

**MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Un approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 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 R James (**RJ**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr M McGarry (MM), Cllr N Pellatt (NP), Cllr R Searles (RS)

In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Asst Clerk) Cllr van de Ven (CCC) and Cllr J Hales (SCDC)

- 
- 233/03/22**      **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)  
Apologies have been received from Cllr Garner (personal matters) and the Clerk, Mrs J Damant. These were accepted and agreed.
- 234/03/22**      **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.
- 235/03/22**      **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.  
There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 236/03/22**      **To Approve and Sign Minutes of Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022:**  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 237/03/22**      **Planning: (Town and Country Planning act 1990 sch 1, para 8)**  
(Full planning Minutes are available via the clerk, website or notice board)  
A planning meeting had not been held beforehand as there were no applications to consider.
- 238/03/22**      **District and County Reports: (Cllrs van de Ven, Hales and Hart)**  
The Chairman thanked the County and District Councillors for the very helpful information. He welcomed Councillor questions on the reports.  
Cllr James stated that there was a grim picture shown of the County Council financial deficit and asked how this was going to be addressed. Cllr van de Ven stated that the financial position was partly attributed to the County Council not raising their council tax to the recommended level. This would begin to be corrected in the 2022/23 budget adding that the budget gap changed from month to month. 80% of the budget was allocated to Adult and social care. If the national reforms went ahead the County Council would become responsible for a greater number of the population than at present. Cllr van de Ven offered to share details of County Council income generation with Councillors.  
Cllr van de Ven then advised that the new Head of NHS Peterborough and Cambridgeshire is arguing the case for fairer funding.  
Cllr Hales added that South Cambridgeshire District Council was implementing the maximum council tax increase that could be done without a referendum. He added that the District Council did not have anything like the number of services provided by the County Council.  
Cllr Hales then urged Councillors to review and keep their Register of Interests forms up to date.
- 239/03/22**      **Local and Regional Planning Issues:**
- Thakeham
  - Oxford – Cambridge ARC
  - Local Development Plan
- There was no further update on the above. It was suggested recently in the press that the Oxford – Cambridge ARC project may have been shelved. There were also suggestions that the East West Rail link had been scaled back.

- 240/03/22 Covid 19 Update**  
Current Situation and any Parish Council news.  
It was noted that support was still in place if there was a need to respond to the reintroduction of restrictions.
- 241/03/22 Flambards**  
A meeting was still to be arranged with the Flambards Association. The Chairman would arrange as soon as possible to get the feedback on the options. In the meantime the Chairman agreed to circulate a copy of the lease, with a plan, for the new Councillors. Cllr McGarry offered to join the working group which was agreed.  
**Action: Cllr Goddin**
- 242/03/22 Recreation Ground**
- February inspection report from Cllr Fallon  
The report had been circulated ahead of the Parish Council meeting; Cllr Fallon advised that the contractor was currently inundated with work resulting from the recent storms. The Parish Council would have to wait in turn for his services.  
The zip wire tightening was being arranged.
  - Ongoing Projects  
It was stated that the proposed see-saw and table tennis projects would be pursued with the Clerk.  
**Action: Clerk**
  - Request from Orwell FC to use pitch next season 22/23  
Cllr Pellatt reminded Councillors that Orwell Football Club had been using the Meldreth football pitch since the Meldreth side disbanded. The Club had asked if they could use the pitch again next season. He confirmed that the team complied with everything they had been asked to do and were up to date with payments.  
Councillors' agreed that at this time they could see no reason why the Club could not use the pitch for the 2022/23 season.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 243/03/22 Traffic Working Group**
- -Projects including LHI  
There was no further news on the LHI Panel decision. This was expected towards the end of the month. The Chairman explained the process to the new Councillors adding that if the Parish Council was unsuccessful again with the proposal, they may need to look for an alternative project for the next application.
  - Composition and Leadership  
The Clerk was asked to circulate the Terms of Reference of the working group to Councillors for discussion at the next meeting. The Chairman advised that there were also non Councillors in the group.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 244/03/22 Village Infrastructure**
- Update following meeting with Local Highway Officer 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
In the absence of the Clerk there was no update available at this meeting.  
**Action: Clerk**
  - Projects requiring attention  
As reported earlier the Parish Council contractor was busy at the present time so there were installation tasks outstanding.
    1. Demolition of Posts at the Stocks triangle  
It was noted that the posts had not prevented vehicles mounting the grass so were not suitable. Cllr Hales suggested that the Parish Council consider Bell Bollards as a replacement as these, even though expensive, would be more substantial.  
It was agreed that the advice of County Council Highways be sought as to which style of bollard would be acceptable.  
**Action: Clerk**  
Cllr Land suggested lorries be banned from entering the village from the stocks end. Cllr Hales stated that there had been a similar suggestion in another village and County Highways would not allow.  
It was stated that there was the same issue relating to the war memorial grassed area.
    2. Notice Boards/Bench  
The notice boards had now arrived and awaiting installation along with the bench.  
Litter bins also needed to be installed.  
**Action: Clerk**

## 3. Finger Post

The Assistant Clerk advised that a volunteer had offered to repaint the three panels and attend to the oak post at a cost of around £100. Councillors suggested that the same volunteer had refurbished the Bier a couple of years ago and had carried out a good job.

On a proposal by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr James, it was agreed that, subject to the volunteer being the same person who carried out the Bier work, he be asked to go ahead with the work to the finger post up to a maximum cost of £100. All Councillors in agreement. Clerk to confirm. **Action;Clerk**

**245/03/22 Churchyard safety issues Update**

Cllr James confirmed that the Risk Assessment report had been forwarded to the Church. There had not yet been a response.

A discussion took place on the recommendation not to remove the foliage on the Church wall as it added to the safety of the wall. Cllr Searles advised that there was to be a Church working group the following weekend and suggested that the members be reminded that the foliage should remain.

After further discussion the Chairman agreed to write to the Church representatives asking for feedback on the report and pointing out the comments regarding the foliage. **Action:Cllr Goddin**

**246/03/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Update**

- Community Chest Grant of up to £700 for Project

A suggestion on applying for a grant for an additional bench had been made by the Clerk in her absence.

Cllr Hales advised that the £700 Jubilee Project application should be made by the Parish Council, Applications to the general Community Chest fund could be made by community groups. There were no restrictions on the number of groups who could apply.

Cllr Fallon reported that several residents were proposing to hold a street party on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and would work with the British Queen Public House to put plans in place. The Church, Primary School and Maycroft were also interested. An article had been put in Meldreth Matters and on Facebook.

Cllr Hales advised that the fee to close a road for the Jubilee celebration was to be waived for this occasion.

Cllr Searles confirmed that the Church was planning to hold a fete on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by reminding Councillors that there were limitations on the amount of funding the Parish Council could contribute.

**247/03/22 Finances and payments: March 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

Payee	Amount £	Vat £	Description	Power
Salaries, HMRC, Pension	Confidential	0	Employees payments for February 2022	LGA 1972 s112
Drax Power	£2.55	£0.12	Street lighting power December 2022	PCA 1957 s3
E-On	£111.02	£7.27	Pavilion electricity January 22	LGA 1972 s143
DP Garden Services	£721.66	0	Grasscutting February 2022	OSA 1906 s9/10
Unlimited Logos	£78.00	£13.00	Panels and fixings for signs (from Oct 21)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Agrovista	£9.54	£1.59	Reinforcement pegs for play area (from Sept 21)	OSA 1906 s9/10
Ligtus Consultancy & Training	£342.00	£57.00	Holy Trinity Church Risk Assessment Jan 22	LGA 1972 s137
British Telecom	£331.14	£55.19	Office Phone and Broadband	LGA 1972 s133

<b>Invoices received since Agenda publication</b>				Pg 47
Unlimited Logos	£254.40	£	Signs and Stickers	OSA 1906 s9/10
The Parish Notice Board Company	£1860.00	£	Balance of payment for notice boards	OSA 1906 s9/10
Swimming Pool Fund	£1500.00	0	Additional agreed payment to £2500 approved at February 2022 meeting	S137 PHA 1936 s221

Invoices had been received from Unlimited Logos, for the latest signs and stickers, and The Parish Notice Board Company for the balance of the invoice relating to the new notice boards. Cllr Land advised that extra fittings would be needed for the signs.

It was noted that the payment of £2,500 towards the swimming pool had not yet been paid. The Assistant Clerk advised that she was waiting for bank details.

A discussion took place on a previous decision to contribute an additional £1500.00 towards the costs if needed.

On a proposal by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Fallon, it was agreed that a bacs payment for a total amount of £4,000 be made now as the school needed to move ahead with completion of the project before the Easter holiday.

Payments were proposed by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all.

248/03/22

### Reports from Councillors:

#### Cllr Fallon

Cllr Fallon reported that she had been approached by an Alms Housing Trustee asking about a grant to insulate the houses. It was unsure whether this a request for a District Council grant or Community Benefit request. Cllr Fallon would find out more information. **Action: Cllr Fallon**

#### Cllr Goddin

Concerns had been raised by a resident over issues with the High Street which everyone agreed was a mess. The housing development behind Maycroft was a major concern with heavy vehicles entering and leaving the site often mounting the pavement opposite and damaging the road margin. The amount of mud on the road and the increase in the number of vehicles parking on the road were also concerns.

A discussion took place on the possible actions where it was agreed that a representation to the SCDC Planners would be made to ask that the road be made good before planning conditions were signed off. The issue with the mud would be reported on the County Council website.

The Chairman to reply to the resident.

**Action: Cllr Goddin and Clerk**

#### Cllr Land

A report had been circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Land reported on the fencing which in some places allowed rabbits and muntjac to get into the grounds. There was a dead hedge/tree in the corner of the ground causing concern. Cllr Land stated that this could be blown down if there was a repeat of recent storms. A discussion took place on the availability of contractors to remove the hedge/tree. Cllr Land agreed to investigate.

**Action: Cllr Land**

There was a crack in the length of the green waste bin. South Cambridgeshire District Council would be contacted to see if they would provide a replacement.

**Action: Clerk**

The standpipe either needed a new tap or washer replacement. It also needed some insulation.

Cllr Land suggested that the lay-by at the front of the cemetery be upgraded to allow more vehicles. The area at present was very muddy. Councillors acknowledged that to upgrade the lay-by would be extremely expensive and County Highways were unlikely to see this as a priority.

The Clerk was asked to investigate with the Highway Projects Officer, **Action: Clerk**

#### Cllr Bostanci

Concern was expressed by Cllr Bostanci over the pandemic and how it had affected groups in the village. He was especially concerned over the Tennis Club which pre-pandemic used to provide coaching for youngsters. A discussion took place on the ongoing issue regarding access to the courts for non members. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the Club and ask what affect the pandemic had and also remind them of a response to the use of the courts by members of the public.

**Action: Cllr Goddin**

#### Cllr James

Cllr James referred to the amount of potholes around the village and reminded the meeting that everyone should keep on top of these by reporting the problem on the County Council website. It was also worth making strong representations to Cllr van de Ven as the County Council representative.

**249/03/22 Annual Parish Meeting -19<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The Clerk had booked the Village Hall for the meeting. Further discussion on requirements would take place at the next Parish Council meeting.

**250/03/22 Elections 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 –Timetable and Arrangements**

The timetable had been distributed to Councillors. The Notice would be put on the website and notice boards as instructed on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Nomination papers were to be with the SCDC Returning Officer by the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**251/03/22 Clerk's Report:**

There was nothing further to report.

**252/03//22 Agenda Items next meeting:**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15pm. The next meeting is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Orwell Parish Council are those signed in Public Meetings by the Chairman. They are available for public inspection from the Clerk