

13th July 2021

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: K Cotgrove
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MINUTES of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2021 at 7.30pm at the Country Club.

Present: S Unsworth
A Crawford
S Meacock
D Carter
K Cotgrove Clerk
0 members of the public

3410 Apologies for Absence

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, it was AGREED to accept apologies for Cllr Cox.

3411 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th May 2021

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, it was AGREED to accept the minutes of the meeting of 4th May as a true and accurate record.

3412 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Meacock, Crawford & Unsworth (Allotments) The Clerk granted dispensations to speak & vote.

3413 To consider matters arising, not covered on the agenda

None.

3414 County & District Councillor's reports

The District & County Councillors were not present. Email reports were sent prior to the meeting.

3415 To adjourn the meeting to allow for public participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

3416 To receive members' reports

Churchyard – no report

Southside – Cllr Cox emailed a report prior to the meeting. The power lines have been reported.

Bus shelter – all looks good. There is a little rubbish on occasion.

Play area – the rotten wood on the bench has been replaced and painted, and the grass is due a cut. Around the edges of the equipment and near the fence is looking tatty. The Clerk will contact the contractor. The back board of the basketball hoop is broken. The Clerk will obtain quotes for a replacement. Cllr Meacock will purchase some bark for the Millennium area.

Recreation Ground – All looks ok, but the grass is growing fast.

Northside – All ok. Lots of litter around at the moment. There are lots of weeds between paths and walls. The Clerk will see if the Rangers can deal with this, and weeds in the guttering.

3417 Allotments:

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District Cllr Brown arr. 19:44.

To update on vermin issues: Well over 150 rats have been caught so far, and only a few remain. If a tenant in question can turn their chicken coop 180 degrees, the contractor feels he can catch the rest. There is a new rat issue on a different plot, which also has a large number of chickens on.

To feedback on recent inspections: A follow up email was sent to Cllrs & a further update was given. A reinspection will take place Saturday 7th August at 10am. Cllrs will meet by the orchard.

3414 District Cllr Brown's report:

District Cllr Brown has had an offer from Thornage PC to contribute to the Fakenham Community Fridge. The developer has put an application to remove a condition from the Spinney application, to remove the need to build a footpath across the site, which had to be done before the properties were completed. Highways have no objection with the removal of this condition. There is concern that the screen hedge was being challenged. The planting will be monitored. Cllrs were also concerned that the Parish Council was not consulted, but Briston PC were. No landscaping scheme has been sent to the PC. The Clerk will write to Planning regarding both of these issues. Cllr Carter asked if any trees have been planted by NNDC near Melton Constable, as some could be planted in the Millennium Garden. The Clerk will email District Cllr Brown with more information. The boundary review was discussed.

3417 To agree a maximum number of hens allowed: The main issues with rats are on and around plots with lots of chickens. Other PCs have limits on the number of chickens allowed, or permission must be given before being allowed to keep chickens. Following discussion, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, it was AGREED to allow no more than six hens on allotment plots. It was also AGREED that permission must be sought from the Parish Council prior to the tenant getting any hens.

To consider banning cockerels on the allotments: Cockerels are not allowed under the Allotment Act 1950. Following discussion, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, it was AGREED that no more cockerels will be allowed on the allotments, and existing ones will be allowed to stay, and will be reviewed in 12 months.

To consider updating the allotment contract: Various contracts will be circulated, and a draft presented to the August meeting.

3418 To update on the renovation of the land adjacent to the Millennium Gardens

The contractor has still not completed the clearing and reseeding the area, despite promising it would be done by the end of June. The Clerk will call him to try and pin down a date. The project is a large one, and funding will be needed. To obtain funding a design will need to be drawn up, and a landscaping firm could then be contracted to carry out the work. Cllr Carter can complete some funding application forms. A bench is being donated, and additional furniture will be considered. Cllr Carter will forward an email to Cllrs with diagrams and plans, and the Clerk will send the map of the area around.

3419 To consider co-option for two vacancies

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council. People will ask if anyone is interested, and the advert will remain in the Briston News.

3420 To consider planning applications

None.

3421 To approve the Financial Statements

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The financial statements were distributed to Cllrs prior to the meeting. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, they were duly APPROVED.

To approve the following payments

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth SECONDED by Cllr Carter it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

K Cotgrove	June salary & expenses	£289.40
K Cotgrove	July salary & expenses	£347.18
HMRC	June tax	£22.60
HMRC	July tax	£22.60
P Minns	May grass cutting	£360.00
P Minns	June grass cutting	£360.00
P Collins	May grass cutting	£220.00
P Collins	June grass cutting	£220.00
NSALG	Membership	£67.00
Westcotec	2 x lighting maintenance	£26.50
E.on	Electricity direct debit	£30.90
S Drewell	Vermin removal on allotments	£250.00
	TOTAL	2216.18

To note receipts

The following receipt was noted:

HMRC	VAT rebate	£1819.77
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3422 Correspondence

(i) Queens Jubilee Beacon 2nd June 2022 – Other events have also been suggested. This will be put on the August or September agenda.

(ii) Melton Surgery refurbishment – a notice has been put on the board.

(iii) Armed Forces Covenant & Pledge – The PC decided not to make the pledge.

(iv) Safer Norfolk Plan – No response agreed.

(v) Draft consultation – phone boxes – The Clerk will reply to advise that the PC do not want it decommissioned, but if it will be de-commissioned, the PC do not want to retain it.

(vi) A Parishioner asked some time ago if she could hold a party, but nothing further has been heard.

3423 Items for the next agenda

Standing items, Animals on Allotment Policy & draft allotment contract. Possibly Jubilee celebrations.

3424 To agree the date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 10th August 2021.

Allotment rent collection Wednesday 6th October 2021.

21:05 Meeting Closed

Clerk Chair Dated