

10th August 2021

MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: K Cotgrove
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MINUTES of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 10th August 2021 at 7.30pm at the Country Club.

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

3425 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

3426 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2021

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, it was AGREED to accept the minutes of the meeting of 13th July as a true and accurate record.

3427 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Meacock, Crawford & Unsworth (Allotments) The Clerk granted dispensations to speak & vote.

3428 To consider matters arising, not covered on the agenda

None.

3429 County & District Councillor's reports

District Cllr Brown gave a brief verbal report, covering the new Housing Strategy, concentrating on local housing, adapting properties and making properties more energy efficient. Disabled wheelchairs have been purchased to allow access to Cromer and Sheringham beaches. Playgrounds are being reviewed to provide equipment with access for all.. District Cllr Brown is trying to find out what is happening with the kerbing at the Spinney. There is no further news regarding Astley Terrace. He will push for replanting the hedging at the Spinney. There are still three vehicles at the rear of the telephone exchange. The Clerk will forward a photo to District Cllr Brown.

County Cllr Aquarone gave a brief verbal report. He thanked everyone for re-electing him, and gave his priorities, including public transport and footpaths. Holt Hall Friends have been using the ACV status, to find a buyer, who they can work with to continue outdoor education. His Highway allowance is now £10,000, and can also be used to contribute towards environmental assets. Employer Training is also in the manifesto.

County Cllr Aquarone and District Cllr Brown left at 19:43

3430 To adjourn the meeting to allow for public participation

None.

3431 To receive members' reports

Churchyard – no report.

Southside – Cllr Cox walked around during the rain to see how the ford is getting on, fortunately the drains coped. The Clerk will write for permission to chase the abandoned vehicles.

Bus shelter – all looks good. There is a little rubbish, and the shelter will need disinfecting.

Play area – A bit of rubbish, but no vandalism. The ground is worn under the ping pong tables, where they are being used. Matting will be considered to save the area. The Clerk is obtaining quotes for the basketball board.

Recreation Ground – it is being used a bit for football, but there is not much evidence of use. There may be more nets in the shed.

Northside – A property along the main road has a privet hedge growing into the road. The Clerk will write to the homeowner.

3432 Allotments:

To approve the updated Animals on Allotments policy: The policy has been re-written. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Unsworth, the policy was ADOPTED, and will be sent to all tenants.

To discuss allotment contracts: The NALC model contract was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. An adjustment was agreed to add an eligibility criterion, similar to the old contract. The deposit was discussed, and it was agreed to retain the deposit at £20. A possible code of conduct was discussed. The Clerk will investigate. The Clerk will prepare a draft for approval next month.

To report on allotment re-inspections: Six plot holders have been written to.

3433 To update on the renovation of the land adjacent to the Millennium Gardens

Cllr Carter has sent through some grant provider information. Consultation is needed for most grants. The area is very overgrown again. Whether to spray the area was discussed. The Clerk will ask Paul Collins to cut the area back and hopefully mow too. Once it is clear, people can go and see the area to see what can be done to it. Cllr Carter will complete a draft application, and Cllrs can plan what they would like to do, to start in the spring. It was agreed to place the memorial bench either in the orchard or the play area instead, as they are both looking fantastic.

3434 To consider co-option for two vacancies

A member of the public was in attendance, and may be willing to stand. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Meacock, SECONDED by Cllr Unsworth it was AGREED to co-opt Tina Eldred to the Parish Council. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed.

3435 To consider planning applications

None.

3436 To approve the Financial Statements

The financial statements were distributed to Cllrs prior to the meeting. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth, SECONDED by Cllr Carter, they were duly APPROVED.

To approve the following payments

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Unsworth SECONDED by Cllr Carter it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

K Cotgrove	August salary & expenses	£289.40
HMRC	August tax	£22.60
P Minns	July grass cutting	£360.00
P Collins	July grass cutting	£220.00
Westcotec	lighting maintenance	£13.25
E.on	Electricity direct debit July	£29.90

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E.on	Electricity direct debit August	£30.90
NNDC	waste removal 2021-22	£886.08
S Drewell	Vermin removal on allotments	£150.00
	TOTAL	£2002.13

To note receipts

The following receipt was noted:

NCC	Grass cutting contribution	£108.71
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3437 Correspondence

(i) A parishioner emailed the Clerk to report his wall has been hit by a tractor, which failed to stop. Whilst the Parish Council are sympathetic to the parishioner, it was noted that this is a police matter. It was agreed that speeding vehicles are an issue. Speed reduction options were discussed, but it is uncertain if anything would work in the village. The Clerk will ask the police to attend with a camera.

(ii) payphone consultation – NNDC have recommended to BT that the phone and box are retained.

3438 Items for the next agenda

Standing items. Allotment contract for approval. Frequency of meetings was discussed, to change to bi-monthly. The Clerk will update the Standing Orders to approve next month.

3439 To agree the date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 14th September 2021, TBC dependent on new Clerk.

Allotment rent collection Wednesday 6th October 2021.

Meeting Closed 20:35.

Clerk Chair Dated