

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

(District of South Cambridgeshire)

A meeting of this Council was held on Monday, 28 October 2019 in the large upstairs meeting room of Melbourn Community Hub at 7.30pm.

Members of the public are reminded that copies of reports and supporting documentation for agenda items can be obtained from the Parish Council website, <http://melbournparishcouncil.co.uk> or on request to the Clerk

Present: Cllrs Clark (Chair), Cowley (Vice Chair), Hart, Buxton, Barnes, Wilson, Kent

Absent: None.

In attendance: Mr Simon Crocker – Parish Clerk, Cath Sharman – Timebank co-ordinator, District Cllr Hales, District Cllr Hart, County Cllr van de Ven and Twelve members of the public.

PC080/19 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Travis and Kilmurray, acceptable reasons had been given.

It was:

RESOLVED that the apologies be received and approved

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Buxton – All in favour.

PC081/19 To receive any Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Members are reminded that they are required to ensure their Declaration is updated within 28 days of any change in circumstances.

There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation.

PC082/19 Chair's Announcements – For information only.

The Chair made the following announcements:

1. The Chair will be attending a meeting with the Primary School with a view to raising speeding awareness. Any recommendations resulting from the meeting will come to an appropriate meeting for consideration.
2. There has been no response from Melbourn Village College regarding correspondence from the Parish Council re antisocial behaviour

PC083/19 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 September 2019

It was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd September 2019 be approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Buxton – All in favour.

PC084/19 To report back on the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 23 September 2019

There were no actions to report

PC085/19 Melbourn Village College: To consider entering into partnership with the Village College and supporting an application to South Cambs Zero Carbon fund.

Following the presentation from Melbourn Village College head pupils in September 2019, the Clerk reported that the eligibility criteria for the new South Cambs District Council Zero Carbon grant fund were such that the village college could only apply if doing so in partnership with the Parish Council, who would be the lead partner and submit the application on their behalf.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would enter into partnership with Melbourn Village College, and submit an application to the Zero Carbon grant fund on their behalf.

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Barnes – All in favour.

- PC086/19 Public Participation:** (For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments and questions to the Parish Council – 3 minutes per item)

The Chair suspended standing orders to allow public participation

The new committee of Grinnel Hill BMX club were in attendance to discuss a site boundary issue and introduce themselves. The Parish Clerk agreed to send a plan highlighting the site boundary.

Representatives from Melbourn Football club were in attendance to ask about plans to provide an artificial 4g pitch as part of the S106 agreement between Hopkins homes and the local planning authority. The Chair reported that the Parish Council were not involved, and District Cllr Hales reported that the facility was due to be ready by Summer 2020. The Chair further reported that there would be a public meeting next year to discuss the wider issue of how to spend S106 money.

A member of the public queried what efforts the Parish Council had made to attract new applicants to the community grant fund, and queried the perceived absence of minutes and audio recordings on the Parish Council website, as well as the quoracy of recent futures working party meetings.

The Chair thanked those present for their contributions.

The Chair re-imposed standing orders

- PC087/19 To receive the Clerk's Report.**

There was no report this month.

- PC088/19 To consider a combined report from District and County Councillors for Melbourn**

A combined District and County Cllr report was circulated (attached herewith).

The report was *noted*

- PC089/19 Correspondence:** Parish Clerk to report on any correspondence needing to be brought to the Council's attention (Schedule Herewith)

Two items of correspondence were considered. One from a local landowner adjacent to the BMX club and another from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough against scams partnership.

Both items were *noted*.

- PC090/19 Governance Matters:**

- a) **To consider executing an indemnity in respect of an S106 agreement related to the new development at Victoria Heights.**

It was:

RESOLVED to execute the indemnity

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Barnes – All in favour.

- b) **To consider a report from the Melbourn Futures Working Party.**

John Regan, member of the futures working party, was in attendance for this item.

An initial brief on a Welcome pack for newcomers to the village was considered. Members expressed thanks to the Assistant Clerk for her work on the project. A request for funding in the next financial year was also considered. Funds to be used on consulting on the emerging local plan and printing and delivering welcome packs.

It was:

RESOLVED to approve the draft welcome pack

Proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Barnes: In Favour – Cllrs, Hart, Barnes, Clark, Cowley, Buxton, Wilson. Abstentions – Cllr Kent.

AND

RESOLVED to allocate £2,500 for consultation and welcome pack delivery in next year's precept

Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Cowley – All in favour.

PC091/19 Finance Matters:

a) **To consider a report on the current S106 position.**

The Parish Clerk reported that following the execution of the indemnity under agenda item PC090 19 a) All expected S106 income from the development at Victoria Heights was now accounted for. The Chair reported that there would be a public meeting next year to consider how best to spend it.

The report was *noted*

b) **To receive and consider the monthly finance report**

It was:

RESOLVED to receive the monthly finance report

Proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Wilson – All in favour.

c) **To receive and consider the approvals list for October 2019**

It was:

RESOLVED that the monthly transactions list for October 2019 be received and approved.

Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Cowley – All in favour

d) **To consider a request to pay insurance for Grinnel Hill BMX club.**

It was:

RESOLVED to pay the insurance premium of £1,434.50 From community grant funds

Proposed by Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Buxton – All in favour.

PC092/19 Village Maintenance Matters:

a) **To consider a report from Football clubs on Rabbit damage to sports pitches**

The Parish Clerk reported an increased level of correspondence from local football clubs reporting Rabbit damage to the pitches, leading to potential trip hazards. The Parish Clerk reported that the pests act 1954 placed a duty on the Parish Council to control Rabbits on its land.

It was:

RESOLVED to seek quotes and advice from pest control organisations.

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Wilson – All in favour.

b) **To consider the purchase of an asbestos waste wheelie bin for use at allotments**

The Parish Clerk reported that following the site clearance of asbestos earlier in the year, small fragments were still turning up from time to time, and proposed the purchase of a hazardous waste bin.

It was:

RESOLVED to seek quotes for a bin subject to logistical and legal enquiries

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Buxton – All in favour.

c) **To consider the provision of signage at Stockbridge Meadows**

ACTION: Take to Maintenance Committee

PC093/19 Risk Assessments: To consider any new or updated risk assessments

The Chair of HR reported that work on risk assessments was still ongoing and would be an agenda item at a future Finance & Good governance Committee meeting.

HR Matters: To receive and consider any updates from the HR panel

It was reported Health & Safety issues would be a standing agenda item in the future

PC094/19 Councillors' reports – For information only. To consider items from Councillors – to be added to a future agenda if necessary

The Chair reported requests for agenda items should be sent to the Parish Clerk

PC095/19 To note date of next meeting: 25 November 2019

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:40

Melbourn Parish Council October 2019 - District and County Councillors' Report

1st Orwell Scouts: Autumn Litter Pick: Thanks to the First Orwell Scouts (of Melbourn) who did a big litter pick along the A10 cycle path from Foxton Level Crossing south to Fowlmere Road Shepreth. They want to do it every year!

Beechwood Avenue traffic meeting: This will take place Tuesday 29 October, 7:30PM, at the Hub, and will be supported by Joshua Rutherford of County Highways.

Buses – Cam Vale Bus User Group: The Cam Vale Bus User Group Nov 12 meeting has been rescheduled for the new year – date to be confirmed.

Cross-border bus services: Excellent contact has been established with North Herts District Council's transport officers on a range of public transport fronts, including bus, train and cycle links. South Cambs and North Herts colleagues and Susan will be meeting with council bus officer representatives from both sides of the border to ascertain if and how we can pool resources to improve cross-border bus services.

Busway Service A (Royston-Melbourn-Cambridge-St Ives): Susan has asked Stagecoach for an update on this service's performance. Stagecoach have responded to say that they are looking to enhance their services, and to introduce some new vehicles to the fleet, and will be holding a public consultation event soon – details to be shared as soon as available.

Busway A stop along the A10 at Fowlmere Rd Shepreth junction: Following the Cam Vale Bus User Group's request to Stagecoach, this stop is to be reinstated with immediate effect.

Charging for care: Cambridgeshire County Council is once again consulting on proposed new charges for people receiving adult social care services—in some cases the same charges it consulted on two years ago, which service users overwhelmingly rejected. The consultation runs until Sunday 15 December 2019: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/chargingforcare-yoursay

Budget update: While the Government has announced £3.5Bn of funding for councils in the coming year, this includes the continuation of 'one-off' grants allocated this year. The threat of 'negative revenue support grant', under which the county council would have to pay over £7M to the Government (rather than the other way round) has been lifted for another year. The Government is assuming council tax will increase next year by 2 per cent for general spending and 2 per cent for social care.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has promised £25Bn for spending on roads, but less than one hundredth of that amount, £200M, for buses, a sum that has been described as a drop in the ocean.

Parking on Pavements: conflicting messages from Cambs Police: Contrary to communication from the Police at a July Parish Council Liaison meeting, when it was suggested that reporting pavement parking three times would result in Police action, the following Police communication has now been received. This is in the process of being challenged by SCDC.

“There is no longer an ethical case to focus police resource on parking when there is, immediate and growing violent crime and safeguarding to issues tackle.

- Whilst our increase in officers will be focused on these serious matters it will mean some extra time can be given to matters such as parking. Remember however time “on the beat” is precious and over 101 parish's remains a challenge

- PCSOs are often perceived as having very simple front line roles, this is not the case, a good deal of their time is spent helping officers tackling priority issues such as risks to young people, the elderly and vulnerable.
- 22 interventions is positive, but proves the rather useless nature of enforcement, as over time we have proven without doubt that enforcement makes no long term difference. Whilst seeing tickets on windscreens is satisfying for a moment in time a new way must be found to tackle this issue, we have tried to be innovative and offer some alternative ideas.
- We have worked with SCDC who have similar challenges with balancing resource, budgets and officer's time against what is a persistent but low risk issues."

Finally, the Police ask that reporting for non-emergency matters be made on line: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/>

Trains

E-tickets – A couple of points in this section are being double checked for Monday's meeting

Train journeys from our local stations can be made via e-ticketing. Please note that paper tickets bought at the Meldreth Station booking office help to keep our manned office in place – so do buy from Bern Parsons whenever possible.

The trainline app <https://www.thetrainline.com/> is a good place to buy a train ticket that provides a swipeable bar code for tapping in and out on journeys originating or terminating at our local stations. This app is set up to process rail card discounts, unlike the GTR app (next item).

The Govia Thameslink new 'Key Smartcard' will be available for journeys from Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton to Cambridge and points north, in the next few weeks. This is already available for travel south (the glitch being that Cambridge Station is operated by another train operating company, Greater Anglia, and their systems haven't talked to each other until now). Pedestals for Key Smartcard activation exist on both platforms at all three of our local stations. This is a work in progress still with some limitations:

A season ticket can be uploaded onto the card and stored electronically. We're awaiting confirmation that this includes the Cambridge Student Connect card for 16-18 year-olds.

A debit or credit card is linked to the 'Key Go' card for tapping in and tapping out on journeys. The cheapest fare for that journey will be applied. However, for now, Railcards (16-25s, Senior Railcard, Network Card, etc) cannot yet be applied to the fare calculator, so for discount card holders it's necessary to keep using paper tickets for applicable discounts. This should be resolved at some point in the future.

The card is currently only applicable to Thameslink network journeys, but the expectation is that it will be applicable nationwide on all networks.

The card is currently available on line only; the prospect of selling it at Meldreth Station is being explored. Please visit <https://www.thameslinkrailway.com/tickets/the-key-smartcard>

Cambridge North Station services: Unfortunately, as expected, the December 2019 timetable sees an end to this through journey; people travelling from Meldreth to Cambridge North will now need to change trains at Cambridge. This is due to platform capacity issues and an increasingly busy and competitive timetable. The Rail User Group has lobbied hard to retain the through service for

obvious reasons; this is disappointing news but we will keep at it, as the timetable is always a work in progress with two updates every year (May and December).

Semi-fast service to London – The Rail User Group is still lobbying for the return of a semi-fast London service from Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton at peak time.

Passenger Benefit Fund: Details are beginning to be announced – a full report is due soon.

Fostering: The County Council is trying very hard to dispel some myths around fostering, as we always need more foster families who are willing to help with the 600 or so children in care at any one time in Cambridgeshire. Fostering is a hugely rewarding role – have you ever thought about it?

In particular one myth is that foster carers do not receive any support with their work. However, all of our foster carers receive a generous allowance as well as 24-hour access to support and training with an allocated fostering social worker who is the main point of contact.

In fact, the only requirements are that prospective carers are over 21 and have a spare bedroom! You can be single, married, in a civil partnership, in rented accommodation or retired. For more information on fostering (and adoption), see

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/>

Modern-day slavery: In her role on the Local Government Association Safer Communities Board, SCDC Leader Bridget Smith has been hearing from the Commission which is about to report on Modern Day Slavery. This is not something which happens elsewhere - it is happening on all our doorsteps and is often difficult to recognise. Even more concerning is to hear that some people in prison are actually victims of slavery rather than perpetrators of crime. An example would be young people arrested for County Lines drug running who are actually being controlled through fear and coercion by organised crime gangs. The Commission will be demanding better support for victims, more robust punishment of the criminals and improved means of identifying modern day slavery. In South Cambs we know to keep a close eye on agricultural work gangs, tarmacking enterprises and car washes. Bridget was told that if you are paying under £6.50 for your car to be washed it is unlikely that people are receiving the minimum wage. If you have any concerns it is vital that you report it. Here is the way to do it:

Telephone call 101 - www.cambs.police.uk/report - Textphone 18001 101 or anonymous reporting Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111

On the verge: ‘Plantlife’ campaign has launched its new road verge guidelines which aim to fundamentally transform the management of the UK’s verges. The guidelines provide practical advice on how local authorities can fulfil their biodiversity duties whilst reducing management burdens over time, using real life examples of how good management is already being implemented on the ground. Over 700 species and nearly 45 per cent of our total flora are found on our road verges. 97 per cent of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s, so these crucial habitats need to be properly managed. The less and later, two-cut approach suggested in the guidelines would replenish the seed bank, restore floral diversity, save councils money and provide pollinator habitat estimated to equal the size of London, Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff and Edinburgh combined. A County Council team of members is asking highways officers for a briefing on what differences these guidelines would mean for Cambridgeshire, and how the council is planning to implement them.