

Melton Parish Council
Chairman's Annual Report 2021/2022

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

This is the first physical Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 as 2020 was cancelled due to Covid and 2021 was held virtually.

Firstly I shall present the annual Chairman's Melton Community award. This year has been a bit of a better year with things returning to what people now call a new "Normal". A lot of great work has been done in Melton and I like to pick out somebody who deserves recognition for their contribution to Melton.

The winners are David & Carole Steptoe. They are both involved in various things in the local area one of which is their activities in Transition Woodbridge. David also designed the layout for the new car park in the recreation ground. They have both been involved in weaving the panels from hazel coppicing to fill in gaps in the hedge along Melton Road. David is also an advisor to MPC on highways matters and is the footpath advocate which is very useful to us. It is great to have people like David & Carol who work tirelessly for their local community and for that we should all be very grateful.

They receive a certificate, an entry into our online hall of fame on our website and a voucher for £30.00.

Just to remind you that Melton Parish Council consists of up to 15 full councillors who may also serve on the three committees. We currently have 14 members.

We have Full Council meetings every other month and

- Finance Employment and Risk Management (FERM) – every other month
- Planning and Transport (P&T) – every 6 weeks
- Recreation (REC) – every other month

All our meetings take place in public and everyone is welcome. We do get members of the public coming along, even when meeting by Zoom, which is lovely to see. Planning is particularly well attended, where local people may be affected by developments and more recently traffic and speeding issues. Agendas and minutes are published on our website. 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 our Clerk Pip Alder, at the Burness Parish Rooms by Cllr. Carol Gradwell and also on the Melton Trust charity by Cllr Katy Martin.

Staff and Volunteers

William Grosvenor did a great job as our Clerk and left at the end of last year. Pip Alder has been promoted to Clerk and is doing a great job. William certainly gave her good grounding and now she is stamping her own personality on the role.

We advertised for her replacement as Assistant Clerk and received a good number of applications. Fliss Waters was the successful candidate and is our new Assistant Clerk. We also have Phil Donoghue who is our maintenance officer who does a great job with all sorts of odd jobs around the village.

We are very lucky to have a great team at MPC and between them they all keep a good grip on what is going on, which is usually quite a lot!

Geof Butterwick does a grand job of being our transport representative and maintains the local transport guide available on the MPC website although due to ill health he has taken a break. We also have cycling and footpath advocates from the local community.

Finally, we have Martin Wilks who is our volunteer tree warden and is doing a great job planting trees and bushes around the village together with his Tree Crew. I think we have a really strong team in Melton and I am very proud of them all.

The year 2021 - 2022 achievements

As I said earlier it has been a busy year, here is a list of some of our achievements.

- Melton Road Playing Fields
 - Tennis Court fencing replaced
 - Car park resurfaced and enlarged
 - Installation of bike racks in the recreation ground
 - Tree planting including memorial trees
 - Hedge planting and hazel fencing
 - Demolition of the Pavilion
 - Maintenance and improvements to play park equipment
 - New benches fitted
- Hall Farm Road Sports Ground
Consultation carried out and programme of works planned including tree planting and bench installation this year. Wild flower seeds sown.
- Installation of two new grit bins (St Andrew's and Beresford Drive), dog poo bin and rubbish bin at Longwood Fields and other dog poo bins around the village

- Purchase of Speed Indicator Devices – one on Woods Lane and a portable device that is moved to several sites around the Parish
- Improvements and maintenance to play equipment at Beresford Drive
- Replaced the steps on the footpath behind Saxon Way
- Tree planting at various sites within the village, over 800 so far this year.
- Improvements to the reedbed area and clearance of the drainage ditch to prevent flooding
- Attending ESC planning meetings and appeals – Carter Warburg (rejected), Woods Lane (dismissed) and Yarmouth Road (to be decided)
- Water sampling in the Deben to check for E-Coli.

Projects for 2022/23

- Rebuilding the Pavilion at the playing field including the provision of a WC and a flexible community space for hire
- Pedestrian island crossings on Melton Hill and Melton Road, hopefully in July
- Further enhancements to Hall Farm Road Sports Ground including tree planting, football goal and basketball hoop
- Improving the parking provision on The Street by Winifred Fison House opposite McColls
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust events in the Easter, May and Summer holidays - building bird and bat boxes and habitat hotels
- Working with Highways to implement parking restrictions by junctions on Melton Road/Hill
- Fete – 4th June 2022 – to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee
- Lighting the Beacon on 2nd June complete with Majesty bugle call & raise the flag
- A third speed indicator device will be purchased

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 & encouragement during the year. It is most appreciated as indeed is all the work still being done by the Melton Good Neighbour scheme which we fully support. There are so many good people in Melton and that is something to feel proud of.

We are here to listen to the residents of Melton and help them where we can, which I hope you see with the things that we are doing.

Alan Porter
Chairman – Melton Parish Council