



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman: Councillor GK Butterwick

MPC(09)APM

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 30th April 2009 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in Lindos Centre Main Hall Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

Present:

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott
Cllr Mrs ME Addington
Cllr Mr GK Butterwick [Chairman]
Cllr Mrs JE Eckersley
Cllr Mr AG Dunford
Cllr Mr J Bidwell [District Councillor]
Mr JM Abbot
Mr C Birbeck
Miss B Barrington
Ms S James
Ms D Lockwood
Miss KS Martin

Ms V Martin
Ms K Miles
Mr H Needham
Mrs DM Needham
Mr JW Smith
Mr S Thomson
Ms Anna Virgoe
Ms P Wagstaff
Mr WJ White
& others who did not sign the attendance sheet

Apologies

Cllr Mr MN Bond
The Revd M Hatchett
Cllr Mrs LS Leonard
Mrs H Palmer [Assistant Clerk to Melton Parish Council]
and a number of other residents.

In Attendance:

Mr MJ Green [Clerk]

09.01 REPORT ON THE WORK OF MELTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009

The Chairman of Melton Parish Council, Cllr GK Butterwick, welcomed councillors and residents to the annual parish meeting which would be his last as Chairman as he was standing down in May whilst remaining on the council. He thanked councillors and residents for their warm support during his two years as chairman.

The Chairman gave his report on the activities and achievements of the parish during the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009. These included:

- The full council had met on 12 occasions with 82% attendance by councillors – the highest for 13 years
- There were four committees Employment [met twice], Finance & Risk Management [met 5 times], Planning [met monthly] and Recreation [met quarterly] all with an attendance rate of between 75% & 95%
- The councillors were commended for their hard work and dedication and for the support given to the chairman, especially by the Vice Chairman
- There had been an increasing number of residents attending both the full council and planning committee meetings
- The Planning Committee has become much more professional in its approach to considering planning applications with the result that virtually all the applications that it had registered an objection to had been either withdrawn or refused by SCDC including two where the developer had appealed

- All council meetings including committee meetings are open to the public and include an open forum item where residents can raise matters of interest or concern
- The increase in precept [parish council tax] has been kept to under 4.5% for 2009/2010. At £25 a year for a Band D household, the council considers it to be good value for all the services that are being provided in the village
- The parish council website continues to be developed and all agendas, reports, minutes and planning applications affecting Melton are available for residents to view and if desired to download. The website also provides details of many local activities taking place in the village.
- The 'jewel in the crown' of Melton Parish Council is the playing fields and Burkes Wood that are well used for both sport and recreation. The grounds are kept in an excellent condition by a combination of Suffolk County Council Grounds Service, Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd and our own contractors SBPM Property Maintenance. SBPM also maintain our bus shelters in The Street and Bredfield Road and our increasing number of notice boards in The Street, Melton Road and shortly Bredfield Road, Wilkinson Road and Melton Park..
- The parish council has provided additional litter bins, dog waste bins and grit bins in response to requests from residents

The following is a chronological list of some of the main activities that the parish council has been engaged in over the past 12 months:

- **April 2008** – Cllr Martin was co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation due to work pressures of Cllr Tester. Cllr Martin had subsequently become chairman of the recreation committee
- **May 2008** – over 100 people attended the annual meeting to hear of the proposed development of the former Girdlestone Pumps Factory. The parish council objected to the application which was subsequently withdrawn by the developer.
- **September 2008** – Local community promised full engagement with SCDC over any future development plan for Girdlestons site. Parish Council requested that SCDC consider an overall development policy for the Girdlestons site, Carters/CEL site and Melton Station site. Dispensing regulation change removing the ability of local surgeries to dispense prescriptions was objected to by parish council but sadly was implemented by the NHS despite this local opposition. Parish council declined to join the scheme to finance Police Community Support Officers due to the large and increasing council tax already charged by the county police authority
- **October 2008** – Request to deputy leader of SCDC to address meeting of local residents about the overall development policy for Girdlestons/CEL/Station. Boundary Committee Review considered by parish council and response submitted. 58 houses on Melton Park had been found to be in Ufford and not Melton due to an administrative error at SCDC. Community Boundary Review commenced to try to resolve the problem. The Police Safer Neighbourhood Team programme which had been running for 12 months was reviewed by the police authorities and Melton included in a much larger grouping including the Wilford Peninsular
- **December 2008**- Local Development Framework consultation by SCDC setting out the future shape of Melton for the next 20 years commenced.
- **January 2009** – Mrs Holly Palmer appointed as Part Time Assistant Clerk to Melton Parish Council to work alongside Malcolm Green the Part Time Clerk to Melton Parish Council. One of the most visible benefits of this increased provision is that with effect from 6th May 2009 the parish council office at the Lindos Centre will be open to the public from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon Monday to Friday. Public meetings to discuss the possible development of the Girdlestons/CEL/Station sites and the proposals contained in the SCDC Local Development Framework attended by the Deputy Leader of the District Council, the Planning Officer, and over 170 residents in total. The second of the two meetings included discussion o the proposals in break-out groups to enable a detailed response to be prepared by the parish council

- **February 2009** – Parish council submitted its formal response to the Local Development Framework proposal. Meetings of the Melton Park Community Boundary Review Working Group commenced.
- **March 2009** – The long awaited refurbishment of the tennis courts on Melton Playing Field was completed and an official opening including fun for the whole family was planned for Saturday 4th April 2009. The cost of the refurbishment including the provision of wheelchair and pushchair friendly gates to both courts had been £29k including VAT. This money has been raised by the council through a grant from SCDC, a loan over ten years from the Public Works Loan Board and a most generous donation from the Schlee family in whose memory the courts have been dedicated. Three councillors have resigned, Cllr Dann and Cllr Ferguson due to the pressures of family caring responsibilities and Cllr Martin to submit herself for election rather than co-option to meet changes in the Local Government Act.

A full version of the chairman’s report will be available on the parish council website and in the Melton Messenger during the next few weeks.

09.02 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY PARISH MEETINGS HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2009 AND 4TH FEBRUARY 2009

Minutes EPM(09)M1 previously circulated were received and noted.

Proposed by: Miss B Barrington

Seconded by: Mr J White

09.03 OPEN FORUM

The only item raised by residents was the revised application for the development of the former Girdlestone Pumps Site. This was now the subject of much discussion and anger locally as there had been none of the promised local engagement by the planners and developers.

The revised plans were on display at the meeting and although there had been some reduction in the scale of the development there remained major objections to the proposal by residents.

The Girdlestone Action Group had met the previous evening where there was standing room only at Melton Primary School and the objections raised at that meeting were conveyed to the parish meeting. A Freedom of Information Act request had been made for background papers of the recent audit commission review of SCDC Planning Authority. Concern was expressed that SCDC were not listening to local residents and they were following their own policies and ignoring national planning policies.

It was suggested that in the light of these failures the parish council should refer the matter to higher authorities.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had called an extraordinary meeting of the parish council for 7th May 2009 to discuss the following resolution:

“It is resolved to write to regional and national organisations concerned with the probity of the local planning system, setting out the serious concerns of the parish council in respect of both strategic and local planning issues, and seeking their urgent assistance”

The parish meeting wished record its objection to the development of the former Girdlestone Pumps Site.

The following resolution was put to the meeting:

“This parish meeting continues its objection to the renewed development of the Girdlestone Site”

Proposed by: Cllr Dunford

Seconded by: Cllr Eckersley

Voting:

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

This proposal will be reported to the Parish Council at their meeting on 7th May 2009.

09.04 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 29th April 2010 commencing at 19:00 in the Lindos Centre Main Hall.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:55

Signed: _____ Date: _____

[Chairman]