

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: J Damant (**Clerk/Proper Officer**) and District Councillors Philippa Hart and Jose Hales

Motion to exclude: In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions 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 at Agenda item 189/11/19 it is advisable in the public interest that the Public and Press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw.

166/11/19 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 Cllrs James and Searles. These were agreed and accepted by all. District Cllrs Hart and Hales also sent in their apologies.

167/11/19 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 interests declared.

168/11/19 Public Participation: [For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council - 3mins per item]

There were no members of the public in attendance.

169/11/19 To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd October 2019:

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

170/11/19 District and County Councillor Reports: Appendix 1

Cllr Goddin enquired if better signage for charges could be done and that an extra sign at the station would be beneficial. Cllr van de Ven reported that the collection of fines is done by a contractor and that there have been some discrepancies with this method and the way it is carried out that is causing concern. There have been reports of passengers who have paid for parking in one station, only to have the train cancelled, who then have to go to another station such as Royston, where the charges are different, it is also felt that a charge of £170 is to excessive. The Rail User Group are currently looking into this matter.

There is no update, at this time, of the East/West rail link.

Cllr Young asked about the drains along the High Street as they are continuously blocked. Cllr van de Ven will make enquiries with the Highway Department. Cllr Gilmore also reported that all issues are reported on the CCC website but they do not appear to be actioned but they do come off the system. Cllr Gilmore also reported that the drains are on the Highways (CCC) list to be jetted and the roads to be swept but this is carried out by SCDC. Cllr Gilmore will liaise with Cllr van de Ven with regards to the reports.

Cllr Young left the meeting at 7.40 returned at 7.45

171/11/19 Rail User Group:

Nothing to report.

172/11/19 Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership:

Nothing to report.

173/11/19 Other railway issues:

Nothing to report.

Working Group Updates/Reports:

174/11/19 Finance Working Group:

Burial Ground: Meldreth have not increased their burial fees for many years and there is a cost with the upkeep of the burial ground. It was suggested that the interment fee be increased to £100.00 and the plot price to £160.00, this was proposed by Cllr Gilmore and seconded by Cllr Pellatt, all agreed. For non Meldreth residents this fee will be doubled. This to take immediate effect.

The finance group will now look at the others costs for the burial ground. This to be reviewed annually.

Annual budgets; pavilion costs and charges still being discussed.

- 175/11/19 Meldreth Futures Working Group (MFWG):**
 Cllr Gilmore reported that the 'Nextdoor' website has been looked into by MFWG. It is hoped that residents will get more involved with these groups. The Parish Council to look at more information regarding social media with a Facebook page and a twitter account, but not at this moment. There is a 'Spotted in Meldreth', it is known that the younger residents like social media. Clerk does watch this site but does not interact, it helps with identifying what is going on in the village that residents do not contact the clerk about.
 Update of applications. (Meldreth Village Hall) The village hall have now submitted a grant for the zero carbon grant with SCDC for the boiler.
 Website : Assistant Clerk is looking into this. It was suggested that a simple link or page maybe the answer with regards to the Future's Website.
 Kick board replacement. The Clerk reported that the figure of £1500 may not be enough and that they are in the process of getting contractors out on site to see what can be achieved with this and the play tower. It was suggested that the Clerk get some quotes on wood and recycled wood. To be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk will circulate Kickwall and play tower information. **Action: Clerk**
- 176/11/19 Meldreth Traffic Working Group:**
 Update on High Street concerns – Cllr Gilmore reported that they had had a meeting with the Highways Department and they looked at the High Street with regards to parking issues and drains, as well as the school area.
 Update on Speed Indicator Device (SID) – would it be possible to purchase a second device? This maybe something the Parish Council can put forward for the LHI for next year.
- 177/11/19 Zero Carbon Working Group:**
 A letter of support from Meldreth Parish Council was sent to Melbourn Parish Council will regards to the Melbourn Village College students project to install water fountains and recycle waste bins. The application for the Village Hall boiler has been sent to the Village Hall Trust to submit an application, see item 175/11/19
- 178/11/19 Church:**
 Churchyard Wall: Cllr Land is concerned about the front wall (south wall). There has been a meeting with the surveyor and this was looked into along with the wall down by the footpath (west wall). The west wall is falling down and this would be the priority however reinstalling a wall may not be the best option. Installing railings has been discussed. Whatever project is decided it will be at a cost. It was suggested the Clerk contact the surveyor for another meeting and if there has been any update on the meeting with Councillors and the Church, ask Cllr James if he has any further information.
 Inspection of the trees within the churchyard: Lime Tree has now been removed, the contractors reported that there was no concern with either of the Horse Chestnut trees. Please see item 187/11/19
- 179/11/19 Recreation Ground Working Group & Pavilion:**
 Monthly Report from Cllr Fallon
 Witches hat is still not easy to push Wicksteed will take a look on the 19th November when looking at the site for possible play equipment. All other equipment appears to be in good working order and the new basket ball posts are being well used. Clerk has asked Wicksteed to look at this.
 Progress on Management Plan – nothing to report.
 Recommendation from the RGWG for installing a toddler tower – Clerk is asking contractors to come out to look at installing a Kickwall and will include a toddler tower, see item 175/11/19.
 Dog signs – these will be installed soon at a cost of £160.00.
 Security and gates –Howard Road entrance. Bollards have been received awaiting to be installed.
 Pavilion – skirting board has now been reinstated.

Planning:

- 180/11/19 Planning:** *(Town and Country Planning Act 1990 schedule 1, paragraph 8)*
 (Full Planning Minutes are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).
 17th October and the 7th November 2019.

Ongoing Projects

- 181/11/19 Recreation Ground:**
 Ditch will be cleared on 22nd November 2019, was previously recorded incorrectly as 22nd October.
- 182/11/19 Tennis Courts:**
 Nothing to report.

Administrative /Other

183/11/19

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

David Attenborough Building Cambridge will be showing the Cambridge Conservation Forum and Cam Valley River Forum on the 19th November 6 to 8.30pm CB2 3QZ.

Peter Gaskin (CCC) has looked at Footpath 10 and reported that the public had walked in the route and will now close the report.

Street Lights all documentation has been sent and the contract starts from October 2019 till 2023.

184/11/19

Remembrance Day:

Cllr Young will do the traffic near the war memorial. Cllr Fallon reported that this will be the last year that the Ladies of the Melbourn British Legion will lay a wreath. Cllr Gilmore has the Parish Council wreath.

185/11/19

Bus stop signage:

A request has been received from Stephen Edmondson with regards to improving the bus stop signs and time tables. Bus stops along: Manor Road; Bell Close; Elin Way; Whitecroft Road. Where flags and signs were originally on lamp post but were not reinstated when the new lamp posts were installed no requirements are needed and this covers Meldreth, the other flags are on the bus shelters and existing posts. A financial contribution of £225.00 is being sought to cover costs. It was proposed by Cllr Gilmore to accept this offer, this was seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all.

Finance

186/11/19

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:

Payments already made

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Staff salaries/PAYE/NI & pensions	1879.99	0	October Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs & dd
D P Gardens	721.66	0	October Grass and verge cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
Fitness sports	360.00 S106	15.00	20% for basketball hoops	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
Four Counties	440	0	Installation of litter bin	LGA 1972 s111	bacs
Melbourn Warden Scheme	675	0	2 & 3 quarter	LGA 1972 s/S137	Bacs
Pat Gilmore	54.62	10.92	Expenses for plants for train station and bicycle planters	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
Eon	88.69	4.22	Electric for pavilion	LGA 1972 s133	Bacs
J Damant	57.79	5.90	Expenses	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs

Finances were proposed to be correct by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Pellatt and agreed by all.

Clerk has received a letter from the History Group thanking the Parish Council for the contribution but that could this be paid in the New Year, this was agreed. Clerk will release payment when the History group ask for it.

187/11/19

Annual Tree survey:

To include the churchyard trees on the annual survey and the trees along Fenny Lane on the burial ground side which the Parish Council planted. This item was agreed at last month's meeting, but did not include these trees. Quote has been updated but the price remains the same.

188/11/19

Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Goddin – It has come to the notice of the Parish Council that there is to be a tree day held in the village however the wording in Meldreth Matters is of concern as it indicates that residents can plant trees along the verge. This cannot happen. Residents are welcome to plant within their own properties but not on verge land which does not belong to them. There could be issues with drains or overhead cables. The Parish Council are happy to endorse this scheme but not for planting on public land. If any tree is given authority to be planted on public land it has to first go to the landowner ie Highways (CCC) and then if given the Parish Council have to agree as they will have to take on the maintenance. Cllr Goddin will construct a letter.

**Action: Clerk
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Cllr Goodin - Flambards is being looked into with regards to the hard-standing areas, it would be helpful to have a working group. The Flambards Working Group (FWG) will consist of Cllrs Goddin, Searles, Gilmore and James.

Cllr Gilmore – planters. Annual amount for planting tubs around the village, to be agreed and funds earmarked (bicycle planters, railway station tubs and village hall planters). It was proposed by Cllr Young to earmark £150.00 for planting, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.

Cllr Fallon – is it possible to have an outside light installed at the pavilion similar to the one at the Village Hall. Clerk to get a quote from an electrician.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Land – the bus shelter at the stocks is in need of some maintenance.

Action: Clerk

The finger post is another item, along with the slats on the burial ground gate

Action: Clerk

The yellow lines near the station can they be reinstated as they are very faint and is it possible to have them extended. Cllr Gilmore reported that all the lines will be refreshed but they will speak to Highways to see if this can be pushed forward.

Action: PG

Cllr Garner – There is a lot of mud along the footpath leading from Melwood to the A10. To let the Parish Paths aware to see if chippings can be laid on the Meldreth side and Melbourn able to do their side.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Young – the footway entrance to Maycroft is damaged and the drain is blocked. Cllr Gilmore said they had reported this to Highways and they are aware of it. Clerk will investigate with Highways and Planning. Cllr Young will send the Clerk some photos.

Action: Clerk

189/11/19 Litter picker salary review: (motion to exclude)

There were no public in attendance. It was proposed by Cllr Young to increase the Litter Picker's salary, this was seconded by Cllr Garner and agreed by all. It was agreed that this increase to take immediate affect from the 1st February 2019.

190/11/19 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Annual Policy Check on all current policies, risk assessment review update; Clerk's Appraisal.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.22pm. The next meeting will be on the 5th December at the Village Hall (Green Room)

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Meldreth Parish Council are those signed in PublicAppendix 1

Meldreth Parish Council November 2019 – District and County Councillors' Report

Local Meldreth issues

College Farm bend burst main

We were surprised to learn that following a fairly spectacular burst water main at College Farm bend, North End Meldreth, Cambridge Water Company had failed to notify Cambridgeshire County Highways. Damage to Highways infrastructure naturally resulted from flooding – including deep silting up of drains. The road was partially closed off with a one-way traffic signal system in place for quite a few days while repair to (not replacement of) the under-road pipe was undertaken. As soon as Highways was notified by local residents, a site visit was immediately made, and clearance of blocked drains ordered and carried out. We've asked Highways to ensure that a complaint is made to Cambridge Water about failure to communicate. Several weeks on, paths remain covered in mud – this too has been raised by County Highways with Cambridge Water Company.

Bus News

- The Cam Vale Bus User Group Nov 12 meeting at The Limes Bassingbourn has been rescheduled for the new year – date to be confirmed.
- Cross-border bus services: Excellent contact has been established with North Herts District Council's transport officers on a range of common transport concerns, including bus, train and cycle links. South Cambs and North Herts colleagues and Susan will be meeting with council bus officer representatives from both sides of the border to ascertain if and how we can pool resources to improve cross-border bus services.
- Busway Service A (Royston-Melbourn-Cambridge-St Ives): Susan has asked Stagecoach for an update on this service's performance. Stagecoach have responded to say that they are looking to enhance their services, and to introduce some new vehicles to the fleet, and will be holding a public consultation event soon – details to be shared as soon as available.

Trains: E-tickets

Train journeys from our local stations can be made via e-ticketing. Please note that paper tickets bought at the Meldreth Station booking office make a difference to keeping our manned office in place – so do please buy from ticket officer manager Bern Parsons whenever possible! In addition, for promotional deals and complex journey best prices, please use Meldreth Station booking office.

The trainline app <https://www.thetrainline.com/> is a good place to buy a train ticket that provides a swipe-able bar code for tapping in and out on journeys originating or terminating at our local stations. This app is set up to process rail card discounts, unlike the GTR app (next item).

The Govia Thameslink Key Go Smartcard will be available for journeys from Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton to Cambridge and points north, in the next few weeks. This is already available for travel south (the glitch being that Cambridge Station is operated by another train operating company, Greater Anglia, and their systems haven't talked to each other until now). Pedestals for Key Smartcard activation exist on both platforms at all three of our local stations. This is a work in progress still with some limitations: A season ticket can be uploaded onto the card and stored electronically, but the Cambridge Student Connect card for 16-18 year-olds cannot be uploaded electronically – a paper ticket continues to be required.

A debit or credit card is linked to the 'Key Go' card for tapping in and tapping out on journeys. The cheapest fare for that journey will be applied. However, for now, Railcards (16-25s, Senior Railcard, Network Card, etc) cannot yet be applied to the fare calculator.

The Key Go card is currently only applicable to Thameslink network journeys, but the expectation is that it will be applicable nationwide on all networks.

A Key Go card is currently available on-line only; the prospect of selling it at Meldreth Station is being explored. Please visit here. <https://www.thameslinkrailway.com/tickets/the-key-smartcard>

Cambridge North Station services: Unfortunately, as expected, the December 2019 timetable sees an end to this through journey; passengers travelling from Meldreth to Cambridge North will now need to change trains at Cambridge. This is due to platform capacity issues and an increasingly busy and competitive timetable. The Rail User Group has lobbied hard to retain the through service for obvious reasons; this is disappointing news but we will keep at it, as the timetable is always a work in progress with two updates every year (May and December).

Semi-fast service to London – The Rail User Group is still lobbying for the return of a semi-fast London service from Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton at peak time.

Passenger Benefit Fund: Details are beginning to be announced – a full report is due soon.

Station car park fines

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group is tackling head-on what it considers to be exorbitant station car park fines at Shepreth, Meldreth and Royston, and intimidating pursuit of fines by the debt collecting agency subcontracted by the car park subcontractor. The Rail User Group would be grateful to hear from anyone who has been caught out by such an experience: please contact railusergroup@gmail.com.

Cambs County Council

Fostering a Child

The County Council is trying very hard to dispel some myths around fostering, as we always need more foster families who are willing to help with the 600 or so children in care at any one time in Cambridgeshire. Fostering is a hugely rewarding role – have you ever thought about it?

In particular, one myth is that foster carers do not receive any support with their work. However, all of our foster carers receive a generous allowance as well as 24-hour access to support and training with an allocated fostering social worker who is the main point of contact.

In fact, the only requirements are that prospective carers are over 21 and have a spare bedroom! You can be single, married, in a civil partnership, in rented accommodation or retired. For more information on fostering (and adoption), see here. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/>

Charging for care

Cambridgeshire County Council is once again consulting on proposed new charges for people receiving adult social care services—in some cases the same charges it consulted on two years ago, which service users overwhelmingly rejected. The consultation runs until Sunday 15 December 2019: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/chargingforcare-yoursay

'Plantlife' Campaign

'Plantlife' campaign has launched its new road verge guidelines which aim to fundamentally transform the management of the UK's verges. The guidelines provide practical advice on how local authorities can fulfil their biodiversity duties whilst reducing management burdens over time, using real life examples of how good management is already being implemented on the ground. Over 700 species and nearly 45 per cent of our total flora are found on our road verges. 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s, so these crucial habitats need to be properly managed. The less and later, two-cut approach suggested in the guidelines would replenish the seed bank, restore floral diversity, save councils money and provide pollinator habitat estimated to equal the size of London, Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff and Edinburgh combined. A County Council team of members is asking highways officers for a briefing on what differences these guidelines would mean for Cambridgeshire, and how the council is planning to implement them.

South Cambs District Council

Modern Day Slavery

In her role on the Local Government Association Safer Communities Board, South Cambs District Council Leader Bridget Smith has been hearing from the Commission reporting on Modern Day Slavery. This is happening on all our doorsteps and is often difficult to recognise. Even more concerning is to hear that some people in prison are actually

victims of slavery rather than perpetrators of crime. An example would be young people arrested for County Lines drug running, but who are actually being controlled through fear and coercion by organised crime gangs. The Commission will be demanding better support for victims, more robust punishment of the criminals and improved means of identifying modern day slavery. In South Cambs we know to keep a close eye on agricultural work gangs, tarmacking enterprises and car washes. Bridget was told that if you are paying under £6.50 for your car to be washed it is unlikely that people are receiving the minimum wage. If you have any concerns it is vital that you report it. Here is the way to do it:

Telephone call 101 - www.cambs.police.uk/report - Textphone 18001 101 or anonymous reporting Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111

New housing approach on Genome Campus

Proposals to significantly expand a world-renowned genome campus have been backed by South Cambridgeshire District Council and will provide extra employment space and homes for staff. The District Council meeting on 24 October supported an outline planning application to provide a further 150,000sqm of space for employment, conferencing and supporting facilities at the Wellcome Trust's Genome Campus in Hinxton. There will be up to 1,500 homes for campus-based staff, 30% of which will be affordable.

The Wellcome Trust want to build on the scientific foundations of the campus to become the international centre for scientific, business, cultural and educational activities arising from genomes and biodata. It is estimated that around 4,300 new jobs will be created by the expansion of the campus. The proposal also includes land for a new school, a nursery and community facilities and provides public open spaces and allotments. There will also be shops and food and drink outlets, new cycling and walking paths, road crossing points and alterations to local roads including a new roundabout on the A1301. A fitness centre and health centre are also included in the plans.

Cutting-edge genome and biodata research is carried out by around 2,500 people who currently work at the campus, which the Wellcome Trust says is now getting full. The site currently has around 75,000sqm of employment space and conferencing facilities. The campus is proposed to be opened up to provide public access, which would enable surrounding communities to use a range of open space and facilities.

Parking on Pavements - update

Contrary to communication from the Police at a July Parish Council Liaison meeting, when it was suggested that reporting pavement parking three times would result in Police action, the following Police communication has now been received. This is in the process of being challenged by SCDC. The Police are now saying:

“There is no longer an ethical case to focus police resource on parking when there is, immediate and growing violent crime and safeguarding to issues tackle.

- Whilst our increase in officers will be focused on these serious matters it will mean some extra time can be given to matters such as parking. Remember however time ‘on the beat’ is precious and over 101 parishes remains a challenge

- PCSOs are often perceived as having very simple front-line roles, this is not the case, a good deal of their time is spent helping officers tackling priority issues such as risks to young people, the elderly and vulnerable.

- 22 [traffic] interventions is positive, but proves the rather useless nature of enforcement, as over time we have proven without doubt that enforcement makes no long term difference. Whilst seeing tickets on windscreens is satisfying for a moment in time a new way must be found to tackle this issue, we have tried to be innovative and offer some alternative ideas.

- We have worked with SCDC who have similar challenges with balancing resource, budgets and officer's time against what is a persistent but low risk issues.”

Finally, the Police ask that reporting for non-emergency matters be made on line. <https://www.cambs.police.uk/>