

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: J Carr
The Old Dairy
Holt Road
Burgh Parva
Melton Constable
NR24 2PU

email: jacqui@ashleycarr.co.uk
Tel: 01263 808605

MINUTES of the meeting of Melton Constable Parish Council held on 12th April 2011, 7.30pm at The Country Club.

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

 J. Carr Clerk

Also present District Cllr R Combes and 9 members of the public

1338 To Consider Apologies for Absence

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Stocking (holiday)

1339 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th March 2011

A change to item no.1335 was proposed: 'their dog's waste' to now read 'dog waste'

It was then resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr Heal, seconded: Cllr Hayes. All in favour.

1340 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Hayes declared a personal interest in item 11c, as the light in question is sited outside a window of her property.

1341 To consider matters arising from the last minutes for information purposes only

Mr Ian Snell has offered to maintain the churchyard for £600 p.a. If he finds it will take longer than anticipated and therefore cost more, he will return to the Council for them to reconsider. He will obtain his petrol from Eke's Garage. Clerk to check if Council has an account open.

Asbestos still remains on the allotment. Council will attend to this in a month or so.

1342 Public Participation

7:40pm: **Resolved to suspend the meeting to allow District Councillor R Combes and the public to inform the meeting**

District Cllr Combes, who is to retire at the election, enthusiastically congratulated Council on their patience and calm conduct during the particularly difficult issues they had faced in recent years.

Page 1 of 5 Melton Constable Parish Council Meeting 12th April 2011

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL

Chair Loynes, on behalf of all members, proposed a vote of thanks to District Cllr Combes for his help, hard work and commitment during his term of office.

The Clerk presented a new publication from The Holt Society, a booklet entitled First Impressions. It's aim is to draw attention to the need for imaginative design solutions in order to maintain the town's sense of place and identity. A free copy can be obtained by all MC residents from the Holt library and various businesses between 14th April and 15th May.

1343 To receive members' reports

Churchyard: gates are being refurbished and grass cutting is done. All fine

Southside: the abandoned car has been removed but another two have been reported in the last week.

Bus shelter: All fine and new bottle banks were installed on 12th April.

Northside: fine

Allotments: a couple of plots are untended and a check on tenants' commitment needs to be made. There are currently five people on the waiting list.

Play Area: Handyman is still off sick. The bins have been emptied but there is other work still to be done. Broken glass, though now cleared, was left in the Millenium garden; a report was given that a large gang of adults were sitting on equipment preventing children from playing there.

It was resolved to request that the police attend the next Council meeting. Clerk to action.

Recreation Ground: police were called to a disturbance recently; the seat has now been cleared of overhanging branches and Mr Waddingham has made a generous offer for his worker to do further clearance work for minimal reward. This needs to be formalised and will be given consideration at the next Council meeting.

1344 To consider Allotment rental increase request and date of annual inspection

A recent letter from Strutt and Parker proposes a rent increase from £685 p.a. to £1000. This will be the first increase since 2003. Council considered the >40% rental increase to be unacceptable to impose on the tenants in one go.

It was resolved that Council reply to Strutt and Parker with the offer of £800.

Proposed: Cllr Unsworth, seconded: Cllr Velthaus. One against, five in favour, motion carried. Clerk to action.

The decision regarding a date for the allotment inspection was adjourned for the May meeting.

1345 To receive an update and consider matters arising on the Village Beacon

The beacon has now been erected by Mr Bruce Lockhart. The shield is yet to be replaced but this is in hand. The first lighting opportunity would be on the occasion of the Royal Wedding on 29th April. Discussion ensued as to the logistics of doing this. Cllr Heal volunteered to organise this event and Chair Loynes offered to help with the lighting.

Chair Loynes, on behalf of all members, gave a vote of thanks to Mr Bruce Lockhart for all his hard work and generous help in order to provide this to the village. He also gave thanks to Cllr Heal for her time spent on this project.

1346 To receive an update on the Industrial Estate signage

Highways have agreed to resite the signage. The work should be completed in 3-4 weeks time.

1347 To consider Website development

Cllr Bowes has contact Norfolk RCC to request help with funding this project. Work is ongoing.

1347 Street Lighting

a) Melton Street lights are on order and installation is expected soon. **Cllr Bowes to check on estimated delivery date.**

b) Chair Loynes updated meeting that a letter from Solartech's solicitors had not been received in reply to Council's, sent some 6-8 weeks ago, with a request for reply within 28 days. Council has obtained legal advice stating that as they have received no response they could brief G&B to commence the work of installing new sensors. Two sensors will be required for each pole.

It was resolved to contact G&B Electric to proceed with this work as soon as possible at a cost of £4215 + VAT.

Proposed: Chair Loynes, seconded: Cllr Heal, all in favour. Chair Loynes to action.

All further communication from Solartech direct to the Council is to be directed to their lawyers. Once G&B have been paid, any residue will be sent to Solartech's solicitors.

c) MHB have quoted £195 + Vat to replace the bracket and lantern in Kitchener Road, which have been broken and are unsafe. As area is very dark at night it was proposed that this should be done. However, the houses nearby do suffer from this light pollution. Cllr Bowes suggested that MHB be requested to provide a light deflector.

It was resolved to contact MHB to order this work to proceed. Proposed: Cllr Unsworth, seconded: Cllr Heal. All in favour. Cllr Bowes to action.

1348 To consider Melton Constable leaflet

Cllr Hayes has received a reply from NNDC - S. Blatch - to say it has been passed to the graphic designers for layout suggestions, but that the work may be delayed due to bank holidays and the election. Steve Blatch will be asked if this can be progressed and provided in time for the May meeting. Cllr Hayes will also request that Russian be one of the languages required for translation.

1349 To receive a report on the Norfolk Village Games project and discuss future support

Cllr Heal reported that Mr J Hayes has worked hard to organise the four, weekly games events. She presented the various games that took place and the feedback which was mostly very positive and that the indoor carpet bowls proved to be the most popular.

If the games are to continue then insurance cover will be required. As the Parish Council is not the organiser this cannot be covered by its insurance.

The organisers were congratulated for their hard work in progressing this event and getting it to this stage.

The Parish Council was asked if they would agree in principle to cover the cost of insurance to allow the games to proceed.

It was resolved that Council does agree in principle to cover the cost of insurance. This will be reported back to Mr Jim Hayes.

1350 To discuss format of May meetings

Two meetings are due in May: the Annual Parish meeting and the first meeting of the Parish Council following the election on 5th May.

A number of subjects have been raised for discussion at the parish meeting and so it was decided that a separate meeting is required.

It was agreed that the date for the Annual Parish meeting is to be Tuesday, 3rd May 2011.

Subjects to be raised are:

- Liaison with Briston Parish Council
- Boundary with Briston
- Environmental Monitoring of the Industrial Estate
- Footpaths, and the lack thereof
- An Introduction to the Transition Movement

It was suggested that speakers might be obtained from Environmental Health, in order to understand the legal framework, and from the Transition movement.

Clerk to action.

1351 Planning Applications

None received

1352 Financial

Resolved to approve the financial statement to March 2011

Resolved to approve the following payments:

Cheque No	Payee	Item	Amount
101490	S Drewell	mole extermination	£100.00
101491	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	play area seat	£131.40
101492	NNDC	dog bin	£111.72
101493	MC Country Club	hall hire	£36.00
101494	MHB Services Ltd	Lighting maintenance	£55.14
101495	NALC	subscription	£125.74
101496	The Post Office (HMRC)	Clerk's Tax	£115.56
101497	Mrs J Carr	Clerk's salary & expenses	£486.43
101498	Mrs H Bowes	Rec ground tree cutting	£60.00
101499	UK Power Networks Ltd	electricity connection	£2,181.60
Total			£3,403.59

Proposed: Cllr Bowes, seconded: Cllr Unsworth, all in favour

1353 Items for Information

Aon Insurance is due for renewal on 1st June 2011. It will be necessary to increase over to include the street lighting. Current schedule of cover to be checked and a request for a quote to increase cover to £100,000 to be made. **Clerk to action**

- 1354 Items for next agenda
Insurance
Railway Arch
Future of Audit
Debrief on lighting and future plans

- 1355 Date of next meeting

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on the 10th May 2011, 7.30pm at the Country Club

Chair Loynes thanked all Council members for the work they have contributed to the significant issues they have faced during their terms of office.

He thanked in particular Cllr Stephen Unsworth and Cllr Carol Velthaus as they will not be standing in the next election.

He closed by emphasising that they should all be very pleased with the work they have achieved.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Clerk

Chair

Dated