



Melton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Melton Parish Council held on Thursday 13 November 2014 commencing at 19:00 in the Lindos Centre, Melton IP12 1PP.

Present:

Cllr Mr A H Porter [Chairman] Cllr Mrs B K Abbott Cllr Mr G K Butterwick Cllr Mrs J E Eckersley Cllr Mrs E J G Hilson	Cllr Mr M J Kennedy Cllr Miss K S Martin Cllr Mr C W Taylor Cllr Mr A Thompson Cllr Mr M L Webb Cllr Mr J West
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Absent:

Cllr Mr J E Bale Cllr Miss E A Barrington Cllr Mr A G Corston Cllr M W Sherwen	Mrs E Ashford (Co-optee)
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In Attendance:

County / District Cllr Mr M N Bond District Cllr Mr J Bidwell	Mr W J Grosvenor <i>Interim Clerk to Melton Parish Council</i>
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	PART ONE – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
14.102	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE The apologies for absence from Cllr Bale, Cllr Barrington, Cllr Corston, Cllr Sherwen and Recreation Committee Co-optee Mrs Ashford were received and it was Resolved to consent to the absences. Apologies for absence were also offered by PC Karen Clabburn and PCSO Marie Smith. Proposed by: Cllr Martin Seconded by: Cllr Porter
14.103	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
14.103.01	To receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.

14.103.02	<p>To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.</p>
14.103.03	<p>To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were no declarations of Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.</p>
14.103.04	<p>To Consider Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensation for pecuniary interests declared.</p>

	<i>It was RESOLVED to lift Standing Orders</i>
14.104	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION
14.104.01	<p>To receive the Safer Neighbourhood Team Report Paper MPC(14)104.01 previously distributed was received and noted. Members discussed the report, with particular reference to the numbers of reported offences, which had reduced slightly since the last period (22 down from 25). However there was a perception that burglaries had increased.</p>

14.104.02

To receive the County / District Councillor's Report for September / October 2014

Cllr Bidwell informed the Council that he had up to £1k left in his enabling budget and invited Melton Councillors to suggest a small scheme of interest to Melton that might be supported.

Cllr Bond reported on both County and District matters. In relation to education, he reported on the Ofsted report on the County's education service, which was critical of the service that it provides to schools. County is now giving robust attention to education. The main factor determining its quality is the standard of teaching, which is affected by the quality of leadership. In future poorly performing schools will receive warning letters; 15 such letters had so far been issued this year, and ultimately County would resort to its powers of removal of Governing Bodies and the appointment of Commissioners. However on a positive note, emerging trends were showing that children (in County run schools) are performing better. Schools in the Melton area are all performing well with good Headteachers and Boards of Governors.

Cllr Martin expressed concern on behalf of the Governors of Melton Primary that there was a perceived lack of support from County. Cllr Bond asked her for the details and promised to look into it.

On roads, Cllr Bond expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangements for delivering the County Highways service. He is in close contact with David Chenery at the Saxmundham office and has produced a list of faults and defects in the current arrangements – a significant one being the inability to offer a completion date for jobs. Developers have also sometimes failed to deliver on estate roads what they were obligated to provide under s106 agreements, so that they were not always made up to a standard necessary for adoption.

On Bentwaters, he was advising residents concerned about increasing flights, and was meeting residents of Ufford the following week re the Woodbridge Town Football Club relocation issue.

Cllr Bond reported on the matter of Felixstowe seafront gardens, and the hostile coverage of Suffolk Coastal DC's performance. The Council had terminated a contract but the arbitrator found in favour of the contractor. The Council's actions cost it £700k and extra costs of over £2m. The Council's Audit Committee would be reviewing this unfortunate matter.

Questioned by Cllr Thompson on funding for local roads, Cllr Bond admitted that Melton was not a priority for road improvements. Annual budget for highway repairs around Melton was £8k, although as Cllr Butterwick pointed out, given the current local programme, that budget must have been exceeded.

Cllrs Bidwell and Bond were thanked for their attendance and information and left the meeting.

14.104.03	<p>To receive Village Matters raised by Members of the Public or Councillors</p> <p>Members noted with sadness the death of Marion Davis on 8 November. Marion had been a Melton Parish Councillor for 46 years. It was decided that a suitable memorial should be considered – AGREED to look at a suitable site for an engraved bench and arrange for its procurement and siting in a suitable location.</p> <p>Cllr Eckersley reported that the Revd Hatchett’s last service at Melton would be on 4 January 2015, and suggested the Parish Council should make him a presentation – perhaps at the Christmas Party. This was AGREED. She also reported that 97 people attended the annual Service of Remembrance this year.</p> <p>Cllr Abbott reported on the recent events at Melton Old Church and advertised the forthcoming Archive event at the Burness Rooms on Saturday 15 November from 10am onwards. She also expressed her pleasure that the Height Barrier was finally in place at the entrance to the Playing Field.</p> <p>Cllr Butterwick reported that the street lights on Yarmouth Road had recently been out of order for two days. UK Power Networks were attending but the problem was not yet resolved.</p>
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	<i>It was RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders</i>
14.105	<p>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 September 2014</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that Minutes MPC(14)M05 previously distributed, be received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. Proposed by: Cllr Porter Seconded by: Cllr Martin</p>
14.106	TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES
14.106.01	<p>Planning and Transport Committee 22 September 2014</p> <p>Minutes PLA(14)M09 previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
14.106.02	<p>Planning and Transport Committee 20 October 2014</p> <p>Minutes PLA(14)M10 (draft) previously distributed were received and noted. In relation to the Hopkins Homes’ proposals re the relocation of Woodbridge Town FC, cllr Butterwick added that the position appeared to be different from that stated by the developer. WTFC had yet to even <i>arrange</i> its meeting to agree the proposals, hence the next meeting of the 4 parishes would be likely to be delayed.</p>
14.106.03	<p>Recreation Committee 23 October 2014</p> <p>Minutes REC(14)M05 (draft) previously distributed were received and noted. Cllr Eckersley went through the minutes highlighting the most significant issues and giving updates. Installation of the playing field car park height barrier was now completed. Members of Recreation Committee had had a productive meeting with Just 42 re the Youth bus visits to Melton. They would be trialling bringing the van to different locations in the Parish to gauge the level of response.</p>

14.106.04	<p>Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee 6 October 2014 Minutes FRM(14)MO7 (draft) previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
14.107	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES</p>
14.107.01	<p>Burness Parish Rooms Management Committee Cllr Kennedy reported that improvements to the hardstanding area at the rear of the premises had been completed. The grant application to be dealt with later on the Agenda.</p>
14.107.02	<p>Greenprint Forum Nothing to report.</p>
14.107.03	<p>Deben Estuary Partnership The Interim Clerk reported that he had just had a conversation with its Chairman – Cllr Christine Block. DEP is about to go out to publication with the Deben Estuary Plan and she offered a meeting with MPC to go through it. AGREED that the Interim Clerk invite her to attend the December meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee. Cllr Abbott mentioned the “Touching the Tide” initiative. AGREED to support the initiative but not to offer any funding.</p>
14.107.04	<p>Melton Trust Cllr Thompson reported that whilst it had not met, monies had been given out in terms of energy grants. The Trust worked online and could make decisions without always meeting. However as reported previously, it is difficult to make grants because the Trust cannot impinge on the work of the statutory services.</p>
14.107.05	<p>Melton Messenger – Editorial Committee It was noted that the departure of Revd Hatchett would mean change for this publication. There was a possibility that some might press for it to become more of a church than community magazine. Cllr Butterwick suggested that councillors might wish to meet the Ufford Punch organisation to see how they manage their publication. If MPC were to consider a separate publication Cllr Webb offered to look into the likely costs involved. Cllr Thompson reminded Members that there was a communications budget, but that development of the agreed strategy had hitherto been a low priority.</p>
14.107.06	<p>Melton Primary School Cllr Martin reported that the profile for children eligible for free school meals is much higher than the average.</p>

14.107.07	<p>Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Tasking Group Paper MPC(14)107.07 previously distributed was received and noted. In relation to speeding matters, Cllr Butterwick suggested that MPC should follow up the suggestion that an approach should be made to SCDC with regard to the appointment of a Parking Enforcement Officer. AGREED to refer to Planning & Transport Committee for the Traffic and Transport Working Group to pursue.</p>
14.107.08	<p>Sizewell C and EDF Community Forum Nothing to report. The November meeting was postponed.</p>
14.107.09	<p>Suffolk Association of Local Councils Cllr Butterwick reported that he had attended the AGM the previous night. Terry Hunt was the Speaker and he emphasised the willingness of the EADT to run good news stories; he was keen to build links with local reporters. Website of the year awards were won by Freckenham (in the smaller council category) and Framlingham (larger councils). Cllr Butterwick added that he would be attending the SALC Area Committee on 8 December at Stratford St Andrew and the Executive Committee on 17 December. On balance he felt that the Parish council's subscription to SALC represented very good value for money.</p>
14.108	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Cllr Butterwick reported that the terms of the Government grant had been renegotiated. A consultancy – Navigus – had been appointed to take the process forward. A Commissioning meeting took place on 11 November. Hopefully a draft plan for consultation will be available in the New Year. The plan will support the refusal of the Woods Lane development application. Cllr Butterwick emphasised the key role of neighbourhood planning in relation to appeals being called in by the Secretary of State.</p>
14.109	<p>TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE PROPOSAL FOR A COMMUNITY SHIELD – THE “MELTON MEDAL” Paper MPC(14)109 previously distributed was received and noted. Cllr Abbott introduced her paper which she commended to the Council. Cllr Martin supported the idea but stated that MPC should have criteria which should be open and not too specific, so as to potentially embrace anyone making an outstanding contribution to the community. AGREED to trial the idea in 2015 with the Chairman giving out the award at the AGM. If it works the new Council can take the concept forward. The Interim Clerk to look into what is available in terms of a medal and cost. Any suggestions as to potential recipients to Cllr Abbott.</p>
14.110	<p>TOWN AND PARISH LIAISON – BUDGET REVIEW MEETING WITH SUFFOLK COASTAL DC The Interim Clerk reported on a meeting scheduled for 25 November at 6.30pm at the SCDC Council Chamber, for SCDC to consult on their budget and medium term financial plan. AGREED that Cllrs Thompson and Martin will attend on behalf of MPC.</p>

14.111	<p>TO CONSIDER COUNCIL-WIDE IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE PLANNING AUTHORITY'S DECISION ON DC/14/2526/FUL – LAND NORTH OF THE JOHN GROSE GARAGE, MELTON ROAD</p> <p>Paper MPC(14)111 previously distributed was received and noted. The Interim Clerk introduced the paper.</p> <p>Members debated the arguments for a clear formalised procedure which identifies protocols in any given situation and avoids the need to rely on negotiation and goodwill against the argument that what is needed is simply good communication. Cllr Butterwick felt that a duty was owed to the new Council to have clear protocols, whereas Cllr Thompson felt that the way the case in point was handled demonstrates that the existing system works. Cllr Eckersley pointed to the role of the Chairman of the Council in resolving disputes, which was echoed by others, who also felt that having a procedure might lead to it being used too often.</p> <p>It was AGREED not to adopt the Interim Clerk's suggestion and to continue with the existing arrangements for the time being. Cllr Butterwick asked for his concern at this decision to be minuted.</p>
14.112	<p>TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED</p> <p>Paper MPC(14)112 previously distributed was received and noted. The recommendations were AGREED unanimously as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melton Bowls Club – decline request but to invite reapplication in the next round, demonstrating the evidence of support for the Club's activities in the wider Melton community, and how the Club is itself attempting to raise the necessary funds. • Suffolk Accident Rescue Service – decline request (which did not quantify the amount sought). More information to be provided on funding for the service and also as to the impact on Melton. Reserve a sum of £500.00 meanwhile pending receipt of this information. • Leiston, Saxmundham and District CAB – decline request as Melton Trust has made a grant within the year and MPC gave a grant last year. • Burness Parish Rooms Trustees – award £500 towards the cost of upgrading the car park.
14.113	<p>TO CONSIDER MAKING A GRANT TO THE MELTON MESSENGER</p> <p>Interim Clerk to contact Beryl Lucas at St Andrew's Church to progress grant application.</p>
14.114	<p>TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS</p> <p>Paper MPC(14)114 previously distributed was received and noted. Members expressed concern at the erroneous direct debits and the overdraft situation. AGREED that electronic solutions need to be introduced to ensure more effective management of the accounts.</p>
14.115	<p>MANAGING PUBLIC AND PRESS REPORTING AT MEETINGS</p> <p>Paper MPC(14)115 previously distributed was received and noted. The recommendations were unanimously AGREED.</p>

14.116	<p>TO CONSIDER ITEMS FOR THE MELTON MESSENGER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local crime statistics • Height barrier • Tennis courts • Hedge laying • Just 42
14.117	<p>CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fete Christmas Party – 4pm Burness Parish Rooms 5 December 2014 • Date for 2015 Fete – 27 June
	<p>PART TWO - CONFIDENTIAL</p>
14.118	<p>Exempt / Confidential Items</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that, under Section 100(a)(4) local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act.</p>
14.119	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 8 January 2015 commencing at 19:00 in the Lindos Centre Seminar Room.</p>