

**Melton Parish Council**  
**Chairman's Annual Report 2019/2020**

This is my sixth Annual report as your chairman and still I can't believe the speed at which the years go by.

Sadly, due to the lockdown with the coronavirus epidemic, there will not be an actual Annual Parish Meeting this year but I have done the report anyway.

Firstly is the presentation of the annual award for somebody who has gone the extra mile to help make Melton the place it is today. Nominations for this award go to individuals who beaver away quietly and often their efforts go unrecognised. I am pleased to say the award this year goes to John Hargreaves. I shall deliver this when the lockdown is lifted.

John came to live in Melton about 2012 and got involved with the community straight away. He volunteered for the Burness Parish Rooms Committee and does a lot to help Colin Birkbeck with the Burness. He joined St Andrew's church and the Village Produce Association, he tidies the churchyard and looks after the area by the village sign.

At the Jubilee Lunches for local pensioners he uses his background with Citizen's Advice to help people. He helps with the village fete, often loading chairs from the church and the Burness Rooms. He assisted on the night with the Beacon of Light event on 11/11/18. He works quietly away but has been noticed as a great chap always willing to lend a hand.

He and his wife Gillian supported the campaign for the defibrillator and set the ball rolling for its swift implementation.

It has probably been one of the most successful years in the long history of Melton Parish Council. Quite a number of long term work have come to fruition this year.

Of course challenges continue to come from all directions but somehow as a team we seem to cope with them.

Just to remind you that Melton Parish Council consists of up to 15 full councillors who may also serve on the three committees. The current council has 15 members.

We have Full Council meetings every other month and we also have 3 committees:

- Finance Employment and Risk Management (FERM)
- Planning and Transport (P&T)
- Recreation (REC)

All our meetings take place in public and everyone is welcome. We do get members of the public coming along, especially at planning where local people may be affected by developments, which is lovely to see. Agendas and minutes are published on our new website. [www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk](http://www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk)

Melton Parish Council works in partnership with local organisations in the village to strengthen community, identity and involvement. We are represented on the governing body of Melton Primary School by Cllr Katy Martin, at the Burness Parish Rooms by Cllr Carol Gradwell and also on the Melton Trust charity by Cllr Katy Martin. Geof Butterwick does a grand job of being our transport representative and maintains the local transport guide available from the MPC website.

## **Staff**

William Grosvenor is our Clerk, and since he has been with us the activities of our council have grown significantly. Somehow he keeps us on an even keel and keeps everything in order whilst complying with a lot of legislation. The turnover of the council has increased so we recruited a new member of staff a year ago. Pip Alder has been with us a year now and is a real asset to MPC.

We also have Phil Donoghue, our maintenance officer, who does a great job with all sorts of odd jobs around the village and the recreation ground.

Finally we have Lindsay Dann who is our volunteer tree warden and is doing a great job planting trees and bushes around the village. However he is looking to give up the role so we are looking for a new recruit next year. I think we have a really strong team in Melton and I am very proud of them all.

## **2019 - 2020 Major Achievements**

1. The office is now fully kitted out with equipment such as display boards and a fire safe to keep our important documents and PC backups safe.
2. The recreation ground has been reseeded after the drainage works last year. The drainage has worked well as it would have been a swamp by now. The ditch has also been recently cleared and trees planted nearby.
3. We have continued to represent Melton at Sizewell C meetings and expect an application from EDF to go to the inspector soon.
4. Our Neighbourhood Plan is now 2 years old and is in the process of being updated to keep it fresh and enforceable. We await the East Suffolk local plan to be formally issued so we can proceed. We held open events at the office and ran an online survey to garner local opinion to feed into the update.

5. We were the main driving force behind the fete in 2019. It was a cracking day and the proceeds were divided amongst St Andrew's Church, Melton Primary School and the Burness Rooms as usual.
6. We have highlighted sites for the speed indicator device to be mounted and we have selected a device to buy. We are awaiting SCC Highways to fit the stalks so we can move this project ahead.
7. The zip wire and nest swing opened in time for the summer school holidays in 2019 and are very popular.
8. We also installed two new bench seats inside the play area and two picnic benches just outside.
9. The long awaited traffic calming measures in Station Road were installed. They were a bit of a compromise as First Bus did not want big bumps. So after meeting their requirements they had the cheek to cut the bus service. Many people who live there don't think the traffic calming measures are working. Where do we go from here?
10. The process of divesting the 21 pieces of land from East Suffolk Council to us started and is now underway.
11. We took up the job of putting time tables in ALL of the bus stops in Melton
12. We have a tenant for the upstairs floor at 17 Riduna and all the legal loose ends have been completed.
13. We have been a part of a group of local town and parish councils that have been joining together to put out points of view across to First Bus and believe it or not we have scored a few minor successes. Not east was the restoration of the 71 bus to Orford.
14. We represent MPC at the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) forums.
15. We have been much involved with Hopkins Homes about issues surrounding the former bowls club and the St Audrys Social Club grounds. These issues are far from resolved but we are continuing to press for a good outcome.
16. I always attend the Remembrance Sunday service at St Andrew's Church in November and I lay a wreath on behalf of MPC. I also do a reading at the carol service in December. When Father Paul Hambling arrived he asked me if I was a regular church goer. Of course I said yes; twice a year!
17. Katy Martin and I visited Melton Primary School and gave a talk about the council to the two youngest year groups. They were so well behaved and asked interesting questions. I was very impressed with what a delightful bunch of children they were.

18. Every year we receive applications for small grants. This year we gave grants to :-
  - a. The Burness Parish Rooms £500
  - b. The Village Produce Association (VPA) £100
  - c. WW1 Heritage Group towards the book "Behind the Name". £400
  
19. Despite a couple of resignations we have been able to co-opt new councillors and remain a full council of 15. I am very proud to have such a strong team.
  
20. We have continued to object to the cheese wedge development and at the moment it appears ESC are going to start from square one. Let's see what happens next.
  
21. Our Parish Tree Warden, Lindsay Dann has had a busy year planting young trees. He has been in post for two years and would like to hand over to someone else in the not-too-distant future. This voluntary post can be just as demanding or undemanding as the jobholder decides and could appeal to someone who enjoys fresh air and helping the environment. Lindsay would be pleased to talk to anyone interested and can be contacted via the Parish office.
  
22. We represent Melton at other ad-hoc events in the local area. We in Melton are generally at the heart of things and it is noticed by other places.

I often get stopped by local people in Melton whilst walking my dog or out shopping to discuss local affairs. People do appreciate what we do and kind comments like this make it all worthwhile.

Thanks very much for your kind words of support and encouragement during the year. It is most appreciated as indeed is all the work being currently done by the Melton Good Neighbour scheme which we are assisting to run. There are so many good people in Melton and let's hope all this continues after the plague has passed.

Alan Porter  
Chairman – Melton Parish Council