



APM(15)M

## Melton Parish Council

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting of Melton held on Wednesday 29 April 2015 commencing at 19:00 in the Hall at Melton Primary School, Melton Road, Melton IP12 1PG.

### Present: Parish Councillors

Cllr Mrs B Abbott Cllr Mr J E Bale Cllr Miss E A Barrington Cllr Mr G Butterwick Cllr Mr A G Corston Cllr Mrs E J G Hilson	Cllr Mr M Kennedy Cllr Miss K S Martin Cllr Mr A H Porter [Chairman] Cllr Mr C W Taylor Cllr Mr J West
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### Present: Electors

Mr D Gallon Ms J Gallon Ms M Burgess Ms G Harrison Mr S Dunckley Mr L Dann Ms B Dann Ms C Shaw Mr M Price Mr J White Ms S Bale Mr N Brown	Mr E J Klahn Mr P Webb Mr T Gradwell Ms C Gradwell Mr T Pryke Ms Mary Addington Ms J Abbott Mr P Bruce Mr M Girling Ms M Allen
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### In Attendance:

Mr W J Grosvenor <i>Clerk to Melton Parish Council</i>	
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15.01	<b>INTRODUCTION – CHAIRMAN MELTON PARISH COUNCIL</b> The Chairman of Melton Parish Council, Cllr Alan Porter, warmly welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting.
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<p><b>15.02</b></p>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  The following apologies were received:  Mr P Brockett  Cllr J Eckersley  Ms Carol Smith  Cllr A Thompson  Cllr M Webb  Ms P Williams</p>
<p><b>15.03</b></p>	<p><b>REPORT ON THE WORK OF MELTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015</b>  The Chairman gave his Annual Report which is also available on the Parish Council website at:  <a href="http://www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/index.html">www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/index.html</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Melton Parish Council</b>  <b>Chairman's Annual Report 2014/ 2015</b></p> <p>This is my first report as chairman as I took over from Bryony Abbott last April.</p> <p>Melton Parish Council consists of up to fifteen full councillors who may also serve on the three committees. The current council has 15 members but the new council starts on May 11<sup>th</sup> with only eleven, as 6 have stood down - whilst we have recruited 2 new people, we still need 4 more.</p> <p>We have full council meetings every other month and we have 3 committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Employment and Risk Management (FERM)</li> <li>• Planning and Transport (P&amp;T)</li> <li>• Recreation (REC)</li> </ul> <p>All our meetings take place in public and everyone is welcome. We do get members of the public coming along which is lovely to see.  Agendas and minutes are published on our website. <a href="http://www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk">www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Melton Parish Council works in partnership with local organisations in the village to strengthen community, identity and involvement. We are represented on the governing body of Melton Primary School by Cllr. Katy Martin, at the Burness Parish Rooms by Cllr. Mike Kennedy and on the Melton Trust charity by Cllr. Tony Thompson. Although both Mike and Tony are standing down both are happy to continue on these committees on behalf of the council.</p> <p>Activities over the past full council year include the following highlights from our work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning</b></p> <p>This year has been a challenging one for the parish council's Planning &amp; Transport Committee. Underlying everything has been the changes in government policy, which are aimed at securing economic development by making it easier for landowners (including householders) to build. The most significant of these changes has been the ruling that, as the district council has not identified sites sufficient for five years' of housebuilding, only national and not Local Plan policies can be used as a reason for refusing an application. The situation is similar in many parts of the country and is leading to developers coming forward with proposals which would otherwise never have seen the light of day. More of this anon.</p> <p>The district council's new planning system means we have to sift through the 68 applications we received to sort the procedural ones on which our views are not actually being sought (and which we never used to see) and those from householders where only the district councillor can ask for them to be heard by the Suffolk Coastal Development Management Sub-Committee. Our task has also been made harder by SCDC's decision,</p>

in apparent breach of their statutory duties, not to tell town & parish councils when a planning application has been decided, leaving us to search the website far too frequently for information we used to receive in writing. That's progress for you.

As in the past, the parish council has made representations in every case on which we are able to comment. In the majority of cases, we recommend approval, but in 12 cases we have recommended refusal - at all times basing our comments on sound planning grounds. Our committee chairman has addressed 3 meetings of the SCDC committee, all in the last 4 months. Suffolk Coastal has refused planning permission in 6 cases, some in line with our recommendation, some not.

In addition to actual planning applications, developers have hosted exhibitions on a number of proposals, whilst others are rumoured but we remain in ignorance. We have the developer's appeal against Suffolk Coastal's refusal of permission for 188 houses at the top of Woods Lane due to start on 12th May. Much hangs on the outcome of this, and not just in Melton. We know of proposals by the same agent for 264 dwellings on Yarmouth Road, and the complex scheme to relocate both Woodbridge Town FC and the St. Audry's Cricket and Football clubs to the old Notcutt's nursery site just over the border with Ufford on Yarmouth Road, with housing being built on the two existing sports grounds. Should the developer win the appeal, we can expect proposals to develop more sites within Melton. And of course we now have work starting on building SCDC's new HQ on the old Girdlestone site, with their Melton Hill site being marketed with potential for residential development.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has been continuing to work on the difficult task of producing a statutory development plan for the village. There will be a brief presentation on this important project later on.

#### **Crime reports and policing efforts**

Compared to local towns, Melton remains a safe place to live, although a spate of recent burglaries gave cause for concern. We participate in the Safer Neighbourhood policing initiative and were represented at their meetings last year by Cllr. Chas Taylor. As residents will be only too well aware, our main policing problems in Melton are to do with car parking and incidents of speeding traffic, of particular concern are Melton Road and the crossroads near Melton Primary School. Hopefully, once the builders have finished in Old Maltings Approach things may ease but once work starts at the SCDC site and the Cedar House site who knows what traffic chaos will ensue! Work will be done to refresh the yellow lines so that the police can enforce them.

#### **Melton Woods and Playing Fields**

We call this the "Jewel in Melton's Crown", we have been lucky this year that the wind damage we suffered last year was not repeated. We have spent some money to sort out fallen trees and we will have to address the poor condition of the lime trees adjacent to Melton Road, they are covered by a TPO. So we have to get permission before work is carried out.

The playing fields are still in a soggy state. We have been investigating the causes and paid for a professional report. We shall now seek funding to implement the recommendations. The whole issue of the flooding has absorbed a lot of effort with so far not much result but I do hope things will get sorted this summer.

We are grateful to Keith Stebbings who still acts as our Park Warden and does a grand job of tidying up and ensuring the park is safe. Liz Ashford, a long-standing resident, acts as a volunteer on the Recreation Committee.

The woods and fields are maintained by our contractors SCS. Simon and his sons do a good job looking after the recreation ground.

#### **Traffic & Transport**

The Traffic & Transport Working Group has been much occupied with problems of parking and traffic levels, both of which seem to have passed a tipping point this year, judging by the number of complaints received. Finding solutions will be difficult, but we are working with county and district councillors on the problem. The group has been looking at introducing both Quiet Lanes and 'watch your speed' signs in Melton, whilst the quarterly *Public Transport Guide* continues to be produced.

1. Draft T&T strategy paper endorsed, and has begun to be implemented.
2. Good relationship firmly established with local highways officers.
3. Highways senior management presentation to MPC in the summer.
4. MPC helped to get road resurfacing and repairs in Melton expedited.
5. New traffic light system at Woods Lane/Melton Road junction -and barriers at level crossing.
6. Quiet Lanes pilot - Melton will be considered for any phase two pilot
7. T&T priorities for Melton adopted by MPC have been broadly reflected in the resident and business views from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.
8. Speeding hotspots in Melton have twice been made Safer Neighbour Hood Team (SNT) priorities during the last Council year.

Not everything has progressed as MPC would have liked, and during the second half of the year it has been a very slow and frustrating experience for all concerned at getting real progress on some issues but we haven't given up trying.

### **Recreation**

1. We have had a height barrier installed at the recreation ground car park entrance and the pedestrian access reinstated and improved.
2. We have worked with SWT to lay the hedge between the playing field and Hutchison's Meadow. This will improve the quality of the hedge by thickening it which will, in turn, improve the habitat for wildlife
3. Had emergency tree work completed in the woods and along the hedge by the road
4. Had a full survey of the drainage problems on the small playing field
5. Friends of Melton Woods have done litter clearance and work round the pond and along paths in the woods, however it has been a less active year than previously.
6. Worked with the special events group to hold the successful Melton Fete. MPC provided the toilets etc.

### **Finance & Risk Management (FERM)**

2014/15 was expected to be a difficult year for the Council financially as we did not increase our precept and our income from the redistribution of business rates fell and we had to set aside over £9,000 from reserves to balance our budget. Our year end position shows a healthier financial position:

- Cost control – our move to sharing offices with SCDC reduced our costs and we contained our administrative spend
- Malcolm Green's retirement and the handover to our new clerk, William Grosvenor
- The delivery of projects such as the new height barrier, new grit bins, new nets for the tennis courts and the important work on the neighbourhood plan

- The delays in resolving the drainage issues on the playing field and deferment of some tree work

2015/16 will also be challenging but we are holding our Band D charge at £41.67

Administratively, it was a busy year for FERM with the recruitment of an interim clerk and then a permanent clerk and dealing with a range of risk management issues.

We made a grant of £1000 to the Melton Messenger, the only publication that goes consistently to every household in Melton. The Melton Messenger is published by the team at St. Andrew's Church but is much more than a church newsletter as it aims to provide information and news from all around the village of interest to everyone. This year we also made a grant to the Burness Rooms towards the car park and the first responders whom we hope we won't meet. They received £500 each

#### **Other noteworthy events**

As you may know, the Parish Council relocated its office from the bungalow at the Lindos Centre to a new office based with the district council at Melton Hill. Of course we are now faced with having to find new accommodation once SCDC move to the new building on Riduna Park. Let's hope we can keep down our costs at our new location wherever that turns out to be.

The Community Heritage Project was built on researching the history of Melton in World War One. It involved all ages across the village. Research culminated in a series of events and the exhibition and WW1 Roadshow at the Burness last November. It involved a wonderful community partnership between MPC, St Andrew's, the Burness, the School and Melton Old Church. It has been hard work and with lots of goodwill on all sides the work to build a digital archive for the village is continuing.

The Touching the Tide project, based at Dock Lane is part of the work of Suffolk Coasts and Heaths and they awarded a grant to MPC towards the cost of preserving the records and artefacts from the past 100 years that residents brought to the WW1 Roadshow.

We have also said goodbye to Rev. Michael Hatchett, he did so much for the school and whole community- not just the church. We hope his replacement will carry on his good work

#### **The Lindos Centre**

As you may know by now, the Lindos Centre is for sale at an asking price of £610,000 (plus VAT).

The owner decided she no longer wanted us meeting there so hence our meeting here at the school which we are most grateful for. Other meeting places have had to be found such as the church rooms and a meeting room in Cloghans Bungalow which is the only part of the SCDC site at Melton Hill on our side of the border.

We are most concerned at losing the Lindos Centre which is used by many local people for a variety of social and sporting events. We have applied for an Asset of Community Value order which would give us time to raise funds to buy it. However it transpires that we can only access £500K so we would need additional funding from other sources. More of this later on.

Another option would be for us to build our own village hall incorporating changing rooms and meeting rooms for the residents and visitors on the playing field and return the pavilion to play space. This option will be looked at in the new council.

This has been a demanding year for all of us on MPC and I wish to thank all my councillor colleagues for their efforts. As I said earlier we have 6 retirees none the least is Geof Butterwick who has served on the council for 32 years. In recognition of that I wish to present Geof with a token of our appreciation.

	<p>Secondly we have discussed making an award to somebody who has served the community of Melton. It was to be called the Melton Medal but this year it is a cup! I wish to present this cup along with a bouquet of flowers to Pam Ferguson who still helps out with events in Melton. She was very instrumental in getting the play equipment fitted in the park. Thanks Pam &amp; well done.</p> <p>Finally I would like to pay a few special thanks, firstly to William Grosvenor our clerk who has done a sterling job in getting to grips with everything with a very steep learning curve.</p> <p>Lastly to our 6 departing councillors, Geof Butterwick, Jenny Eckersley, Mike Kennedy, Mike Sherwen, Bryony Abbott &amp; Tony Thompson. Thanks for all your contributions during your terms of office.</p> <p>So thank you all for coming and please support all we aim to do in the future.</p> <p>Alan Porter Chairman Melton Parish Council April 2015</p>
<b>15.04</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2014</b></p> <p>Copies of the minutes were available at the meeting and also are on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>Minutes MPC(14)M APM previously distributed were received, noted and signed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Mr J Abbott to the list of attendees.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Proposed by:</i></b> Cllr West                      <b><i>Seconded by:</i></b> Cllr Porter</p>
<b>15.05</b>	<p><b>REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS</b></p>
<b>15.05.01</b>	<p><b>Report from Headteacher – Melton Primary School</b></p> <p>Mr Mark Girling introduced himself and said how appropriate it was that the parish meeting was being held at the school because the school should be at the centre of the community. It was open every school day from 8am (for the breakfast club) until 6pm (for after school activities).</p> <p>He had been at the school for 3 years and in that time the roll has increased from 103 to 153, so currently has a very stable position. The demands of the curriculum continue to change and increase; e.g. Year 6 pupils now need to learn to program before going on to High School.</p> <p>The school’s core job is to teach children, but he considered that it was equally, if not more important, to offer them wider opportunities, particularly as he had a number of vulnerable children on roll and a relatively high number on school meals. He also reported an increase in substance misuse. Budgets were tight and resources cut; e.g. an 18 month wait to see an educational psychologist. The school needed support from the community and was always looking for volunteers.</p> <p>In relation to the school premises, the building is 50 years old and needed either renewing or major improvements. The annual capital budget used to be £30k, but has only been £4k for the last three years.</p>
<b>15.05.02</b>	<p><b>Report from President of the Melton WI</b></p> <p>Cllr Bryony Abbott delivered the first annual report of the Melton WI, which is set out below:</p> <p><u>President’s First Annual Report November 2014</u></p>

	<p>This is our first Annual Meeting here at Melton WI and as we approach the end of our first year I am pleased to report on our successful progress and to say thank you to all of you as founder members.</p> <p>Thanks go to all the WI Advisers who helped to get us started especially Gillian Slaughter and Ann Nunn and the wonderful speakers who gave us their time for free including Enid Bazire, Jane Sago and others who assisted us behind the scenes and with taking on memberships- it was wonderful to see people queuing up to join at our very first meeting in January and we welcomed new members to Melton and long-standing WI members. Ann Nunn assured us we would be successful because of the buzz of anticipation in the room and the friendliness of everyone!</p> <p>It took a while early on to get the committee together but since that time we have had a lot of hard work from everyone including Gillian Hargreaves who has done our publicity and organised the magazine collection, Jan Cato who has arranged our speaker programme for next year and Gillian Birkbeck as our Secretary. Jan Ash is our Treasurer and she has kept the accounts for us and welcomed new members. I'd also like to mention Helen Cottrell who stepped in as our Secretary back in January to get us off the ground before handing over to Gill. After Helen and I did our officer training we realised what a demanding job it is and so we decided to split the role and we now have support from Maggie Porter who has IT skills so it is a good partnership with Gill, who has many years WI experience. Last but not least, thanks to Jen Ellis and Jean Jardine for doing the Raffle.</p> <p>Our speakers this year have included poetry, gardening, life stories, sea shanties, crafts, quilts, farming, all varied and entertaining. We look forward to another good year with a couple of extra events which members have volunteered to organise, including a quiz led by Jacqui Tricker and a silent auction by Jen Ellis.</p> <p>Meeting at the Burness Parish Rooms suits us very well and we are grateful to the trustees and especially Colin Birkbeck for looking after us and keeping the kitchen and rooms to a high standard.</p> <p>We greatly appreciated the support of members who have come forward during the year to help with events and fund raising. I would like to thank everyone who helped at the Melton Fete and Monica Bullman for the book sale and the Fete stall, also Hazel Glassock for co-ordinating the tea and cakes at the World War One Roadshow at the Burness this weekend.</p> <p>Our Groups are going from strength to strength. The Walking Group is now a monthly fixture and thanks to Gill Gallon, Jan Cato and Katy Martin for arranging some lovely walks in our local beauty spots Thanks to Jean Freshwater who is getting the Gardening Group together. The ladies have already had their first meeting and it will get off the ground in the spring.</p> <p>We now have a strong foundation to build on and thank you again to all of you our lovely ladies- you are all Founder Members of Melton WI and I hope we have many more years of Fun and Friendship here at the Burness Parish Rooms in Melton!</p> <p><b><u>Bryony Abbott</u></b></p>
<p><b>15.05.03</b></p>	<p><b>Report From Melton Heritage Group</b></p> <p>Cllr Abbott delivered a report on behalf of the Melton Heritage Group which is set out below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>REPORT: MELTON HERITAGE GROUP</b></p> <p>Before introducing the Melton Heritage Group, it may be helpful to remind the audience that in 2009, a team from St Andrew's church researched the stories of the fallen whose names appear on the village war memorials and published a booklet entitled "Behind the Name". This project was successful in capturing the imagination of the community and the booklet has all but sold out. Following publication, friends and relatives came forward with significant items of further information which the original team preserved on a limited edition CD ROM together with the original text.</p> <p>And so it was against this background that the group of people who were later to form the core of Melton Heritage Group first met, under the Chairmanship of Cllr Bryony Abbott, in March last year. The group included representatives from Melton Parish Council, Melton Old Church Society, Melton Primary School, Melton (new) WI and St Andrew's Church, together with local individuals interested in the history of the village. Melton's Local History Recorder, Dr Bob Merrett, also became involved.</p> <p>Initially, the purpose of our discussions was to plan a programme of local events and activities to commemorate the centenary of the Great War.</p>

	<p>We began with a stand at Melton Fete. Two members of the group, dressed as WW1 Red Cross nurses mounted an display of themed books and posters. Flyers listing our events were handed out - as well as humbugs (sweets of the period). The response from local people was encouraging.</p> <p>On one of their regular Open Days, Melton Old Church Society featured the work of three local artists each of whom presented their own response to the remarkable collection of WW1 grave markers on permanent display in the church. Margaret Wylie fashioned a huge knitted cross; Jen Hall offered an installation in bronze and Julie Garton read original prose.</p> <p>A Vigil to mark the declaration of war began in the evening of 3 August with a quiet and reflective service of music, prayer and readings. The church remained open throughout the night. On each hour during the next day, volunteers shared their own choice of poetry, readings, prayer and family memories. In addition, a collection of literature, photographs, memorabilia etc. was available to support personal devotions. Local school children wrote "Letters to the Unknown Soldier". The Vigil ended with the congregation participating in a live broadcast from Westminster Abbey based on the theme of "The lamps are going out all over Europe". Candles were extinguished as the service progressed until the church was left in darkness and the congregation departed in silence. The church was rarely empty throughout the 28 hour period. Individual contributions have been preserved as a resource for the community.</p> <p>The usual Act of Remembrance at the war memorial was further dignified by a cornet player sounding the Last Post &amp; Reveille. Names of the fallen from both world wars were read out. Wreathes were laid by representatives of Melton Parish Council, St Andrew's Church, Melton WI and the Armed Services at Rock Barracks. Local WW2 veteran David Warren also contributed. Following the service, members of the congregation planted small wooden crosses by the memorials, each bearing the name of one of the Fallen. On that same afternoon, Melton Old Church Society provided a further opportunity for visitors to view the grave markers.</p> <p>Children at Melton Primary School designed and made a giant cross of poppies which remained attached to the school's perimeter fence throughout Remembrance Tide for all who passed by to see. Pupils also mounted an impressive exhibition of art, poetry and prose on the theme of warfare.</p> <p>The final event of 2014 was the WW1 Roadshow staged at the Burness Rooms in November. Local people were invited to bring along their wartime memories and memorabilia to share with our "experts". Visitors also had the opportunity listen to live music of the period (courtesy of Melton Folk), browse local history, and enjoy home baked refreshments provided by the WI. Brian Smith brought along his wonderful collection of cap badges and medals. Younger visitors had fun making (and tasting!) trench cake. A wealth of information was collected and the event certainly got people talking.</p> <p>The group is grateful to Melton Parish Council for generously supporting our activities by successfully bidding for a grant from SCDC. This has been helpful in covering the costs of printing and advertising together with the hire of costumes. Our thanks go to Bill Jenman, Project Leader, Touching the Tide, for a grant to cover the cost of conservation materials. Sincere thanks are also due to the Management Committee of the Burness Rooms for waiving hire charges on the occasion of the Roadshow, and to the congregation of St Andrew's church who provide a venue for our regular meetings.</p> <p>Once again, the Heritage Group will have a stand at Melton Fete. So do look out for us on 27 June.</p> <p>Other plans for 2015 include a way marked Poppy Trail on the afternoon of Sunday 19 July. This guided walk will begin by the war memorials at St Andrew's and continue across the fields to the grave markers and family graves at Melton Old Church.</p> <p>We have recently made a start on updating and extending our research work to find out more about everyone with connections to Melton who served in WW1. It is our intention to try and build a full Roll of Honour and to further explore what life was like in Melton for those left behind. We have a small team of volunteers and would be delighted to hear from anyone else with an interest in this project.</p> <p>The possibility of forming a Melton Local History Society has been raised in recent months. Our members are very excited about this idea and look forward to developments.</p>
<p><b>15.05.04</b></p>	<p><b>Report from District Councillor – Cllr Jim Bidwell</b></p> <p>District Councillor Bidwell wished to draw the attention of residents to the proposed development on land north of Woods Lane, Melton IP12 1PH. Although the planning application was refused by the District Council, the applicant, Christchurch Land and Estates, appealed, and the Secretary of</p>



	<p>State ordered a Public Inquiry to be held which would begin on 12 May 2015 at 10am at Ufford Park.</p> <p>He referred residents to the Government's Planning Portal for further information:  <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/pcs">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/pcs</a></p> <p>Full details of the Woods Lane planning appeal can also be found on the Current Events page of the Melton Parish Council website:  <a href="http://www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk">www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>15.05.05</b></p>	<p><b>Report from Cllr Geof Butterwick on the Melton Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr Butterwick explained that, since April 2012, local communities have been able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local area, giving them the power to set planning policies for the future shape of their neighbourhoods. Suffolk Coastal District Council adopted its Local Plan in July 2013, which allowed the Parish Council to start work on the Melton Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Many residents have contributed to the process by completing a detailed questionnaire or attending meetings or drop-in days. The Neighbourhood Plan team now have a good idea of what residents think the village needs and where they would like to see it located. The Plan will also cover things like community facilities, the built and natural environment and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Although it is now 2 years since the questionnaire was put together, work is now underway to identify sites and talk to their owners. Work was significantly held up in that respect because Suffolk Coastal District Council were looking at sites in the parish for their new head office, and until that was finalised and made public, the Neighbourhood Plan team were unable to engage with the owners of three empty brownfield sites in the village. In order to make progress quickly, the Parish Council has retained the services of a specialist planning consultant.</p> <p>So far, based on engagement with the community, the team has identified the Plan's Issues and Aims, and from those developed Policies, Proposals and Site Allocations. Drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan have been produced, but public consultation must await the result of successful engagement with key landowners.</p> <p>It is planned to have a formal "Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030" printed and distributed to all residents later in 2015. After any necessary revisions, it will be submitted to the District Council to see if it is compliant with national and local planning policies. After that it will be referred to an independent planning inspector for formal examination. Then, subject to any modification the inspector requires, it goes to a referendum of the entire Melton electorate, and, if approved, will be adopted as a statutory planning document.</p> <p>The cost of this whole process so far has been just under £12,000, shared equally between the Parish Council and a Government grant. There is no more grant available, but the Parish Council has allocated a further £5,000 for the current year.</p> <p>Cllr Butterwick added that, although he was standing down from the Council at the election, he would be offering his services to see the Neighbourhood Plan through to completion.</p> <p>Cllr Martin wished to give a big "thank you" to Cllr Butterwick and his team which was fully endorsed by all present.</p>

15.05.06	<p><b>Report from Ms Carolyn Shaw on the School Cycling Project</b></p> <p>Carolyn Shaw explained that the Friends of Melton Primary School wanted to improve the facilities for children who wished to cycle to school. The bicycle shed needed replacing and her group were looking for £15k, both to replace the shed but also to address all the health, safety and wellbeing issues in relation to children’s cycling. The aim was to make it fun as well as having the essential safety element, and starting from aged 5 with the use of balance bikes and scooters.</p> <p>The local PCSO would be involved to speak to the children about keeping their bicycle safe; practice cycling would take place on school grounds, and there would be sessions on cycle maintenance and events as well.</p> <p>The intention was to develop a whole school ethos around what is seen as both a practical skill and healthy activity.</p> <p>Carolyn offered a fuller briefing if required. The project will start in September with a new bicycle shed being installed during the summer.</p>
15.06	<p><b>DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE LINDOS CENTRE AND THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY RESOURCE IN THE PARISH</b></p> <p>The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Alan Porter, introduced a discussion on the future of the Lindos Centre and the need to have a permanent focus for community activity within the village. A wide-ranging discussion followed.</p> <p>The Lindos Centre was on the market for £610k plus VAT. If the District Council declared it an Asset of Community Value then the Parish Council would have a six week period in which to express an interest in bidding followed by a moratorium period of 4.5 months in which it, or a community group in partnership, might raise the necessary funds and put a bid together. A robust business case would need to be constructed, together with a business plan, as a pre-requisite of seeking loan funding.</p> <p>An alternative strategy which had less risk attached, but a longer timescale, would be to build a new village hall on the Melton Playing Fields. Concern was expressed about what would happen in the time a new build would take to design and build.</p> <p>The Lindos did come with existing revenue streams from both lettings and the Registrar’s Office.</p> <p>It was suggested that if a community enterprise could be found to acquire the Lindos (with help from the Parish Council) then it could run it until a new village hall could be up and running, and then dispose of it for development. There was also a feeling that doing nothing was not an option. The community wants and needs a central location where the community can get together, ideally with a café, meeting space and sports facilities.</p> <p>It was suggested however that there were interim options for meetings that could be pursued in the form of both St Andrews’ Church Room and the Burness Parish Rooms.</p> <p>It was also pointed out that Lindos does have limitations on its use in planning terms; i.e. the bungalow can only be used as a residence linked to the operation of the centre.</p> <p>Overall loss of the Lindos would impact on Suffolk Coastal District Council’s leisure strategy, of which it is a key component.</p> <p>To conclude, there was a broad consensus that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the most pressing issue is the potential loss of the Lindos community facilities</li> <li>• the village does need its own permanent community resource</li> <li>• a purpose built solution should be looked at for the longer term.</li> </ul>

	<i>A break followed for refreshments</i>
<b>15.07</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS</b> The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Alan Porter, observed that as the refreshment break had proved an excellent opportunity for informal discussion and networking, he would bring the meeting to a close, and thanked everyone for attending. Cllr Butterwick added that the turnout that evening had made all his years on the Council most worthwhile.