

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Country Club at 7.45 p.m.

Tuesday 13th December 2005

Cllrs. present: - Cllr. D. Ward, Cllr. Mrs.A. Hinde, Cllr Mrs. P. Stocking, Cllr. Mrs. J. Heal (Vice Chair), Cllr. Mrs. Bowes. Cllr C. Scott.

D.Cllr. R. Combe

Apologies were accepted from C.Cllr. J. Howe

Members of Public present Mr. G. Poore, Mr. Q. Brown

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

13/12/1 Minutes

Minutes of Monthly meeting held 8/11/2005

The Chair asked if any member had any questions on the accuracy of these minutes

Cllr. Scott said that there were many omissions & inaccuracies in these minutes.

The Chairman asked Cllr Scott to be specific about any points which he disputed. Cllr. Scott said that this would take all night. But that an item concerning the bottle bank fence had been omitted from the minutes.

The Chair asked if there were any more specific points which Cllr. Scott disputed. Cllr Scott said there were many and that he considered the minutes biased against himself. The Chair again asked Cllr. Scott to be specific. Cllr. Scott again said that there were so many points that it would take too long and that the minutes were a joke.

The Chair said that if Cllr. Scott could not be specific he would move to a vote on the minutes. There followed a heated discussion between the chairman and Cllr. Scott the Chair twice having to ask Cllr Scott to cease speaking and to warn Cllr. Scott that if he did not obey the Chair he would be asked to leave the meeting. The minutes were finally passed un-amended and as an accurate record on a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Stocking seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Bowes the voting was 6 for and 1 against.

13/12/2 Matters arising

Allotment Drain. Cllr. Mrs. Heal had spoken to Mr. Jones concerning this, who said the matter was to be dealt with By Mr. Morrissey. Mr. Jones had again contacted Mr. Morrissey who had promised to attend to it as soon as possible. Mr. Jones had told Cllr. Mrs. Heal that if Mr. Morrissey could not attend to this quickly then he would look to employing someone else.

Roundabout The Clerk had still to have a site meeting with Mr. Morrissey concerning this. He would endeavour to pin Mr. Morrissey down in the near future.

Great Dane The Clerk had contacted the DC concerning this and the Chair asked if Cllr. Combe could follow this up. The Clerk to supply Cllr. Combe with the name and address of the owner.

Noise from Factories

The Clerk had contacted Env. Health Dept concerning this and had been told that only specific complaints from individuals could be investigated.

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13/12/3 Minutes of the Special meeting of 15/11/2005

The Chair asked if any member had any questions on the accuracy of these minutes.

Cllr. Scott said that he had. The Chair asked what specifically Cllr. Scott disputed. Again, Cllr. Scott said that it would take too long to cover all the points he wished to but that he had not made any disparaging remark about the Clerk. The Chair pointed out that it was only the accuracy of these minutes that was in question and that the minutes were not intended to be a verbatim account but a summery of the salient points. Cllr. Scott disputed that he had an interest regarding the question of Mr. Poores' allotment. The Chair referred to the rules concerning non-pecuniary interests and said that in his opinion it could be construed that Cllr. Scott may have had an interest. The Chair cited a similar case this Council had dealt with in the recent past under his Chairmanship.

Cllr. Scott asked to be allowed to speak. The Chair said that he could but that he should please keep it brief as we had much other business to get through.

There followed a further heated discussion with Cllr. Scott accusing some members of lying. The Chair again had to warn Cllr. Scott to cease speaking and moved to a vote.

These minutes were passed un-amended and as an accurate record on a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Bowes seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Heal the voting was 6 for and 1 against.

13/12/4 Report From District Cllr.

Cllr. Combe reported that the new 'Affordable Housing' which was being built in Hindolveston had had very few 'takers' he emphasised that this housing was for local people only and asked if Cllr's knew of anyone who was in need of such homes. Cllrs. opinions were generally that there was more than enough affordable housing in Melton Constable and that it was also much better served with amenities than Hindolveston. The Chair suggested that a notice could be placed in the Parish Magazines letting people know about the availability of the housing in Hindolveston if Cllr. Combe would like to let the Clerk have a form of words for this.

Cllr. Combe also reported that the Government had made available an extra 5% in funding to NNDC which would be a great help.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Combe for his comments and invited him to remain for the rest of the meeting if he wished.

13/12/5 Councillor's Reports

Churchyard.

Cllr. Mrs Heal reported that the churchyard was looking very good.

South Side.

There was nothing, save the Great Dane, to report. The Clerk said that he had contacted the DC again about the hedge in Astley Terrace and also about the hedge opposite the bus shelter. He was currently awaiting action on these.

Bus Shelter Site

Cllr. Ward said that this was looking much better now.

Recreation Field

Cllr. Mrs Stocking reported that there were still active moles but was pleased to note the absence of any dog mess. Mr. Longhorn was aware of the mole situation.

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Play Area.

Cllr. Miss Hinde reported that the Play Area was looking fine.

North Side

Cllr. Mrs Stocking said that both she and the Clerk had walked the area and had found that the allotment adjacent to Mrs Dunthorn was not in too bad a state but that the one on which Mr. Holmes had recently had chickens was overgrown but did not seem to pose a problem.

Cllr. Mrs. Bowes said that she had taken over the monitoring of the North side from Cllr. Scott whilst he had been unable to do this and asked if Cllr. Scott now wished to take up this duty again. Cllr. Scott said that he was happy for Cllr. Mrs. Bowes to continue.

13/12/6 Allotments

The Chair had a letter from Mr. Poore asking if he could re-apply for plot 50 which had been the subject of the recent problem. The Chair sympathised with Mr. Poore but said that the allotment rules made no provision for the sending out of payment reminders, even though the Council always did so, and that if the rent was unpaid after 40 days from the due date the tenant automatically lost his plot.

The Chair said that he had no objection to Mr. Poore being re-allocated the plot and no other members had any objections either. The Chair reminded Mr. Poore that since the parking scheme had now been shelved the tenancy would now be on a permanent basis.

Cllr. Mrs Bowes reminded the Clerk that it was now Council policy that new tenants should pay one years rent over and above that for the remainder of the current year as a 'deposit' against their leaving the plot unattended. The Clerk thanked Cllr. Mrs. Bowes for this and explained to Mr. Poore that this 'deposit' would count as the rent for the second year of tenancy.

Cllr. Scott said that he was aware of several tenants who had moved from the village to the new Lomax estate and that it was his recollection that the Council had agreed not to let plots out to people on this estate.

The Clerk said that he would look into this and report back to the next meeting. The Clerk also asked the Council to re-state its wish that he dealt with allotment allocations. The Chair asked if members agreed with this and the consensus was affirmative. The Clerk also mentioned that there was one rent defaulter this year and that he intended removing him from the register.

13/12/7 Plans

Plans were before the Council for the following:-

20051829 179 Briston Road. Continued use for hot food distribution.

There was some discussion on this and it was agreed that the Chairman should respond to this after receiving clarification on some issues from Cllr. Combe.

20051847 Erection of Storage Barn Melton Park

Members studied the plan for this and agreed on a proposition by Cllr. Scott seconded by Cllr. Ward to offer no objection to this proposal.

13/12/8 Local Development Plan

The Chairman outlined the history of the scheme and the 3 Basic scenarios on which the Council was invited to comment. The general feeling of the meeting was that the form was extremely difficult to understand and that it appeared to have a hidden agenda and to be leading respondents to answer in a certain way.

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Cllr. Combe explained the District Council's view and Cllrs. expressed the view that this should have been better explained and that there seemed to be too little time in which to formulate a reasoned response.

Cllr. Combe will pass on comments to the D.C. Clerk to collate responses and send off a representative document before 20th December.

13/12/9 Correspondence

There was a letter in the form of a quotation passed to the Council from the British Legion quoting £192.00 to clean & re-point the village War Memorial

There was a discussion on this and some disappointment was expressed that the Legion had not seen fit to offer an apology for its original letter. It was agreed on a proposition by Cllr. Scott seconded by Cllr. Loynes that this quotation be accepted and that the cleaning of the memorial be given the go-ahead.

There was a discussion on the response to the consultation letter regarding the amalgamation of police forces. It was agreed that the Council should respond with option A. The amalgamation of the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire forces.

A consultation document on Wells Hospital was delegated to Cllrs Mrs. Stocking and Cllr. Mrs. Bowes for comment. The Clerk was asked to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

13/12/10 Cheques for signature / approval

Cheques were presented to the Council for the following:-

CHEQUE No.	Amount	item	item	payee
101160	£35.00	Wreath &	Donation	RBL
101161	£183.30	Dog Bin	Servicing	NNDC
101162	£141.00	Street Light	Repairs	MHB Services
101163	£64.00	SLCC	Annual Sub	SLCC

These were unanimously agreed on a proposition by Cllr. Scott seconded by Cllr. Loynes.

13/12/11 Public Forum

Mr. Brown said that he believed complaints had been made about his allotments and asked what these were. Cllr. Mrs Bowes said she had spoken to Mrs Dunthorn and she had said that she was not complaining about Mr. Brown's allotments but the plot which used to be rented by Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Brown said that he would, however, like to give up plot 72 and if anyone took it on they could have free for the year as he did not want any rent back.

Mr. Poore complained that some people had been walking their dogs on the allotments and asked if the Council could place a dog waste bin in the alleyway adjacent to the allotments between Gordon Road and Burgh Beck road.

The Chair explained that the provision of such bins was expensive but that the Clerk would inquire the latest prices and bring the information to the next meeting where the item would be on the agenda.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

Clerk.....

Chairman.....