



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Melton Parish Council on Thursday 11th November 2010 commencing at 1900 in The Lindos Centre Main Hall Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

Present:

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott [Vice – Chairman]	Cllr Mrs EJJ Hilson
Cllr Miss EA Barrington [from 1920]	Cllr Miss LS Leonard
Cllr Mr MN Bond [1930 – 2000]	Cllr Mr NM Needham
Cllr Mr PJ Brockett	Cllr Mr MW Sherwen
Cllr Mr GK Butterwick	Cllr Mr A Thompson
Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley	

In Attendance:

Ms Heather Senior	Resident
Mr MJ Green	Clerk to Melton Parish Council

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman took the Chair,
As the meeting was being held on Armistice Day Cllr Abbott reflected on the sacrifice made by so many in the two world wars to enable us all to enjoy the freedom we do today. She also reflected on the number of young men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts since and not least in the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, especially in view of the proximity of Rock Barracks to Melton Parish.

10.219 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ANY ABSENCE

10.219.01 Cllr Mrs ME Addington – Prior Engagement

10.219.02 Cllr Miss KS Martin – Family Matters

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

Proposed by: Cllr Abbott

Seconded by: Cllr Eckersley.

10.219.03 Cllr Mr J Bidwell – Attending SCDC meeting

Council noted this apology.

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

There were no declarations of interest or additions to the register.

10.221 STANDING ORDER 24 - WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was noted that there had been no written questions received.

10.222 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

10.222.01 To receive representations from Councillors who have declared a prejudicial interest

There were no representations from councillors.

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

There were no representations from members of the public.

It was RESOLVED to lift standing orders.

10.223 OPEN FORUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TALK TO COUNCILLORS AND TO DISCUSS VILLAGE MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

10.223.01 Melton Messenger

Council noted with great pleasure the improvements to the layout and content of the Melton Messenger making it much more a community publication rather than just a church magazine. Cllr Eckersley was warmly thanked for all her hard work in achieving the change.

10.223.02 Melton Primary School Autumn Fair

Cllr Leonard advised council of the autumn fair taking place on Saturday 13th from 1-4 p.m. and encouraged all to attend and support the event.

10.223.03 Development at the corner of Beresford Drive

Council once again expressed its severe concern about the state of the land at the corner of Beresford Drive [see also 10.224]

10.223.04 Litter concerns outside Pizza Take-away on Warwick Avenue

Council was advised of the large amount of litter being generated outside the shop and on the route through to Bury Hill. The Clerk agreed discuss with the Clerk at Woodbridge Town Council to see if a joint approach might be helpful.

10.223.05 Overgrown Hedge at the corner of The Street and Wilford Bridge Road

The Clerk to approach the appropriate authority to see what can be done to have the bushes cut back to make pedestrian passage easier.

10.223.06 Overgrown Footpath between Melton Playing Field Car Park and the entrance to Hutchison's Meadow

It was reported that the footpath had become overgrown and virtually impassable without walking on the road. The Clerk to follow up with contractors.

10.223.07 Remedial work to site following felling of oak tree by pond in Burkes Wood

Concern was expressed about the ruts left in the ground by vehicles and debris in the pond. The Clerk to follow up with contractors.

10.224 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Paper MPC(10)P224 previously circulated was received and noted.

The County Councillor made the following comments:

- The cost of the Safer cycle route becoming very expensive at circa £73k – correspondence had been circulated by Cllr Bond to Melton Parish Council and he would welcome feedback on the situation
- Notcutts – need for the locals parish councils and action groups to work as one voice
- At Audrys House Nuisance – enforcement notice will be served but is appealed could go on for many months
- Campsea Ashe and Melton Station Car Parks – concerned at lack of action by SCC but hopeful that Campsea Ashe will be resolved in 2010 and Melton in 2011
- Knackers Yard – concern over the continual smell – matter has been referred to SCDC and is being investigated
- Beresford Drive – land ownership not clear and a request for information made which if not forthcoming will lead to prosecution
- SCC Health Committee advised that there is a shortage of occupational therapists – this is being followed up

10.225 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Paper MPC(10)P225 previously circulated was received and noted.

The District Councillor made the following comments:

- Scrutiny Committee - work now complete
- The provision of funding by Cllr Bond for the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order was welcomed and thanks were offered to Cllr Bond for his intervention to make things happen

It was RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

10.226 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2010

10.226.01 Amendment #1 – Cllr Needham’s initials should be HM not NM

10.226.02 Amendment #2 – Cllr Mrs EJJ Hilson – apology late return from holiday
With these amendments it was RESOLVED that Minutes MPC(10)M10 previously circulated were received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman..
Proposed by: Cllr Needham **Seconded by:** Cllr Leonard.

10.227 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

10.227.01 Planning Committee 25th October 2010

Minutes PLA(10)M10 previously circulated were received and noted.

The Chairman of Planning made the following comments:

- **Notcutts** – developers withdrew under significant encouragement from planning officer
- Likely to be further application
- Letter from MP suggesting she facilitate a public meeting between interested parties including Notcutts was being questioned by Ufford Parish Council as local groups had not had sufficient time to formulate their ideas
- Meeting of Ufford Action Group and members of Ufford and Melton Parish Councils convened for 1800 on 17th November 2010
- It appears that pre-application discussion centred on warehouse being used for storage of plants and gardening materials not garden furniture etc.
- **Horse and Groom** – application had been approved but extreme concern at the conduct of the hearing by SCDC
- Impact on conservation area as outlined by the conservation officer had been ignored
- Perceived conflict of evidence leads to the belief that there may well be grounds for submitting a formal complaint – Chairman of Planning to prepare a draft for consideration and adoption at the November meeting of Planning Committee

10.228 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

10.228.01 Burness Parish Room Management Committee

(a) Agenda – Management Committee 26 November 2010
Agenda previously circulated as paper MPC(10)P228.01(a) was received and noted.

(b) Minutes – Management Committee 24 September 2010
Minutes previously circulated as paper MPC(10)P228.01(b) were received and noted.

10.228.02 Melton Trust

Cllr Thompson reported that at the last meeting of the Trustees the Risk Management Policy was considered and that one grant was offered subject to matched funding. Minutes of previous meeting to be distributed shortly.

The Clerk read out a letter from the Charity Contact [Revd Michael Hatchett] in answer to the question raised by the parish council previously about a grant for educational purposes:

‘The Melton Trust would consider to be within the terms of the Trust grant assistance to persons unable to obtain full funding from their own or other resources for equipment, fees, subsistence, and travelling in relation to training and/or qualifications that would enable them to follow a chosen career or to earn their livelihood

Educational purpose was clearly taken to be within the terms of the Trust Deed as indicated by the excerpt from the notes *"to indicate some of the ways in which income may be applied for the relief of people in need"* attached by the Charity Commission within the Trust Deed Document: *"iv. The provision of facilities such asthe supply of books or payment of fees for instruction or examinations or of travelling expenses so as to help the recipients to earn their living"*.

Council noted this response from the Trust.

10.228.03 Safer Neighbourhood Team
Report from the SNT Team previously circulated as paper MPC(10)P228.03 was received and noted.

10.228.04 Suffolk Association of Local Councils
Papers for the Suffolk Coastal Area Meeting on 22 November 2010 previously circulated were received and noted.
Cllr Butterwick reported that at the AGM the underlying theme had been one of entering into unchartered waters in relation to public services with budget reductions not seen for 40 years.
Radical change was inevitable not least for Parish Councils.
A number of motions had been adopted for referral to NALC one of which councillors were aware of as Melton Parish Council had seconded the motion put by Debach Parish Council, namely *'that SALC asks NALC to lobby government to ensure that Town & Parish Councils shall be consulted through the Local Planning Authority planning process before applications for commercial heavy goods access can be granted by the Traffic Commissioner.'*
An attempt to have a SALC AGM motion in support of the removal of the internal audit failed.

10.228.05 Transport
There was no report.

10.228.06 Deben Estuary Partnership
Cllr Sherwen reported on the meeting he had attended on behalf of the council.
The following points were highlighted:
➤ Previously the management of the river had been undertaken by the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority, however, this had ceased leaving a void that had been filled by interested parties joining together to form the Deben Estuary Partnership
➤ Sutton Hoo site was leeching mud into the river and the Salt Marshes were slowly disappearing
➤ A planning application had been granted for repairs to the sea wall and all the work had been carried out by local people at a minimal cost
➤ This partnership and collaboration had provided a very satisfactory result to the issue
➤ Further meetings of the Deben Estuary Partnership are planned and Cllr Sherwen agreed to attend on behalf of Melton Parish Council

10.229 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

10.229.01 Affordable Housing Working Group
Suffolk ACRE are currently analysing all the returns they have received and a report is anticipated from them in the New Year.

10.229.02 Pavilion Working Group
Paper MPC(10)P229.02 previously circulated was received and noted.
After very careful consideration of all the options:
It was RESOLVED to solve the problem of the toilets not being fit for purpose, by having them refurbished as they are, adding a wash-hand-basin to each and having the damaged walls made good provided the funding can be made available from the SCDC Play Space Funding Scheme.
Proposed by: Cllr Butterwick **Seconded by:** Cllr Eckersley.
Voting:
For: 9
Against: 1
Abstention: 0

10.230 TO CONSIDER THE MONTHLY FINANCE UPDATE REPORT
Paper MPC(10)P230 previously circulated was received and noted.
The Chairman of the Finance & Risk Management Committee confirmed that at the present time the year it was not envisaged the year end outturn would impact on the reserve fund other than already advised in the report.

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

10.231.01 War Memorial

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that her visit to the records office had identified that there was a fund set up for the maintenance of the war memorial with the balance of the sums raised for the memorial by local subscription. The fund was in the names of the Rector and Churchwardens.

10.231.02 St Audry's Church

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that her visit to the records office had identified that the church had been decommissioned and was owned by Hopkins Homes. There was to be an exhibition featuring the church at the Records Office in Gateacre Road Ipswich in January 2011.

10.231.03 Village Sign

The clerk confirmed that a copy of the letter from residents expressing their delight at the renovation of the flower bed by the Village Sign had been sent to Simon Cox at SCL Ltd.

10.231.04 Damage Retribution

The clerk advised that the planned litter pick by the young offender under the supervision of Catch22 had not materialised.

10.231.05 BMX Trail

The clerk advised that a revised planning application form had been provided by Just42 and as soon as the Chairman of Planning Committee had written the Design and Access Statement residents would be advised by E-NEWS and their views sought before any formal application was submitted. The cost of the application would be paid by Just42 who, should planning consent be given, will facilitate the formation of a management group under the umbrella of Woodbridge & Melton Youth Forum to run the scheme.

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

Paper MPC(10)P232 previously circulated was received and noted.

10.233 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 made.

10.234 TO CONSIDER SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL'S NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Chairman of Planning Committee gave the following overview of the situation:

- Since the meeting of the full County Council on 23rd September 2010, there has been much speculation about Suffolk County Council's 'New Strategic Direction' and what it might mean for the provision of services.
- A key section of that report which has fuelled the speculation includes:
 - Implementation in three stages by 2012
 - Whilst the overall programme is being finalised it is proposed to start the process with a set of early adopter services that will allow the Council to begin the process and develop expertise for the more substantial Phase 1 services. Initial discussions have identified the services listed below as potential options. Not all will proceed and it is the intention that lessons will be learned by going through this process.
 - *Transactional Property*
 - *Registrars*
 - *Suffolk Traded Services*
 - *Employment Enterprises, Learning & Careers Advice*
 - *Libraries*
 - *Home First*
 - *A Record Office*

- *Independent Living Centres*
 - *Highway Services*
 - *Country Parks*
 - *Economic Development*
 - *Youth Clubs, and Integrated Youth Support & Outdoor Education*
 - *Early Years & Childcare, including Children's Centres*
 - *Home Shield Plus*
 - *Hate Crime Service"*
- At the Budget Forum held at SCDC's offices at Woodbridge presentations were made, and questions answered, by the three major precepting authorities (County Council, District Council and Police Authority).
- The bulk of the questioning was directed at the County Council representatives (Geoff Dodson - Head of Strategic Finance and Jane Storey - Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resource Management and Transformation) in respect of the *New Strategic Direction*. It was clear from the responses that there is no clear plan of how SCC intends to get from where it is now to where it wants to be as a '*lean Strategic Council*'. What was equally clear is that the divestment policy will involve 'local communities' being faced with a plethora of stark choices - "*either take on responsibility for running this service or that facility, or it will close. And if you do, any money which goes with it will rapidly reduce to zero, after which you'll probably have to charge users.*" There was no answer to the question what the timescale for consultation on proposed divestment might be. This moved Felixstowe Town Cllr. Andy Smith to announce "*We're skating on thin ice. I shall be talking to the Town Clerk tomorrow and proposing a substantial increase in the town council precept, as we don't know what financial obligations might suddenly be forced upon us*".
- In contrast to this, the view repeatedly espoused by SCDC (from Ray Herring through the Chief Exec and the Strategic Director) that there would be *no* unannounced divestment by SCDC in 2011/12 and that they were hoping to set up a Transition Fund to help town & parish councils who took on divested services.
- There is clearly a lot of detail to come and it is essential that council is able to devote the appropriate amount of time to consider the implications fully. The sensible approach is to set up a small working group to investigate fully what is proposed

It was RESOLVED to set up a working group consisting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of Planning Committee and the Chairman of Finance & Risk Management Committee to investigate fully the implications for Melton Parish Council of the Suffolk County Council New Strategic Direction

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

10.235 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

10.235.01 Remembrance Sunday

Council was reminded of the service on 14th November at the War Memorial in St Andrew's Church at 1045.

10.236 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9th December 2010 in the Lindos Centre Main Hall commencing at 1900

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2105

Signed: _____

Date: _____