

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: J. Carr
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MINUTES of the meeting of Melton Constable Parish Council held on 14th September 2010, 7.30pm at The Country Club.

Present: A.Loynes Chair
 S.Unsworth
 H.Bowes
 M.Hayes
 J. Heal
 P.Stocking
 C.Velthaus

 J. Carr Clerk

Also present Robin Combe (District Councillor) and 10 members of the public

The Chair welcomed the new Clerk, Jacqui Carr.

1224 Apologies for Absence
No apologies

1225 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th August 2010
Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2010 as a true and accurate record of the meeting

1226 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda
Cllr J Heal declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6, footpath application.
Cllr P Stocking declared a personal interest in Item 11 (b) – demolition of former railway works gate

1227 Public Participation
Resolved to suspend the meeting to allow the public to inform the meeting

R Combes informed the meeting that the planning application for the agricultural building will next go to the committee stage for public representation and he recommends that someone should attend. He will notify the date and venue.

Attention was brought to the unsatisfactory state of the area around the Melton Constable parish sign. There is a potential hazard with an unstable litter bin, treacherous pavements due to flooding and fuel spills and chickens are running free.

Photographs were supplied in evidence.

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THESE MINUTES ARE UNCONFIRMED UNTIL APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL

Resolved to write to the environment department at NNDC regarding flooding and fuel spills.

Resolved to write to Mrs Huntridge, bringing to her attention the complaints regarding chickens scratching up the grass verge and requesting she tidies the verge and ensure chickens cannot escape again.

Resolved that Cllr M Hayes would ask our handyman to attend to the unstable bin.

The issue regarding whether the Parish Council should support village concerns regarding the footpath access across the farm land between the old play area and Holt Road was discussed. It was suggested that villagers' views have been unrepresented and that their strength of feeling is not appreciated by the council. There was a recommendation that it should be the responsibility of the council to drive the application for right of access across this land.

It was reported that the parish has been thoroughly leafleted to obtain information on the history of usage through this land. 27 users were reported to have replied by completing the evidence form. It was suggested that there is therefore sufficient evidence for a substantial case to be made. NNDC should be asked to consider the pathway application and that the PC should drive this. It was suggested that the Parish Council does not have to decide upon evidence of use but should represent the village views.

The cost implication was considered with a recommendation that the Clerk should investigate this.

1228 To consider the proposed footpath application

It was reported that the NCC requires strength of evidence of its usage by villagers in order to approve an application. There is no greater likelihood of success if the Parish Council took responsibility for the application than for an individual, as strength of evidence is the key to success.

Further discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of having this access.

The Chair reminded Council of the task; to decide whether it should be the responsibility of the Council to progress the application or whether it should be the villagers'. Concerns were voiced about the workload involved as detailed knowledge would be required and that it is likely to go to the public enquiry stage

It was resolved that the Parish Council would not take responsibility for the application to gain access.

Discussion took place regarding whether the Council would support the application on the basis that it is aware of the usage by Melton Constable residents for transit over a period of years. **It was resolved to support this proposal.**

1229 Members Reports

Churchyard – all fine

South Side – last check 1 week ago – all fine

Bus Shelter Site – some graffiti, currently not worth expense of repainting. Seats do need repainting

Recreation Field – no evidence of dog fouling – no litter – a few moles – running track was marked out but has been deleted now by mower. There is a running club which will meet at 5pm for the next 2 Wednesdays.

Allotments – follow up letters required for some who have not yet replied. 2 want to give up, 1 person wants to give up half, so those on waiting list will be notified. Date for collection of rents to be agreed and publicised.

Play Area – contained in RoSPA report

Holt SNT – reported last meeting held at the Country Club.

Solar Lighting

The 2nd sensor has been installed but range is still too short of the required min. 9m(5.5 – 6m).

G&B and M Buck consulted for support on what is now required to address this issue. No reply so far.

Solartech have not communicated though they have sent an invoice.

Received forms from EEDA and seeking advice on completing these.

Resolved that the Chair would contact EEDA next week

Village Beacon

This is in good order though a coat of hammerite or similar protection is necessary. It will require a 12” square post for support.

It is very heavy and can not be easily moved. Therefore a temporary location was not considered feasible.

Proposal was made for it to be sited on the old Gordon Road play area, but agreement not reached. The decision was adjourned until next meeting.

Resolved for Cllrs to visit possible sites and to view the beacon to enable a final decision on the location to be agreed next meeting. The chair will email all for suitable date.

Website

Suggestions were made to add old village photos and allow advertising links to local businesses. A mock up is available for circulation.

Resolved to circulate mock up with request for other ideas to be put forward for consideration before the next meeting. As Cllr Bowes is not available in October, this will be an agenda item for November.

1230 RoSPA Report

It was clear that the play area site is much improved from last inspection. There are no real issues. Cllr Hayes will provide a list for A Hubbard of small jobs to be done. There were no further comments on this report.

The rubbish bags have run out.

The pigeon deterrent bars at the top of the swings are being vandalised. A message should be circulated as to why they are there; the health and safety benefit.

It was reported that the grass around the basketball area is very worn and that this area is being used by adults which is an inappropriate age group for the site. Consideration will be given as to whether the basketball equipment could be moved to the Recreation Ground.

1231 NNDC letter regarding Grass Verge Cutting
 No reply yet received to our letter requesting clarification of what verges the Parish Council will be responsible for. R Combes requested that he be copied in on all NNDC letters in future.

1232 NCC letter re Consolidation of Traffic Orders and Street Parking
Resolved to reply that we have no objection

1233 Planning Applications
 a) PF/10/0991 – **Resolved to reply with no objection**
 b) LE/10/0996 – **Resolved to reply in support of the application**
 c) PP/C/1/2008/1014 – This is not a planning application. It just required comments.
Resolved to reply with no comments

1234 Financial
Resolved to approve the financial statement to 31st August 2010

Resolved to approve the following payments

Cheque No	Payee	Item	Amount
101423	Norfolk Playing Fields Association	Annual Membership	20
101424	Mr J Fish	Grass cutting	220
101425	MHB Serices Ltd	Street Lighting Maintenance	5.99
101426	Hayes and Storr	Solicitor	94
101427	Playsafety Ltd	RoSPA Inspection	109.28
101428	Mr A Hubbard	PC Maintenance	39
101429	Mr J Hayes	Play area paint	8.99
		Total	545.26

1235 Items for Information
Resolved no action

1236 Items for next agenda
 CAB – funding
 Review of Clerk’s / Councillors mileage rates
 Society of Local Council Clerks - membership

1237 Date of next meeting
Resolved that the next meeting would be held on the 12th October at 7.30pm at the Country Club

The meeting closed at 20.40

Clerk Chair

Dated