

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 23rd February, 2015 at All Saints' Community Hall at 7.15p.m.

Present: Cllrs. R.Tulloch (Chairman), M.Townsend, J.Norman, M.Sherwen, R.Gatward J.Hales, I.Bloomfield, C.Stead, K.Crosby, A.Mulcock, V.Barrett and J.Regan

In attendance: The Clerk and C.Cllr S. van de Ven

PC138/14 Apologies for absence:

Cllr Linnette for personal reasons

PC139/14 Declaration of Interest:

Cllr Regan PC132/14 declared a non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Little Lane.

PC140/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January, 2015

Cllr Baker was added to the list of apologies.

It was proposed by Cllr Stead and seconded by Cllr Sherwen that the amended minutes of 26th January, 2015 be accepted as a true record. This was carried.

PC141/14 Matters Arising:

None

PC142/14 To consider an application from Una Cleminson to fill the vacancy on the parish council.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR BARRETT AND SECONDED BY CLLR BLOOMFIELD THAT UNA CLEMINSON BE ADMITTED TO MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY. This was CARRIED.

PC143/14 To receive a report from C.Cllr Susan van de Ven

Melbourn Parish Council, February 2015, County Councillor Report

1. **The County Council has agreed a council tax rise of 1.99%**, which is the maximum permitted in the government's capping requirement. Together with a dramatic fall in government revenue support grant, and a dramatic rise in the aging population, there is a very significant shortfall in the council's ability to fund public services. Cuts are being made according to statutory duty and very often these are cuts which decision-makers do not agree with. The most difficult of these cuts to my mind are those which impact people who are vulnerable.
2. **Street lighting switch-offs:** From April there will likely be switch-offs of street lights in 'residential' areas between midnight-6AM as an energy cost-saving exercise. This will take place in those villages where the council has been able to afford to invest in 'Central Management System' technology that allows the manipulation of individual street lights. Meldreth and Melbourn will be affected and so will Station Road which is classed as a residential road. This is an anomaly as the road is obviously a key connecting road to the A10 and between the villages, but

I have been unable to persuade the council to change the classification of the road. The parish councils of both villages will have the option to pay to keep those lights on if they wish; the cost should be 'small' though I don't have details yet. In response to queries on street lighting, I have asked the relevant officer, to provide some background information on the street lighting contract – attached below.

3. **Transport infrastructure funding:** the County Council's expenditure on new transport infrastructure funding comes from grants from the Department for Transport, which are separate to its overall government revenue support grant. The City Deal is another government funding mechanism again which relates directly to growth in the Greater Cambridge area.

A key feature is the three tranche funding stages over a period of fifteen years: tranche one funded schemes have to meet completion requirements to trigger tranche two, and so on. The overall aim is to mitigate against gridlock road congestion and enable people to get to work and the projects that have been put forward are those that meet these requirements. It was expected that the A10 Royston-Cambridge cycle network would have been awarded tranche 1 funding but the City Deal Executive decision has focused on Cambridge City cycle schemes and bus priority lane schemes in critical corridors where the highest housing growth rates are due – for example the A428 connecting to Bourn and Cambourne.

There is a strong view that the A10 needs addressing sooner rather than later due to the preponderance of employment centres along the corridor, and the flow of traffic to Cambridge including the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. I am working with officers on other potential funding possibilities.

4. **High Street bus stop re-siting:** Just to check that Melbourn PC has responded to County Council officer Andrew Hunt's proposal?
5. **Gritting:** I rode the gritting lorry through Melbourn last month and learned a bit about the operation. Fortunately there are no cuts to routes this year though I would expect there will be next year.
6. Bridgefoot Quarry: individual arrested on suspicion of arson – no further police action. I have requested more information from the Police.

Street light PFI Contract background from Tom Blackburne-Maze:

County Councils are under increasing financial pressure with reducing budgets. At the same time many highway assets are nearing the end of their lives and this means they are unable to be maintained to the standards we would all like. Like our roads, street lights are no different. Many of the County's 56,000 street lights are long past their life

expectancy and in 2010 over 40% of our lighting stock had already exceeded its design life, failed to meet current lighting standards and in some cases could have been unsafe. Old steel columns rust from the inside out and therefore deterioration is not visible on the outside and reinforcement in old concrete columns rusts and the concrete spalls and cracks. In other cases many don't have electrical feeder pillars are directly fed off the grid with no earthing. The County Council was fortunate to be awarded a 25 year PFI contract with Balfour Beatty to bring the County Council's street lighting up to current standards within the first 5 years of the contract and then to maintain them for a further 20 years. The Contract was approved by the County Council's Cabinet on 26th October 2010 and I attach a link to the minutes of the meeting for your information.

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=67>

As part of the PFI agreement with Central Government, DfT are paying the County Council £100m of PFI Credits over 25 years which, in real terms, pays for the capital costs of the new streetlights. The County Council would not have been able to do this without this level of central Government funding. As part of the PFI Contract with Balfour Beatty, Balfour Beatty design the new streetlights to meet the current lighting standards and undertake the maintenance of the new streetlights. The County Council doesn't have to pay for any more replacements, gains an improved performance in faults and reporting and pays about 46% less in energy costs every year. For this, the County Council pays a fixed monthly unitary charge for the 25 years which is reduced in the first 5 years by the % of the upgrade programme still to be completed. Financial deductions are also made for all performance failures against the Contract's output specification throughout the 25 years. In the current financial year, 2014-15, we estimate this has provided the County Council with savings of approximately £600,000 over what it would have had to pay to use the old streetlights if we didn't have the PFI Contract. Therefore without it we have not been able to afford to light the ones we had or repair and replace those which were unsafe. As the programme completes the upgrade throughout the County the level of savings gets greater. In 2016/17 we estimate the saving will be in the region of £1.4M allowing these savings to be reinvested in other critical County Council services.

The new street lighting currently being implemented across Cambridgeshire conforms to the latest British Standards. The old yellow lanterns are being replaced with a new white light throughout the County which directs light down to the road illuminating more of the highway. These lanterns are the newest technology, are much more efficient and provide a white light which is clearer and safer for both drivers and pedestrians and are used widely across the Country by other Authorities upgrading their streetlights. The new technology installed within the new lanterns additionally enables us to dim the lights during off peaks hours by 40%.

The Authority has saved £70m in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and is on course to save a further £31m this year. Next year, the choices being made by our Councillors are even harder as we have to find a further £32.6 million next year and a further £121.4 million over a further four years. In total these savings represent approximately £255M and about half of the overall revenue funding the Authority previously received in 2011 to deliver all of its services. This is also at a time when the demands and needs in the County Council's provision of services to adults social care, education and vulnerable

children has increased and is continuing to increase enormously. Members have therefore had to make the difficult decision to switch off many residential streetlights between the hours of midnight and 6am. This is not a proposal that is being taken lightly and not one that either Members or officers have any desire to implement, but the Authority has been placed in a funding position by Central Government where it can no longer afford the energy to keep all streetlights on all night.

Streetlighting has been widely provided by Local Authorities in the past. However, contrary to common public perception, streetlighting is not a statutory function. Highway Authorities are only empowered to provide streetlighting to illuminate the public highway but there is no requirement for them to do so. Many roads in the County, including those in villages, don't have any streetlighting at all and in a large number of other cases it is provided by District or Parish Councils. In Cambridgeshire, approximately 4,000 streetlights are provided by Parish Councils which are not adopted by the County Council. Where the County Council provides streetlighting itself, priority is given to illuminate the County's highest trafficked roads, accident blackspots and those areas which the police have requested. Streetlighting is not provided by the highway authority to light private properties. Cambridgeshire Constabulary have been consulted upon these proposals which is similar to those adopted by many other highway authorities in recent years.

- PC144/14 To receive Financial Report dated 31st January, 2015**
The Clerk issued the report (see Appendix 1).
IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR CROSBY AND SECONDED BY CLLR BARRETT THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2015 BE APPROVED. This was CARRIED.
- PC145/14 To receive details concerning online banking.**
The Clerk gave details of the operation of the online banking arrangements.
- PC146/14 To receive details of cheques/BACS payments to be drawn on the Parish Council's Account as detailed or amended by late payments. To approve payment and agree the amount(s) to be transferred from the Business 'No Notice' Account to the Current Account.**

See Appendix 2

The Clerk recommended the transfer of £30,000 from the Business No Notice Account to the Current Account. This was approved. **IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR STEAD AND SECONDED BY CLLR BLOOMFIELD THAT THE CHEQUES BE SIGNED AND THE TRANSFER APPROVED. This was CARRIED.**
ACTION: The Clerk
- PC147/14 To review the Standing Orders**

This item was postponed until the next meeting.
- PC148/14 To consider the budget proposals for the planting of wild flowers.**

By the time of the meeting, the budget proposals had not been received. This item will go forward to the next agenda.
- PC149/14 To consider a quote for the maintenance of the S106 areas**

IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY

CLLR STEAD THAT THE QUOTE FROM HERTS AND CAMBS GROUND MAINTENANCE LTD FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE S106 AREAS BE ACCEPTED. This was CARRIED
ACTION: The Clerk

PC150/14 To receive details of a proposal regarding a Neighbourhood Plan from the Melbourn Futures Committee.
IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR TULLOCH AND SECONDED BY CLLR SHERWEN THAT THE MELBOURN FUTURES COMMITTEE BE ALLOWED TO INVESTIGATE THE CREATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. This was CARRIED by 10 votes to 3.

PC151/14 To receive a request from the Bowls Club re: signs
The request was accepted and the Bowls Club to be contacted and thanked for its efforts.
ACTION: The Clerk

PC152/14 To consider a quote for work on Little Hands Nursery
The meeting considered a quote from Ashton Renovations for increased ventilation in the Baby Room at Little Hands Nursery.
IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR TULLOCH AND SECONDED BY CLLR BLOOMFIELD THAT THIS QUOTE BE ACCEPTED. This was NOT CARRIED by 11 votes against with two abstentions.
IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR TULLOCH AND SECONDED BY CLLR REGAN THAT LITTLE HANDS NURSERY BE ASKED TO COMMISSION A DAMP REPORT FROM AN ACCREDITED FIRM BASED ON SITE CONDITIONS AND THE USE OF THE BUILDING TO PRESENT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL. This was CARRIED.
ACTION: The Clerk

PC153/14 To consider a request from Be Active re: Shetland Ponies
IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR CROSBY AND SECONDED BY CLLR NORMAN THAT BE ACTIVE BE GIVEN PERMISSION FOR SHETLAND PONIES TO BE USED ON THE RECREATION GROUND ON ITS FUN DAY. This was CARRIED.

PC154/14 To approve the application for a loan re: car park
IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR HALES AND SECONDED BY CLLR REGAN THAT MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL APPLY FOR A PWLB LOAN OF £200,000 FOR THE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE CAR PARK. This was CARRIED with one abstention: Cllrs. R.Tulloch (Chairman), M.Townsend, J.Norman, R.Gatward J.Hales, I.Bloomfield, C.Stead, K.Crosby, A.Mulcock, V.Barrett and J.Regan voting for and Cllr Sherwen abstaining.

PC155/14 Correspondence

- (a) E-mail from Naomi Tayler re: 16 Mortlock Street was noted. Cllr Regan to visit.
- (b) E-mail from Rebecca Eastwood, SCDC re: Precept was noted.
- (c) E-mail press release 100 Houses was approved.
- (d) E-mail from David Atkins re: Be Active was noted.

PC156/14 To consider any matters arising out of the following committee meetings:
Planning 2nd Feb, Highways 9th Feb, Play Areas 9th Feb, Melbourn Futures

Committee, 11th Feb.

Cllr Mulcock raised the matter of state of Royston Road verges as a result of the solar farm cable laying.

PC157/14 To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

(a) Street-lighting.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20p.m. p.m.

APPENDIX 1: FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 2015

Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary between 01/01/15 and 31/01/15 inclusive.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Business 14 Day	£113,077.46
Business No Notice	£91,574.69
Community Building Fund	£50,117.27
Current	£125,820.10
Martin's Charity	£221.28
Melbourn Community Hub	£94,364.70
Parish Plan	£2,022.50
Petty Cash	£72.53

Loan Received Accounts

Public Works Loan Board loan	-£650,000.00
Total	-£172,729.47

Balances at start of period

Ordinary Accounts

Business 14 Day	£113,171.20
Business No Notice	£161,373.91
Community Building Fund	£50,134.95
Current	£16,996.70
Martin's Charity	£221.40
Melbourn Community Hub	£83,397.67
Parish Plan	£1,973.00
Petty Cash	£257.64

Loan Received Accounts

Public Works Loan Board loan	-£646,451.06
Total	-£218,924.59

RECEIPTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Conservation	£155.78	£0.00	£155.78
Cemeteries	£410.00	£0.00	£410.00
Play & Rec	£763.00	£0.00	£763.00
F&GP	£6,436.87	£0.00	£6,436.87
Total Receipts	£7,765.65	£0.00	£7,765.65
PAYMENTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Conservation	£3,207.66	£424.00	£3,631.66
Cemeteries	£8,487.09	£1,679.89	£10,166.98
Play & Rec	£2,057.59	£201.22	£2,258.81
F&GP	£10,700.11	£491.84	£11,191.95
Planning	£4,257.00	£743.80	£5,000.80
Total Payments	£28,709.45	£3,540.75	£32,250.20

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Business 14 Day	£113,171.20
Business No Notice	£139,139.56
Community Building Fund	£50,134.95
Current	£14,877.23
Martin's Charity	£221.40
Melbourn Community Hub	£83,397.67
Parish Plan	£1,967.50
Petty Cash	£132.41

Loan Received Accounts

Public Works Loan Board loan	-£646,451.06
Total	-£243,409.14

APPENDIX 2: EXPENDITURE TRANSACTIONS FOR FEBRUARY, 2015

Tn no	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Invoice Details	Cheque	Total
					date		
717	104302	£2,400.00		£0.00	£2,400.00 09/02/15	Melbourn Village	
		College - £2,400.00				Donation to MVC for	
						Project	
723	104303	£16.00		£0.00	£16.00 16/02/15	Barbara MacKellar - 83, High Street	£16.00

733	104305	£870.00	£145.00	£725.00	23/02/15	Limbach Banham	
Solicitors £870.00						- Charges relating to	
SLA						and proposed lease.	
734	104306	£150.00	£25.00	£125.00	23/02/15	R & N Engineering -	
Inspect £150.00						suspect tampering with	
						pavilion lock handles	
701	BACS	£2,100.00	£350.00	£1,750.00	02/02/15	Purple Recycling Ltd -	£2,100.00
						Demolition of the skate	
						board ramps	
709	BACS	£2,880.00	£480.00	£2,400.00	09/02/15	Sweett (UK) Ltd -	
contract £2,880.00						administrator services	
721	BACS	£158.00	£0.00	£158.00	11/02/15	Melbourn Community	
Hub £158.00						Management Group -	
Room						hire and refreshments	
696	BACS	£99.60	£16.60	£83.00	02/02/15	Langham Press Ltd - C5	
						envelopes	
697	BACS	£90.00	£15.00	£75.00	02/02/15	Langham Press Ltd -	
1pp £189.60						letter in 2 kinds	
698	BACS	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	02/02/15	ASSM - Asset	
Management £100.00							
707	BACS	£1,140.00	£190.00	£950.00	04/02/15	MPE Alarms and	
Security £1,140.00						Systems Ltd - supply	
and						installation of additional	
						CCTV cameras	
699	BACS	£4,158.00	£693.00	£3,465.00	02/02/15	Transport Planning	£4,158.00
						Consultants - Appraisal	
of						Transport Assessment:	
						New Road	
714	BACS	£1,959.42	£326.57	£1,632.85	09/02/15	Andrew Martin -	
Planning £1,959.42						Ltd - services for the	
						consultation period	
700	BACS	£89.82	£14.97	£74.85	02/02/15	Stationery Cupboard -	£89.82
						Paper	

722	BACS	£1,260.00	£210.00	£1,050.00	16/02/15	Furnitubes - Estgate seat	£1,260.00
693	BACS	£439.80	£73.30	£366.50	28/01/15	Unlimited Logos - amendments to 8 x village sign boards	£439.80
695	BACS	£3,974.94	£662.49	£3,312.45	02/02/15	Cambridgeshire County Council - Grounds Maintenance contract	£3,974.94
718	BACS	£1,250.00	£0.00	£1,250.00	10/02/15	Shire Tree Surgery - of mature dead chestnut tree	
	Felling	£1,250.00					
708	BACS	£678.00	£113.00	£565.00	09/02/15	MD Landscapes - work carried out in Oct/Nov	£678.00
703	BACS	£1,400.40	£233.40	£1,167.00	02/02/15	Herts And Cambs Maintenance Limited - Cemetery contract	
	Ground						
704	BACS	£492.00	£82.00	£410.00	02/02/15	Herts And Cambs Maintenance Limited - Remove stump green wood chip	
	Ground						
705	BACS	£222.00	£37.00	£185.00	02/02/15	Herts And Cambs Maintenance Limited - allotment clearance	
	Ground						
719	BACS	£144.00	£24.00	£120.00	10/02/15	Herts And Cambs Maintenance Limited - Remove dead/dangerous tree next to pavilion	
	Ground	£2,258.40					
715	BACS	£29.88	£4.98	£24.90	09/02/15	ESPO - Refuse sacks	£29.88
735	BACS	£225.71	£37.62	£188.09	23/02/15	Ricoh UK Limited - charges and rent	
	Click	£225.71					
Staff costs, Tax & NI				£5006.62			
706	Cash	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	04/02/15	Sarah Adam - MBA Breakfast	£10.00
710	Direct Debit	£313.22	£52.20	£261.02	09/02/15	e.on - elec charges for pavilion	

711	Direct Debit	£7.80	£0.37	£7.43	09/02/15	e.0n - Elec charges for ORC		
712	Direct Debit adj	£9.79		£0.56	£9.23	09/02/15	e.0n - elec charges for sports & social club	
716	Direct Debit	£7.62		£0.36	£7.26	09/02/15	e.0n - Elec charges for ORC	£338.43
720	p.271 on£11.14	£11.14		£0.00	£11.14	10/02/15	Jose Hales - expenditure public meeting	
Total		£31,693.76		£3,787.42	£27,906.34			