



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



MPC(11)M\_APM

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 28th April 2011 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in Lindos Centre Main Hall Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

**Present:**

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott  
Cllr Mrs ME Addington  
Cllr Mr GK Butterwick  
Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley  
Cllr Mrs EJG Hilson  
Cllr Miss KS Martin  
Cllr Mr A Thomson  
Cllr Mr MN Bond  
Mr A Porter

Mr J White  
Mrs J Huggins  
Mr M Huggins  
Mrs M Hampton  
Mr J Hampton  
Mr T Stendall  
Mr J Eckersley  
Ms J Abbott  
Mr M Kennedy

**In Attendance:**

Mr MJ Green [Clerk to Melton Parish Council]

**11.01 INTRODUCTION – CHAIRMAN MELTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman of Melton Parish Council welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the following words:

Annual Parish Meetings are statutory and are a form of direct democracy. They must be held between March and July and cannot start before 6 p.m.

For Melton this is the only opportunity all year for members of the community to come together and have their say and could be a great way of sharing views on village affairs. It is also the time the Parish Council gives an account of itself and its work.

The **order** of the meeting is:

A talk by a member of the Woodbridge and District Safer Neighbourhood Team. This was due to be given by Marie Smith, who looks after several villages, including Melton. Unfortunately, Marie has been ill and could not be with us this evening. She has attended many meetings of the council in the past year and is often seen around the village. I know Marie will be disappointed to miss being here tonight and we would like to send our best wishes to her and hope she is better soon. In her place we welcome Karle Howard who has attended our meetings in the past and will talk to us about the Safer Neighbourhood Team in Melton.

Then, I will give a short report on the activities of MPC over the past year. A fuller, written version of this report is available on our web-site and some printed copies are available at the back of the hall. I shall also read out a report from Tony Dunford, our Trustee on the Burness Parish Rooms committee.

There will then be a break for refreshments then we ask you to join in a discussion about any aspects of village life you choose. All of the councillors here are happy to answer your questions but most importantly, we would like to know what you think about Melton.

**11.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Mr PJ Brockett  
Cllr Mr HM Needham  
Cllr Mr J Bidwell  
Mrs DE Linsley

The Revd M Hatchett. In sending his apologies, the Rector wished to commend the work of the Council and its staff in enhancing the quality of life in the village.

## 11.03

### **THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM IN MELTON – PCSO MARIE SMITH**

The Chairman welcomed Karl Howard and thanked him for giving of his valuable time. The following is the text of his report:

#### **Crime Figures**

Crime figures for the period 2010-11 for Melton show that 139 offences were recorded compared to 189 offences for the same period 2009-10. This equates to a decrease of 50 offences. The number of detections, to date, is 21.

A breakdown of the most relevant crimes is shown below:

Burglary - dwelling - 9

Burglary - other building - 12

Criminal damage - 19

Theft from motor vehicle - 18

Theft from other - 22

Violence - 11

Drug offences - 7

**All the above figures have not been audited and as a result are not for public distribution.**

#### **Parish Issues**

There has been an increase in burglaries over the past year. This is not only in Melton and Woodbridge areas, but also along the A12 corridor. A number of arrests have been made recently and a large amount of stolen property has been recovered and returned to the loser. Most of the burglaries appear to be opportunist and there has been some form of insecurity at the premises. The team has been promoting awareness by a series of locally based Road shows. Members from the Safer Neighbourhood Team were present to give advice on crime reduction and a number of crime reduction items were sold. Press and radio releases also went out. Future Awareness days are to be scheduled.

Plain clothed cycle patrols have also been undertaken at key times and vulnerable locations.

Graffiti has also seen an increase throughout Melton during the past year. A number of people have been dealt with and the most appealing way of dealing with them is to get them to remove the graffiti, which takes considerably more effort than it did when they done it. Suffolk Coastal had an action day and a large amount of graffiti was removed from residential properties along the footpath between Bury Hill and Leeks Hill. This work should be commended.

The SNT continue to be in contact with Highways in relation to the implementation of the traffic order, which does seem to be taking its time being actioned. Finally, another crime that has been prevalent recently is theft from motor vehicle; unfortunately the majority of these crimes have occurred when the vehicle has been left insecure. So a timely reminder for you all, lock your vehicles and remove all items of value.

#### **Speed Enforcement**

The SNT will continue carrying out regular speed enforcement days and the results of will be included in future PCM Police reports. A number of officers are now trained in the use of the handheld laser speed checking device and speed checks are often conducted in both Melton Road, Yarmouth Road and Woods Lane.

#### **Police Direct**

For those of you that haven't signed up for Police Direct yet, please don't forget about it. The service is free, easy to use and is proving to be a very valuable policing tool.

The service doesn't just assist us it also benefits you. You will receive regular updates either via text, email or landline letting you know what is happening in your area.

Leaflets are available at all police stations or visit our website.

### **Contacting the Police**

In an emergency always dial 999. To report a crime, or leave a message, please dial 01473 613500. Any member of the team can be contacted at woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk. Our website as detailed below also has an email link to contact us. Please also have a look at the Suffolk Constabulary Website, which can offer further help and advice. To find the Woodbridge and District Team website please see [www.safersuffolk.org.uk](http://www.safersuffolk.org.uk)

11.04

### **REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE MELTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011**

A copy of the report had been published on the Parish Council Website before the meeting and copies were available at the meeting.

The following was the text of the report:

To start, a few statistics for the year 2010/11:

Melton Parish Council has held 12 Full Council meetings with an average attendance of 80% and our four committees have held a total of 22 meetings with an average attendance ranging from 75% to 90%. Parish councillors give a lot of their time, unpaid, to keeping the village a pleasant place to live.

The Precept for 2011/12 is £52,000, up from £50,200, but the cost per band D property is £30.81, down from £31.36. This is due to new houses being occupied and the 58 properties we regained from Ufford when the boundary was redrawn.

Melton is bigger than most people think. The number of homes is over 2,000, housing around 5,000 people. There are also around 150 businesses, large and small, based in the village. A list of these can be found on our web-site.

The number of planning applications considered in 2010/11 was 54. Of these we supported 5, objected to 10 and raised no objection to the remaining 39.

In 2006, a huge amount of work was done to produce a Village Plan, a copy of which went to every home in the village. The plan is the framework for everything we do and will continue to be so until a new plan is produced.

For a village of its size, Melton has a large number of planning issues.

In the past year, the applications we have objected to have included:

- the Girdlestones site, for which SCDC finally issued planning permission.
- the proposed development of a large warehouse on the Notcutts site just over the border in Ufford. This could have a serious effect on the traffic along Woods Lane, The Street and Yarmouth Road. The application was withdrawn and we are currently waiting to see if it is resubmitted.
- the conversion of the Horse and Groom, into two houses with a third to be built in the car park. This right in the heart of the conservation area. Now the Coach and Horses has closed and we must wait and see what is proposed for the site.
- the building of a new incinerator with the erection of a very tall flue at the Knackers Yard in Valley Farm Road.
- the change of use of the car showroom to a convenience store with long opening hours at the John Grose garage.

On Melton Park, there have also been problems with St Audry's House and the graveyard at St Audry's church.

We also were invited to make a submission to the SCDC Scrutiny Committee's investigation into their Planning Service and presented detailed evidence of the reasons for our unhappiness with the way the system works in this district.

Possibly our greatest asset, the playing field is very well used with football pitches and

the tennis courts, the children's play equipment and the summer monthly car boot sales. On sunny days, there are often family groups playing games and having picnics and all year the woods and field are busy with dog walkers.

The field is looked after by our park warden, Keith Stebbings, who works tirelessly to keep it litter free and safe for everyone to use. We cannot thank Keith enough for the work he does.

During the year, we have considered various matters regarding the field:

- We applied for planning permission to redevelop the pavilion, which is little used now, to create a meeting room and new parish office. We got the permission but could not raise sufficient funds. We are going ahead with a minor upgrade of the lavatories this year but hope that grants can be found to proceed with the full redevelopment soon.
- A proposal was made to extend the path along the edge of the field and create a cycle path for children going to school. We were happy for the field to be used but due to problems with rights of way the costs escalated and the scheme was no longer practical.
- On behalf of Just42, we have submitted a planning application for a BMX track on the edge of the field, near Hutchison's Meadow, the only area that is dry enough and not already taken up by a football pitch.
- Last summer, Circus Tyanna visited the field and they will be returning this year. We have also agreed for the Community Fun Day to be held on the field for the first time this July.

We conducted an Affordable Housing Survey delivering a questionnaire to every house in the village. We have just received the results and will now work with other agencies to get more affordable homes built in the village for people with a strong link to Melton.

Due to a lot of work by our County Councillor, we finally have a much enlarged car park at Melton Station. This has only been open a few weeks but is already full most days.

It has been a bumper year for consultations. We have contributed (or are still contributing) to more than I can remember. A few worth mentioning:

- SCDC's Local Development Framework both core strategy and site specific allocations, something we have all met and discussed several times since 2007. We have since made various submissions, another two this year and now it is again on hold until the autumn.
- SCC New Strategic Direction invited comments but mostly on ways for the community to take on responsibilities and assets.
- Similarly, the Government's Localism Bill invites submissions on a wide variety of proposals, most of which are hundreds of pages long. We are doing our best but it is not easy.

The Parish Council has just reached the end of this four-year term and I should like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the whole community, to thank all the people who have served as councillors over the last four years for their dedication and hard work. I should also like to express my own thanks for the help and support I have been given in my year as chairman. These thanks also extend to our Clerk, Malcolm Green, and Assistant Clerk, Diane Linsley. Their hard work supporting the administration of the council can easily be overlooked. They are based in the Parish Office in the bungalow at the Lindos Centre which is open to members of the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Five of our councillors are retiring and I am sure everyone will join me in wishing them all the best for the future. Also, in welcoming the new councillors who will take their places at the May meeting of the council. I am sure the new Council will face many challenges and will continue to do all it can to keep Melton a pleasant place to live and work in and I would ask you, the community, to give us your help and support over the next four years.

In the absence of the Parish Council Representative the following report was read out.

### **Burness Parish Room**

The revised structure of the management of the Burness, which separates the day to day running by the Committee of Management (drawn from the regular users) from the legal responsibilities carried by the Trustees, has now settled into a comfortable routine. The Parish Council will remember that I now act only as a Trustee, but I do see the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee.

The Annual Meeting of the Burness in May will be asked to approve the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March. A draft of these shows that the permanent fund has not been touched, and that there are sufficient funds to meet current expenditure. The building is maintained in good condition and is still well suited to its various functions. Proper insurance is in place and all health and safety and other legal requirements are met.

The regular users are:

Zumba Keep Fit  
Deben Players  
The Company of Four  
Yoga  
Art Group  
Open Door Club  
Min-Melodies  
Fun French  
Woodbridge School of Dance

Other 'Irregular' Regular bookers are  
Suffolk Coasts & Heaths  
2 Bands

The number of 'one off- family and private booking is rising all the time.

### **11.05 MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010**

Copies had been available on the Parish Council Website and at the meeting. Minutes MPC(10)APM previously circulated were received, noted and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Mr J White  
Seconded by: Cllr E J G Hilson

There then followed a break for refreshments

### **11.06 OPEN FORUM**

The Chairman explained that this was a very informal part of the meeting when residents of Melton were able to raise matters of concern/interest in the village.

The following items were raised during the discussion:

- Road Markings are becoming increasingly unclear and invisible and there are a number of broken street signs
- Upkeep of the 'green areas' in the village
- Localism – the coalition government is keen to divest powers and responsibilities but all levels of government are reluctant to 'let go' of their control – parish councils are keen and willing to take responsibility provided funding is made available to them
- Use of 'green areas' in the village by young people and children where the ownership of the land is not clear is a cause for aggravation between home owners and those using the 'green' for recreation
- Shortage of land for allotments and the opportunity to manage land on behalf of the community
- Girdlestones – planning consent given but as yet no sign of work starting
- GAH to be demolished and a Care Home erected on the site

- Flooding on corner of Melton Playing Field near to Jenners Close a concern due to the depth of the water in the ditch
- Bus Routes – all services lost in evening and Sundays – discussion with local parish councils may lead to a proposal being put forward that might be acceptable
- Melton Station Car Park – now operational but some concern over signage due to the 'restrictive parking' signs erected by the butchers
- Traffic Restriction Orders – delay in implementation due to lack of funding but County Councillor Bond has allocated locality funding to ensure that work is carried out

**11.07      DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 commencing at 19:00 at the Lindos Centre Saddlemakers Lane  
Melton IP12 1PP.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2035

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

[Chairman]