

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting held at the Country Club at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 10th February 2009

Cllrs. present: - Cllr. Mrs. J. Heal Cllr. A. Loynes, (Chair) Cllr. Mrs. P. Stocking.
Cllr. Mrs. C. Velthaus. Cllr. S. Unsworth (Vice Chair) Cllr, Mrs. M. Hayes, Cllr. Mr.s
Bowes.

District Cllr. R. Combe

Mr. Mark Whitmore of the NNDC Environmental Health Dept.

Several members of the public were also present.

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

10/2/1 Minutes of 13/1/009

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously passed as a true record on a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Heal seconded Cllr. Unsworth

10/2/2 Matters arising

1. Mole clearance. The Churchyard was now fairly clear but the mole catcher reported having traps stolen from the Rec.
2. There had been no progress so far with the working party to refurbish the Play Area equipment.

10/2/3 Fly tipping

The Chair invited Mr. Mark Whitmore Environmental Protection Officer from North Norfolk District Council to address the meeting and answer questions on the perennial problem of fly tipping at the bottle bank site.

Mr. Whitmore said that there were currently several prosecutions pending for fly tipping and that all reported incidents were investigated and approximately 1 in 13 resulted in action being taken.

Cllrs. said that in some cases houses which were known to have multiple occupancy had only one black & one green bin and could not the DC provide more? Mr. Whitmore said that where dwellings were registered as multiple occupancy extra bins were provided. There may be however cases of houses which were being used for multiple occupancy but which were not registered as such. Mr. Whitmore said that if such cases were reported to the DC then they would be investigated.

Mr. Whitmore explained that in Europe it was common practice for rubbish to be left for collection at some central point and that multi-lingual notices explaining that this was not the case in the U.K. had been provided and circulated to the managers of migrant workers. The Clerk would also affix larger versions to the bottle banks shortly. Mr. Whitmore was, however, at pains to stress that the problem was certainly not confined to migrant workers and that in fact the majority of prosecutions were against local indigenous persons.

It was also suggested that perhaps pictogram type notices may be more useful. Mr. Whitmore said that he would look into this and see if they were available.

Councillors Reports.

District Cllr. Robin Combe said that the decision regarding the proposed Unitary Council for Norfolk had now been put back until at least the Autumn of this year.

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Churchyard.

The Churchyard was again reported as still looking fine.

South Side

There was again little of note to report.

Bus Shelter Site

This was looking very good at the moment. Three silver birch trees had been planted and the daffodil bulbs were emerging on the earth mound. There was however still some graffiti in the bus shelter which needs to be painted over.

Recreation Field

There was still mole activity but this was much less. The new mole catcher had reported that he had had several traps stolen but that he would persevere with trying to get the last few moles removed. The Clerk explained that if there were mole hills on the field then the contractors would not cut the grass as damage could be caused to the mowing equipment. It was therefore essential that people did not disturb any traps.

North side / Allotments

There was nothing of note to report save that the area was looking much better and people had started cultivation.

Play Area

The repairs to the damaged seat & fence were in hand. A picnic table had been vandalised and requires repair. The quotes for the relaying of the Pitch the fencing of the relayed area and the reinstatement of the safety matting beneath the swings were accepted by the Council on a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Heal seconded by Cllr. Mrs Bowes.

The pitch needed to be fenced temporarily to allow the grass to become established and it was agreed that in future only one set of goal posts would be erected which could be moved to allow the grass to recover from excess wear. The reseeding process is very expensive and the Council could not afford these costs too often.

10/2/4 Parish Website

The Chair & Cllr. Unsworth are still investigating the most economical solution for this.

10/2/5 Railway Entrance Arch project

Cllr. Mrs. Stocking and Cllr. Mrs Heal have done some initial work on this and they would still like to hear from anyone who is prepared to help clear the site and make a heritage feature of it, one of the few remaining railway structures.

Cathy Bachelor from NNDC had said in an email that the DC were sympathetic but funds were very limited and that she would need more details before she was able to say if any money would be forthcoming. She also suggested moving the archway to somewhere more central in the village.

The general feeling was that the arch should remain where it was. Cllrs. Mrs Stocking & Mrs. Heal would research the matter further.

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10/2/6 Report on Trees

Play area trees 1 & 2 need attention no. 2 was in need of felling. Clerk to obtain quotes for this work. Clerk also to write to Mr. Jones concerning the trees around the farm boundary with the Play area.

Letter also to Mr. Harrold informing him of the report on the 2 Oak trees on the recreation field which needed attention.

10/2/7 Planning Matters

Plans for the conversion of the annex at Belle View tower Briningham into holiday accommodation were before the Council. After studying these the council voted to offer no objection. On a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Heal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Stocking.

10/2/8 Special meeting to discuss Stody Estate Reservoir plans and Plans for 2 dwellings behind the Co-op shop

It was agreed that a special meeting would be held to discuss the Stody Estate plans and that this should be after the proposed Public meeting so that members could gauge correctly public feeling on the matter. Since the date of this Public meeting was not known at present, the date of the special meeting would be advertised later.

The Clerk was asked to request an extension of consultation time from Norfolk County Council. The format of this meeting and length of time for public input was also agreed.

It was also proposed that since the plans for the dwellings behind the Co-op shop had only just been received, and that residents had not yet been made aware of them, that discussion on these should also be deferred to the special meeting. The Clerk to ascertain from the DC when the deadline for consultation was for these plans since no planning notices had yet been posted on the site.

10/2/9 Correspondence

There was little of note in the correspondence this month save that which had already been circulated to members by email.

10/2/10 Cheques for signature and / or approval

	CHEQUES	FOR	SIGNATURE	&/OR APPROVAL
		10/02/2009		
CHEQUE No.	Amount	item	item	payee
101326	£105.00	Training	Courses	NPTP
101237	£68.06	Clerks expns	February	Mr. J. Stocking
101238	£52.84	Street light	contract	MHB services
101329	£150.00	Grass	Cutting	Mr. I. Kendall
Total	£375.90			

These Cheques were unanimously agreed on a proposition by Cllr. Mrs. Heal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hayes.

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10/2/11 Public Forum

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8.30 p.m. to allow members of the public present to put questions to the Council.
The meeting was reconvened at 8.45 p.m.

10/2/12 Other Business

The Chair asked that members of the public leave the meeting so that a confidential discussion on the handover to the new Clerk and the subject of the Handy man could be discussed.

.....Clerk

.....Chair

Confidential Minute 10/2/2009

The Chair said that although Mr. Stocking had been Clerk for 13 years he had never received his holiday pay entitlement. The Chair suggested that the Council pay Mr. Stocking his holiday pay entitlement for the current year as a gesture of goodwill on his retirement. This was agreed unanimously.

The Chair said that he had now finalised the contract for the new Clerk Mr.Ugnow and asked that the Council read this and make any comments such that the new Clerk could sign this at the next meeting.

The Chair asked Cllr. Mrs. Velthause if she would tactfully ask her husband the Handyman to consider what jobs he was able to continue doing in the next year and let him know.

The Chair also asked if all Cllrs. were happy with email communications. Most Cllrs. were happy with this. There was however one Cllr. who only had 'dial-up' email and was concerned at the amount of 'correspondence' from outside bodies and the amount of time and hence cost this incurred when downloading with dial-up.

The Chair suggested some form of filtering of this type 'info only' correspondence, and asked members to think about the problem and come back to the next meeting with any ideas.

.....Clerk

.....Chair

