whether they were for it or against it. Cllr Hallett believes that the way forward is for Parish Councils to work together in order to communicate their efforts even if the viewpoints are different. (see item 677/02/19)

657/02/19 **To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd January 2019:**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

658/02/19 **District and County Councillor Report:**

Appendix 1

659/02/19 **Office IT Computer System:**

Clerk has undergone first part of training, questions were raised about the domain name, if this goes over to the Web hosting company '2communes' then it will no longer be run by 34sp and the email may also have to change. Clerk has contacted 34sp who are happy to run the emails whilst 2communes run the hosting and domain name, this is presently being worked on. Cllr Young has looked at the dummy website and encouraged all councillors to look at the site. Cllr Fallon suggested the Clerk contact Mr Woods to see if he would be interested in taking some village photos which can be used on the new website. The site will be managed by the Clerk. Cllr Young would like it minuted with regards to the Parish Council's appreciation to Mr Borgonon for all his help and enthusiasm in running the current website.

Working Group Updates/Reports:

660/02/19 **Meldreth Futures Working Group:**

Bicycle planter racks: These have been received and awaiting to be put in place. Parish Council are not aware of who is going to maintain these planters, this is being discussed by the Futures Group as they originally put the project forward.

Bowls Club applications: A further discussion was held regarding the two recent applications. It was felt by the Parish Council that both these applications:

£4326 towards the running costs nor the £4127 for managing the green could not be agreed,

with no councillor proposing either of the applications. It was not felt that the Parish Council should be donating money on an annual basis to keep the club going. It is known that the club received £1000 from the Tesco Fund, Cllr Gilmore enquired if the club had approached SCDC regarding the Community Chest Grant as that may also be able to help. However, it was noted that nobody wanted the club to struggle, the club has been a part of village life for over a century and there are many Meldreth residents who attend, but there could be other options available in helping them. A letter to be written to the Bowls club explaining that as the applications stand, they could not be agreed however the Parish Council along with the Meldreth Futures Working Group would like to look into other possible options.

Action: RG/Clerk

Melbourn Amateur Dramatics Society (MADS): There are currently two applications for lights, one from MADS and one from the Village Hall, it was felt by both the Meldreth Futures Working Group and the Parish Council that there should be just one application and this should be presented to the Parish Council by the Village Hall as it is their building and will be a permanent structure and will therefore be insured by the Village Hall. Further discussions are taking place with Meldreth Futures Working Group.

661/02/19

Meldreth Traffic Working Group:

Cllr Gilmore updated the meeting in that she had made contact with our new Highways Officer Mr John O'Brien.

It was also suggested to divide the village into sectors and these will be looked after by a Parish Councillor as part of their responsibilities, these will include looking at hedges, roads, footways ect. This will be finalised at the next meeting.

Action: PG

662/02/19

MAYD:

It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that the payment of £2148 for the 2018/2019 year be paid, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.

There was confusion regarding the Agreement. Cllr Garner explained that there were two agreements one is a Financial Agreement for the next financial year whereby Meldreth have been requested for a donation of £3792 the other is an Agreement regarding the Service Agreement.

Financial Agreement – Following a discussion it was felt by the Council that this amount is too much and questions were raised with regards to the number of children who are actually attending the youth club from Meldreth and what the percentage of children attending from other villages are that may not be contributing to the overall cost of the scheme. There are children attending from Royston and at this time Royston Town Council has not contributed. It was felt that if Royston were invited to join the group this would reduce the overall cost per head, for the other parishes. Meldreth have paid the amount owing of £2178 but are not in agreement to sign up for 2019/2020 until further clarification has been received regarding their concerns that they along with the other parishes are paying for those parishes who are not contributing. Cllr Garner will ask for further clarification.

Action: NG

Service Agreement: Cllr Garner will circulate the agreement which will be discussed at the next meeting. There have been concerns raised by parents regarding how the club is run but these have now been rectified.

Action: NG

With regards to the future of Meldreth participating within MAYD it was felt that further information regarding Royston be looked into. It was also suggested by Cllr Gilmore that Meldreth should look into running their own youth club as there are other clubs running successfully such as Orwell. Cllr Garner suggested that this could be another option but it all rests in finding the right people who can run a youth club. Cllr Fallon stated that Meldreth had in the past their own youth club but when there was no one to run it, it was disbanded, which is why Meldreth joined MAYD.

Planning:

663/02/19

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

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

Planning meeting held on 17th January 2018 (no meeting)

Planning meeting held on 7th February 2019: verbal report

Ongoing Projects

664/02/19

Playground:

Monthly Report from Cllr Fallon was circulated and all equipment appears to be in good working order apart from the chain and links on the swings.

Chain spares for cradle swings and handles for springy horse have been received and will be installed. There has been some difficulty in installing the new chain. Clerk to ask Rospa if they would be able to install them.

Action: Clerk

Matting quotes: Once all have been received, they will be handed to the Recreation Working Group.

665/02/19 Bench for WW1 Commemorations:

This has now been placed.

Clerk has contacted the school who are happy to have a litter bin placed near the bin. Clerk will now proceed to order a new litter bin which will be the same as the one recently put at the Stocks.

Action: Clerk

666/02/19 Recreation Ground Compensation:

Trees: Cllr Young has looked at possible trees and suggested the following trees:

1 x Aspen populus tremula

1 x Acer platanoides Drummondii

1 x Whitebeam Sorbus aria Lutescens

It was proposed by Cllr Gilmore that these trees be purchased, this was seconded by Cllr Goddin and agreed by all. Cllr Searles will order the trees once the Clerk has organised the tree guards. The exact positioning of the trees to be discussed later, but the Recreation Working Group have three specified areas. Monies for the trees will be taken from the £1000 compensation received from Anglian Water.

Action: RAS

Tree guards: Cllr Young has looked at tree guards and suggested obtaining them from Mark Vigrass Ltd. Each tree guard is 1ft x 2ft and a cost of £129 + vat, but there may be a slight reduction if three are purchased. It was proposed by Cllr Garner that the clerk purchase three guards, this was seconded by Cllr Fallon. Clerk suggested that funding for these will come from any remaining funds outstanding from the trees with the remainder coming from the Community Benefit account. This was agreed by all.

Action: Clerk

667/02/19 Cycle Stands:

Cllrs Goddin and Gilmore have met with the developers (Hopkins Homes) for the housing development taking place in Melbourn with regards to the cycle racks which are coming to Meldreth due to the S106 agreement. They also believed along with Meldreth Parish Council, that the positions being put forward by SCDC are not adequate. The village hall is still a good position and that residents from both villages use the village hall (MADS). Further discussion to take place.

Administrative /Other**668/02/19 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**

Clerk is in the process of trying to get confirmation on using the access from Howard's Road to the recreation ditch along with erecting a new gateway and fencing. Clerk has contacted Planning as recommended and is awaiting a response as to what is needed next. Letter concerning overgrown vegetation have been sent out, this was done now before the birds start to nest.

669/02/19 Matters arising: (no actions, information only)

There were no matters arising

Finance**670/02/19**

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 salaries/PAYE/NI & pensions	1592.27	0	January Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs & dd
D P Gardens	540.00	0	January Grass and verge cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Coton Electrical	100	0	CCTV for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
Eon Electrical	47.73	2.27	Electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
Moncraft Limited	60	0	Reset laptop and install remote access	LGA 1972	Bacs

Meldreth Village Hall	137.50	0	Room hire	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
The Centre	474	79	Clerk training course	LGA 1972 s	Bacs
Front Yard Company	444	74	Bike planters Community Benefit	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
MAYD 2018/19	2148	0	Youth Club Community Benefit	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
J Damant	64.22	0	Clerks expenses	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
CCC	1532.51	0	Footway Lighting	PCA 1957 s3	Bacs

Deposits

OPC rental fees	450.00
Burial ground payments	385.00

Payments were proposed by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.

- 671/02/19 Clerk Appraisal:** *Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted on item.*
Follow up on items not yet discussed.
Clerk left the room at 21.30
Clerk returned to the room at 21:40
Council agreed to clerk's hours being increased to 21 hours per week, this to take affect as of 1st April 2019.
Council agreed for additional help for the Clerk and that Mrs Sally Walmseley be offered this position for 6hrs a week and to be on a six-month basis. Clerk to draw up a contract, copy to be sent to Cllr Young. **Action: Clerk**
- 672/02/19 Budget:**
Preparation for the 2019/2020 Precept. Cllr Goddin would like to thank Cllr Garner for looking at the budget. It was proposed by Cllr Searles to increase the precept to £62,000, this was seconded by Cllr Garner.
The precept will give a Band D equivalent for 2019/20 of £80.30. This is an increase of £1.93 or 2.46% above the Band D equivalent charge in 2018/19.
- 673/02/19 Bank Signatories:**
Cllr Garner has submitted his documents, confirmation has now been received from the bank.
- 674/02/19 Grass Cutting Contract:**
Tenders sent out.
- 675/02/19 Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership:**
Cllr James stated that at this time there is nothing new to report. County Councillor van de Van reported that the Rail Partnership had been asked by East-West rail group to look into access with regards to the new rail link, but this has nothing to do with the ongoing proposal of the routes.
- 676/02/19 Rail User Group:**
Cllr James stated that at this time there is nothing new to report.
- 677/02/19 Proposed East/West Routes:**
See item – 656/02/19. A further discussion was held by the Parish Council where by the concerns of the Council were raised. At this moment the views of residents in Meldreth are unknown on this proposal and the Parish Council felt that it would be beneficial to have a separate meeting for residents to be able to discuss this item and let the Parish Council know how they felt. It was proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Goddin and agreed by all that the Clerk contact the Village Hall to find if a date can be fixed to hold this meeting which will take place before the next Parish Council scheduled meeting on the 7th March, possible dates are Thursday 21st or Friday 22nd February.
- 678/02/19 Funding Request for Bikeability cycle training in schools:**
This is no longer required. Parish Council's are not permitted to give funds to CCC. CAPALC has been in liaison with Mr Davies (CCC) regarding this issue and for this year there is enough funding to run the programme.

679/02/19

Bench at Stocks:

Cllr Young had circulated some benches, it was proposed by Cllr Young that the Parish Council purchase The Neptune Street Bench in green from Good Directions, the bench is £640 excl vat, this was seconded by Cllr Gilmore. Clerk to enquire if a plaque can be installed as the one originally put on the damaged bench will not be able to fit onto this bench, this was agreed by all.

Action: Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that the funds for this bench be taken from the Community Benefit Account, this was seconded by Cllr Searles and agreed by all.

680/02/19

Councillors' Reports:**Cllr Gilmore**

The foliage on the trees has been cut back at Fenny Lane crossroads.

Cllr Gilmore will contact the Melbourn Clerk to enquire about how the read sweeper project is progressing.

Action: PG

Can the Clerk write to farmers asking that they remember to clear the roads of excess mud and contaminated straw?

Action: Clerk**Cllr Young**

The kerb outside Brewery Lane/North End is damaged can the Clerk please report to the relevant authority.

Action: Clerk

681/02/19

Agenda items for the next meeting:

Apart from items already mentioned within the minutes there were no other items mentioned.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10pm.

The next meeting scheduled for 7th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Green Room of the Village Hall.

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