



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Melton Parish Council on Thursday 10th March 2011 commencing at 1900 in The Lindos Centre Main Hall Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

Present:

Cllr Mrs ME Addington

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott [Vice – Chairman]

Cllr Mr PJ Brockett

Cllr Mr GK Butterwick

Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley

Cllr Mrs EJJ Hilson

Cllr Miss LS Leonard

Cllr Mrs KS Martin [Chairman]

Cllr Mr HM Needham

Cllr Mr A Thompson

In Attendance:

Cllr Mr J Bidwell

PCSO M Smith

Mr MJ Green

District Councillor [until 1930]

Woodbridge SNT [until 1915]

Clerk to Melton Parish Council

11.38 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ANY ABSENCE

11.38.01 Cllr Mr MW Sherwen – working late

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

Proposed by: Cllr Addington

Seconded by: Cllr Hilson.

11.38.02 Cllr Mr MN Bond [County and District Councillor] – attending SCDC Meeting

Council noted this apology.

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

There were no declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda or additions to the register.

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

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

11.41 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

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

There were no representations from councillors as none had declared a prejudicial interest.

11.41.02 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 in respect of items on the agenda.

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

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

11.42.01 Graffiti

It was reported that PCSO Smith had apprehended a 'graffiti artist' in possession of the 'tools of his trade' thereby preventing further criminal damage.

She explained that it is very difficult to bring charges against those who cause this type of damage unless they are caught in the act. This was an excellent example to others and is having a 'sobering' impact on those who carry out this type of damage.

11.42.02 SNT Patrols

PCSO Smith advised council that they patrol 'with a purpose' rather than random visits but that they rely on and encourage members of the public to report issues. They were awaiting the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order in Melton as this will strengthen their position when they find indiscriminate parking

11.42.03 Dog Waste

Members of the public are encouraged to report the antisocial practice of allowing dogs to foul public spaces to the Dog Warden at Suffolk Coastal

11.42.04 Mobile Police Station

PCSO Smith agreed to send a list of the dates and venues to the Clerk for distribution.

11.42.05 Melton Messenger

A burglary awareness article had been written for inclusion in the Melton Messenger to encourage residents and car owners to be more security conscious. Many thefts are opportunity thefts where vehicles are left unlocked or implements that can be used to assist in break-ins left insecure in gardens.

11.42.06 Royal Wedding Street Party

The meeting was advised that there is no policy on preventing street parties but anyone planning such an event is recommended to contact Woodbridge SNT for advice.

11.42.07 Tasking Meeting

Concern was expressed about the lack of advance notice of these meetings – PCSO Smith agreed to report back to her superiors.

11.42.08 Consultation on Bridleway 31

Concern was expressed about the short timescale and the Clerk was asked to request an extension until after the Planning and Transport Committee meeting on 21st March. Cllrs Butterwick and Abbott to prepare a paper for consideration by the Planning and Transport Committee on 21st. [Extension until 22/3/2011 confirmed].

11.42.09 Melton Primary School – Ofsted Report

It was reported that one of the concerns of Ofsted in their recent inspection was the lack of 'community cohesion'. Council agreed to support the school in any way they could to help overcome this issue. Cllr Leonard to liaise with the school.

11.42.10 St Audry's Church

Much concern was voiced about the situation reported in the local and national press about the exposed graves following the archaeological dig. The clerk to refer to the Church of England Authorities to obtain information of the date when the church was deconsecrated and also to SALC to obtain a legal view on the developments allowed on such sites.

11.42.11 Ancient Wills

It was reported that a project to catalogue ancient wills for Melton since 1300 is currently being undertaken and that in due course a report will come to the parish council.

11.42.12 Hedgerow Survey

The Chairman confirmed that a copy of the survey is now in the parish council office should anyone wish to read it.

11.42.13 Melton Station

Concern was expressed about the apparent cessation of work at Melton Station [Cllr Bond subsequently reported that this should be completed within two weeks].

11.42.14 Parish Council Elections

The Chairman encouraged those who were standing again to submit the application forms to the SDC as soon as possible and reminded members that the deadline was noon on 4th April. A publicity campaign including posters, E-NEWS and the Melton

Messenger was being started and members were encouraged to spread the word around the village.

11.42.15 Melton Messenger

Concern was expressed yet again about the late production and delivery of the Melton Messenger and the impact that this was having on publicising events in the village.

11.43 TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Paper MPC(11)P43 previously circulated was received and noted..

It was also reported that the footpath work on Yarmouth Road is scheduled to start in early May.

11.44 TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Bidwell reported on the following:

- The vote on the LDF, which would pave the way for the Adastral Park development, has been delayed due to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust report and will probably not take place until the autumn due to the elections.
- This is a low crime area with only 44.5 crimes per 1,000 population
- Free swimming for the over 60's ceased due to loss of government funding
- In 2009/10 107 affordable houses delivered in the Suffolk Coastal Area; in 2010/11 51 built and 385 approved
- Real cost savings being achieved by shared services and shared senior management posts between Waveney and Suffolk Coastal with further potential for joint action
- St Audry's Bowls Club – Cllrs Bidwell and Bond still seeking legal solution.

It was RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

11.45 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2011

11.45.01 Amendment #1 – 11.25.05 Key Stage 2 in English and Maths

The following amendment was proposed:

Cllr Bond had referred in his January report that he was concerned about the wide variation in performance in the Key Stage 2 results suggesting that the current arrangements under which schools were 'governed' might not be the optimum. Councillors had not had the opportunity of raising the matter with Cllr Bond in January due to his absence abroad.

A member, himself a school governor, said that the report was ridiculous. Cllr Bond did not know what he was talking about because he, Cllr Bond, was not a school governor. Another member said that he had been a governor for eight years and knew that governors worked very hard. Cllr Bond read out the words in question and explained that governors were not under attack but the arrangements under which they worked. For example, the county Council, which provided the money and had overall responsibility in the county, could not intervene decisively in poorly performing schools.

A member said that statistics did not show everything about a school and taken out of context could be very damaging especially in this very challenging time for school governors. Cllr Bond responded that poor standards in education lead to a less skilled workforce and that although SCC provided the funding they had no effective control over schools. This was disputed by councillors as state schools were government funded and SCC had a direct control through its advisory service.

Proposed by: Cllr Butterwick

Seconded by: Cllr Needham.

There then followed a lengthy discussion after which a vote on the amendment was taken with the following results:

For: 3
Against: 3
Abstain: 4

The Chairman then used her casting vote in favour of the amendment.

It was therefore RESOLVED that, with this one amendment, minutes MPC(11)M02 previously circulated be received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

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

11.46.01 Planning Committee 21st February 2011

Minutes PLA(11)M02 previously circulated were received and noted.

It was noted that the objection to the Bentwaters application had been submitted by the due date and that a formal acknowledgment of the complaint against two district councillors had now been received. The LDF implementation had been delayed due to recent submissions by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and consequently so had the Adastral Park development as it was contrary to the current Local Plan.

It was RESOLVED that Minutes PLA(11)M02 previously circulated be received and noted.

Proposed by: Cllr Butterwick

Seconded by: Cllr Martin.

11.46.02 Employment Committee 10th March 2011

Chairman of Employment Committee highlighted the following items from the meeting that preceded the meeting of the Full Council.

- Arrangements for the conduct of staff appraisals had been agreed
- The hours that the parish council office is open to the public will be amended from 1st April 2011 to Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

It was RESOLVED to receive and note the report of the meeting and to circulate the minutes to all councillors in due course.

Proposed by: Cllr Leonard

Seconded by:

11.47 TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE ON CLEARANCE OF THE FOOTPATH AND DITCH EITHER SIDE OF THE HEDGE ON MELTON PLAYING FIELD

Estimates had been received from our contractor for:

- Cut back edge of footpath situated on road side of Recreation Ground
£396.50 VAT exclusive
- Dig out ditch and expose drainage
£425.00 VAT Inclusive

Neither of these items had been budgeted for and needed to be paid for from reserves thereby reducing the year end carried forward reserve.

It was noted that the issue of the overgrown footpath was raised as a Village Matter item 10.223.06. As the work required the use of a mechanical digger it will be more cost effective to carry out both works at the same time.

The Chairman of the Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee advised councillors that an invoice had now been received for the completion of the safety work on the children's play equipment. This was significantly over the anticipated cost due to the work on the additional safety matters raised in the autumn safety report. This invoice has been paid with the impact being that there would be a further reduction in the year end carried forward of approximately £1,000.

Council considered not undertaking the footpath and ditch work; they also considered deferring some or all of the work to the end of the calendar year.

The conclusion was that the potential risk to the public of not carrying out the complete works now would be greater than any benefit in retaining a larger reserve especially in the climate of 0% interest rates on the deposit account.

It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of £821.50 from reserves in the current financial year.

Proposed by: Cllr Needham

Seconded by: Cllr Thompson.

11.48 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

11.48.01 Burness Parish Room Management Committee

No report.

11.48.02 Deben Estuary Partnership

No report.

11.48.03 Melton Trust

No report.

- 11.50 TO CONSIDER THE MONTHLY FINANCE UPDATE REPORT**
 Paper MPC(11)P50 previously circulated was received and noted.
 The Chairman of the Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee advised council that the report was produced before receipt of the invoice for the play equipment repairs.
- 11.51 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINED IN THE WEEKLY REPORTS CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS**
 There were no matters arising
- 11.52 TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN ON MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**
 Paper MPC(11)P52 previously circulated was received and noted.
- 11.53 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VILLAGE PLAN ACTION ITEMS**
 Paper MPC(11)P53 had been circulated to councillors only and was not in the public domain.
 The Vice Chairman asked for any further comments from councillors to be sent to her by email so that she could then provide a final report for putting on the website.
- 11.54 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.
- 11.55 TO CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF THE SCC NSD ON LIBRARIES**
 Deferred from February Full Council Meeting – no further action.
- 11.56 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS**
 There was no urgent business.
- 11.57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 11.57.01 Final Parish Council Meeting of this Council**
 Parish Council Meeting Thursday 14th April 2011 in the Lindos Centre Main Hall commencing at 1900
- 11.57.02 Annual Parish Meeting**
 Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 28th April 2011 in the Lindos Centre Main Hall commencing at 1900.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2115

Signed: _____ Date: _____