

# MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Country Club at 7.30 p.m.  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 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

Apologies were accepted from D.C. R. Combe & Cllr. A. Loynes (Chairman)

Members of Public present Mrs. J Ward, Mr. G. Poore, Mr. Barton.

The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m.

## **8/11/1 Minutes**

The minutes of the October meeting were unanimously passed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Stocking seconded by Cllr. Miss Hinde

## **8/11/2 Matters arising.**

### **Allotment drain**

Since nothing appeared to have been done about this Cllr. Mrs Heal would speak to Mr. Jones to ascertain progress.

### **Mole Catcher**

Cllr. Mrs Stocking passed the Clerk the name of the man who deals with moles on the School field and Cllr. Mrs Bowes said that she would ask Mr. Bowes who it was that dealt with the moles on the estate where he worked.

### **Noise from Factories**

The Clerk said that he would speak to the Environmental Health department at the DC to ascertain the procedures to follow concerning complaints of excessive noise at night from some industrial units.

## **Roundabout**

The Clerk had spoken to Mr. Morrisey and had a site visit planned with him in order that Mr. Morrisey could see the problem and give the Council a quote for levelling the surface.

## **8/11/3 Councillor's Reports**

### **Churchyard.**

Cllr. Mrs Heal reported that the churchyard was looking very good now and that Mr. Fish had done a very good job in getting it under control.

### **South Side.**

There was nothing of note to report . The Clerk still to contact the local Dog Warden concerning the free roaming Great Dane whose owner lived in Melton Street.

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**Bus Shelter Site**

The Bus shelter site was now much improved and all the fly tipped rubbish had been removed. Mr. Velthaus was doing an excellent job in keeping the site tidy.

**Recreation Field**

Cllr. Mrs Stocking reported that there were still active moles but was pleased to note that the area around the seat had been cleared.

**Play Area.**

It was reported that the Play Area was now looking well and that Cllr. Mrs Heal had tidied the Millenium Garden.

**North Side**

Cllr. Mrs. Bowes said that she had not looked at the area recently because she had been on holiday but that during the recent allotment inspection it was looking very good.

Cllr. Scott reported that he had received a complaint about the overgrown state of allotments adjacent to gardens at the bottom of Meadow lane. He also stated that the allotments in general were in a poor state.

Councillors were surprised at this since during a recent allotment inspection by several Councillors it was remarked that they were looking better than they had been for several years. With only 4 which were let being considered sub standard two of which had subsequently been given up. Cllr. Scott remarked that those Councillors on the inspection must have been looking at a different area. The Clerk said he would look at the overgrown plots above but that these were mainly waterlogged, had not been let for many years and to his knowledge had not been a source of complaint before.

Cllr. Scott went on to complain that the Clerk had refused to accept allotment rent from his daughter's father in law, Mr. G. Poore at the recent rent collection evening and had been abusive to him. The Clerk explained that Mr. Poore had not paid his rent in October 2004 after 2 letters of reminder, He had told Mr. Poore that he was sorry but because he had been in default for a year he had therefore been removed from the allotment register and thus was no longer tenant of the plot in question. The Clerk denied any suggestion of abuse, the nature of which was not explained, and that Mr Poore had at the time been invited to re-apply for the plot.

Cllr. Scott said that the Clerk had exceeded his authority in removing Mr. Poore from the register.

The Chair then intervened saying that since this item was not on the agenda for discussion the Council could not debate the issue that evening.

Cllr. Scott was insistent that the matter was dealt with that evening. There followed a heated debate with Cllr, Scott pressing forcefully for further discussion of the matter.

The Chair finally had to ask Cllr. Scott to cease speaking on the matter and moved to the next item of business. After asking the clerk to place 'allotments' on the agenda for the next meeting.

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**8/11/4 Precept for 2006/2007**

The Clerk explained that he, together with the Chairman had looked at the budget projection for 2006/2007 and that for the first time for many years the Council's projected expenditure would exceed its income by a small amount. The Vice Chair read out a letter from the Chairman which he had asked to be read to the Council in his absence, and in which he outlined the projected budget, of which members had a copy. He invited members to vote either to let the precept remain the same or to increase it by a small amount. He suggested 3%.

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Scott seconded by Cllr. Ward that the precept for 2006/2007 remain the same as it is currently. This was agreed unanimously.

**8/11/5 Gate keeping Duties**

The Clerk explained that this item was on the agenda at the request of Cllr. Ward who wished the Council to discuss an increase in the remuneration paid to Mrs. Ward for opening and closing the Play Area gates daily.

The Chair asked what level of increase was being asked for and Cllr. Ward said that he considered an increase to £200.00 to be reasonable. Cllr. Scott said he thought this fair. The chair asked the Clerk what the current remuneration was and the Clerk replied that this was currently £110.00 the last increase being two years ago.

Cllrs were asked to comment on this and the general opinion was that a virtual doubling of the amount seemed excessive. Cllr. Mrs. Stocking questioned the need to lock the gates at all since it was known that children simply climbed over the fence if the gates were locked.

Cllr Scott immediately replied that he thought this idea ridiculous and asked Cllr, Mrs. Stocking why she bothered to lock her house. There followed a further heated discussion with Cllr Scott again insisting that a decision was made immediately

Cllr Mrs. Bowes said that she felt as though she and the Council were being 'railroaded' into making decisions that evening by Cllr. Scott and that the Council needed time to consider the matter.

The Chair said that she felt similarly and said that perhaps £50.00 might be a more reasonable amount. Cllr. Scott immediately said that he seconded that and that he thought this was fair and that the amount should be reviewed in 6 months time.

Cllrs again asked for calm and said that they felt they were being forced into making a decision.

Cllr Scott insisted that the Council vote on The Vice Chair's 'proposal'. The Clerk said that he had not heard the Vice Chair make a proposal merely a suggestion. Cllr. Scott insisted that the Clerk minute the Vice Chair's suggestion as a proposal and that he had seconded it.

The Clerk said that he could not make such a minute and asked Cllr Scott to cease causing trouble. Cllr. Scott told the Clerk to keep quiet.

The Vice Chair asked that the matter be deferred to a future meeting and a majority of Cllrs were in agreement. Cllr Scott again insisted that a decision be made that evening and that his seconding of the Vice chair's proposal be minuted. The Clerk refused to do this.

The Chair finally managed to bring the meeting to order and asked that Council move to the next item

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**8/11/6 Correspondence**

The Clerk had received a letter from the Royal British Legion asking why the Council had 'disowned' responsibility for the upkeep of the War Memorial.

Cllrs were surprised by this as it had been discussed at the last meeting and because the exact nature of the cleaning Cllr. Ward had been asked to seek the Council's help with was not clear, Cllr. Ward had been asked to inquire of the Legion what exactly they wished the Council to help with and if they could provide rough costings which the Council could consider.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the Royal British Legion explaining the situation.

**8/11/7 Planning matters**

No Plans were before the Council this month

**8/11/8 Cheques for signature / approval**

Cheques were presented to the Council for the following:-

101153	£50.00	Handyman	expns	Mr.J. Velthaus
101154	£0.00	Void	void	
101155	£472.33	clerks Salary	& expns	Mr.J. Stocking
101156	£100.00	Handyman	grass cutting	Mr.J. Velthaus
101157	£200.00	Handyman	grass cutting	Mr. M. Fish
101158	£272.89	Grounds	Maintenance	Nrfk Cty Ser
101159	£47.00	Street Light	Repairs	MHB Services

These cheques were unanimously approved on a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Bowes seconded by Cllr. Miss Hinde.

**8/11/9 Public Forum/ Late Business**

Mr. Poore began to explain his position regarding the disputed allotment. The Chair interrupted him and said that it had been agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting. She asked if Mr. Poore was happy with this. Mr. Poore said that he was.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.37 hours.

Clerk.....

Chairman.....

