

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 24th February, 2014 at All Saints' Community Hall at 7.15p.m.

Present: Cllrs. R.Tulloch (Chairman), M.Townsend, R. Gatward, M. Sherwen, J.Norman, P.Simmonett, M.Linnette, I.Bloomfield, C.Stead and J.Regan

In attendance: The Clerk, CCllr S.van de Ven, and 5 members of the public

PC135/13 Apologies for absence:

Cllrs V.Barrett, J.Hales and K.Crosby

PC136/13 Declaration of Interest:

None

PC137/13 Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January, 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr Simmonett and seconded by Cllr Regan that the minutes of 27th January, 2014 be accepted as a true record. This was carried.

PC138 /13 Matters Arising:

None

PC139/13 To receive a report from C.Cllr Susan van de Ven

Melbourn Parish Council February 2014 County Councillor Report

County Council budget synopsis

Context

Having made £74m worth of cuts over the past two years there is a further £149m to come over the next five years. The County will not be taking Mr Pickle's Council Tax freeze of 1% but will be increasing the rate by 1.99%. The council is now looking at (1) their property portfolio including the Shire Hall site in Cambridge where Castle Court is on the market 2) charging for more or less everything that's currently free and (3) cutting back services including Children's Centres, youth work, community transport, buses, winter maintenance, Home to School transport and so on.

Together with a cap on the amount that can be raised through council tax increases, and increasing demographic pressures, in the coming year Cambs County Council has to make savings of £38 million in an overall spend (excluding schools) of £537 million.

Council tax will rise by the maximum permitted amount (avoiding a referendum) of 1.99%. In cash terms, the annual extra charges will be: Band A £14.58, Band B £17.01, Band C £19.44, Band D £21.87, Band E £26.73, Band F £31.59, Band G £36.45, Band H £43.74. Cambs CC tax level is slightly below the national average for shire counties. A 2% rise in council tax equals about £5million in revenue spend.

The main service reductions are:

Learning Disability Pool: £1,300k; Learning Disability Transport: £280k; Community Equipment Service: £281k; Nursing Care placements, Residential Care placements and Home Care hours: £6,667k; Voluntary and community organisation: £283k; Reduce home care packages: £700k; Service to Disabled Children: £270k; Looked After Children: £1,759k; Youth Offending Service: £175k; Children's Centres: £1,250k; Home to School transport contracts: £1,040k; Early Years: £1,163k; Youth Support: 110k; Drug and Alcohol Action team: £100k; all traded services to be self-funding: £210k; Highways Services contracts: £669k; Road Safety budgets: £310k; Phase out bus subsidies: £873k; Reduce funding to community transport schemes: £150k.

In a late amendment, the administration was able to identify extra windfall resources and was able to re-invest as follows:

Children's Centres: £200k; Mental Health: £200k; Learning Disability: £100k; Older People: £200k; Transport £500k; Winter gritting: £200k. Total £1,400k.

My main efforts went into arguing the case for community and rural transport, and this paid off to the extent that funding was allocated at the last minute through the windfall listed above. The £500K is unspecified but a cross-party committee will be convened to examine how it can be most effectively spent. Community Transport for Melbourn is simply not viable without grant funding and subsidy is also required to ensure a viable bus service. The 128 to Royston is subsidized and the 26, which provides the only service to Cambridge, is considered 'marginal.'

Melbourn issues

Superfast Broadband update for residential properties: Earlier attempts by Melbourn householders to communicate with Virgin about lack of hook-up were not fruitful – Virgin's answer was simply 'we can't do it' when in fact it has now been ascertained that in many cases it can be done but would involve an additional cost to the household. Where the Connecting Cambridgeshire team have been made aware of these issues, they have been in contact with Virgin Media to obtain details of what the additional costs would be and will let residents know what this is so that they can choose to follow up with Virgin media if they wish. If you are aware of particular issues please let the Connecting Cambridgeshire team know by emailing contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk.

MAYD met earlier this month to discuss the initial proposal from Groundwork. We began our discussion with the question: should we continue? The unanimous consensus was yes, absolutely. We are meeting with Groundwork on March 19th to discuss their proposal in detail.

The Practical Solutions Group met earlier this month to discuss ASB related issues, and this was followed up at the Police Panel shortly thereafter. I've asked via the Police and the Locality Worker whether Melbourn could tap into Detached Youth Work provision and am waiting to hear back.

Mobile Warden Scheme: As you may know, Meldreth's mobile warden scheme came to an end in the not-too-distant past. Since I took up the role of Meldreth District Councillor last May I've been aware of a small but distinct need for the service. I approached the Melbourn Scheme to ask if there might be some capacity to take on one or two clients from Meldreth. The answer was 'possibly' though any arrangements would naturally require full and proportional funding from Meldreth PC.. Meldreth PC holds the remaining Meldreth Mobile Warden funds which would comfortably allow it to make the necessary contributions to the inclusion of a small number of new clients under the Melbourn scheme umbrella. I have now communicated also with one potential client and have discussed financial arrangements.

Balfour Beatty Street lighting: Cllr Hales and I have met with a new BB customer relations officer tasked with trying to clean up points of contention and confusion left over from last year's work in Melbourn. We will know soon whether or not there is any further work that can be carried out in Melbourn, to meet residents' concerns.

Station Road pot holes: I've asked Highways to please return to Station Rd to do more work, given the fact that the road surface is deteriorating so rapidly.

Network Rail's Foxton Level Crossing feasibility study will be discussed at the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group AGM, March 12th, 7 for 7:30, at MVC. Representatives from the County Council and NR have been invited.

The report was received by the council prior to the arrival of C.Cllr S. van de Ven. The Chairman remarked as to the cuts to vital and critical services.

Cllr Stead reported that he had attended the Foxton Exhibition which was good and that he intended attending the Network Rail one in Royston which will discuss the whole line.

On her arrival, C.Cllr S.van de Ven reported on the cuts, suggested that a possible way forward might be the uniting of some councils into a unitary authority to find efficiencies through economies of scale, and that some of the cuts have been mitigated by the introduction of the cross-party committee system. She raised the question of the number 26, bus which needs to be supported, and the request to include one or two people from Meldreth in the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme. Both of these issues were supported by the council.

PC140/13 To receive Financial Report dated 31st January, 2013

The Clerk apologised for not submitting the report due to network difficulties and some concerns regarding one or two transactions. He will submit it to councillors as soon as possible.

ACTION: The Clerk

PC141/13: To receive details of cheques 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.

Cheque list

Chequenu mber Supplier	Tn. no Details	Paid date	Gross	Vat	Net Cttee
103904	543		£155.47	£0.00	£155.47 F&GP
Broker Network Ltd	Insurance for contents in the hub				
103906	542		£10,753.20	£1,792.20	£8,961.00 PLAY
PAS Building Services	Work on the pavilion				
103907	544		£1,339.20	£223.20	£1,116.00 F&GP
Marfleet Construction	Display wall works				
103908	545		£260.40	£43.40	£217.00 F&GP
Teacrate	Crates for moving the parish office				
103909	556		£200.00	£0.00	£200.00 F&GP
ASSM	Play equipment valuations				
103910	557		£1,167.00	£194.50	£972.50 CEM
Herts And Cambs Ground Maintenance Limited	Cemetery contract				
103911	597		£58.80	£9.80	£49.00 CEM
Barcham	rabbit guards				
103912	560		£82.70	£0.00	£82.70 PLAN
Tim Stebbings	car park peak period study				
103913	561		£16.00	£0.00	£16.00 CON
Barbara MacKellar	materials for 83 High Street				
103914	564		£993.60	£0.00	£993.60 F&GP
Bridget Smith	Project development and fundraising				
103915	565		£3,308.00	£551.33	£2,756.67 F&GP
Birketts	Professional charges relating to the hub				
103916	566		£299.00	£49.83	£249.17 CON
Wrights Mower Centre	new mower				
103917	567		£685.20	£114.20	£571.00 F&GP
Melbourn Village College	parish office rent + shredding arrangements				
103918	568		£10.00	£0.00	£10.00 F&GP
CAPS	Deduction from wages				
103919	569		£321.60	£53.60	£268.00 PLAY
ESPO	Noticeboards -green				
103919	570		£87.60	£14.60	£73.00 F&GP
ESPO	Noticeboard - red				
103919			£409.20	£68.20	£341.00
103920	572		£1,270.00	£0.00	£1,270.00 F&GP
Melbourn Community Hub Management Group	Hire of rooms Jan - Dec 2014				
103921	576		£1,459.20	£243.20	£1,216.00 F&GP
Gratte Brothers	Kitchen equipment for the Hub				
103922	579		£435.60	£0.00	£435.60 F&GP
John Travis	Upright display chiller for the Hub				
103922	580		£90.00	£0.00	£90.00 CON
John Travis	Peat and plants for the flower tubs				
103922			£525.60	£0.00	£525.60
103923	581		£50.40	£8.40	£42.00 F&GP
Stationery Cupboard	office supplies				
103924	582		£156.10	£26.02	£130.08 F&GP
Ricoh UK Limited	rental for the new photocopier				
103925	583		£922.09	£0.00	£922.09 F&GP
Hundred Houses Society	Sinking fund for hub				
103926	587		£2,148.00	£358.00	£1,790.00 CON
MD Landscapes	grass cutting for Sept				
103926	588		£396.00	£66.00	£330.00 CON
MD Landscapes	grass cutting in Oct				
103926	589		£18.00	£3.00	£15.00 CON
MD Landscapes	grass cutting Nov				
103926			£2,562.00	£427.00	£2,135.00
103927	590		£3,897.00	£649.50	£3,247.50 CON
Cambridgeshire County Council	ground maintenance Oct '13 - March '14				
103928	593		£136.50	£0.00	£136.50 F&GP
Alison Cockburn	Matches & cleaning				
103929	594		£450.00	£0.00	£450.00 CEM
Shire Landscapes	tree clearance in ORC				

103930	595	£540.00	£90.00	£450.00	F&GP
MPE Alarms and Security Systems Ltd CCTV camera					
103931	596	£108.00	£0.00	£108.00	CEM
Langham Press Ltd cemetery leaflets					
103932	599	£19,860.00	£3,310.00	£16,550.00	PLAY
Ashton Renovations part payment for work on the pavilion					
103933	601	£318.40	£0.00	£318.40	F&GP
G.D. Squires wages					
103933	602	£26.60	£0.00	£26.60	F&GP
G.D. Squires Mileage allowance 38x0.70					
103933		£345.00	£0.00	£345.00	
103934	603	£393.00	£0.00	£393.00	F&GP
K. Rudge wages					
103934	604	£48.30	£0.00	£48.30	F&GP
K. Rudge Mileage allowance 69 x 0.70					
103934		£441.30	£0.00	£441.30	
103935	605	£879.14	£0.00	£879.14	F&GP
P. Andrews wages					
103936	606	£592.00	£0.00	£592.00	F&GP
Sarah Adam wages					
103937	607	£1,402.63	£0.00	£1,402.63	F&GP
Peter Horley Clerk's salary					
103938	608	£781.39	£0.00	£781.39	F&GP
HM Revenue & Customs Tax & NI					
Total		£56,116.12	£7,800.78	£48,315.34	
Running Sub Total		£56,116.12	£7,800.78	£48,315.34	

The Clerk recommended the transfer of £50,000 from the Melbourn Community Hub Account to the Current Account.

The Clerk recommended the transfer of £30,000 from the Business No Notice Account to the Current Account.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stead that the cheques and transfers be approved and signed. Seconded by Cllr Sherwen and approved.

ACTION: The Clerk

[At this point in the meeting, being 7.43 p.m., Standing Orders were suspended to allow for public participation. (See Addendum)]

PC142/13 To sign a S106 Agreement in respect of Development of Langdale Farm, Cambridge Road, Melbourn.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY CLLR SIMMONETT AND SECONDED BY CLLR GATWARD THAT THE S106 AGREEMENT BE ACCEPTED AND SIGNED. THIS WAS CARRIED.

The agreement was signed by the Chairman and the Vice-chair and witnessed by the Clerk.

PC143/13 Correspondence:

- (a) E-Mail from the Maureen Brierley on behalf of the River Mel Group complaining about dog fouling on the banks of the river. The council decided to erect some signs by the river bank. The Clerk to contact Unlimited Logos.
- (b) E-Mail from a concerned resident about anti-social behaviour in the car park. The council noted the concern of the residents, urged members of the public to report such matters to the police and intimated that the anticipated refurbishment of the car park will mitigate this behaviour due to the design and lighting of the car park and the erection of security cameras.

ACTION: The Clerk

PC144/13 To consider the calendar for next year

The Clerk gave the reasons for amending the calendar. The calendar was accepted.

PC145/13 Urgent Matters:

- (a) The Clerk reported the request from the owner of the kebab van to leave his van there overnight. The council had no objection to this but said it would be entirely at his own risk.
- (b) Cllr Gatward raised the issue of seeds the corner of Fordham Way and Palmers Way. The Clerk indicated he knew nothing about this. The Clerk to check.
- (c) Cllr Simmonett raised the question of a request for a disco in the new pavilion. The council did not raise objections but indicated there would have to be time restrictions.
- (d) The Clerk raised the issue of altering some of the timings of meeting. This led to a general discussion about meetings which will be addressed at another time.

ACTION: The Clerk

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

ADDENDUM

A member of the public presented a petition calling for a bus shelter to be placed on the High Street in the vicinity of the Community Hub in the direction of Cambridge. This was sympathetically received by the council which said it would be looked at as part of the refurbishment of the car park.

Younger residents raised some concerns about the Youth Club which is subject to negotiations at the present time although there is a general consensus that it ought to continue.