

9th October 2018

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: K Cotgrove
Bodgers Field
Norwich Road
Briston
Melton Constable
NR24 2BB

website: www.meltonconstablepc.info
email: clerkmeltonpc@gmail.com
Tel: 01263 587755

MINUTES of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 9th October 2018 7.30pm at the Country Club.

Present: J Hayes (Chair)
S Unsworth
S Meacock
A Crawford
J Cox
E Smith
K Cotgrove Clerk
1 member of the public

2941 Apologies for Absence

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth SECONDED by Cllr Cox it was AGREED to Accept apologies for Cllr Tosney and County Cllr Aquarone.

2942 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September 2018

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox SECONDED by Cllr Smith, it was AGREED to accept the minutes of the meeting of 11th September as a true and accurate record.

2943 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hayes (Dairyman's House planning application).

2944 Matters Arising from Last Minutes

None.

2945 County & District Councillor reports

No District Councillor's report.

County Cllr Aquarone has sent a copy of the village gates questionnaire for the noticeboard.

2946 To consider proposed speed reduction measures

Deferred to the November meeting, as County Cllr Aquarone was not present at the meeting.

2947 To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

William Heal was in attendance and gave an update of the publicity for the Remembrance Sunday commemorations. No-one has volunteered to light the beacon, so he will ask Lord Astley. Mr. Heal asked if the handyman could clear brambles from around the beacon.

The Clerk will ask.

The parishioner left at 7:37 and the meeting was reconvened.

2948 Members' Reports

Churchyard: All looking good.

Bus shelter: All fine.

Southside: There is still a large amount of rubbish outside a property on Briston Road.

Cllr Cox has spoken to a member of the Environmental Health team at NNDC, who has

asked the Parish Council to write to the owner and copy them in. It was agreed the Clerk will write. An abandoned vehicle was removed. It was noted that a trailer has been left on Grove Road, displaying a number plate for a vehicle with no MOT. It was agreed Councillors will attempt to identify the owners.

Play area: Nothing to report.

Northside: Rubbish remains at the rear of two properties.

Allotments: Two tenants were written to regarding their allotments and both have started work to clear. 19 tenants came along to pay their rent on 4th October, some also came prior to the Parish Council meeting. The remaining tenants have been written to. There are now 3.5 plots available, but one is provisionally taken. A tenant has reported some Japanese knotweed on their plot. Advice has been taken regarding removal, and it was agreed that pesticide use would not be appropriate, due to the close proximity of a watercourse. It was agreed that Cllr Unsworth will liaise with Cllr Tosney to arrange for the tenant to burn the plant on site. One of the tenants with chickens has been written to and reported to the RSPCA in the past as the poultry have not been fed and watered daily. The new tenancy agreement and Animals on Allotments policy clearly lays out what is expected, but the tenant in question has not yet renewed. After discussion, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth Seconded by Cllr Crawford, it was agreed to write to the tenant to advise that further complaints have been made, and unless he tends to his poultry daily, his tenancy agreement will not be renewed. A copy of the new agreement and the policy will be included. One of the newly vacant plots has an asbestos garage on it. It was agreed that the removal will be organized when a new tenant is found.

Streetlighting: Westcotec have quoted £80 each for the new batteries (two required for each light) and £225 each for waterproof battery boxes. New solar units to include battery boxes are £750, but batteries will still be required. Cllr Cox recommended a reserve be created to fund replacements as necessary. It was agreed that this will be considered in the budget and precept in November.

2949 To update on grant monies already agreed or received

All grant providers have been contacted to advise that a lease has not been forthcoming, so the project cannot continue. Norfolk Community Foundation have requested the return of their £3000 grant, but Tesco have allowed the Parish Council to keep to fund repairs of the existing equipment as necessary. All providers have invited the Parish Council to reapply should the situation change.

2950 To agree a license arrangement with the Felbeck Trust to create an allotment restoration project on allotments unsuitable for cultivation

The Clerk wrote to the agents for the land owner to request agreement for at least five years use. The agent replied to clarify what was needed, but nothing has been heard since. The Clerk will chase.

2951 To update on grass cutting

The Clerk met with the Operations Manager of CGM, who agreed there were serious issues, and promised to look into it further. The Clerk emailed to chase as nothing has been heard, but is yet to receive a response. She is meeting with two other grass cutting companies in the next week. CGM have still not cut Grove Road, despite having visited in the last week or so.

2952 To consider a notice to Highways regarding roadside advertisements and the radar operated 30mph speed limit sign

The 30mph sign is still not working properly. The Clerk has enquired in the past regarding ownership, but no-one seems to know. She will chase Highways regarding this and to request removal of signs at the end of the village.

2953 To discuss the three weeks consultation period for planning applications and the risk of the exclusion of the public representation at Parish Council meetings

Due to the strict three-week consultation period allowed by NNDC, it was agreed that there is a danger that the public will be unaware of applications, particularly as yellow site notices are not always put up in good time. It was agreed that all planning applications on the agenda will be highlighted in yellow.

2954 To consider a 1:1250 map of the Parish and maintained areas

Cllr Cox suggested a Parish map be obtained to cover the entire village, to include areas covered in the grass cutting contract. It is anticipated that it will need to be of A1 size, with an estimated cost of £60. I was agreed that Cllr Cox will explore this further.

2955 To consider future funding for defibrillator replacement and replacement parts

The Clerk has received an email from the Community Heartbeat Trust to advise that funding for the defibrillator has stopped, and to report on funding costs. It was agreed that the Parish Council are happy to continue funding, and it will be included in the budget.

2956 Planning applications

LA/18/1780. The Dairymans House, Melton House, Hindolveston Road, Melton Constable. Most Councillors were unable to access the application and supporting documents. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, it was agreed that the Clerk will comment to this effect.

2957 Finances

(i) On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Meacock, SECONDED by Cllr Unsworth, the monthly statement and budget was approved

(ii) On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford SECONDED by Cllr Smith it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

102013	K Cotgrove	Salary	£147.40
102014	Norfolk Community Foundation	Grant refund	£3000.00
SO	CGM	Grass cutting	£138.49
102015	HMRC	Clerk's tax	£22.60
102016	G W Harrold	Half yearly rent	£400.00
102017	Westcotec	Monthly lighting maintenance	£13.25
DD	E.on	Street lighting electricity	£24.22
TOTAL			£3745.96

(iii) The following receipts were noted:

Precept 2 nd installment and grant	£3754.00
Allotment rent	£520.00

2958 Correspondence

(i) NNDC request for information of Almshouses in the Parish – No properties were identified.

(ii) NNDC Local Plan update events – the Clerk will email dates to Councillors.

(iii) Stody Estate Public Exhibition re Reservoirs – Councillors will attempt to attend. It was queried why the exhibition appears to be for a second reservoir, when there are already two.

(iv) Cllr Hayes passed the Clerk his letter of resignation. Cllr Crawford thanked Cllr Hays for all his hard work for the Council, as Councillor and Chairman.

2959 Items for November agenda

Felbeck Trust lease, village gates, budget & precept, Parish map.

2960 Date and time of next meeting

9th October 2018

It was agreed that the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 13th November 2018 at 7.30pm.

8:55 pm: Meeting Closed

Clerk Chair

Dated