

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk: K Cotgrove**  
**Bodgers Field**  
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**MINUTES** of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 7.30pm at the Country Club.

Present: S Unsworth (Chair)  
J Tosney  
A Crawford  
J Cox  
K Cotgrove Clerk  
County Cllr S Aquarone

2799 Apologies for Absence

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth SECONDED by Cllr Tosney it was AGREED to accept apologies from Cllr M Hayes & Cllr J Hayes.

2800 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford SECONDED by Cllr Tosney it was AGREED, with one abstention, to accept the minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January as a true and accurate record.

2801 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest in the wildlife area development.

2802 Matters Arising from Last Minutes

2789 – Cllr Unsworth checked the poultry on the allotments. There has been no improvement, so letters will be sent.

2803 County & District Councillor reports

County Cllr Aquarone gave a brief verbal report, covering the budget agreement at County Hall and the Country Club. He will be having a further meeting with the manager of the Country Club soon.

2804 To update on the Stody permissive footpath scheme

It was noted that three other Parishes signed the agreement for the continuation of part of the old permissive path scheme. The Clerk reported on which areas had been retained. It was queried whether Melton Constable had ‘missed out’ by not agreeing to sign the contract, which had had the clause indemnifying the Councils removed. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Tosney, the Clerk will write to Stody to state that the Parish Council deeply regrets the loss of the scheme, and that they hope there is a way forward to be found in the future. All agreed.

*County Cllr Aquarone left at 7:55pm*

2805 To adjourn the meeting for public participation

No members of the public were present.

2806 Members’ Reports

Churchyard: Cllr Crawford reported that the churchyard is looking lovely.

Southside: The footpath near the bus stop has been cleared, but not the one opposite the Co-Op. The Clerk has reported to Highways, so it should be cleared soon.

Bus shelter: Cllr Tosney has removed the hawthorn tree, but left the root to re-shoot. He has carried out a litter pick there, and a member of the public has done another.

Play Area: All fine

Recreation Ground: NO check has been carried out.

Northside: The rubbish has been cleared. The old phone box, which was being used as a library, is looking very untidy. Cllr Cox will clear it out before the next meeting.

Allotments: A Parishioner has reported a greenhouse with broken glass on one of the plots. Cllr Unsworth has checked, and will contact the allotment holder. There are still 8 vacant plots. The Clerk will advertise in the Parish magazine and on the noticeboard.

2807 To approve a GDPR Policy

The policy had been emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Cox, the policy was adopted by the Council.

2808 To approve pursuing a lease with landlord of the allotments ad to consider the costs involved

The Clerk had contacted Eastlaw to ask if the Council could pursue title of the plot of land in question, and the response was discussed at length. It was noted that there was a very sound argument for ownership of the land, but concern was expressed that should the Parish Council pursue this, they could lose funding for two projects, and risk losing the allotments too. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford it was agreed to pursue a lease, with the documented costs, with one vote against. It was agreed that a minimum lease of 15 years would be required, but 25+ years would be preferable.

2809 Felbeck Trust initiative

Cllr Tosney will let the Felbeck Trust know that the lease is being pursued, but work cannot start until it is finalised. As nesting season will begin soon, the project will likely commence in October. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda for an update.

2810 To agree a grass cutting contract

Cllr Cox has been unable to identify all the land from his mapping system, so a 1:2500 map will be required. The Clerk will try and obtain one from Norfolk County Council. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Unsworth, it was agreed to accept the quote from CGM for this year. All agreed.

2811 To agree a litter pick date

Cllr Tosney suggested the litter pick could take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March, to meet at the play area at 10:30am. All agreed. The Clerk will advertise the event.

2812 Planning applications

None

2813 Finances

Monthly statements were sent via email for December and January.

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox SECONDED by Cllr Crawford it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

DD	Eon	Electricity – January	£22.03	
SO	CGM	Grounds maintenance – Jan	£138.49	
101971	Westcotec	Lighting maintenance Jan	£13.25	
101970	K Cotgrove	Clerk's February salary	£162.76	
			TOTAL	£336.53

2814 Correspondence

(i) An invitation has been received for the official opening of the Astley School Hastings Building. Cllr Crawford confirmed she can attend, and other Councillors will confirm at the next meeting.

(ii) One application has been received for the Parish Council vacancy. However, the applicant was not in attendance due to illness. Co-option will be added to the March agenda.

2815 Items for March agenda

Update on the Felbeck Trust initiative.

Allotment lease

Co-option

Street lighting

Study footpaths

2816 Date and time of next meeting

It was agreed that the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm.

8:40 pm: Meeting Closed

Clerk .....

Chair .....

Dated .....