

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the meeting of Melton Constable Parish Council held on 14th June 2011, 7.30pm at The Country Club.

Present: M.Hayes Chair
J. Heal
F. Bruce
I. Bruce
A.Carr
J. Cox
P. Stocking

J. Carr Clerk

Also present: four members of the public, Lara Williamson of Holt Area Partnership and District Cllr Russell Wright

1379 To Consider Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

1380 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th May 2011

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Heal; seconded: Chair Hayes, all in favour

1381 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Cox: item 13 (Village Games) and Cllrs Stocking, Heal and Carr item 10b (Village Hall).

1382 Matters arising from last minutes for information

There were none

1383 Public Participation

7.35: Resolved to suspend the meeting to allow the public to inform the meeting

Chair Hayes introduced District Cllr Russell Wright who is also a County Councillor.

Dist. Cllr Wright gave brief reports on the status of projects:

The incinerator, which will extract energy from waste, to be built at King's Lynn: planning application has been lodged

The anaerobic digester at Edgefield - to compost green waste without the use of oxygen has D Cllr Wright's support as he is keen to avoid local waste travelling distances for disposal. The main objection was to the visual impact this may have on the Glaven Valley but the contours of the area are likely to reduce this impact.

The B1354 is to be repaired, following the winter weather damage, from Melton Constable to Briston, past Astley School.

He commented on the improvement in Colville Road following the planting of trees and agreed to check that adequate watering, essential for establishment of the trees in their first year, has been carried out. The public had no further questions for him.

Public comments: A positive observation was made that weed strimming work had been carried out around the slide on the recreation ground immediately following the last PC meeting.

HAP – Lara Williamson introduced the service to the new Council members.

Chair Hayes asked that the public observe the need to restrict their comments to the public forum session, but that if urgent questions were subsequently raised that this be done by raising hands rather than verbally interrupting the Council meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 7.55pm

1384 To receive an update on the MC leaflet

This item brought forward to enable D. Cllr Wright to participate

Chair had previously circulated a list of text amendments proposed by various members and now asked for feedback.

Lengthy discussion ensued with the main points being: the tone of the leaflet – whether some content may be considered unwelcoming; languages to be included for translation, with guidance from Dist.Cllr Wright; what content may already be covered in the parish magazines and should this be repeated here.

Cllr Cox commented that he is not convinced it is ready for publication and suggested that research be conducted with new arrivals to the village to ascertain whether it would answer questions that they might have raised.

A suggestion was made that a more comprehensive leaflet might be produced at a later stage.

It was resolved to proceed with this edition, subject to the agreed text changes.

Proposed: Chair Hayes, seconded: Cllr Heal, 6 in favour, 1 against (Cllr Cox).

The Yesu Centre has made an offer to review the translations to ensure adequate comprehension by the multicultural community, which will be greatly appreciated.

1385 Allocation of tasks and responsibilities: Members Reports

a) Recreation Ground: Cllr Imogen Bruce – slide to be repainted; to investigate a more cost effective method of mole extermination

b) Play Area: Cllr Judy Heal, with assistance short-term from Chair Hayes – meeting planned with A Hubbard to discuss maintenance issues; picnic tables have been tightened but will eventually need replacement; a quote of £600 has been obtained to replace damaged matting. As this was considered too expensive, alternative suppliers will be investigated. Maintenance on the rocket seat and slide has been carried out by volunteer Mr Jim Hayes.

c) Bus Shelter / Bottle Bank site: Cllr Ashley Carr – The need for guttering replacement was raised in last minutes (item 1365). In Dec 2004 the minutes show that it was not then repaired due to frequent vandalism. It was agreed to replace guttering now with the hope that a stronger material could be used to reduce potential vandalism damage.

The graffiti on the interior walls can be simply and cost effectively removed by application of white emulsion. Mr Ian Kendall kindly volunteered to do this. The village sign is showing signs of wear. Cllr Stocking reported that Mr John Stocking has volunteered to repair the sign if it can be dismantled and transported to him.

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THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL

This offer was gratefully accepted and a means of getting the sign to him would be investigated. The paper bank contract is to be renegotiated.

Cllr Carr proposed that MC PC should appoint MW White Company, as they offer a better rate than NNDC, with the proviso that there would not be excessive administration involved and that the PC would have the option to revert to the NNDC contract should the arrangement with MW White be found unacceptable; seconded Cllr Heal; all in favour

- d) Churchyard: Cllr Judy Heal - fine
- e) North Side: Chair Mary Hayes - fine
- f) South Side: Cllr John Cox – provided members with a typed report on details of the wildlife with comments that it is good; picture evidence illustrated excessive dumping of waste, particularly at the junction of Grove Rd and Melton St.; a dumped car requires removal. NNDC will be contacted. Cllr Cox will liaise with the Clerk to agree responsibility for this task.
- g) Allotments: Cllr Frank Bruce – The recent allotment inspection showed that most are very well kept. Approximately six plots have been identified as not being adequately cultivated and those tenants will be contacted. Plot 1 came under discussion as part of it is considered uncultivable and should be fenced off. This plot could also be used to improve the millenium garden and play area. The legality of removing an allotment plot is to be investigated before this plot can be considered available for reallocation. Plot numbers 18, 44, 45, 47, 59 and 74a will require letters requesting confirmation that they will be cultivated or released for reallocation to residents on the waiting list. The items for discussion on rent increase and revised agreement was postponed to later in the meeting.
- h) Website: Cllr A Carr – report postponed to August mtg due to time constraints.
- i) Street Lighting: Cllr J Cox – report is in item 11 on the agenda

1386 To consider matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting

- a. Liaison with Briston PC: Chair Hayes reported that a meeting was held with the Chair of Briston PC on the Lomax Estate regarding the blocked footpath, with the aim of improving access. The possibility of providing a play area was also raised. This is an ongoing discussion.
- b. Village Hall facilities / Grove Rd land: The Chair reminded members of the concerns expressed by parishioners regarding the potential loss of the building as a resource for the village if the Country Club should close and the proposal put forward at the Annual Parish meeting, which had been unanimously carried, which asked the Parish Council to take action in opening discussions with the Country Club members. Chair invited members' comments on how to take this forward. Members agreed that the Country Club building was used frequently by various groups and that if the building was lost to the village then there would be no other suitable facility. Chair suggested that a sub-group be formed to investigate opportunities to support the Country Club. The meeting was briefly adjourned to allow L Williamson to comment: if the building was registered as a charity then more access to funds would be available and she would encourage discussion around that point. The meeting was reconvened and further discussion ensued.

A proposal was finally made by Cllr Carr: to write to the Country Club Chairman in order to open discussion between the PC and the CClub with offers of support; seconded Cllr I Bruce; 5 in favour, 2 abstentions (Cllrs Heal, Stocking)

Items 10c-f were postponed to the August meeting

1387 Street Lighting

Cllr Cox had received a report from MHB that two lights had failed. Number 10 on the plan cannot be maintained by MHB. Cllr Cox is to investigate whether it is needed and what its removal cost would be. Two solar panels are to be removed in Melton Street. One can be used to repair the damaged light number 34, the other should be stored. Suitable storage facilities are to be investigated until such time as it would be legal to sell or otherwise dispose of spare panels.

1388 Village Games

Cllr Heal reported that the Melton Constable teams for carpet bowls and 5 a side football competed in the North Norfolk Village Games held in Cromer last weekend. Though they did not win these events, the village came third in the Small Village category, a valiant team effort. Congratulations to all who competed and thanks to Mr Jim Hayes for organising the village participation.

The PC originally offered to pay £50 to insure the playing of carpet bowls. The Melton Constable Community Association can obtain public liability insurance cover through a special on line scheme for smaller community activities for £75.00, which would cover both the carpet bowls and composting allotment events as well as any other events to be planned over the year.

Cllr Carr proposed that the PC pay this total cost; seconded Cllr F Bruce; 6 in favour, 1 abstention (Cllr Cox)

1389 Railway Arch

Cllr Stocking is liaising with Mr D King, curator of the Holt Railway Museum, for support in producing the plaque, though no funding is available. Once the total cost is known then ways to provide funding can be discussed. This is work in progress. Request was made to ascertain frequency of grass cutting by Highways around the arch. **Clerk to action.**

1390 Councillors' Training

Briston PC are arranging joint training for themselves and MC PC. Dates have yet to be finalised

1391 Village Notice Board

Mr John Stocking has offered to help repair the existing board. The Co-Op may be able to offer an additional site on their wall. Work ongoing.

1392 Planning Applications

- PF/11/0542 Erection of rear sunroom extension, Markshall Game Farm, Craymere Beck: resolved to reply: **MC PC no objection or comment. Proposed: Cllr Heal; seconded: Chair Hayes, all in favour**

- PF/11/0670 and 0671 Erection of single-storey extension, Culpits Farm, Hindolveston Road: resolved to reply: **MC PC has no objection or comment. Proposed: Cllr Stocking, seconded: Cllr Heal, all in favour**

- LA/11/0663 Re-painting of exterior doors and windows, The Dairyman's House, Melton Park: resolved to reply: **MC PC has no objection or comment. Proposed: Cllr Stocking; seconded: Cllr Cox, all in favour**

1393 Financial

**Resolved to approve the financial statement to May 2011
Proposed: Chair Hayes; seconded: Cllr Carr, all in favour**

Resolved to approve the following payments

Cheque No	Payee	Item	Amount
101507	Norfolk RCC	Play Area Inspection Course	20
101508	Norse Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance	942.12
101509	MHB Services	Lighting	55.14
101510	J Carr	Salary (May-Jly) £413.86 / Expenses (£56.54)	470.4
101511	S Drewell	mole extermination	50
101512	J Hayes	play area maintenance	74.84
101513	M Hayes	printer paper / ink cartridges	41.97
DD	Eon	electricity	86.96
Total			1741.43

Proposed: Cllr Heal; seconded: Cllr Stocking, 1 abstention (Chair Hayes), 6 in favour

1394 To consider revisions to allotment agreement

It was resolved to approve the revisions made to the allotment agreement

Proposed: Cllr F Bruce; seconded Cllr Heal, all in favour.

Cllr Carr requested confirmation that both tenant and PC would retain signed copies of the agreement and this was given.

1395 To consider the allotment rent increase

Members discussed the following: asbestos disposal and funding of same; how much of the rent increase to be reasonably passed on to tenants; comparisons with other local parish allotment rents. The final decision will be postponed to August meeting after further research into local parish allotment rentals has been carried out.

1396 Items for Information

None received

1397 Items for next agenda

Grit Bins
Communication with public
BT Phone Box
Water Towers
Lighting

1398 Date of next meeting

Resolved that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 9th August, 7.30pm at the Country Club

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Clerk: Jacqui Carr

Signed Chair: Mary Hayes
Dated 9th August 2011