



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman: Councillor GK Butterwick

MPC(09)M2

**Minutes** of a meeting of the parish council on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 commencing at 19:00 in the Lindos Centre Main Hall Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

**Present:**

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott  
Cllr Mrs ME Addington  
Cllr Mr MN Bond  
Cllr Mr PJ Brockett

Cllr Mr GK Butterwick  
[Chairman]  
Cllr Mrs PD Ferguson  
Cllr Mrs EJM Hilson

Cllr Miss LS Leonard  
Cllr Miss KS Martin

**In Attendance:**

7 Residents [6 until 20:05]

Mr MJ Green [Clerk]

Mrs H Palmer [Assistant Clerk]

**09.20 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE**

**09.20.01 Cllr Miss DE Dann – Family Matters**

**09.20.02 Cllr Mr AG Dunford – Holiday**

**09.20.03 Cllr Mrs JE Eckersley – Holiday**

**09.20.04 Cllr Mr MW Sherwen – Working Late**

Council considered these apologies and **it was RESOLVED** to receive the apologies and consent to the absence.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Brockett.

**09.20.05 Cllr Mrs CE Aitchison – Prior Engagement**

**09.20.06 Cllr Mr J Bidwell – SCDC Meeting**

Council noted these apologies.

**09.21 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST WITH REGARD TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND ADDITIONS TO THE REGISTER**

**09.21.01 Cllr DE Dann – Temporary Change of Address**

The Clerk **received** this member's temporary change to her declaration of interest.

**09.22 STANDING ORDER 24 - WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

It was noted that no questions have been received.

**09.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

**09.23.01 To receive representations from Councillors who have declared a prejudicial interest under item 09.21**

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

**09.23.02 To receive representations from members of the public in respect of items on the agenda only.**

There were no declarations of interest from members of the public.

**It was RESOLVED** to lift standing orders.

**09.24 OPEN FORUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TALK TO COUNCILLORS**

See item 09.32

**09.25 TO DISCUSS VILLAGE MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS**

**09.25.01 Riverside Footpath Clearance**

Cllr Martin reported that she had contacted the Environment Agency regarding the severe clearance of the riverside footpath. They had advised that this was due to the need to address the issue of roots damaging the levee. The Clerk to take the issue up formally with the Environment Agency.

**09.25.02 Love Lane Footpath**

A request was made by a member of the public for the sweeping of the Love Lane Footpath – the matter to be referred to SCDC.

**09.26 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Paper MPC(09)P26 previously circulated was received and noted. The report covered:

**09.26.01 Council Tax**

*'You may have read in the local press that SCC Cabinet recently recommended its lowest ever council tax increase of just 2.45% for 2009-10. This increase is well below the 3.75% from last year, is lower than the Consumer price Index of 3.1% and pension increase of 5%, and is the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest council tax increase in the Country. The national average is 3.5%. Over the past 4 years of this administration, the average council tax increase has been 3.8% and with the average annual rate of inflation over the same period at 3.6%, this means in real terms, the council tax has stayed virtually the same for the last 4 years.'*

**09.26.02 Locality Budget**

*'We have been discussing at SCC the way capital transport schemes are prioritised in Suffolk and a new initiative will take effect shortly. It has been agreed that £1 million will be made available to localities to fund capital transport schemes that address LOCAL priorities.*

*Suffolk Coastal locality group of which I am a member has been allocated £200,000 (the largest amount for any locality) and schemes will be discussed by local councillors in each locality and the money allocated where LOCAL need is. For example the types of schemes this money could be used for would be*

- Rights of way schemes*
- Speed Limits and speed reduction schemes*
- Traffic management*

*It is early days, but I feel this local approach has to be more effective and means that I can lobby on behalf of my Parishes for funds which are needed in Wickham Division.'*

The following update was reported on matters arising from previous meetings:

**09.26.03 Woods Lane Melton**

The following response was received from SCC Highways in response to complaints about the condition of the recently resurfaced Woods Lane:

*'Surface dressing is a treatment that is designed to weather proof an existing surface and eke out a bit more life from the road construction so postponing the date when more substantial works are required. Surface dressing is about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the costs of a 50mm thick resurfacing treatment and not nearly as disruptive. Most of the 4,000 miles of roads in Suffolk are constructed of repeated surface dressing.*

*As this treatment is applied to the road surface only, it does suffer the disadvantage that it can strip at junctions due to the scuffing action of heavy vehicles when they turn. The road aggregate becomes displaced as the bituminous binder is not strong enough to resist the large sideways forces imposed on it. There is some residual benefit of treating the junction, despite the loss of aggregate, as the binder seals the cracking and inhibits water ingress which causes the road construction to deteriorate.*

*There should not be a significant loss of material over the straight sections of road in the absence of a general failure. We are monitoring this site, and others, where there appears to be a greater than normal loss of material. If this characteristic develops more substantially we will get our contractor to propose his remedial measures.*

*I am not aware of any significant potholes in or around Woods Lane but will have it inspected.'*

**09.26.04 Hope Crescent Grit Bin**

Confirmed that this was replenished on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and SCC Highways apologised for the oversight.

**09.26.05 Saxon Way [past the junction with Melton Grange Road]**

This is not routinely treated with grit as it is not a through route. Ideally with limitless funds this route would be gritted however, if this happened now it would be at the expense of heavier trafficked higher speed roads not being gritted with the potential for serious accidents.

There is a grit bin located at the junction of Coppice Close and Saxon Way which at the time of the report was  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.

A report has been received by SCC Highways about problems at the junction of Bury Hill and Saxon Way. This is a suitable place for the location of a further grit bin should resident volunteers be found to spread the grit and Melton Parish Council provides the bin.

Noted that Wilkinson Way is to be added to the Saxon Way gritting route in order to include the route up to the new primary school.

The meeting felt that the reason for not gritting needed to be challenged further due to the number of houses feeding off this stretch of Saxon Way.

**09.26.06 Crime Statistics**

These are available by using the following website link:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/221314EA-4ED5-4CF0-AE06-A944F1714187/0/WelcomePagev1.xls>

**09.26.07 Station Road Melton**

Concerns have been expressed by residents about the numerous cars parked on the grass verge by St Andrew's Place at its junctions with Station Road. There is also regular illegal parking on double yellow line by the chip shop on the junction of Station Road and The Street.

Cllr Aitchison has requested information on the ownership of the land where vehicles are parking and also that the illegal parking is monitored and tickets issued as appropriate.

**09.27 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

The District Councillor's report previously circulated as paper MPC(09)P2y was received and noted.

The report covered the following items:

- Audit commission report
- Choice based lettings
- £1.5m Investment Package to promote enterprise, employment and growth
- Tax Collection as at 31 December 2008 – Business 90.4% & Council Tax 87.8%
- Woodbridge Skate Park now open
- Help with house repairs for vulnerable people
- SCDC Budget 2009/10
- Melton Park Bowls Club
- Melton Park Noise problems associated with Holiday Lettings

**09.28 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**09.28.01 Minutes of meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

(a) Amendment #1 09.11

Should read 'back' not 'front' windows.

With this one amendment **it was RESOLVED** that minutes MPC(09)M1 of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 previously circulated be received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Hilson.

**09.29 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

**09.29.01 Planning Committee 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

It was noted that following a discussion on the application for a change in order of release on the former Melton Grange Hotel Site [C08/2135/FUL] SCDC confirmed that the condition of consent regarding access would be enforced prior to occupation of houses.

**It was RESOLVED** that minutes PLA(09)M1 previously circulated be received and noted.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick

**Seconded by:** Cllr Hilson.

**09.29.02 Finance & Risk Management Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009**

The Chairman brought to the attention of the meeting the matter of Traffic Counts in support of the council's objection to the proposed Girdlestons development [Item 09.13.01]. This would provide: automated traffic counts [24 hours per day for a full week] at two locations on Station Road and one each of Saddlemakers Lane, The Street and Melton Road, plus queue length assessment [07:00 – 10:00 & 16:00 – 19:00] on all four legs of the crossroads and both sides of the level crossing.

Quotations for carrying out the counts had been received the lowest being £1,645.

County Cllr Aitchison had offered up to £1,000 for the project [subject to confirmation that the sum remains in her locality budget], it was anticipated that the Action Group would provide a contribution, leaving an anticipated shortfall of under £500.

Due to the urgency of the issue **it was RESOLVED** to meet the shortfall from Council Reserves on condition that it did not exceed £500.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick

**Seconded by:** Cllr Martin.

**It was RESOLVED** that minutes FRM(09)M1 previously circulated be received and noted.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick

**Seconded by:** Cllr Martin.

**09.30 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**09.30.01 Burness Parish Room Management Committee**

Nothing to report.

**09.30.02 Greenprint Environmental Forum**

Nothing to report.

**09.30.03 Melton Community Youth Project**

Nothing to report.

**09.30.04 Melton Trust**

Nothing to report.

**09.30.05 Safer Neighbourhood Team Liaison Group**

The Chairman confirmed that as yet he had not been in contact with the Chief Constable regarding the matter of liaison between parish councils and the SNT.

**09.30.06 Suffolk Association of Local Councils**

The meeting was advised that the next meeting was on 9/03/09 and should councillors have any matters they wished to be raised then they should contact the Vice Chairman.

**09.30.07 Transport**

(a) Bus Shelters

The Chairman confirmed that correspondence had been received regarding the provision of bus shelters and bus stands and also requesting funding from the Parish Council. The Chairman will respond in due course advising that no funding is available.

**09.30.08 Woodbridge & Melton Riverside Action Group**

Nothing to report.

**09.31 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

**09.31.01 Melton Youth Forum Working Group**

Nothing to report.

**09.31.02 Local Government Review Working Group**

Noted that the Boundary Commission will not now report until 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**09.32 TO ADOPT THE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

Paper MPC(09)P32 previously circulated was received and noted.

**It was RESOLVED** to lift standing orders.

The following comments during the ensuing discussion were noted:

- There are two separate consultations (a) Core Strategy & Development Control Policies [Preferred Options] and (b) Site Specific Allocations & Policies [Issues & Options]. The revised deadline for comments on both is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009

- Following attendance at the SCDC 'drop in' day on the LDF confirmation had been received the separate consultations contained in section 1 [items iii-viii] of the report P32 will take place therefore the emboldened last sentence of section 2 will be removed. It is also understood that progress on the two documents forming the current consultation would be:

**Core Strategy & Development Control Policies [Preferred Options]:**

- Formal Submission to government by SCDC – mid/late 2009
- Examination in Public by independent inspector – during 2010

**Site Specific Allocations & Policies [Issues & Options]:**

- Consultation on Preferred Options - mid 2009
- Formal submission to government by SCDC – during 2010

It was noted that the parish council should be prepared to appear at the Examination in Public, when it took place.

- Site 501 at Melton Park is the source of some confusion. It is understood that the correct proposal is (a) to provide a Physical Limits Boundary for Melton Park which would include not only the existing 'AP235 Policy Area' but also the Golf Course & Hospital Wood [identified as Site 501 in the SCDC document] & the field(s) to the north of the current development; and (b) development of and the field(s) to the north for 'more affordable' housing and a possible link road to the A12 [this is referred to by Melton PC as site 501b].
- Melton Park should be designated as 'Other Village' not a 'Local Service Centre'
- Melton Village to be designated a 'Local Service Centre' not a 'Key Service Centre'
- Minor amendments to text to strengthen the view to be incorporated e.g. DC20 replace 'difficult' with 'impossible'
- Site 729 and proposal re: CEL/Carter site - - should have a proviso that no vehicular access from St Andrew's Close and St Andrew's Place should be allowed.
- Objections should be made in respect of Sites 453 and 703 in Martlesham, as their development would effectively take the built-up area of 'Greater Ipswich' to the borders of Woodbridge [see Para 5 (a) (ii) of the report]
- The amended report will form the basis of the Parish Council response but each item will be submitted separately online as requested by SCDC
- An over-riding 'mission statement' is to be added setting out the aspirations for Melton. Wording along the lines of '*Melton is a thriving village close to the Rover Deben and surrounded by beautiful countryside. Our vision is to preserve our unique environment now and in the future...*' was suggested.
- The response will be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**It was RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

**It was RESOLVED** that the response to the LDF Consultation contained in paper MPC(09)P32 amended to reflect the comments above, be adopted.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Martin.

**Council warmly thanked the chairman for all his hard work in producing the excellent response document.**

**09.33 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINED IN THE WEEKLY REPORTS CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS**

There were no matters arising.

**09.34 TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN ON MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

**09.34.01 09.06.02 Melton Grange – Pollarding of Major Oak**

Confirmation that essential work required was due to decay caused by Ganoderma spp.

**09.34.02 09.17.02 Precept 2009/10**

Confirmation that precept request has been submitted and acknowledged.

**09.35 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE ORDER THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED**

It was noted that there had been no resolutions or recommendations received.

