

## Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-

Chairman	Mr E Webb
Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
Councillors	Professor A Milton, Mrs M Peyton, Mr L Ginger,
District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
Parish Clerk	Mrs Y Albery
Parishioners	7 present

- 1.0 Apologies for absence** were received from County Councillor Mrs Linda Oliver and Councillors Mr Philip Neale and Dr Nigel Strudwick.

**The Chairman introduced to the meeting, Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) Lee Nutbeam and Emma Garwood. They are based at Melbourn and explained their function and duties which cover 18 villages. They rely on the public to provide them with information regarding incidents such as vandalism, minor crimes etc.**

**As part of their function, they try to maintain a visible presence as frequently as their duties allow. Many questions were put to the officers who provided the meeting with a good insight into their work. The Chairman thanked the officers for sparing the time to attend the meeting. Contact may be made to the PCSO's by telephoning (0845 456 456 4)**

The Chairman then informed the meeting that Mary Coussey had been honoured with an MBE in the recent Honours List.

### **2.0 Approval of minutes**

All councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one for the Main Notice Board.

### **3.0 Matters arising**

#### **3.1 Children's Play Area.**

Mr Neil Gallery provided the meeting with an update of the status of the Play Area Project. They have £2700 in the bank at present and have applied for further funding from SCDC. They have also sent in an application to the Community Aggregate Fund. They have many ideas for other fund raising activities and are hoping to involve the children of the village in some of the events. District Councillor Cathcart stated that he will follow up the funding application.

#### **3.2 Traffic Problems**

The Clerk has written to Mr David Lines concerning a 30mph speed limit and a weight restriction and has yet to receive a reply. Much concern was expressed at the possible intrusion of heavy lorries resulting from the proposed landfill development at the Eternit Site. There is an agreement between Eternit and CCC that all lorries should use the Mettle Hill route to avoid the village. Councillor Ginger offered to contact Eternit to discuss the problem. It has been reported that lorries of foreign origin have been coming through the village late at night.

#### **3.3 Village Handyman**

The Chairman has seen the log book relating to the Play Area equipment. The required checks have been made and the book has been signed up to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007 by the Clerk. The book is being kept up to date. Both the green and black rubbish bins for the Village Hall should be put out in correct rotation. The Chairman will speak to Mr Carter about this.

#### **3.4 Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct has been adopted by all Councillors, which includes paragraph 12(2). The new Code takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007. A vote was taken as to whether adoption of the Code should be advertised by CALC at a cost of £24.00. Four councillors voted YES and one councillor abstained.

**4.0 New Correspondence**

A letter has been received from ACRE updating development of some aspects of the Parish Plan in conjunction with the Local Strategic Partnership.

A letter has been received from SCDC concerning 'Sustainable Community Strategy'.

A communication has been received from SCDC whereby the telephone box in Meldreth Road will be changed to 'Card Use Only'. The box at the top of Bridge Street will be unchanged.

**5.0 Planning**Permission Granted.

S/0449/07/F, for Mr W Burchett, of 7 Bridge Street for an extension.

S/0774/07/LB, for Mr W Knight, of 132 Church Street for flexible stainless steel chimney liner.

**6.0 Finance**

Cheque No. 100549 £294.00 for Mr M Carter ( Handyman)

Cheque No. 100550 £60.00 for Mr P Chilvers (Internal Audit)

Cheque No. 100551 £75.00 for Mr L Sullivan ( Copies of Maps)

Cheque No. 100552 £17.70 for Mr E Webb (Wallets for drawings)

Cheque No. 100553 £6.00 for Mrs C Byatt (Photos)

**7.0 Village Hall****7.1 Boundary Wall**

A letter has been received from Cunningham Lindsey (Assessors) with an offer of £1350.00 toward the repair. As this matter has been in progress for several months, a new quote was requested from the builder and a new figure has been received. Unfortunately this has resulted in a price increase and the councillors asked the Clerk to write to C. L. requesting that they raise their offer taking into account the extra cost.

**7.2 Other Matters**

It is hoped to have the VH planning application in the post by next weekend. At the annual Church Fete on 14<sup>th</sup> July, the Plans of the Village Hall were displayed for Public comment.

The metal from which the bollards are made is unsuitable for welding of handles, but this situation will be looked into for an alternative method for lifting the bollards.

**8.0 Comments from the Public**

A member of the Public brought it to the meeting's attention that the junction at Mettle Hill Road and Whitecroft Road was dangerous due to the lack of vision when turning left to Whaddon. The adjacent hedgerow and a bank of trees restricted the driver's view of oncoming traffic. It was suggested that the Clerk/Chairman of Meldreth Parish Council should be approached to see if joint action could be instigated to improve matters.

Mr Neil Gallery requested a copy of the ROSPA report which may be needed in his bid for funding for the proposed Play Area.

Mr Mike Monks stated that he was taking over the position of co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch from Mrs L Shaw with immediate effect. He also said that he was disappointed with the frequency of grass cutting in the village. The Chairman pointed out that with a limited budget, only four cuts of the verges per year are currently paid for by CCC and grass cutting of the recreation ground is paid from the Parish Precept.

**9.0 Any Other Business**

A meeting relating to the Parish Paths Partnership (PPP3) will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> July with regard to replacing the kissing gates at both ends of Meldreth Road field. The cost of these new gates will not be taken out of the £300 allocated to the PPP3 project.

Chairman Webb asked the Councillors to take a vote on the proposed purchase of a wooden bus shelter to replace the existing one at Ridgeway Close. All Councillors agreed. He also stated that as the new shelter will be located in a new position on the green, work would need to be co-ordinated with the usual utility companies.

**AOB (Contd.)**

A member of the public has purchased some graffiti remover and has now cleared the graffiti from the footpath map at the Whaddon Gap car park.

Councillor Ginger stated that the CCC are now seriously considering our request for an improvement to the bus service in Whaddon.

It was suggested that another 'Litter Pick' should take place throughout the village and it was agreed that volunteers meet at the Village Sign at 10.00 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Chairman will make enquiries as to cost and availability of fluorescent jackets for the pickers.

**There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm.**

**The date of the next meeting is 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 7.30pm**