

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms on Elin Way.

Present: Cllr R Goddin – Chairman, Cllr A Bostanci (**AB**), Cllr J Fallon (**JF**), Cllr N Garner (**NG**), Cllr R James (**RJ**), Cllr C A Land (**CAL**), Cllr H Meridew (**HM**), and Cllr N Pellatt (**NP**)

In attendance: Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

- 097/09/22** **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 from Parish Councillors as all were present.
 Apologies were received by County Councillor Susan van de Ven, District Councillor Sally Hart and District Councillor Jose Hales.
- 098/09/22** **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. (*Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulation 2012/1464*).
 There were no pecuniary interests declared.
- 099/09/22** **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 was one member of the public in attendance.
 The matter of the East West Rail was raised in respect of any further news. Cllr James responded by saying that there is to be a meeting in September; however, no date has been given and there has been very little in the news.
- 100/09/22** **To Approve and Sign Minutes of Meeting held on 7th July 2022:**
 The minutes were proposed by Cllr Land, seconded by Cllr James and agreed by all. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.
- 101/09/22** **Planning: (Town and Country Planning act 1990 sch 1, para 8)**
 Planning meetings took place on 7th July, 4th August and 1st September. Minutes of these meetings can be found on the website.
- 102/09/22** **District and County Reports:**
 Update on the Ward Walk and Underpass – Local Authority report had been circulated to all councillors.
 It was asked whether the Ward walk had yet taken place, of which nobody was sure as if it had they had not attended. The Underpass project was mentioned in the report but they are waiting for further information on the survey, there were over 300 responses. When this project was first mentioned Meldreth had not been included, however Cllr Meridew stated that this project is part of the larger 'Greenway Initiative'. Cllr Goddin stated that he was still unsure as to what Meldreth are being asked to respond to, is it a case of being included or for funding? The majority of the underpass lies in the parish of Meldreth but Melbourn have been leading this project as the footpath goes from Meldreth to Melbourn via the underpass; however, Meldreth could now get more involved if they wished.
 Cllr Goddin reported that he still does not receive the South Cambs magazine and never has. The residents of North End are part of the distribution done by Orwell and it does not appear that residents receive the magazine. This has been mentioned over the years but still nothing appears to have changed.
 Repairs are to take place on the High Street in October, if Councillors have any questions regarding this then they should contact the local authority Councillors directly.

103/09/22

Donation of land:

Mr Braggins has approached the Parish Council with a request from his late mother who wanted to leave a piece of her land to the village. The Parish Council have been asked if they wish to accept this donation. The family have asked if "the woodland part of her garden beyond the footpath by the River Mel to be given to the village".

It was agreed by all that Cllrs Land and Fallon contact the owner to see if they would be able to visit the land in question. It would appear to be a natural extension and is west of the river.

Action: CAL/JF

104/09/22

Community Rail Partnership (Cllrs James and Bostanci)

The service is now an hourly service. At the meeting held in July they discussed the possibility of having an electric bike demonstration.

105/09/22

Meldreth Coronavirus Community Support(MCCS) – (Cllr James, Garner and Merridew)

Cllr James gave a report on where MCCS is at the moment. The group first started as a support for Coronavirus but have renamed to Meldreth Crisis support, but is overseen with the same volunteers. They have been looking at what can be done and how they can fill gaps left by other authorities. At the moment there are 4 phases and an article will be placed in Meldreth Matters.

1. Food bank

The food bank is still very popular and will take place at the Community Rooms on Elin Way. It will be held between 10 and 12 on Tuesdays and will be run the same way it was at the church.

2. Warm Places & Hot Hubs

Cambridgeshire Acre are running schemes to help those residents who may find it difficult with the cost of electric and keeping warm. Cambridgeshire Acre have approached SCDC who have agreed to let the Community Rooms, rent free for this project. Cllr Fallon stated that she is a resident of the Sheltered Scheme and has already seen her rent increased, which also supports the Community Rooms. Further information will be coming.

3. Electricity Bills

SCDC are looking at putting in a loan scheme for items such as slow cookers.

4. Coach trip to Hunstanton for Ukraine families.

Trip has been postponed.

Cllr Meridew reported that more volunteers are needed has anybody thought of joining resources with Melbourn?

Cllr James reported that a lot will happen over the next few months and other areas will be looked at to see if they could support the Warm Places and Hot Hubs such as the Village Hall and Church Hall. Cllr Meridew will contact the Village Hall Chairman and speak to Julie who takes the bookings.

Action: HM

Cllr James mentioned that the Parish Council agreed to a £1000 donation to the MCCS, which wasn't needed in the end. Could the Parish Council agree to renew this offer?

Cllr Goddin stated that further information is needed as to how the Parish Council are able to help. It was questioned that as the Parish Council do not have the power to give to individuals are they allowed to give a donation to a group who will be using the money to support individuals. Clerk to enquire as to what powers they have.

Action: Clerk

The previous donation was not being used for individuals so it needs to be a new application.

Cllr Goddin stated that even if agreed in principle there are still too many loose ends that need clarifying before the Parish Council can agree.

It was proposed by Cllr James that the Parish Council donate £1000 to MCCS who will oversee the loan procedure they feel will be needed in the Cost-of-Living Crises, which may happen within the next few weeks. This will be subject to the clerk being satisfied of the legalities of S137 and any other relevant legalities. This was seconded by Cllr Bostanci. A vote was taken with 7 in agreement and 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Cllr Fallon also mentioned that there is also the village charity that people can apply to.

106/09/22

Recreation Ground and Pavilion:

Inspection report for July and August from Cllr Fallon. All the equipment seems to be in good condition though repairs to the rocking horse still needs to be done.

Report from Cllr Land on Dog Fouling – there was no report.

Adult Gym Equipment is due to be looked at by Fresh Air Fitness on the 15th September.

Cllr Land will look at the foot platforms on the large rocking horse.

Matting will be done once the dry weather has stopped, but a quote is still awaited. Repairs to the guttering also needs to be done.

Bench still to be installed at North End/Whitecroft Road.

It was asked if further trees can be planted in the recreation ground? Trees are part of the future plan of the recreation ground. There are other items that need to be incorporated before the trees can be planted.

- 107/09/22 Village Infrastructure**
- Notice Boards to be erected at Elin Way/Whitecroft Road and opposite the station.
 - Notice board outside the shop does it need newperspex? The notice board seems ok for the time being, but residents need to secure the door with the bolts inside. The other door is broken in that the wooden knob can't be moved. A new fastening to be done.
 - Speed sign along Whitecroft Road – Clerk to contact Highways again to see if this sign can be moved so that it can incorporate Marys Way. **Action: Clerk**
 - Speed sign and Kill your Speed sign along North End – Clerk to speak with Highways. **Action: Clerk**
- 108/09/22 What can the Parish Council do to engage with residents so that some projects which may be beneficial can get off the ground:**
Cllr Meridew would like to promote schemes such as children's weekend activities, Food bank, Time bank to name a few ideas. Some of these need further investigations however there are many areas that have Time Banks including Melbourn. Further information is required on how these are run and by whom. **Action: Clerk/HM**
- 109/09/22 Traffic Working Group:**
There is to be a meeting on Thursday 15th September where many of the items that have been raised will be discussed further.
- 110/09/22 Churchyard safety issues**
Cllr James met with the Church Warden a few months ago and it was left that they would contact the Parish Council, but has not heard anything. Clerk has arranged to have the grass tidied up before the Car Show on the 11th September. Clerk has not heard from Dr Draper either.
- 111/09/22 Community Benefit Application:**
It was proposed by Cllr Goddin to accept the request of £700 for Relate, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.
- 112/09/22 MAYD:**
Cllr Garner reported that the meeting has had to be postponed. He stated that a request of funds will be expected and he envisages this to be around £1000, if a grant is successful, if not it could be £2000.
- 113/09/22 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:**
It was proposed by Cllr Fallon to except the Standing Orders, this was seconded by Cllr Land and agreed by all.
Financial Regulations are still in date and will be signed off at the next meeting.
It was asked what the electric tariff is for the pavilion? Clerk is looking into the electricity to see what can be done. **Action: Clerk**
- 114/09/22 Finances and payments: August and 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 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.

Payee	Amount £	Vat £	Description	Power
Salaries, HMRC, Pension	Confidential	0	Employees payments for July/August 2022	LGA 1972 s112
Drax Power	£	£	Street lighting power	PCA 1957 s3
E-On	£16.56	£0.79	Pavilion electricity	LGA 1972 s143
DP Garden Services	£	0	Grasscutting August 2022	OSA 1906 s9/10
Phillimores Garden Centre	£59.16	£9.86	Garden pegs and weed control	OSA 1906 s9/10
SCDC	£10.00	£0	Hire of community room July 2022	LGA 1972 s133
British Telecom	£353.39	£58.90	Office telephone/broadband	LGA 1972 s133

Viking	£100.19	£16.70	Stationery	Pg 23 LGA 1972 s133
Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme	£825.00	£0	Quarterly donation July-September 2022	LGA 1972 s137
Starboard Systems Ltd	£480.00	£80.00	Scribe subscription Nov22-Oct 23	LGA 1972 s133
2 Commune Ltd	£510.00	£85.00	Website hosting, support & Licence 22/23	LGA 1972 s133

Payments were proposed by Cllr Fallon to be correct, this was seconded by Cllr Goddin and agreed by all.

Additional Payment: Melwood Insurance proposed by Cllr Goddin, seconded by Cllr Fallon and agreed by all.

Clerk to look into the BT bill to see why it appears to be so high.

Action: Clerk

Clerk to also look into the Warden Scheme.

Action: Clerk

115/09/22

Bank Signatory:

Update on Cllr Merridew's application – still to be done.

Action: HM/Clerk

116/09/22

Village Hall:

The Village Hall reopens on the 5th September, decision on where to hold the Parish Council meetings as of 6th October 2022. It was agreed by all, to hold the October meeting at the Community Rooms.

117/09/22

Reports from Councillors:

Cllr James – Transport. It appears that the recent press release that a congestion charge will be introduced.

Cllr James also reported that the ditch at Chiswick End is extremely dry.

Cllr Fallon reported that the official opening of the Village Hall will be on the 2nd October between 2 and 5pm. Cllr Fallon will be opening the Hall.

Cllr Land reported that vandals appear to have moved to the burial ground where a grave ornament has been broken. Rabbits are again causing some problems; Cllr Fallon will ask if Mr Carter will remove some of the rabbits.

Action: JF

Cllr Pellatt enquired if the football invoices have been sent out. Clerk will send out. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Pellatt also reported that it was a tractor that hit the railings along the High Street, this has been reported on the website and to Highways.

118/09/21

Clerk's Report:

- Training sessions on the gym equipment. These can be done but insurance needs to be clarified first. **Action: Clerk**
- An article went into Meldreth Matters for August pg. 42 with instructions on how to report highway problems such as potholes.
- Invite to the Chief Inspector Paul Rogerson Parish Council Presentation – Policing South Cambs 2022. This will be via Zoom on Wednesday 5th October at 7pm. Cllrs have been sent the invite.
- Clerk has signed up for the following courses: CAPALC Annual Conference £75.00; Cemetery Management and Compliance £120.00
- Clerk has sent the CAPALC Bulletin which has information on Carbon and various training sessions.
- Notice regarding a new councillor has been put up and notification to SCDC has been sent.

119/09/22

Agenda Items next meeting:

Financial Regulations

Policies

Gym Equipment

Gym training sessions

Cooption

Meetings

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.40hrs. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 6th October 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.