

MELTON CONSTABLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 25th May 2023

7.30pm at the RAILWAY INSTITUTE

6 Briston Road Melton Constable

PRESENT:

Parish Council members:

Parish Council Clerk

1 resident, confirmed elector of Melton Constable

Apologies

1 Council member.

It was put to Cllr Brown how to find out who owns the access ways behind the houses. Cllr Brown mentioned that the access ways are divided in between the houses and ownership goes halfway in between each house, It may be worth while doing a property search on land registry however the responsibility would always be deferred to the home owners to look after the access roads

A parishioner has said how lovely she finds the parish. It is in very good order, everyone owns their own house and people are buying houses and doing them up. The parishioner mentioned that there are very few insects about nowadays and a local parish has left areas to wilding. Also it would be an idea to stop using any weed killers. Council will look into ways of leaving some grass to grow. This was proposed by parishioner and seconded by Cllr Cox

To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2022

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Unsworth it was agreed to accept the minutes of the APM meeting held on 11th May 2022 as a true & accurate record

Chairman's Address

Precept as expected had to be raised largely because maintenance and inflation has to be accounted for the coming year. Precept increased around £1500 of which £500 is assumed to be play area, £500 for elections and £500 for inflation. Whilst 10% is not ideal correctly maintaining play equip each year with an MOT survey is essential.

Allotments generally a good year. Vermin and Chicken issues fewer than previous. Payment mostly by direct payments, tapping a card and post office cheques has helped reduce costs and time whilst being easier to track payments on the bank account. Thanks to those who helped make electronic payments easy.

An allotment management computer suit has helped regards maintaining records, letters and noting issues. Tenancy agreements much easier to change and so on.

We scanned many old physical files to a “cloud” service and can make these available on line after we have refreshed the PC website this year and removed older material. Storage requirements are minimal for the PC.

A number of new benches were installed. A memorial bench in play area for a past resident. A local business kindly paid for a new netball / basketball setup (thanks especially to Jim Morrissey) and therefore thanks to them. Anon.

We are still trying to firm up possibilities of electric charging points in the village requested by a group of residents. The original proposal was to install near bus stop and because Sidings was a good magnet for local and wider afield visitors this seemed sensible but at what cost and approach. But Sidings closed and the variants of charging points means we need to be careful to invest in something that fits all electric cars at a time the technology is steady and mature. We also need to ensure installation is commercially viable mindful of additional fees service providers add on to recent extortionate electricity costs.

Issues carried over:

Land lease to satisfy funders. Have not identified projects that require volunteers looking for funding on the areas of play, Rec or orchard. However efforts of volunteering seem to be focussed on the Twin Tracks project related to St Mary’s future usage.

Looking forward to this year.

Largely business as usual. We have a new Councillor Elizabeth Goode. Ideally we wish for more councillors. Perhaps representing the business park area and requirements for younger residents? We will continue to look for candidates. One year term to “try before continuing” could be a way forward?

Street lighting. Is an issue north side. Equipment could be end of life or obsolete. Looking to understand the cost of replacement with a view to exploring how this might be consumed in the wider NNDC street lighting scope which is funded often by our wider council tax.

Explore what it might take to adopt alleyways and unmade road next to allotments. This may fail as an idea, but certain county level councils do adopt Victorian alleys. Kings Lynn is one example. It would no doubt be a lot of work if it was feasible to adopt or it’s just an idea that’s rejected immediately resting on MC PC to consider financing which suspect is a tall order.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.