



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



**Minutes** of an Ordinary Meeting of Melton Parish Council on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011 commencing at 1900 in The Lindos Centre Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

**Present:**

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott  
Cllr Mr GK Butterwick  
Cllr Mr AG Corston  
Cllr Mr MJ Kennedy

Cllr Mr HM Needham  
Cllr Mr AH Porter  
Cllr Mr A Thompson  
Cllr Mr ML Webb

**Absent:**

Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley  
Cllr Mrs EJG Hilson  
Cllr Miss KS Martin

Cllr Ms C Shepherd  
Cllr Mr MW Sherwen

**In Attendance:**

Cllr Mr MN Bond  
Mr MJ Green

District and County Councillor [until 1940]  
Clerk to Melton Parish Council

**11.158 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSIDER CONSENTING TO ANY ABSENCE**

**11.158.01 Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley – Holiday**

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr Abbott

**Seconded by:** Cllr Porter.

**11.158.02 Cllr Mrs EJG Hilson – Birthday Celebration**

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr Abbott

**Seconded by:** Cllr Porter.

**11.158.03 Cllr Miss KS Martin – Prior Engagement**

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr Abbott

**Seconded by:** Cllr Porter.

**11.158.04 Cllr Bidwell – Prior Engagement**

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

**Proposed by:** Cllr Abbott

**Seconded by:** Cllr Porter.

**11.159 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS 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.

**11.160 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE DECLARED A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST AT ITEM 11.159**

There were no representations from councillors as none had declared a prejudicial interest at item 11.159.

**11.161 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.

**11.162 STANDING ORDER 8 - WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

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

**11.163 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

*It was RESOLVED to lift standing orders.*

**11.163.01 To receive the Safer Neighbourhood Team Report**

PC Karen Clabburn tendered her apologies for the meeting.

Paper MPC(11)P163.01 previously circulated was received and noted.

The Clerk summarised the crime statistics for Melton for the period January to August 2011 and agreed to circulate future updates.

**11.163.02 To Receive the County Councillors Report**

Paper MPC(11)P163.02 previously circulated was received and noted.

Cllr Butterwick agreed to obtain clarification of the impact of the street lighting proposals in so far as they affected Melton.

**11.163.03 To Receive the District Councillors Report**

Cllr Bond highlighted the ongoing debate on the LDF with two essential questions needing to be addressed (1) how many houses do we need in SCDC area over a period of time and (2) where should they be

**11.163.04 To Discuss Village Matters Raised by Members of the Public or Councillors**

(a)

Bentwaters Park

Concern was expressed regarding the retrospective planning application at Bentwaters Park. The application is for the regularisation of change of use of all buildings, the use of which has changed for a number of units since the original planning consent was given. Issues also surround the increase in traffic along the A1152 through Melton and that the Melton level crossing is amongst the top 30 in the country at risk the cost of which would fall on the public purse if a section 106 agreement was not included.. The loss of jobs would be a major concern if consent is not given but support would be given if the development was restricted to a sensible level with enforceable conditions.

An informal grouping of parish councils had engaged a barrister at an advantageous rate to give opinion on whether what is being proposed is lawful. Contributions to the fighting fund are being sought from other councils including Melton Parish Council [this will be an agenda item in September].

*It was RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders*

**11.164 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011**

**It was RESOLVED** that Minutes MPC(11)M07 previously circulated be received, noted and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Abbott

**Seconded by:** Cllr Needham.

**11.165 TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

**11.165.01 Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Minutes FRM(11)M03 previously circulated were received and noted.

**11.165.02 Recreation Committee 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Minutes REC(11)M09 previously circulated were received and noted.

The following items were highlighted:

- Agreement reached with Woodbridge Town Youths FC regarding the lease of the football pitches for the season 2011/12 at £1,250.
- Chairman of Recreation Committee progressing 'Friends of Melton Woods'

- 11.165.03 Planning and Transport Committee 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011**  
Minutes PLA(11)M07 previously circulated were received and noted.  
The Chairman advised that the planning application for the BMX Trail was in abeyance as SCDC had requested further drawings and pictures to show the revised location of the trail. The officer had been authorised to approve the application subject to further consultation with objectors when the new drawings had been supplied.
- 11.166 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
- 11.166.01 Burness Parish Room Management Committee**  
Paper MPC(11)P166.01 previously circulated was received and noted.  
It was confirmed that Cllr Needham would be attending both the Trustee and the Management Committee meeting.
- 11.166.02 Deben Estuary Partnership**  
No report.
- 11.166.03 Melton Trust**  
No report.
- 11.166.04 Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Tasking Group**  
The Vice Chairman had provided confidential notes from Tasking Meeting and it was agreed that these would be circulated to councillors only.
- 11.166.05 Suffolk Association of Local Councils**  
Paper MPC(11)P166.05 was tabled, received and noted.
- 11.167 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**
- 11.167.01 Affordable Housing Working Group**  
It was confirmed that a meeting was scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> August with Suffolk ACRE to identify potential sites and consider possible Housing Enabling Partner.
- 11.167.02 Communications Working Group**  
The group planned to meet shortly informally to consider the next steps in the ongoing discussions with the Parish Church Council regarding the future of the Melton Messenger.  
[Subsequent to the meeting a further meeting of the joint communications group was arranged for 6 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 immediately preceding the meeting of the full council].
- 11.167.03 Pavilion Working Group**  
The Clerk reported that four tenders had been received for the remedial works to the pavilion and that SBPM had been awarded the work.  
An application for funding from the SCDC Sports Fund had been submitted to cover the cost of these works.
- 11.167.04 Suffolk County Council New Strategic Direction Working Group**  
No report.
- 11.168 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINED IN THE WEEKLY REPORTS CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS**  
There were no matters arising.
- 11.169 TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE ORDER THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 4**  
It was noted that there had been no resolutions or recommendations made.
- 11.170 TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN ON MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**  
Paper MPC(11)P170 previously circulated was received and noted.
- 11.171 TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**  
Paper MPC(11)P171 previously circulated was received and noted.  
The Chairman of the Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee advised that the underspend is due mainly to non-receipt of invoices and also that the budget for elections was for the worst case scenario which had not come to fruition.

**11.172 TO ADOPT REVISED STANDING ORDERS AS RECOMMENDED BY FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- (a) To Propose Special Motion to Add, Vary or Revoke Standing Orders

Standing Order SO32 b

A motion to add to or to vary or revoke one or more of the Council's Standing Orders, not mandatory by law, shall be proposed by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 4 councillors

**It was RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Standing Order SO32 b as recommended by the Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Needham **Seconded by:** Cllr Thompson.

- (b) To Change the number of days notice required for Substitute Committee Members

Standing Order SO15 iv

May appoint substitute councillors to a committee whose role is to replace ordinary councillors at a meeting of a committee if ordinary members of the committee have confirmed to the Proper Officer four days before the meeting that they are unable to attend

**It was RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Standing Order SO15 iv as recommended by the Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Needham **Seconded by:** Cllr Thompson.

**11.173 TO ADOPT THE MELTON PARISH COUNCIL EMERGENCY PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Paper MPC(11)P173 previously circulated was received and noted.

**It was RESOLVED** to adopt the Melton Parish Council Emergency Plan contained in paper MPC(11)17 as recommended by the Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee

**Proposed by:** Cllr Needham **Seconded by:** Cllr Thompson.

It was also agreed to circulate the contact telephone numbers of councillors to councillors only.

**11.174 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND THE LOCALISM BILL**

Paper MPC(11)P174 previously circulated was received and noted.

The Chairman added that there had been a coherent message from all five of the speakers at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July and it was likely that the bill would be on the statute books by April 2012 and that this would have a significant impact on planning in the future. Council noted that there were significant changes from month to month as the bill passes through parliament some of which give opportunities to Town and Parish Councils with others which are open to question. It was disappointing that SCDC did not appear to be embracing the concepts of localism in the same way that Babergh and Mid-Suffolk had and therefore it was agreed to contact SCDC to clarify their approach to community led planning.

**11.175 TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST CLLRS SMITH & JOWERS**

Paper MPC(11)P175 previously circulated was received and noted.

After lengthy debate, recommendation a) was withdrawn. However, in doing so council expressed grave concern about the finding by Waveney DC of 'no case to answer', especially in respect of Ref 00026301 Case 39 (Cllr. Smith) and his statement that "we could not and would not contradict our officers." Councillors considered that this clearly suggested that officers' statements and recommendations should be accepted, even in the face of alternative evidence from objectors, which appear would fatally undermine the even-handedness of the planning system.

It was **RESOLVED THAT**

A written request should be made to the Chairman of SCDC's Scrutiny Committee, asking:-

- i) what progress has been made in implementing the Action Plan for improvement in the planning service, approved by SCDC Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010?
- ii) what assessment has been made of the comments submitted by town and parish councils to the letter of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010?
- iii) what proposals exist for the promised further scrutiny of the planning service?

and that this request is copied to those town and parish councils which gave evidence to the Scrutiny process last year.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Needham

**Seconded by:** Cllr Abbott.

**11.176 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**11.177 TO AGREE WHICH ITEMS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE MELTON MESSENGER REPORT**

The following items were noted for inclusion:

- BMX Trail
- Refurbishment of the Pavilion
- Graffiti
- Properly locking up cars, houses and sheds/outhouses
- Street Lighting
- Link on MPC website to combined bus/train timetable

**11.178 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in the Lindos Centre commencing at 19:00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2115

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

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