

MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Un approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms on Elin Way.

Present: Cllr R Goddin- Chairman (RG), Cllr A Bostanci (AB), Cllr J Fallon (JF), Cllr N. Garner, Cllr R James (RJ), Cllr C A Land (CAL), Cllr M McGarry (MM), Cllr N Pellatt (NP), Cllr R Searles (RS),

In attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk) Cllr van de Ven (CCC), Cllr J Hales (SCDC) and Cllr S A Hart (SCDC)

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 022/04/22 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.

01/04/22 **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)
There were no apologies as all councillors were in attendance.

02/04/22 **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.

02/04/22 **Public Participation:** There were 7 members of the public in attendance.
There was an update given regarding the Jubilee celebrations. It is hoped that a street party along the High Street will go ahead. Question to the Parish Council about financial assistance was enquired about, insurance cost might be one. Cllr Goddin stated that the Parish Council have discussed this and they would be happy to help out with certain costs. It would be appreciated if the Jubilee organisers could complete a financial assistance form and return it to the Parish Council as soon as they know what they want the money for.
It was also asked if the Parish Council had thought of putting some money for a Jubilee Village sign? There is £700 available from the Community Chest Grant. Cllr Goddin stated that the Parish Council were looking at getting a bench with this grant. District Councillor Hales suggested that the maybe the Parish Council ask the school about what the children want. Melbourn has done this approach.
The church is holding their fete at the same time as the Jubilee celebrations and are combining the two celebrations. The Parish Council were informed that the money raised would be split three ways, with 25% going to Home Start, 25% to Maycroft Nursing Home and the remaining 50% going towards the maintenance of the church. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council does not have the power, under the Local Government Act, to support the church. The churchyard is closed and therefore the Parish Council does have a responsibility towards this aspect of the church but it cannot fund any project or scheme which would go towards the maintenance of the church building or straight to the Diocese. The only other aspect of the Church that the Parish Council can be involved with is the clock. The clerk did inform the meeting that the Parish Council can contribute to projects that would benefit all residents, ie chairs for the meeting room, but not the church; however, the Chairman queried this and wanted to have up-to-date information from NALC regarding any project that might in anyway benefit the church itself.

03/04/22 **To Approve and Sign Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd March 2022:**
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Goddin and agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

04/04/22 **Planning: (Town and Country Planning act 1990 sch 1, para 8)**
(Full planning Minutes are available via the clerk, website or notice board)

05/04/22 **District and County Reports: (Cllrs van de Ven, Hales and Hart)**
Questions were raised regarding the Community Housing Fund and whether this fund could be used to finance a scheme at Mettle Hill? Cllr Hales was not aware of such a fund, however Cllr Hart stated that this fund is for what is known as 'leveling up', and she was not aware that South Cambridgeshire would be seen as such an area.
Cllr van de Ven enquired whether Meldreth had any thoughts regarding the road underpass near Fieldgates and the T junction with Melbourn and how it could be made to look better. There could be a possibility of getting students from Melbourn Village College on board to do an art project? Melbourn have been busy clearing the vegetation from their end from the Station to Melbourn and that lighting is still needed in this area.

There are two underpasses below the A10, one is the road near Fieldgate, the other is the footpath across the field to the station. It is this footpath which is overgrown, needs lighting and is considered to be unsafe

Cllr van de Ven also asked if Meldreth could extend the litter picker's area to include the footpath leading from the Station towards Melbourn. Cllr Searles reported that there was always an annual inspection carried out on all the 9 footpaths, including this one which is known as 9 and 9a. It has already been noted with Meldreth's footpath group that a working party is needed to trim the paths and deal with the graffiti which has now appeared. Covid has had an impact on these projects, but it is now hoped that such matters will now get seen to and the footpaths will once again be regularly monitored and maintained.

Due to the lack of lighting, the footpath underpass is now being seen as unsafe.

Cllr James enquired about the additional spending that appeared on the latest County Council report. Cllr van de Ven reported that the County Council have to find a way of budgeting their funding and they have not been able to do carry out certain works. Pot holes are a major concern as to resurface all the roads that need to be done and get roads up to a proper standard would cost in the region of £350m which they do not have, so all they can do is carry out partial repairs. Even though this is seen as not being cost effective, which is agreed by all, they have no other option at this time. If all money was spent on pot holes there would be nothing left for anything else.

06/04/22

Local and Regional Planning Issues:

- Thakeham
- Oxford –Cambridge ARC
- Local Development Plan

There is nothing new to report on the East West Rail. The question of housing was raised by Cllr James. Cllr Hales explained that in the Local Plan of 2018 it showed that 37,500 new homes were needed. The plan has to be revisited as it is a working document, and this is currently what is happening. The call for sites is part of this, and another 12,500 homes has been identified as being needed, however these extra homes will be built in places already building such as Cambourne and Bourn Airfield.

Rural villages are not really included with the extra homes.

Cllr Tumi Hawkins from The Greater Cambridgeshire Planning team is always happy to attend Parish Council meetings.

07/04/22

Covid 19 Update

There was nothing new to report.

08/04/22

Flambards

Cllrs Searles, McGarry, Goddin and James met with three members of the Committee of the Flambards Residents Association to discuss the broken hard standing areas within Flambards. MrCoton was going to write to residents informing them of the problem regarding the hard standing areas and that Flambards was responsible for these areas and it was not down to the Parish Council to repair them; however, this does not appear to have happened and therefore no further progress has been made.

09/04/22

Recreation Ground

- March inspection report from Cllr Fallon has been completed, Cllr Fallon reported that some of the new trees have been vandalised and the tree guards protecting them were discarded.
- See Saw – Quotes have been circulated; however, Cllr Goddin is not happy with purchasing any equipment that has not been seen in action. Clerk to enquire as to where these items can be seen. **Action: Clerk**
- Outdoor Table Tennis – Quotes have been circulated, Cllr Bostanci reported that a more varied quotation group is needed, the Clerk stated that most of the companies advertising static table tennis tables appear to be selling the same table from a particular company. Clerk had photos of one such table; however, it was asked that the Clerk get further quotes. Cllr Goddin again wants these to be seen in action. **Action: Clerk**
- Request from Orwell FC to use pitch next season 22/23. This item was discussed in a previous meeting and it had been agreed that Orwell can use the pitch in 22/23 season.
- Further damage has been sustained to the dog fouling notices. Cllr Land will report to the Clerk if further bolts are needed. **Action: CAL/Clerk**
- Tennis court access. Cllr Goddin reported that nobody has been able to come up with any ideas regarding the use of the courts and how they can be booked and paid for by anyone other than from the Tennis Club membership.

Cllr Pellatt has looked at the Tennis Club website where it states that the courts are only open to members; could non-Tennis Club members also use this site?

The previous system whereby residents, who were not members of the Tennis Club could book the courts at the British Queen, this was working however covid and also some residents did not feel that children should be entering the pub to book courts. Further discussions to be had. Cllr Pellatt would like to be included. The annual fee for a family membership is £40.

10/04/22

Traffic Working Group

- Composition and Leadership – Agenda item for next month, clerk to clarify who is on the working group. **Action: Clerk**
- Vandalised speed indicator sign (SID) – the working group to notify the Parish Council what they wish the Council to do.

11/04/22

Village Infrastructure

- Bollards at the stock area. Clerk has not yet submitted replacements yet as further discussion is needed with regards to what can be done, there are now two damaged posts. This was not discussed.
- Both notice boards are now with the contractor and awaiting installation. Held up due to work load at the moment.
- Finger posts update. Clerk has not heard from the person who notified the council he would be able to do this.

12/04/22

Village Hall

Report from Cllr Fallon

Mr Paul Ray has now stepped down as Chairman and Mr David Coton is now the new Chairman, Secretary is Lesley Sratland the Letting Secretary is Julia Moore. At the moment they are looking for a Treasurer. At the present time the Village Hall are looking at getting the refurbishment of the kitchen completed, redecorating the toilets and main hall. It is hoped that they will be able to apply for a Jubilee grant to refurbish the garden. One grant available is the Community Chest Grant from SCDC, which the group are aware of.

12/04/22

Churchyard safety issues:

Cllr Goddin reported that the H&S inspection has been carried out by LIGTAS and their report has been forwarded to the Church Wardens. A meeting has been requested but nothing has been received, so far from the church. The Parish Council have now completed the task that the church had requested. Some of the items that have been brought to the Council's attention are low risk, however there were a couple of high-risk items which are the responsibility of the church. Another item raised, in the report, was concerned with gritting the footpaths. This is not something that the Parish Council carry out. Cllr Searles stated that at the previous meeting this had not been mentioned.

13/04/22

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration:

Community Chest Grant of up to £700 for Projects are available. £700 could be used to purchase a Memorial Jubilee bench. Clerk is looking into this matter and completing the relevant paperwork.

14/04/22

Grass cutting contract:

Due to timing of the grass cutting and the confusion of when the contract ended it was proposed by Cllr Goddinto accept a year's contract with the present grass cutter. Clerk had sent out four tenders, two of which are not able to do it and the other did not respond. Grass contracts have all increased due to the rising costs of fuel. A year's contract is for £11330, this was seconded by Cllr Fallon, vote taken – all in favour.

15/04/22

CCVS:

Parish Council to subscribe to Support for Community & Voluntary Groups. They help with benefits that could help the council and will ensure that the council is kept up to date with all the latest news. It offers support, training, information, fundraising, publicity and services. Cost is £60.00, it was agreed to wait until some projects were made available.

16/04/22

Finances and payments: April 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 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 7th April 2022

Payee	Amount £	Vat £	Description	Power
Salaries, HMRC, Pension	Confidential	0	Employees payments for March 2022	LGA 1972 s112
Drax Power	£	£	Street lighting power March 2022	PCA 1957 s3
E-On	£59.13	£2.82	Pavilion electricity	LGA 1972 s143
DP Garden Services	£721.66	0	Grasscutting March 2022 (end of contract)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Cambridge Water Business	£82.13	0	Water charges for Cemetery	OSA 1906 s9/10
Cambridge Water Business	£141.79	0	Water charges for Pavilion	OSA 1906 s9/10
Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme	£450.00	0	Quarterly charge for 5 members	LGA S137
Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd	£394.80	£65.80	Tightening of zip wire	LGA 1976 s19
Cambridgeshire Acre	57.00	0	Annual membership	LGA 197
Clerk expenses	43.38	0	Stamps, ink and fuel to SCDC	LGA 1972 s
SCDC	573.85	0	Rates – Pavilion	LGA 1972 s
SCDC	99.81	0	Rates – Burial ground	LGA 1972 s
Invoice paid between meetings				
34 SP	£95.40	£15.90	Website hosting April22 –April 23	LGA 1972 s133

It was proposed by Cllr Goddin that all payments were in order, this was seconded by Cllr Searles and agreed by all.

17/04/22**Reports from Councillors:**

Cllr Goddin reported that he and the Clerk will start to look at costs and tariffs for utilities. The costs of running our pavilion are likely to significantly increase and will need to be passed to users. Cllr Searles notified the meeting that he will not be standing again, Cllr Searles has been a member of the Parish Council since 2003 during that time he has looked closely at many of the projects presented to the Parish Council. He thanked all the councillors who had been on this journey with him. Cllr Goddin paid tribute to Cllr Searles for all the work he has done over the years, much of it on the much larger projects from the purchasing of Mettle Hill, to the affordable housing developments, the blocking of the large-scale development planned at Eternit, to many others and he will be sorely missed from the Planning Committee. It is a fantastic achievement to have served for 19 years and Cllr Goddin also thanked him for all his help and support in his role as Vice Chairman.

18/04/21**Future meetings:**

It was suggested by Cllr Goddin that meetings, apart from the Annual Village Meeting, should continue to take place in the Community Rooms on Elin Way.

19/04/22**Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 12th May 2022**

With the elections taking place on the 5th May it would be appropriate to hold the Annual meeting of the Parish Council on the 12th May. Meetings, following an election, need to take place within 14 days.

20/04/22**Annual Parish Meeting (Village Meeting) -19th May 2022**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 19th May at 8pm in the Village Hall.

21/04/22

Clerk's Report:

- CCC – verge cutting. In 2021 CCC adopted a new verge management policy. As part of the development of this policy CCC worked with the organization Plantlife. Plantlife are running the No Mow Way campaign and Cambridgeshire Highways are supporting the campaign and they will not be cutting any highway verges during the month of May. They would like to encourage the Parish Council to read the details of the campaign and lend your support. <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk>
Meldreth Parish Council cut the verges that CCC would normally do.
- Funded Pond Conservation Project – This is being run in conjunction with Natural England. This project helps restore ponds and create new ponds. Notice has gone out in Meldreth Matters.
- ZCC grant – 4th round of the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme. Has been sent to the working group.
- The new Greater Cambridge housing trajectory and five year housing land supply calculations for the new five year period: www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/current-plans-and-guidance/monitoring-delivery-in-greater-cambridge/

Exclude public and press for item 22/04/22

22/04/22

Payscales:

The payscales have now been received from NALC. Agreement to accept the new pay increments set by NALC and agreement for the back pay from April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022.

Clarification on Litter pickers SCP scale.

It was proposed by Cllr Goddin and seconded by Cllr Land that the Parish Council should honour the new pay scale increments on the salaries.

It was also proposed by Cllr Goddin that the Litter Picker be put onto SCP 8, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.

23/04/22

Agenda Items next meeting:

Other than those already in discussion there were no new items mentioned.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman then closed the meeting at 21.53. The next meeting will take place on the 12th May 2022 (the meeting scheduled for the 5th May has been moved due to the 2022 Elections).

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.