

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms on Elin Way.

Present: Cllr R Goddin- Chairman (**RG**), Cllr R A Searles- Vice Chairman (**RAS**), Cllr J Fallon (**JF**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr N Pellatt (**NP**), Cllr A Young (**AY**),

In attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

- 145/11/21** **To receive any apologies for absence:** (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 40) – Quorate is one third but no less than 3 members (LGA 1972 sch 12 para 45)
Apologies were received from Cllr Garner (Covid) these were accepted and agreed by the Council
Apologies were received from Cllr James (work commitments) these were agreed and accepted by the council. There is currently one vacancy.
- 146/11/21** **Pecuniary Interests:** Councillors to disclose any Pecuniary Interests (disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) include interests held by a member's spouse, civil partner or similar) in any item listed on the agenda.
There were no interests declared.
- 147/11/21** **Public Participation:** If a member of the public wishes to make any comments or raise any questions under Standing Order 3(e), about an item on the Agenda the Council would prefer this to be done by an email or letter with the script of their comments and questions being sent to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. A member of the public may alternatively make a verbal statement during this part of the meeting. Priority will be given to any such email or letter and it will be read out by the Clerk, subject to the time limits stated in the Council's Standing Orders. These consist of a limit of 15 minutes in total (which will apply to the total of both written and verbal contributions) and an individual limit of three minutes per item of either type.
Cllr Goddin welcomed Ms Lucy Smith from the Shepreth Spitfires.
Ms Smith introduced herself and wanted to let the Parish Council know what has been happening with her football club. The Shepreth Spitfires started in Shepreth but as they grew, they needed more space and they were lucky to be allowed to set up at the Eternit site in Meldreth. The Club is run by volunteers and the children pay a fee to attend. They also undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The volunteers and children make sure the site is kept clean and even take on maintenance jobs when needed. They would like to thank the Eternit Social Club as well as Meldreth Matters for all their support. To help with funding the club they undertake fundraising and tournaments, all of which bring in a small revenue to help keep the club going.
The club has been running for four years and have about 150 youths. Since they have moved to the Eternit site many children from Meldreth are now attending. There are 3 full size pitches, with one 11 aside team (Royston Rovers). The other pitches have been adapted for youth teams and they have a youth pitch within a full-size pitch, this is achievable as it can be marked out differently. The club are very enthusiastic and would like to take any opportunity to show their skills, especially to the local community.
- 148/11/21** **To Approve and Sign Minutes of Meeting held on 7th October 2021:**
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 149/11/21** **Councillor Vacancy:**
The notice to the Monitoring Officer at SCDC has been completed and the Parish Council now have permission to coopt a councillor. A notice has been put on the notice board and onto the website. The notice has also gone out with Meldreth Matters. The deadline for submissions is Friday the 17th December and it is hoped that a new councillor can be coopted onto the Council at the January meeting. With regards to the Parish Council there will be a full election in May 2022 where all nine seats of the Parish Council are available.
- 150/11/21** **Planning: (Town and Country Planning act 1990 sch 1, para 8)**
(Full planning Minutes are available via the clerk, website or notice board)
- 151/11/21** **District and County Reports: (Cllrs van de Ven, Hales and Hart)**
The report has been circulated.
The Chairman had received correspondence from a resident who showed concern regarding the report the Parish Council refer to in their minutes and that it varies from the report given by the local authorities in Meldreth Matters.

The Chairman stated that the report the Parish Council refer to is given to them by the local authority representatives. However, as new information is received by the District and County Council, they are able to give a more updated report. It must be taken into account that the report the Parish Council give is based on the report given to them at the beginning of the month by their local representatives and that certain items may have been updated before going to press with Meldreth Matters. This new information will be given by the local authority and not the Parish Council who can only report on what has happened at the meeting.

The Chairman has also had correspondence from a resident who was in agreement with the letter the Parish Council wrote to the local authorities with regards to the amount of work they are expected to do with regards to all the consultations that are taking place and with very little information and there is no way of doing some of these consultations under the Parish Council as they are designed to be completed by residents.

There were no other questions raised with regards to the Local Authority report.

152/11/21

Greater Cambridge Local Plan:

As it stands there appears to be no developments taking place within Meldreth at this time. Consultations have now started with regards to the Local Plan and there are various zoom meetings. All information is being put on the website if it requires a response from residents.

153/11/21

Proposal for 25k houses in the local area by Thakeham Developer(Standard item)

There is no further information at this time. There has been no submission made to SCDC.

154/11/21

Oxford-Cambridgeshire Arc Consultation:

The letter from the Parish Council relating their concerns has been distributed to the District Council, the County Council, The Royston Crow and Anthony Brown MP.

155/11/21

Covid-19:(standard item)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become an Enhanced Response Area for tackling the Covid pandemic, follows an approach from both Councils and the Director of Public Health. Infections across the area are rising, especially in the 60+ age group. Rates are currently higher in most areas than in January's peak. The new status takes effect from November 1 and will last for at least five weeks and it allows the Council to push for some additional support.

156/11/21

Recreation Ground:

- Cllr Fallon has circulated her monthly report.
- Clerk has contacted Sovereign regarding extra matting to go down on either side of the existing matting at the zip wire. Awaiting cost
- Clerk has contacted Sovereign regarding having the zip wire tightened, awaiting cost and possible date.
- Two litter bins have been ordered
- One bench has been ordered, this will be placed at the corner of Howard and Whitecroft Road.
- Clerk has ordered a Field Maple which will be placed in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Land will take possession of it and organise it's planting with Mr Vic Skuce. Tree will be delivered in the second wave which is in March 2022.
- Cllr Fallon reported that the working group was looking at placing a Table Tennis and they will also start looking at the MUGA and a seesaw. **Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Fallon said she would contact Mrs Gilmore and MrSkuce with regards to the earth which has been left. This will be used to fill in holes and flower beds. **Action: JF**
- The pavilion guttering is still leaking, Clerk to ask MrSkuce to take a look again. **Action: Clerk**
- A resident has contacted the Clerk with regards to having a bench along Fenny Lane. This is being looked at by Cllrs Fallon and Land. Highways will be asked for their advice. Cllr Goddin stated that this need only be a bench if a seat is too large for the area. Clerk will make enquiries with Highways. **Action: Clerk**
- Clerk to enquire as to what is happening with the gates in the children's play area. There is to be a new gate installed at the hopscotch end of the wetpour, this to be a self-closing, and to have a self-closing mechanism on the small gate near the spring animals. **Action: Clerk**

- 157/11/21 Traffic Working Group:**
Nothing to report. Cllr Goddin asked if Mrs Gilmore would still like to be involved with the working group? If not a permanent member, would she be able to assist in its transition. If Mrs Gilmore is unable to carry on then the Clerk to contact the remaining members, of the group, to see who will now run it. Cllr Land volunteered to go on the group. Clerk will contact Mrs Gilmore in the first instance. **Action: Clerk**
- 158/11/21 Village Infrastructure:**
- The cable that is overhanging footpath (8) is an electric cable. Clerk has contacted Cllr Sally Ann Hart and UK network. UK Network replied and stated that the cable has been in that position for at least 10 years with no concern being raised. Cllr Land stated that as all the foliage has now been cut back it can now be seen as a hazard. If UK Network are not going to move the cable could the Clerk contact Highways to see if the footpath barriers could be moved over, thus avoiding the cable. **Action: Clerk**
 - Ditch has been cleared, there are a few areas they are coming back to do.
 - Repairs to street signs for Whitecroft Road at the Fenny Lane crossroads and the High Street have been reported on the SCDC website and to Cllr Sally Ann Hart. **SCDC have** now included it on their list.
 - Cllr Land reported that a bollard on Bell Close has been removed. Clerk will contact the Housing Officer as this maybe under their jurisdiction. **Action: Clerk**
- 159/11/21 Churchyard:**
- Installation of bench. Clerk is still awaiting instructions on where it is to be placed.
 - General report on the boundary wall and other related items. Cllr Goddin reported that the church had received an arboricultural report which indicates that where the bench was possibly going to be placed might be no longer suitable. The report indicates the possibility of removing all the foliage which would further expose some of the areas that could be at risk. The Parish Council did not ask for this report. Cllr James is presently looking at getting the churchyard professionally investigated as a whole with regards to Health and Safety, this will then inform the council on the issues raised. **Action: RJ/RG**
- 160/11/21 Remembrance Day:**
Wreath has been ordered for the Parish Council and Cllr Land will collect it.
Last year there was no Remembrance Day event, though a wreath was still laid. Cllr Goddin reported that in the previous year to that in 2019 there was a special event held at the village hall. The people who arranged this would like to do it again for this year. It was proposed by Cllr Searles that the Parish Council contribute to the event under S137 and pay for the hire of the Village Hall which will be around £30.00 along with a small donation for tea and coffee at £30.00, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all. Total contribution up to £60.00.
- 161/11/21 Community Projects Working Group (CPWG)**
There has been no response to the article in Meldreth Matters which was asking for volunteers to come onto the working group. As this has not happened all decisions for donations will continue to be undertaken by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will always have the deciding factor on any application, but it was hoped that a working group consisting of councillors and residents could be set up and this working group would then assist the council on all requested donations.
- 162/11/21 Pavilion:**
- Once the water testing results have been received and as long as they are negative the Clerk will open up the shower facilities. **Action: Clerk**
- 163/11/21 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
- Finger posts – Cllr Young was unable to get a notice into Meldreth Matters this month, but will have an article in the following bulletin. **Action: Clerk**
 - Clerk has emailed Stonewater Housing Association, with regards to foliage overhanging the fence which abuts the recreation ground from some homes along Elin Way, no response as yet. As of the date of this meeting the Clerk has still not heard back from Stonewater Housing Association.
Clerk will also write to those households that have foliage over hanging the boundary fence who are not part of Stonewater Housing. **Action: Clerk**
 - The Queen's Green Canopy – is there anywhere that either trees or hedges can be planted. Clerk to enquire with Mrs Gilmore and the working group, on the placing of the trees already agreed to with Philimores, and to see if any additional trees could be planted in the recreation ground. **Action: Clerk**
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- Queen's Jubilee Tree – Agenda item for next month. Parish Council to decide if they wish to plant a memorial tree in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee and where it can be planted.
- Atlas Man, the stone work at Eternits. The Clerk contacted the History Group who replied saying they have already been in touch with Eternit regarding the stonework and it has been confirmed to the History Group by Eternit that the stonework will not be demolished.
- Cllr Goddin read out a letter he had received from a youth in Meldreth. The letter is asking that the Parish Council, when next looking at play facilities in the recreation ground consider a skate board facility, either a half or quarter pipe or a small park. Cllr Fallon reported that in the past there was a skateboard facility behind the goal post near to the tennis courts. Cllr Goddin will respond to the letter asking for some further information on skateparks. Clerk will also see what could fit in that space, but it will also depend on where the MUGA is to be placed.
Action: Clerk
- Clerk has had a request to look into large HGV's parking in the layby along Whitecroft Road. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Cllr Van de ven to see what could be done.
Action: Clerk
- The clerk enquired if there were any plans for the Queen's Jubilee for June 2022, at this time the Clerk has not heard from anyone in the village to say that they are doing anything.

164/11/21 Community Benefit Application:

It was proposed by Cllr Land to accept the application put forward by the Library for £150.00, this was seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all.

165/1121 Scribe Renewal Fee:

November 2021-October 2022 £480.00. It was proposed by Cllr Goddin to accept, seconded by Cllr Pellattand agreed by all. The figure is the same as last year.

166/11/21 Finances and payments: September 2021

To receive details of cheques/bacs to be drawn on the Parish Council's account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve all payments including additional payments. LGA Local Government Act; TCA Telecommunications Act; OSA Open Spaces Act; PHA Public Health Act; PCA Parish Council Act; RTRA Road Traffic Regulations Act.

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION –MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4th November 2021

Payee	Amount £	Vat £	Description	Power
Salaries, HMRC, Pension	Confidential	0	Employees payments for October 2021	LGA 1972 s112
Haven Power	£29.20	£1.41	Street lighting power September 2021	PCA 1957 s3
E-On	£	£	Pavilion electricity	LGA 1972 s143
DP Garden Services	£721.66	0	Grasscutting October 2021	OSA 1906 s9/10
UK Safety Management	£213.60	£35,60	PAT testing office and Pavilion	LGA 1972 s133
Parish Notice Boards	£1740.00	£290.00	50% of notice board order	OSA 1906 s9/10
Safety Buyer UK Ltd	£58.67	£9.78	Clamp and Tamtorque bands for posts	OSA 1906 s9/10
Viking	£201.85	£33.64	Stationery	LGA 1972 s133
Starboard Systems Ltd	£480.00	£80.00	SCRIBE subscription 2021/22	LGA 1972 s133
PWLB	£3728.25	0	Loan Repayment instalment	LGA 2003 sch1 para2

The clerk is also expecting an invoice from HAGS, for the disabled equipment that was decided under item 081/07/21 for a net cost of £18,535.93.

All payments were proposed by Cllr Goddin to be correct, seconded by Cllr Searles and agreed by all.

167/11/21

Policies:

An increase in the Clerk's authority to £1000.00 was discussed. This was then proposed by Cllr Goddinto seconded by Cllr Searles and agreed by all.
 Financial Regulations following the amendment were proposed by Cllr Pellatt, seconded by Cllr Goddin and agreed by all.
 Standing Orders following the amendment were proposed by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.

168/11/21

Councillor Reports:**Cllr Goddin: Flambards**

The Parish Council have established that the strip of land between the ditch and the High Street at Flambards Close does belong to Highways, who have also confirmed this. Cllrs Goddin, James and Searles will look into Flambards Lease and come back to the meeting on how the Parish Council should proceed with the concerns that the Flambards Residents Association have raised.
 Cllr Goddin also suggested that due to the concern of rising Covid cases that all the forthcoming meetings, including Planning to be held in the Community Rooms. Clerk to notify Meldreth Matters

Action: Clerk

Cllr Fallon will work with the Clerk regarding the seesaw and gate within the Children's play area.

169/11/21

Agenda Items next meeting:

Play area gates and seesaw
 Churchyard
 Flambards Close and Residents Association
 Whitecroft Way layby
 Electric Cable and moving the barriers

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm. The next meeting will be held in the Community Rooms, Elin Way on 2nd November 2022.

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

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