

# MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the special meeting held at the Country Club at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 15<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. Cllr. A. Loynes (Chair)

Members of the public present Mrs. J. Ward.

There were no apologies.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30

### **15/11/1 Opening address by the Chair.**

The Chairman thanked the members for attending this meeting at short notice and began by outlining the duties and powers of the Chair and the necessity for members to declare any interests they may have in matters under discussion. The Chair reminded the meeting of the two main types of interest which must be declared which are pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and he also reminded the Council of the differences between these.

The Chair also reminded the Council that it was illegal for any Parish Councillor to receive any form of remuneration from the Council.

The Chairman went on to say that the meeting this evening would be conducted strictly to standing orders and he then read out the relevant passages which referred to the conduct and Behaviour of members.

### **15/11/2 Members Behaviour at Meetings**

The Chair reiterated the rules pertaining to pecuniary interests and asked Cllr. Ward if he would apologise for not declaring a pecuniary interest in the item on Gate Keeping Duties at the last meeting. Cllr. Ward apologised unconditionally.

The Chair also stated that if the work of Gatekeeper was not being done by Mrs. Ward, the Council could not make any payment to Cllr. Ward.

The Chair then asked Cllr. Scott if he would like to apologise for failing to declare a non-pecuniary interest in the item which he brought up at the last meeting regarding Mr. Poore's allotment. Cllr. Scott said that there was no interest to declare. The Chair asked if Mr. Poore was a relative of Cllr. Scott. Cllr Scott said that Mr. Poore was no relative of his. The Chair then asked if Mr. Poore was a relative of Cllr. Scott's daughter and Cllr. Scott admitted that this was the case. The Chair said that in that case it might well be construed that Cllr. Scott had an interest and should not have spoken on the subject. Cllr Scott refused to apologise and said that he wished to seek legal advice on the matter.

The Clerk, at this juncture, said that he wished to apologise to the Council for any remarks he may have made during the last meeting which may have caused offence to anyone. He was however mindful of the fact that the Vice Chair Cllr. Mrs. Heal was in the Chair for the first time and he was merely trying to help the lady during a difficult meeting.

Cllr Scott said that he was sorry but he had not realised that it had been Cllr. Mrs. Heal's first time in the Chair.

The Chair then invited members to comment on the conduct and Behaviour of members at the last meeting.

Cllr. Mrs. Heal, Chair of that meeting, said that she had heard Cllr. Scott make a disparaging remark about the Clerks Behaviour on the allotment rent collection evening.

Cllr. Mrs. Bowes said that she also heard this remark but that it was not very loud

Cllr. Scott said that Cllr. Mrs. Stocking should not comment on this, as she was the wife of the Clerk. Cllr. Mrs. Stocking understood this but said that she did wish to comment on Cllr. Scott's general Behaviour at the meeting, which she considered, was intimidating and threatening

Cllr. Scott insisted that the chair ask Cllrs. who else heard this remark. The Chair said that he would not force any member to answer that question but would invite any member to comment if they wished.

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Cllr. Miss Hinde said that she had been extremely upset at the conduct of the last meeting but that she had not heard the particular remark addressed to the clerk.

Cllr. Ward said that he had not heard Cllr. Scott make the remark to the Clerk.

Cllr. Scott said that he was not going to leave things there and that he would be circulating documents to all members of the Council before the next meeting.

The Chair asked that Cllr Scott allow him to see any document before it was circulated and that he or the Clerk would then circulate it to members in the normal manner.

Cllr. Scott at first refused to do this but eventually agreed when the Chair said that it would be circulated unabridged.

**15/11/3 Remuneration for Gatekeeping Duties**

Cllr. Ward declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and absented himself from the meeting.

The Chair then asked Mrs. Ward what she was seeking in respect of the job. Mrs. Ward said that the current remuneration did not seem very much and that she felt that she would like a little more.

Cllr Miss Hinde said that she agreed that there should be some increase.

Cllr. Mrs. Stocking said that she questioned the need for locking the gates since it appeared to do nothing to prevent youngsters getting into the play area because they could simply climb over the fence especially at the millennium garden end.

Cllr. Scott said that if a child was injured then the Council could be liable under the terms of the insurance. The Chair said that this was not the case and that many play areas were not locked at night. The Clerk said that the Council's insurers made no stipulation about locking the play area.

After some further discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Heal seconded by Cllr. Miss Hinde that the remuneration be increased to £150.00 p.a. from January 2006. On being put to the vote there were 4 votes for the proposal and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

Cllr. Ward was then recalled to the meeting.

**15/11/4 Local Area Development Framework**

The Chairman reported on the meeting he had attended at Hindringham on the date of the last Council meeting. The Chair had distributed the Consultation Document issued by OPREA and asked that members look carefully at this document and fill in the appropriate tick boxes on the attached questionnaire.

Members should bring the completed forms back to the next meeting where Council could collate the answers and return a single representative document to OPREA.

The Chair concluded the meeting by welcoming back Cllr. Scott after an absence of some 14 months and stated that he hoped that future meetings could be conducted in the same friendly atmosphere as they always had been in the past. He hoped that the rancor which had recently occurred could be forgotten and that the Council could continue the good work for the village that it had achieved during the past year or so.

Cllr Scott said that unless he received an apology he was afraid that he could not let matters rest and that he would continue to pursue matters at future meetings.

The Chair said that he very much regretted this. The Clerk then asked the Chairman for permission to address the meeting and said that he apologised unreservedly for anything which he may have done or said which had seemingly caused so much offence.

Cllr Scott asked if the apology was directed at him. The clerk said it was directed specifically to him.

The Chair asked if Cllr. Scott would accept this apology.

Cllr. Scott said he would have to think about it.

The Chair asked if anyone had anything further to say and there being nothing, he closed the meeting at 20.15 hours

Clerk .....

Chairman.....

