



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

REC(18)M01

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Melton Parish Council Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 17 January 2018 commencing at 19:00 at Riverside Office, Robertson's Boatyard, Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge IP12 1BD.

Present:

Cllr Mrs C Gradwell
Cllr Miss K S Martin
Cllr Mr A Porter
Cllr Mr C W Taylor
Mrs E Ashford (Co-optee)

Absent:

Cllr Mr M Holmes
Cllr Mr J West
Mrs C McBurney (Co-optee)

In Attendance:

Mr W J Grosvenor *Clerk to Melton Parish Council*
Four members of the public

	PART ONE – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
18.01	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Holmes, Cllr West and Mrs McBurney.
18.02	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
18.02.01	To receive amendments to the Register There were none.
18.02.02	To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.

18.02.03	<p>To receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.</p>
18.02.04	<p>To consider Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.</p>
18.03	<p>OPEN FORUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TALK TO COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The first question raised was in relation to the current position of the Village Hall project. Whilst this was not on the agenda for the meeting, it was explained that the project was parked until after the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. Now that the Neighbourhood Plan was voted in, Full Council on 10 January agreed to convene a meeting of the Village Hall Councillor Working Group to review all the options in terms of taking this forward.</p> <p>A request was made for an outdoor gym on the playing Field. Cllr Porter explained that once the lower field was drained consideration would be given to the acquisition of new and better play / gym equipment. Funds are available for the purpose and Recreation Committee has in effect a “wish list” of improvements to be made which is being incorporated in the Council’s Business Plan.</p> <p>The Committee’s attention was drawn to a tree safety issue in the woodland; it was established that this is actually in the Suffolk Coastal part of the woodland and Cllr Porter promised that the problem will be passed on to the appropriate person (in Suffolk Coastal NORSE) to deal with it.</p> <p>The overgrown pond and immediate surrounds were also highlighted. Phil patrols the area and removes as much litter as is accessible; it was agreed that improvements need to be made and this is on the list of things to do once the drainage work is completed. However work on the pond itself is likely to have to be undertaken by contractors because of safety concerns.</p> <p>It was felt that the way the felled timber has been placed to delineate pathways and guide people is too “managed”. Councillors explained that the woodland suffered from too much use and professional advice was to try to reduce footfall in some areas to encourage wildlife and regrowth.</p> <p>Councillors were asked about the current position with the drainage works. It was explained that the contract has been let and the Clerk awaits notification of a start date.</p>

18.04	<p>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING It was RESOLVED to agree the Minutes of the Recreation Committee held on 15 November 2017 (Minutes REC(17)M05 and REC(17)M05 <i>Confidential</i> previously distributed). Proposed by: Cllr Martin Seconded by: Mrs Ashford</p>
18.05	<p>TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN Paper REC(18)05 previously distributed was received. Following discussion it was AGREED that the following changes will be made to the draft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, footpaths and Rights of Way will be added to the summary of Recreation Committee’s list of responsibilities. • The “wish list” timescales will be amended to reflect a realistic timescale for implementation. • The paragraph on the Village Hall will be amended to reflect the current intention to review all options for meeting Melton’s future needs for a community facility.
18.06	<p>MELTON PLAYING FIELD</p>
18.06.01	<p>To receive a report on all matters relating to the Playing Field and Pavilion including the greenspace management contract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage contract – The Clerk reported that the contract was let before Christmas to William Morfoot, in accordance with the decision taken at the previous Recreation Committee meeting, and a start date is awaited. As soon as confirmation is received from Bromeswell PC as to their support for Melton’s bid to the Suffolk Coastal Sports Pot, an application for funding will be submitted, and a start date sought from Morfoot. • Condition of the grass – The Clerk drew attention to areas of high usage where there were bare patches or where the grass was sparse, particularly in the pitch goal mouths and centres. It was AGREED that he will talk to SCL to see what is the best course of action. • Mole treatment – Command Pest Control visited in November, set traps and caught a mole; further visits in December resulted in traps being set but no moles caught.

18.06.02	<p>Work of the Village Handyperson</p> <p>The Clerk summarised recent tasks undertaken by Phil. He has recently installed a new grille in the entrance to the culvert behind the electricity substation to ensure that litter / debris etc. in the ditch does not block the culvert. He has also repaired and serviced the mower ready for the new season.</p> <p>There has been a problem with surface water flooding in front of the pavilion. Attempts at clearing the soakaways have not worked. It is likely they are inadequate for the job and are attempting to drain the water into already sodden ground. Following discussion it was AGREED to monitor the position and review after the drainage work is completed.</p> <p>An increase in litter, particularly bottles, has been reported following the Christmas / New Year period. These have been cleared.</p> <p>Cllr Porter requested that the sign near the entrance to the woodland be cleaned. This will be arranged.</p>
18.06.03	<p>To receive a report on all matters relating to the hiring of the Playing Field</p> <p>Paper REC(18)06.03 previously distributed was received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new hire agreement with Mr M Tester for his outdoor exercise classes was NOTED. • Whilst Councillors were sympathetic to the request by Circus Petite to visit around Easter, in view of the planned visit by Circus Tyanna in July, it was AGREED to suggest to the applicant that September might be a more suitable time. • Councillors considered the request to run Forest School sessions in Burkes Wood. Concerns were expressed about aspects of health and safety emanating from the proposals, and it was AGREED that Cllr Gradwell will seek further advice before a final decision is made.
18.07	MELTON WOODS
18.07.01	<p>To receive an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the 2016 Tree Safety Report</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the works were satisfactorily completed in week commencing 4 December 2017. Additional work was carried out at the same time to raise the canopies of the ornamental cherry trees overhanging the picnic benches.</p>
18.07.02	<p>To consider a quotation from the Council's Arboriculturalist for the Annual Tree Safety Inspection</p> <p>Paper REC(18)07.02 previously distributed was received.</p>

	In discussion the price was thought to be rather on the high side and it was AGREED to seek another price for comparison.
18.07.03	To receive update report on actions previously agreed in relation to the Burkes Wood Management Plan The Clerk reported that SCL carried out these works satisfactorily in week commencing 4 December 2017.
18.07.04	To consider appointment of a new Tree Warden An advertisement in the next edition of the <i>Melton Messenger</i> was awaited. Cllr Martin to resend the brief job description to Cllr Porter. It was also AGREED to resurrect the Friends of Melton Woods.
18.08	TO CONSIDER UPDATE ON “BEACONS OF LIGHT” PROJECT The Clerk confirmed that, following advice from Suffolk Coastal Planners, full planning permission will be required for the beacon. The Clerk offered to prepare and submit the application if he can be supplied with technical drawings of the proposed structure together with a location map showing where exactly it will be sited on the Playing Field.
18.09	COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN’S URGENT BUSINESS
18.09.01	To receive a report on urgent business not otherwise on the Agenda Cllr Porter reported that the new recruit to the Council, Cllr Ellis, had experienced sudden serious ill health, but was doing his best to overcome the problems. Cllr Gradwell reported someone living in a tent in woodland behind the Carter / Warburg site. Further enquiries will be made.
18.09.02	To agree items for inclusion in <i>Melton Messenger</i> In addition to carrying an advertisement for a Tree Warden (see Minute 18.07.04 above) there will also be a request for people interested in joining a relaunched ‘Friends of Melton Woods’.
18.10	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 March 2018, commencing at 19:00, at Riverside Office, Robertson’s Boatyard, Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge IP12 1BD. There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:15.