

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL (MPC)

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UNAPPROVED MINUTES of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2013 at 6.30pm (18.30hrs) in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

Present: Mr S Hawkins (SH) – Chairman; Mr R A Searles (RAS) – vice chairman; Mr J Chamberlain (JC); Mrs J Fallon (JF); Mr C A Land (CAL) and Mr D Stewart (DS)

Guest Speaker: Mr Andrew Hodgson from Savill's – Proposed Solar Park at Bury Lane

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Mr A P Burlton.

2. To sign and approve Minutes of meeting held on 17th October 2013.

The minutes were proposed by RAS, seconded by DS. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

3. Public Participation: (For up to 15 mins members of the public may contribute their views and comments - 3mins per item)

Mr Andrew Hodgson and Mr Nick Barber from Savills gave a presentation regarding the proposed Solar Photovoltaic Farm across the railway from Bury Lane Fruit Farm. The plan is for 94,000 panels covering 112 acres with a 25 year agreement with the landowner, EW Pepper Ltd. They explained that existing landscaping would be retained and new planting proposed so the site would be well screened. They proposed that the area would be grazed by sheep and a wild flower meadow mix would be used. Access during the 18 week construction period would be via Bury Lane Farm and then via Icknield Way. It anticipated that a planning application would be made before Christmas and that construction would commence, if approved, in the summer 2014. The power would feed into the National Grid and provide power for approx 4,500 homes. The site would be made secure by a 2.5 metre fence with security cameras. A public consultation will take place tomorrow 22nd November from 2pm to 9.30pm at the Community Rooms on Elin Way. Concern was expressed that no leaflet drop had been undertaken by Savills to all houses in Meldreth and Melbourn, as they had promised, and that the notification in The Royston Crow was not sufficient in allowing residents in Meldreth much notice of this proposal. Confusion is caused as Savills have advertised the site being "Bury Lane Farm, Melbourn" (based on the postal address) and had ignored the Meldreth Parish Council request to make it clear that the proposed site sits wholly within the parish of Meldreth.

4. 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.

5. Request for the following:

There are no Planning Applications to be discussed.

6. SCDC Decisions:

Malton Farm, S/1867/13/LB has been granted permission for internal alterations to drawing room.
Sheene Manor House, 58 Station Road S/1540/13/LB has been granted permission for demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new conservatory.

Sheene Manor House, 58 Station Road S/1541/13/FL has been granted permission for demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new conservatory.

82 High Street S/1589/13/FL has been granted permission for a single storey side and rear extension to dwelling with alterations to the car parking layout including access.

Sheen Cottage, 63 Station Road S/1933/13/LB has been granted permission for replacement of cement render with lime render to front and side elevations.

7. Other Items:

Solar Panel Park at Bury Lane – Concern was expressed regarding the lack of public consultation and the confusion with the fact that this is a Meldreth application and not Melbourn. The Royston Crow is not delivered to all residents in Meldreth and the lack of a leaflet drop is not acceptable in making residents aware of this proposal. RAS stated that depending on the public turn out at the public consultation it would be advantageous for Savills to put an article in Meldreth Matters and maybe another public consultation may be needed.

Parish Planning Forum - Mr R A Searles will attend the meeting at Cambourn on 3rd December 2013.

Eternit – a response is being put together regarding the proposal put to Meldreth Parish Council. Clerk has received confirmation from Eternit that Mr Munnery is acting on their behalf.

Bidall's Boulevard – Cllr van de Ven will make enquiries as to when this is due to go before the planning committee and SCDC.

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