

11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk to the Council: Kirsty Cotgrove, Bodgers Field, Norwich Road, Briston, NR24 2BB**  
**01263 587755 / 07754 885750** **clerkmeltonpc@gmail.com**

**MINUTES** of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 7.30pm at the Country Club.

Present: S Unsworth D Carter  
S Meacock J Cox  
A Crawford K Cotgrove (Clerk)  
A Brown (District Councillor) S Aquarone (County Councillor)  
0 members of the public

3203 Apologies for Absence

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

3204 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Carter SECONDED by Cllr Cox it was AGREED to accept the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January as a true and accurate record.

3205 Declarations of Interest

None.

3206 Matters Arising from Last Minute

2191. The handyman should carry out work by the end of the week.

3207 County & District Councillor reports

County Cllr Aquarone gave a verbal report, which covered mobile signals & cuts to services, including social care. He asked anyone affected by cuts to let him know to gather evidence. 96% of the County receives improved broadband. If you are one of the 4%, please contact County Cllr Aquarone, who can help explore options open to you. There is funding available for pocket parks. Details will be sent to the Clerk to distribute. District Cllr Brown gave a verbal report, including information of a new group to discuss dementia care in the Briston and Melton Constable area. The meeting will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March, in the Salvation Army hall in Briston. New applications for public rights of way will end in 2026. Please see [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) for further information. The Town & Parish Forum was discussed, as was the windfarm applications. There will be an update to the Council's computer systems in June, which will mean 2 weeks where the full planning system will not be available. The Local Plan is moving forwards. There is likely to be an increase in Council tax in April. A property that has been empty for a number of years was identified, and District Cllr Brown will look into it.

*County Cllr Aquarone left the meeting at 20:04.*

3208 To adjourn the meeting for public participation

No members of the public were present.

3209 To update on the Railway Institute leaflet

The leaflet has been distributed to local businesses and will be posted to homes in the area this weekend. Cllr Meacock highlighted the importance of community involvement in the meeting, to ensure the future of the project.

3210 Members' Reports

Churchyard: No report.

Southside: The drain near the bus stop has lifted and the footpath near the bus stop still needs clearing. Also, some of the tree supports on Colville Road are starting to rot. The Clerk will report to Highways.

Bus shelter: No report, but all tidy.

Play area: More fence slats are missing, and the picnic bench has been removed. Cllr Meacock will move it back.

Recreation Ground: All ok.

Northside: There are a number of properties along the main road with plants obscuring the footpath. The Clerk will report to Highways.

Allotments: Two plots are free. The Clerk is still trying to obtain quotes to clear the rubbish from two plots. There has been a complaint that chickens on a plot are being neglected. The Clerk will contact the allotment holder.

Streetlights: A flickering light at the end of Burgh Beck Road has been temporarily turned off while awaiting repairs. The light at the bus shelter is now on early in the morning. A number of other lights are flickering. The Clerk has contacted Westcotec, who will provide a plan going forward.

3211 To update on a license arrangement with the Felbeck Trust to create an allotment restoration project on allotments at present unsuitable for cultivation

Despite emailing and calling, the Clerk has had no response from the agents. She will continue to chase.

3212 To update on vermin problems in the village

Work is complete and the boxes removed. The holes will need to be filled.

3213 To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

A date of 29<sup>th</sup> April was agreed. The Clerk will invite Anna Clarke along to discuss Community Led Housing.

3214 To discuss options for plot one

Agreed to defer to the March meeting.

3215 To discuss drug issues in the village

Due to ongoing issues with drug taking and dealing, a Parishioner has offered to lock the play area each evening. However, this would just move the problem to outside the play area. The Clerk has been in contact with the police, who will ask for an increase in night patrols in the area. He advised that if anyone has anything to report, to email PC Richard Dawson or Graham Gower-Smith, or to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

3216 Planning applications

PF/19/2233 The Engine Shed, Marriott Way, Melton Constable, NR24 2BT. The Parish Council had no objection to this retrospective application.

3217 Finances

(i) Financial Statement - On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Meacock, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, the monthly statement and budget update was approved

(ii) Payments - On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

102105	K Cotgrove	Clerk's February salary	£147.40
102106	HMRC	Clerk's February tax	£22.60
102107	Westcotec	Lighting maintenance	£13.25
			TOTAL
			£183.25

3218 Correspondence

(i) Extension to the consultation on divisional boundaries - Noted.

(ii) Citizens Advice in North Norfolk – NNDC have asked what donations have been given to Citizens Advice by Parish Councils.

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(iii) GNLP, NCC Local Transport Plan & rail prospectus – distributed to Councilors prior to the meeting. Councillors will let the Clerk know if they are able to attend.

(iv) Proposed removal of the phone box – BT have contacted the Clerk as, when they carried out a routine inspection of the phone box, they found the phone was missing and the box is being used as a library. They have asked how the Parish Council would feel about its removal. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask if the box can be changed to a red box, which would fit in better with the village. Cllr Smith will speak to the Parishioner and ask if she can remove the books.

(v) At their AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, members voted to dissolve Melton Constable Community Association. There is a bank balance of £500, which they voted to donate to the Parish Council, to ringfence for maintenance of the Play area, Cllr Crawford PROPOSED to use this money to replace the rope on the trim trail, which was damaged last summer. SECONDED by Cllr Carter, all AGREED.

3219 Items for February agenda

Railway Institute update. Felbeck. Allotment plot one. Felbeck Trust.

3220 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7:30pm.

20:44: Meeting Closed

Clerk ..... Chair ..... Dated .....

DRAFT