

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes unApproved of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th December 2019 7.30 pm in the Green Room of Meldreth Village Hall.

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

In attendance: J Damant (**Clerk/Proper Officer**) and County Cllr van de Ven

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.

191/12/19 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 Garner, Cllr James, Cllr Gilmore, Cllr Young. These were agreed and accepted by all. District Cllrs Hart and Hales also sent in their apologies.

192/12/19 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.

193/12/19 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 two members of the public in attendance.

Village Tree Planting -It was advised that a good day was had with £160 raised for the Woodland Trust. The village schools prepared an excellent display.

Concern was raised by a parishioner over a letter received from the Parish Council in relation to an application to encourage tree planting on the grass verges of the village. The parishioner stated that it could have been less curt. The Chairman responded by saying that tree planting on the verge was not at all possible due to safety, and visibility, and parishioners needed to be aware of this. The Council was asked to retract the letter.

Councillors were then asked if more trees could be planted in the village. It was stated that the Parish Council supported tree planting but there was limited areas. A management plan of the recreation ground was currently underway and until the actions from this had been concluded no new trees could be planted.

The council had commissioned a village tree survey and was aware that there were trees along Fenny Lane which will need to be replaced once the report was received.

194/12/19 To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting dated 7th November 2019:

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

195/12/19 District and County Councillor Reports:

There was a query over who owned the kissing gate. Cllr van de Ven believed that the gate was owned by the Parish Council but not the footpath which was a County Right of Way. The Chairman suggested that if the Parish Council did own it arrangements be made for a repair. The Clerk advised that she had logged the fault with the gate on the County Council website for repair but it was acknowledged the repair should take place sooner.

A discussion took place on the importance of the gate especially if the cost to repair/replace was quoted at around £6,000. Cllr van de Ven agreed to investigate the cost. The Clerk would also speak to the Local Highway Officer to find out their position.

It was advised that the South Cambs News was not delivered to every property along North end. Cllr van de Ven agreed to investigate.

The mud on Malton Lane was discussed. Cllr van de Ven advised that the County Council did not have the equipment to clean the road. Highways and the Police were aware of the problem.

196/12/19 Railway issues:

Nothing to report.

Working Group Updates/Reports:

197/12/19 Finance Working Group:

Annual Budget 2020/21

The proposal for the council tax precept requirement would be presented for the January 2020 meeting, The policy was to set the precept at a level that covered day to day expenditure with some margin for unexpected costs.

- 198/12/19 Meldreth Futures Working Group (MFWG):**
Update on applications. Melbourn Dynamos Football Club (£1000) and Melbourn Library (£100)
The application by Melbourn Dynamos had been withdrawn as the equipment specification had changed. It was noted that a new application would be required through the Futures Group. The application made by Melbourn Library was approved.
- 199/12/19 Meldreth Traffic Working Group:**
A report had been circulated. Concern raised with regards to parking issues around the school. Cllr Gilmore was presently working with the primary school and County Highways to look at these and other issues along the High Street. Another suggestion was to install railings along a section at the North End bend (College Bend). Highways were to be asked for suggestions on what could be done. The Parish Council had agreed the submission of a LHI scheme proposal for improvements at the Fenny Lane crossroads. The feasibility report for the submission had been received from the County Council which, if successful, would require a contribution from the Parish Council of £2,500. It was proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Fallon with agreement by all.
Data was now being gathered by the mobile speed device in Fenny Lane which supported improvements. The movable device would be installed in Whitecroft Road for a further trial period so that further data could be collected.
- 200/12/19 Recreation Ground Working Group & Pavilion:**
Monthly Report from Cllr Fallon
Wickstead Playgrounds had looked at the witches hat and were investigating two sets of bearings for the top and bottom.
The small gate now appeared to be working.
All other equipment appeared to be in a good working order with the new basket ball posts being well used.
Progress on Management Plan
The recommendation for the RGWG was for the installation of a toddler tower.
Dog Signs had been erected and there was now a luminous sign on the pavilion.
Security and gates on Howard Road entrance -bollards had been installed.
5 a side white line had not been marked out although it was advised that this would no longer happen due to the lack of time. The cost of employing someone to do the marking was discussed. It was noted that the white line machine would be available.
It was noted that there was a problem with the Pavilion guttering which the Clerk would investigate.
A discussion on whether or not safety fencing along the ditch was needed. It was noted that there was around 3ft of silt at the bottom of the ditch and it would be expensive to remove this. It was suggested that the fencing be discussed at a future meeting.

Planning:

- 201/12/19 Planning:(Town and Country Planning Act 1990 schedule 1, paragraph 8)**
(Full Planning Minutes are available via the Clerk, website or notice board).
21st November and 5th December 2019.

Ongoing Projects

- 202/12/19 Recreation Ground:**
The ditch had been cleared, bollards installed and the dog signs erected as report under Item 200/12/19
- 203/11/19 Tennis Courts:**
Nothing to report.

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Administrative /Other

- 204/12/19 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**
Kickwall and toddler equipment – contractors have been out and will forward their suggestions.
Bus stop signs will be updated.
Concern has been raised regarding road safety near the school with vehicles parking in areas they shouldn't and on the bend at North End where at times cars appear to have mounted the footway, It was suggested that a barrier or fencing could be erected. This was being investigated by the Traffic Working Group. The Clerk had made enquiries regarding the parked cars with the PCSO who stated that the yellow lines need to be refreshed. This has been notified to Highways.
CCC – Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan. Consultation is from 20th December 2019 to 31st January 2020 <http://consultcambs.uk/engagementhg.com/climate-strategy>
Highways have looked at various concerns with Cllr Gilmore, will be part of the TWG report.
The kissing gate had been taped off due to some iron work coming loose. An update on the kissing gate was made under the County Council report.

The Clerk was organising another Police surgery on Tuesday 14th January 2019 in the Community Rooms on Elin Way. Main topic of discussion would be scamming, but the police would be happy to discuss other issues.

Metal bollard knocked down at the war memorial, Highways have been notified.

205/12/19 Remembrance Day:

It was reported that the event went well with the refreshments a great success.

Finance

206/12/19

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	1924.58	0	November Salaries	LGA 1972 s112	Bacs & dd
D P Gardens	766.66	0	November Grass and verge cutting	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bacs
BT	272.17	45.36	Broadband and Phone	TCA 1986	DD

Payments awaiting Approval

	Gross	Vat		Power	
SP Landscapes	840.00	140.00	Ditch clearing	OSA 1906 s9/10	bacs
Cambridgeshire County Council	1784.20	0	Streetlighting	Highways Act 1980 s301	Bacs
Royal British Legion	75.00	0	Donation for wreath	S137	Bacs
Meldreth Village Hall	38.00	0	Remembrance Day refreshments	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs
Viking Stationery	139.28	23.21	Office Supplies	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs
Viking Stationery	44.33	7.39	Office Supplies	LGA 1972 s111	Bacs
Four Counties	355.00	0	Dog signs & bollards	OSA 1906 s9/10	Bas

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

207/12/19 Annual Tree survey:

This was in hand.

208/12/19 Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Land -reported that the Cemetery pathways needed cleaning and offered to do this.

Cllr Goddin -was looking in the repairs to the Church wall and was to arrange a meeting with the Church working group to look at a Management Plan.

Village Tree Planting -It was agreed that the Carbon Group would be the point of contact.

209/12/19 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Annual Policy Check on all current policies (February), risk assessment review update (February); Clerk's Appraisal which was carried out on the 4th December 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm. The next meeting will be on the 9th January 2020 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