



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



MPC(09)M5

Chairman: Councillor GK Butterwick

**Minutes** of an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 commencing at 19:00 in the Lindos Centre Conference Room Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

**Present:**

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

Cllr Mr GK Butterwick [Chairman]  
Cllr Mr AG Dunford  
Cllr Mrs JE Eckersley

Cllr Mrs EJJ Hilson  
Cllr Miss LS Leonard  
Cllr Mr MW Sherwen

**In Attendance:**

Mr K Fortmann  
Miss KS Martin

Mr H Needham  
Mr MJ Green [Clerk to Melton Parish Council]

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

**09.82.01 Cllr Mr MN Bond – working abroad**

Council considered this apology and it was **RESOLVED** to receive the apology and consent to the absence.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick. **Seconded by:** Cllr Brockett

**09.82.02 Cllr Mrs CE Aitchison – previous commitment**

**09.82.03 Cllr Mr J Bidwell – SCDC meeting**

Council noted these apologies.

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

There were no declarations or additions to the register

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

Noted that no questions had been received.

**09.85 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

**09.85.01 To receive representations from Councillors who have declared a prejudicial interest under item 09.83**

There were no representations.

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

There were no representations.

It was **RESOLVED** to lift Standing Orders

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

There were no matters raised by members of the public present.

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

There were no matters raised by members of the public or councillors present.

**09.88 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

There was no report.

Cllr Aitchison had advised the council that she would not be standing in the June elections. She said that she had thoroughly enjoyed her last 4 years and shall miss the community involvement but pressures of business and a young family has brought her that decision.

Council recorded their very warm and sincere thanks to Cllr Aitchison for all her hard work and support adding that she will be sadly missed.

**09.89 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

There was no report.

It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders

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

**09.90.01 Minutes of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

It was **RESOLVED** that minutes MPC(09)M4 of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 previously circulated be received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Hilson **Seconded by:** Cllr Dunford.

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

**09.91.01 Planning Committee 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

It was **RESOLVED** that minutes PLA(09)M4 previously circulated be received and noted.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Eckersley **Seconded by:** Cllr Hilson.

**09.92 PLANNING PROCESS**

Paper MPC(09)P92 to previously circulated was received and noted.

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

The following points were raised during the ensuing discussion:

- Attempts had been made since October 2008 by residents to have Tree Protection Orders registered on certain trees on the Girdlestons site. Surveys had been carried out by SCDC in February 2009 but to date no TPO has been registered
- A 20 minute interview condensed into 5 minutes had been broadcast on Radio Suffolk with the Chairman, District Councillor, Chair and Vice Chair of the Girdlestons Action Group. The Deputy Leader of SCDC has been interviewed by telephone as part of the same broadcast. The District Councillor is to follow up comments made by the Deputy Leader regarding 'ignoring the facts of life of the planning process' and that 'the District Councillor is not in the know'
- Development Committee had considered a report by the Head of Planning Services regarding development at the Bentwaters Technical Base and the resultant traffic flow issues on A1152. This was considered to be a strategic issue as it has district wide interest not least because of its impact on the ANOB. This raises the question of why the Riduna application is not of strategic interest
- The Honourable J Gummer M.P. has expressed his concern that the Riduna application is 'a far too important site for this 4<sup>th</sup> rate proposal' and supports local opposition
- The Secretary of State has the power to 'call in' any application if there is considerable local concern
- Concerns that the 'strategic issues' might be lost by the specifics of the Girdlestons Application and vice versa.
- Concern that the views of 'all' Melton need to be considered as any response by the parish council should be representative of the whole community
- The Action Group is not against development at Girdlestons but wants to ensure that it is reasonable in terms of the local environment
- The Chairman confirmed that the report would be sent to all those listed in Appendix 6 and that it would be re-drafted to incorporate the issues at Bentwaters and the TPO's
- Council members suggested some rewording of the document to remove the 'emotion' and concentrating especially on the factual information contained on Page 1 Item 2 and Page 6 Recommendation 2 cross referring extracts from the appendices to the report. It was generally thought that the audit commission recommendations will have the strongest impact
- The Leader of SCDC should be copied in on the circulation together with SALC [for information only – not for distribution]

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

It was **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.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick. **Seconded by:** Cllr Abbott

**Voting:**

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

**09.93.01 Girdlestons**

It was noted that a copy of a letter sent by a resident to SCDC Head of Planning Services objecting to the development had been received by the council

**09.94 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.

**09.95 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS**

**09.95.01 Annual Parish Meeting**

The following minute from the annual parish meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 was noted:

***"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.*

**09.95.02 Girdlestone Parish Council Working Group**

It was noted that Mr Richard Ward [CEO Suffolk Preservation Society] was no longer involved and therefore the working group was missing a professional planning adviser.

The need for professional planning advice in drawing up the objections of both the Girdlestone Action Group and the Parish Council is crucial to ensuring that the voice of the local community is heard in the determination of the outcome of the application.

It was noted that minute 09.51 provided the parish council with an 'in principle' authority to engage the services of the professional and that the Girdlestone Action Group would also be making a contribution towards the cost which will enable steps to be taken to appoint joint legal representation.

Minute 09.51 of the Full Council on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 is copied here for clarification:

*Report MPC(09)P51 previously circulated was received and noted.*

*After much debate **It was RESOLVED** that the parish council gives "approval in principle" to meeting the reasonable costs of employing appropriate professional representation in preparing for, and being represented at, any hearing of an application to develop the site of the former Girdlestone factory; and that the parish council constitutes a Working Group to consider all issues relating to the wider area (known as the Girdlestone/CEL site) which will report to Planning Committee or full Council as expedient.*

**Proposed by:** Cllr Butterwick **Seconded by:** Cllr Ferguson.

Mindful of minute MPC(09), of minute PLA(09)53 of Planning Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009, which "**RESOLVED** to object to the new Girdlestone's application (C09/0584). The Council's new objection would be based on revisiting the previous objections to the first application and refining these based upon new information to date. The Working Group will be tasked with preparing this detailed objection which will be submitted to the Planning Committee for Resolution on 18th May 2008", of the fact that the council's previously appointed professional adviser and co-opted member of the NDWG (Richard Ward) was no longer available; and conscious of the ever-diminishing time left in which to assess the documents and draft a response, it was agreed that it would be prudent to

take steps to securing joint MPC / GAG legal representation, to take instruction and to represent both MPC and GAG at SCDC Development Control Sub-Committee hearings, thus concentrating the relevant expertise where it will do the most good, at the least cost.

**09.95.03 SCDC South Area Development Control Sub Committee**

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 9.00 a.m. and that it is open to the public. The subsequent meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009. It is understood that there will be a site meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at Girdlestones.

**09.95.04 Local Government Review**

It was noted that the response of the parish council will be to support the single unitary option for the whole county and object to any other options, plus clarification of the previously submitted concept of securing meaningful community empowerment by ring-fencing the savings from introducing a unitary system and devolving those funds & designated responsibilities to Town / parish councils.

**09.95.05 Melton Park Community Boundary Review**

It was noted that the latest meeting of the working group was on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at which the consultation documentation was agreed.

**09.96 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in the Lindos Centre Main Hall commencing at 19:00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:50

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_