



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

MPC(21)35

Paper for full council March 2021

NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day 5th July 2021

The National Health Service was “born” on 5th July 1948 and on the Anniversary in 2021 there will be an opportunity to thank all our frontline staff and care workers, for being there when we needed them most throughout the pandemic. National celebrations are in aid of NHS Charities and will feature a series of events on the Day, all of which can be done either in person and/or virtually, although hopefully Lockdown will have been lifted by then.

Here is the national agenda of events for 5th July NHS Day:

10am: The raising of the Rainbow NHS Flag
11am: The Two Minute Silence, playing of the Last Post and Reveille
1pm: The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers
1pm: Onwards: Garden Parties at Home and celebrations in the gardens of Pubs etc
3pm: Afternoon tea, led by members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes,
4pm: Cutting the special NHS themed cake at 4pm
8pm: Clapping & the Ringing of Church Bells

Here is how the above programme of activities can work for Melton:

10am The raising of the Rainbow NHS Flag

This could take place on the playing field with Chair of MPC, assisted by a Melton resident or residents, born July 1948 and we can invite them to come forward via the MM.

Melton does not have a flagpole and we would need to erect one somewhere on the playing field, probably a free standing one, (15 to 20 feet high) in or near the car

park, maybe next to the MPC Noticeboard on the left of the entrance. Planning permission would be required.

The cost of the NHS Rainbow Flag would be £35 from the national organisers. A 5xmeter classic aluminium flagpole with ground sleeve would cost approx. £99 from a local company in Beccles. Once installed, the flagpole could be re-used for other events, for example Suffolk Day in June and again the following year if the NHS Day becomes an annual event.

11am The Two Minute Silence, playing of the Last Post and Reveille

For everyone to remember their loved ones and all who passed away during the pandemic.

This could take place either on the playing field or at St Andrew's Church in front of the war memorial, depending on whether Lockdown/ Social Distancing still applies and also what progress made with the church spire repairs. I have written to Paul inviting him to lead on this and very much hope he will accept. We need a Bugler for the Last Post and Reveille, preferably the local resident who played for us at the Beacon ceremony, if he would accept the invitation.

1pm The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers

The organisers will ask everyone to Raise a Glass to toast to thank all frontline NHS staff and care workers for their service. Melton residents to be invited to join in and hold their own garden party at home or in an unusual location! (Whether we would want to encourage that I am not sure but there is a prize for the best spot!)

Pubs are also encouraged to participate with lunches, bunting outside etc. The Coach & Horses/Wilford Bridge/ Deben Inns could be asked if they would like to offer something along the lines of a themed lunch? (not hospital food!)

3pm Afternoon tea, led by members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, including 4pm cutting the special NHS themed cake

I have asked the President of Melton WI if they would like to participate and she is going to discuss their plans with the WI committee nearer the time. The Burness Parish Rooms are booked in the hope that Melton WI will hold a special tea.

8pm Clapping & the Ringing of Church Bells

Melton Old Church have confirmed that they will be ringing their bell at 8pm. In the case of St Andrew's Church, it will depend on progress made on repairing the church spire.

No doubt national television will lead on the Clapping ceremony which residents can get behind if their streets decide to join in. All my neighbours came out recently for Captain Sir Tom!

That completes the itinerary for the national celebrations and how we could adapt them for Melton.

In addition, I would like to invite local organisations to be involved, including Good Neighbours and CAS, St Andrew's Church and Melton Old Church, the Burness Parish Rooms, the primary school and Melton WI. It would be good to ask Flagship Housing to get involved too. Other organisations, business units, local shops and garages to be encouraged to display thank you signs.

Publicity for all these events will build up nationally as we get closer to the date and Melton can use the Chairman's column in the MM and InTouch magazine to alert residents to our plans locally and encourage their support, bearing in mind any ongoing need for Covid-19 restrictions.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Melton Parish Council to be part of a national event and to thank the local community and show our appreciation for everyone's efforts during the pandemic.

The organisers are encouraging us to Register our events with them if we decide to go ahead.

The Parish Council is invited to endorse this proposal for Melton to actively participate in the inaugural NHS Day. Everything as above can be done without expenditure, with the exception of raising the NHS Rainbow flag at 10am. This may qualify for CIL as it would be re-usable infrastructure.

Councillor Bryony Abbott

Melton Parish Council

February 2021