

MELTON CONSTABLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 21st May 2024

7.30pm at the RAILWAY INSTITUTE

6 Briston Road Melton Constable

PRESENT:

4 Parish Council members:

Parish Council Clerk

Cllr Steffan Aquarone, Cllr Andrew Brown

1 resident, confirmed elector of Melton Constable

To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2023

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Goode it was agreed to accept the minutes of the APM meeting held on 25th May 2023 as a true & accurate record

Chairman's Address

PARISH YEAR 2023/24 -> 25

- Technical underspend on grounds, street lighting and rubbish clearance from Allotments. Good news.
- Following a survey on Play Area and the end of life for some pieces that corroded it is important we have sufficient funds to repair and maintain. Cost of maintenance is going to be higher than expected. Budget increased to £3,000pa about half the cost of what we currently spend mowing the villages grass areas.
- On a positive for the play areas and thanks to Amanda our Clerk, an award for £13,300 came from Lottery which is being used to replace the broken slide and provide new equipment we hope will avoid ball games against fencing.
- We have changed the company that looks after street lighting. The new firm Cozens looks after most lights in Norfolk. We are in discussion on what to do with Solar Lighting mindful some equipment may be too expensive to replace.
- Car charging points was discussed last year. No further action at present and it's noted NNDC appear to be doing a review. North Norfolk like much of the country apart from Cities do not have a significant number of public chargers.
- Overall, the year was positive in respect to no overspends.

Looking to current financial year:

- Install the new play equipment.
- We are changing banks from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank (as are other Parishes in Norfolk), to a small provider to the public sector and who recognise some of the unusual processes for Parish Councils in respect to dual authorisations and a Clerk who cannot transact themselves!
- It is important to realise the transfer of Banks may have some teething problems as well as noting a new bank account for direct payments like allotments etc.
- We will consider if there are any alternative ways to parking in the roads within the village based on approaches in nearby towns and cities.

OPEN FORUM

A parishioner mentioned that some students have carried out a survey in the Churchyard as the grass has not been cut, it was mentioned that in the absence of the grass being cut it may be an idea to keep some of the areas wild. The parishioner also mentioned that the ground around the table tennis is very uneven and could it be addressed. Another issue is that the rec has not been able to be cut as the grass is too wet. The parishioner also mentioned that the St Marys Church is trying to get a grant from the National Lottery to improve the condition of the Church, an event will be held on 3rd August to raise money.

Cllr Steffan Aquarone

DEL (Directly Elected Leader) NCC, elections are going to change

NWL (Norwich Western Link)

The dropped kerb outside the kebab shop is going to be repaired and the pavement repaired.
(report posted on website)

Cllr Steffan Aquarone and 1 Parishioner left

Cllr A Brown

NNDC is having to make more cutbacks on discretionary services which includes public toilets. Also the 5 councils in Norfolk have come up with a way to unlock potential development sites that have been suspended due to nutrient neutrality. Also food waste collections are going to be introduced but this may effect the collection of green and black bins.