



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

MPC(16)M07

Melton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Melton Parish Council held on Wednesday 30 November 2016 commencing at 19:30 at the Burness Parish Rooms, The Street, Melton IP12 1PW.

Present:

Cllr Mr A H Porter [Chairman] Cllr Mr J E Bale Cllr Mr N Brown Cllr Mrs C Gradwell Cllr Ms J Harrison	Cllr Mr M Hearn Cllr Miss K S Martin Cllr Mrs A Stevens Cllr Mr C W Taylor Cllr Mr J West
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Absent:

Cllr Miss E A Barrington Cllr Mrs M Bevilacqua Cllr Mr A G Corston	Cllr Mrs E J G Hilson Cllr Mr M L Webb
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In Attendance:

Mr W J Grosvenor Clerk to Melton Parish Council	County Councillor Michael Bond District Councillor Jim Bidwell One member of the public
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	PART ONE – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
16.106	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrington, Bevilacqua, Corston, Hilson and Webb.
16.107	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
16.107.01	To receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.
16.107.02	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.

16.107.03	<p>To receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</p> <p>There were no declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.</p>
16.107.04	<p>To Consider Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</p> <p>It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensation for Pecuniary Interests declared.</p>
16.108	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</p>
16.108.01	<p>To receive the reports from County and District Councillors</p> <p><i>To receive a report from County Councillor Michael Bond</i></p> <p>Cllr Bond began by stating that the recent debate on devolution had effectively inhibited normal activities at a political level. He had voted against it, together with six other Councillors. He reported the arguments in the Council Pensions Committee for and against investing in tobacco – health v primary duty to invest to yield best returns to the pensions fund.</p> <p>On local matters, he was pleased to see the Saddlemaker’s Lane project was completed, although still far from pleased with the performance of Highways overall. Jobs are still not being completed on a timely basis and County Councillors are very irate with overall performance. For example, in Aspen Close, Melton, water is emerging from a bank and running across the road, and there have been long delays in fixing the problem. Melton Road will not now get a full traffic survey, only one relating to the possible need for changes in parking arrangements. At the moment there is no timescale for that work, but likely to be in the Spring of 2017.</p> <p>On a personal note, Cllr Bond announced that he would be retiring from the County Council at the 2017 elections, at which it is possible that the Conservatives will lose overall control.</p> <p><i>To receive a report from District Councillor Jim Bidwell</i></p> <p>Cllr Bidwell the began by giving an update on the planning application for the Arkray site in Dock Lane (in which he declared an interest as a Dock Lane resident). He was dissatisfied with the way that Suffolk Coastal Planners had handled the matter but the application to operate what is in effect a builder’s yard on the largest unit on the site was now approved.</p> <p>Other matters reported on were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The declining element of Government grant in the Council’s overall income, leading to much greater reliance on development and commercial activity to fill the income vacuum. • The proposed merger between Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils – the consultation period runs to 12 December 2016. On this, Cllr Martin queried why there was to be no public vote. Cllr Bidwell responded that legal advice was that consultation would be sufficient (and is also cheaper). • The availability of furniture and equipment surplus to requirements from the Suffolk Coastal move to East Suffolk House (Melton PC has already secured its requirements from that opportunity). • The drive for improved Broadband speeds. • The availability of funding (up to £25k) to help with projects that improve health outcomes in the community. • Enabling Communities funding in the gift of Councillors, which has resulted in contributions to the feasibility study on the proposed new Melton village hall. • The Deben Leisure centre is to be given a new look and expanded.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felixstowe and Wickham Market were highly ranked in the recent “Best British High Street” competition. • The Deputy Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal, Arthur Chavonia, has been appointed CE of Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Councils, and will be leaving in the New Year. <p>Finally Cllr Bidwell offered all present his very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year 2017.</p>
<p>16.108.02</p>	<p>Suffolk Local Policing Review - feedback</p> <p>Paper MPC(16)108.02 previously distributed was received and discussed. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have sought feedback on the way the new approach to policing is working; the deadline for responses is 23 December 2016.</p> <p>Members were concerned about the fact that the new priorities – technological / cyber related crime and hidden crime, e.g. domestic slavery and human trafficking – whilst being important to address, were not very well aligned to the priorities in the community. Residents in Melton and other communities in Suffolk, who pay for policing via the precept, were primarily concerned about traffic - parking and speeding – and low level, visible crime generally. The Clerk was asked to pass on these views to the Commissioner and Chief by the 23 December deadline.</p> <p>Also discussed was the <i>pro-forma</i> prepared by the SNT for the use of councillors only in cases of inconsiderate parking. This approach was not favoured; Members present felt that a better way, in the longer term, was the adoption of street enforcement powers by local councils along the model already adopted by Ipswich Borough Council, and the employment of properly accredited Enforcement Officers to deal with such matters. The <i>pro-forma</i> was NOTED.</p>
<p>16.108.03</p>	<p>To receive village matters raised by Members of the Public or Councillors</p> <p>The member of the public present raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was expressed in relation to traffic speeds through the village resulting in a number of recent accidents. • The Melton WI supports the new village hall project; it is often difficult to find a suitable venue for events locally. Also the Burness Parish Rooms are not always large enough to accommodate popular events. • The Parish Council should engage in the consultation process over Sizewell C, both in connection with the proposed Park and Ride (Melton is still a reserve site for the Southern park and Ride) and in connection with jobs for local people. <p>The following points were raised by Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Martin encouraged everyone to respond to the consultation on the proposed merger between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils before the closing date. • Cllr Hearn raised concerns at the way the Arkray application had been handled by the Planners, which had caused anger and concern in the area around Dock Lane. The Clerk explained the process followed and the reasons for the eventual approval. • Cllr Stevens raised the matter of the proposed 20mph speed limit in Woodbridge, linked to the possibility that in the future more traffic would go through the town to avoid congestion on the A12. Cllr Brown referred to the discussion at the last MPC Planning and Transport Committee meeting, and to an email received from County Councillor

	<p>Caroline Page. Cllr Hearn added that Mr Perry, Chair of the local Neighbourhood Watch, is proposing traffic calming measures for Saxon Way. It was observed by Cllr West that it was a pity that Woodbridge TC had progressed what is obviously a joint problem without engaging with Melton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Stevens also raised the matter of the Sizewell C community consultation. The development raised issues of both a social as well as a physical impact. She referred to the local exhibition held at the Ufford Park Hotel on 28 November, which a number of Members had attended, and also felt that Melton PC should take up the offer by Planning Aid England to support local councils affected by the development. The Clerk agreed to follow up and obtain more information on what was on offer. • Finally, Members were generally very pleased with the positive coverage by the <i>East Anglian Daily Times</i> of the willow harvest, and the article by Cllr Porter in the latest edition of the <i>Melton Messenger</i>.
16.109	<p>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2016 It was RESOLVED that minutes MPC(16)M06 previously distributed, be received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. Proposed by: Cllr West Seconded by: Cllr Taylor</p>
16.110	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES</p>
16.110.01	<p>Planning and Transport Committee 21 September 2016 Minutes PLA(16)M09 previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
16.110.02	<p>Planning and Transport Committee 19 October 2016 Minutes PLA(16)M10 previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
16.110.03	<p>Planning and Transport Committee 23 November 2016 Minutes PLA(16)M11 (Draft) previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
16.110.04	<p>Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee 12 October 2016 Minutes FRM(16)M05 (Draft) previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
16.110.05	<p>Recreation Committee 16 November 2016 Minutes REC(16)M05 (Draft) previously distributed were received and noted.</p>
16.111	<p>TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL CONTROL MATTERS</p>
16.111.01	<p>To receive and consider the Financial Management Reports for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 October 2016 Papers MPC(16)111.01 and MPC(16)111.01(a-e) previously distributed were received. The Clerk drew Members' attention to the fact that in periods 1 to 7, 94% of budgeted income was received, whereas only 32% of budgeted expenditure was incurred. There were no specific issues to report on and the reports were NOTED.</p>
16.111.02	<p>To approve and accept the audited annual return for the year ended 31 March 2016 Paper MPC(16)111.02 previously distributed was received. The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had signed off the 2015/16 Annual Return on 12 September, too late for it to be brought to the September meeting of Full Council, as was the normal practice. The audit was clear,</p>

	<p>with no matters giving cause for concern or needing to be drawn to the attention of the Council. It was RESOLVED to approve and accept the audited Annual Return. Proposed by: Cllr West Seconded by: Cllr Stevens</p>
<p>16.111.03</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Draft Budget 2017/18 Paper MPC(16)111.03 previously distributed was received. The Clerk set out the wider background to budget setting, including key messages from the presentations by Suffolk CC, Suffolk Coastal DC and the police, at the Suffolk Coastal Budget briefing session on 28 November 2016. He then took Members through the budget spreadsheet, and key areas were discussed. The projected outturn for 2016/17 was (rounded) £87k expenditure against income of £92k. Initial work on the draft budget for 2017/18 showed potential income (based on a precept income of £70k) of £84k and expenditure of £102k. In the light of information received from Suffolk Coastal Finance Manager just before the meeting, the Clerk tabled various options for setting the MPC precept for 2017/18. These were discussed. The final decision on the precept to be levied will be made at the Full Council meeting on 11 January 2017.</p>
<p>16.111.04</p>	<p>To consider recommendations from Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee in relation to Grant applications received Paper MPC(16)111.04 previously distributed was received and considered. It set out the recommendations of FERM Committee which at its meeting on 12 October 2016, recommended that the Council make the following grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burness Parish Rooms Trustees – grant to help fund the renovation of the Parish Rooms’ wood block floor £500.00 • Deben Community Farm – grant to help reconnect local people, especially the young, with farming and food production £500.00. <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to AGREE the recommendations of FERM Committee. Proposed by: Cllr Porter Seconded by: Cllr Martin</p>
<p>16.112</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN In the absence of Cllr Barrington, Cllr Brown took Members through the briefing note she had provided which set out the current position, and an indicative timetable to adoption. Also attached to the briefing note was an Executive Summary of the Neighbourhood Plan. As soon as the Strategic Environmental Assessment is complete Suffolk Coastal will take the Plan through the final period of public consultation, which will be followed by a review by an Independent Inspector and then the Referendum. Discussion then focused on the traffic mitigation measures required under the s106 agreement on the Riduna site. The Clerk reported an invitation to the Parish Council to hold discussions with the architect acting for the developer. It was AGREED to set up a meeting of interested parties with the architect separate from any Committee meetings. Clerk to follow up.</p>
<p>16.113</p>	<p>REFERRAL FROM PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: DISSENTER’S BURIAL GROUND Paper MPC(16)113 previously distributed was received and discussed. Following discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk would write to the Melton History Society, stating that, if approached to do so, the Parish Council would be willing to take ownership of what remains of the Burial</p>

	Ground and maintain it thereafter. Cllr Bidwell to be copied into that correspondence.
16.114	TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NEW VILLAGE HALL PROJECT Cllr Porter reported on the productive meeting held between members of the Steering Group and the architect on 22 November. Further such meetings are scheduled for 20 December and 19 January. Public consultation meetings will take place on Thursday 2 February and Tuesday 21 March, both at Melton Primary School.
16.115	TO CONSIDER RISK ISSUES Paper MPC(16)115 previously distributed was received and NOTED . Detailed discussion was deferred to the FERM Committee meeting on 14 December.
16.116	REPORT ON HANDYPERSON ACTIVITIES The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting of Full Council, in addition to routine cleansing, maintenance of amenity areas and litter collection duties, the Handy person had: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repainted the two village pumps • Carried out a major repair to a burst water pipe at the entrance to the playing field • Helped with the office move • Repaired office furniture • Replaced the dysfunctional locks on four of the notice boards.
16.117	LOBBYING FOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES Paper MPC(16)117 previously distributed was received. The Clerk went through the short paper. Members as individuals might wish to respond to the survey to assist with evidence gathering to support the argument for members of local councils to have parity with those of principal authorities in terms of being able to claim the Dependants' Carers' Allowance.
16.118	TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES
16.118.01	Burness Parish Rooms Management Committee There was nothing specific to report. Cllr Stevens referred to the grant being sought towards the cost of refurbishing the floor (see Minute 16.111.04 above).
16.118.02	Melton Trust Nothing to report.
16.118.03	East Suffolk Rail Partnership Nothing to report.
16.118.04	Melton Primary School Cllr Martin reported that results continued to improve. There were cuts to next year's budget and representations were being made.
16.118.05	Melton Messenger In accordance with a previous resolution of Full Council, a grant of £1,000.00 will shortly be made to the Melton Messenger for 2016/17.
16.118.06	SNT Tasking Group Cllr Taylor reported that the latest information for SNT Woodbridge on the constabulary's website was still dated September. It included 22 investigations and 4 burglaries. The last meeting was held on 24 November, although Cllr Taylor was not notified.
16.118.07	Sizewell C and EDF Community Forum Please see Minute 16.108.03 above.

16.118.08	<p>Suffolk Association of Local Councils Nothing to report.</p>
16.118.09	<p>Greenprint Forum The Clerk advised that Mrs Eckersley would be attending a Tree Warden event on 7 December.</p>
16.119	<p>TO CONSIDER ITEMS FOR THE MELTON MESSENGER The Chairman asked that any contributions for the next issue should be sent to him.</p>
16.120	<p>CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS Nothing to report.</p>
16.121	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS The next ordinary meeting of Full Council will take place on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at the Burness Parish Rooms, The Street, Melton IP12 1PW, commencing at 19:30. There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.35.</p>