

10th July 2018

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 10th July 2018 7.30pm at the Country Club.

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

2889 Apologies for Absence

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

2890 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th June 2018

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford SECONDED by Cllr Meacock it was AGREED to accept the minutes of the meeting of 12th June as a true and accurate record.

2891 Declarations of Interest

All Councillors declared a non-pecuniary interest in the allotments.

2892 Matters Arising from Last Minutes

2878. Updates were given regarding work required around the village. It was agreed to accept the quote of £48 for repairs to the fence in the play area.

2893 County & District Councillor reports

County Cllr Aquarone had emailed a brief report to Councillors

District Cllr Butikofer reported back on a recent District Council meeting, where it was voted to keep two travelers sites in the area, and a motion was defeated to write to Norfolk County Council to ask them to revoke DIY waste disposal charges at recycling centres.

Norman Lamb is holding a public meeting at Holt Methodist Church, on 12th July about the two proposed windfarms in the area.

The Local Plan has again been delayed, however the Market Town initiative has been approved.

Highways are objecting to the recent Big Prawn application, on the basis of the loss of parking spaces.

Cllr Hayes and Cllr Unsworth asked why Melton Constable's nominations for Green Space protection were not considered, as they did not meet the criteria. The Clerk will forward the email to District Cllr Butikofer who will look into it, and if necessary arrange a meeting with those concerned.

10th July 2018

District Cllr left the meeting at 7:47pm

2894 Members' Reports

Churchyard: all is well, although the recent cut has left the churchyard looking a little tatty.

Southside: There is a lot of litter around at the moment.

Bus shelter: All is fine.

Play area: Play equipment is being dealt with under a separate agenda item.

Recreation Ground: Has finally been cut.

Northside: There is a tree obscuring the footpath opposite the Country Club. The Clerk will contact the homeowner and ask them to cut it back. There is still a lot of rubbish dumped at a property at the rear of Burgh Beck Road.

The footpath leading from Melton Constable to Stody is now impassable. It has been reported to Highways.

Street lighting: Nothing to report.

2895 Allotments

(a) To feedback on the allotment inspection

As a result of the inspection, 5 letters were sent to tenants; 2 for animal neglect and 3 for uncultivated plots. One response was received regarding chickens, denying there is an issue. A bridge leading to one of the plots is in a dangerous state. Cllr Tosney has been in contact with the Felbeck Trust, who have offered to make a new bridge, if the Parish Council can collect and install it. The possibility of temporary repairs to the bridge was discussed but dismissed. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the tenant of the plot affected to advise that access will be temporarily stopped, and to ask them to remove their poultry. A poster will also be put up in the noticeboard to request volunteers to build a bridge and/or help to install it if Felbeck are able to undertake the construction work as per above.

Asbestos was found on one of the plots, and Malletts came out quickly to remove it. Steps are now in place to deal with any more small pieces of asbestos found.

Cllr Unsworth suggested a reinspection of the plots which gave cause for concern at the initial inspection and will arrange this.

Two plots have recently been let and are already looking fantastic. One of the plots has a great deal of rubbish on it. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth, SECONDED by Cllr Smith it was AGREED that the Clerk will arrange a skip to the value of £250, which can be used to clear plot 41 and other allotment tenants can use it too.

A complaint has been received about the hedges along the alleys. The allotment holder has been spoken to, and the hedge will be cut.

(b) To discuss animals on the allotment

Poultry on the majority of plots are kept well, but two have been identified as a problem. Allotment tenants have been written to, but the situation has not improved. Options discussed were to report to the RSPCA, take the allotments away from those involved or remove permission to keep poultry. Following discussion, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, it was AGREED to report the two allotment holders in question to the RSPCA. If the RSPCA agree that the poultry are neglected, the Council may begin eviction proceedings.

(c) To consider changes to the allotment tenancy contract

It was agreed that the contract needs to be changed to outline what is expected of tenants with regards to animal welfare. The Clerk and Cllr Smith have been investigating policies and contracts. The Clerk will forward drafts to Councillors.

(d) To update on asbestos removal on plot

10th July 2018

Already discussed.

2896 To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The meeting was adjourned at 20:46.

A Parishioner reported that she has been providing water to poultry on one of the plots in question during the recent hot weather. The tenant only appears to come to the plot weekly. She stated that she is happy with the action agreed by the Council.

The Parishioner left at 20:51, and the meeting reconvened.

2897 To agree Councillors' roles

Cllr Unsworth is happy to continue with the allotments.

Cllr Tosney will take on liaising with the Felbeck Trust.

Cllr Cox will continue with Southside and street lighting but warned that lighting will become a financial issue in the next few years.

Cllr Smith will take on the Churchyard and bus shelter.

Cllr Crawford will continue with Northside

Cllr Meacock continue with the play area, but if the games area goes ahead, this may need a subcommittee.

Cllr Hayes will continue with the Recreation Ground.

2898 To consider a donation to the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday 2018

Usually the Parish Council donate £50 per year, but in light of the commemoration events this year, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock all AGREED to increase the donation for one year only to £150.

Cllr Crawford left the meeting at 21:05

2899 To update on grass cutting

CGM have been to cut the grass twice in 10 days and are due to resume fortnightly cut from this Friday (13th). The Clerk has been in discussion regarding recompense for the missed cuts and time spent chasing. Despite the Operations Manager agreeing to cut it, Grove Road remains uncut. The Clerk has asked CGM to include this area free of charge for the season and is waiting to hear back.

2900 To update on the lease with the landlord of the allotments

Cllr Hayes has spoken to the agents who are waiting to hear from the landlord.

Sport England have asked for an update and an estimated date when the lease will be done but are currently prepared to wait. Sport England were asked to specify their outside time limit as this could perhaps help us to inject some urgency into what appears to be a stuck situation. To date Sport England have not responded

2901 To consider repairs to play equipment

The Clerk has obtained a quote for repairs to the play equipment. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Hayes, SECONDED by Cllr Tosney is was AGREED to accept the quote and ask if work can be completed before the summer holidays begin. The Clerk will contact the Norfolk Playing Fields association to see if funding is available.

2902 Planning applications

None.

2903 Finances

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

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

101993	K Cotgrove	Clerk's July salary & expenses	£151.42
SO	CGM	Grounds maintenance – June	£138.49
101994	Westcotec	Street light repairs	£96.00

10th July 2018

101995	B & G Mallett	Asbestos removal	£180.00
101996	HMRC	Clerk's tax	£22.60
101997	NPT&S	New councilor training x 2	£72.00
101998	Westcotec	Monthly lighting June	£13.25
101999	Ladywell Accountancy	PAYE services	£25.00
102000	Westcotec	Monthly lighting July	£13.25
DD	E.on	Monthly electricity direct debit	£25.03
TOTAL			£737.04

2904 Correspondence

(i) Parish Partnership initiative.

The Clerk reported that the next round of funding will be decided in December. It was agreed that if anyone has any ideas, they will bring to the next meeting.

(ii) Community First Responders defibrillator at Melton Constable

CFR have contacted the Parish Council regarding the long-term funding for the defibrillator. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda.

2887 Items for August agenda

Defibrillator

Bridge at allotments

2888 Date and time of next meeting

It was agreed that the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 14th August 2018 at 7.30pm.

9:27 pm: Meeting Closed

Clerk

Chair

Dated