

LITTLE MELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
at LITTLE MELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE,
LITTLE MELTON
TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT

John Heaser (Chair), Chris Starr (Vice-Chair), Tony Berry, Paul Canning, Wendy Gilyead, Harold Kerslake, and Jo Runeckles.

County Councillor Judith Virgo and District Councillor Garry Wheatley were also present.

In addition 16 members of the public etc were present including Ian Clarke, Peter Graves and Ian Grady.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from District Councillor Dr Christopher Kemp.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked if any members wished to declare an interest in any item/items on the agenda.

Chris Starr declared an interest in planning item 5.2.4.

Tony Berry declared an interest in planning item 5.1.6.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2013 were – on a proposal by Chris Starr, which was seconded by Paul Canning – accepted as a true record of the business conducted and therefore a copy was signed and dated by the Chair for retention in the Parish Council records.

PUBLIC, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARTICIPATION

Matters under this item, it was agreed, would be discussed under Planning.

Secondly Judith Virgo said that she was still seeking to ensure Little Melton Parish Council representatives were able to attend a meeting (headed up by the NCC Cabinet Member for Transport) but as Graham Plant – presently the Cabinet Member for County Transport – was involved in the new Leadership contest of the County Council, this had been delayed.

PLANNING

PC RECOMENDATION

2012/2158 – Mr L Rowe proposing demolish 2 No garages, erect cartlodge style building to provide garaging for 2 No vehicles and storage, new access driveway and blocking up existing access at Grey Cottage, Green Lane.

The Parish Council response, to SNC, had been no objection but (a) the PC would like to see traffic calming measures introduced to discourage the use of the village as a through route, and (b) it was recommended that any work on site does not start until mid-April, so as to minimize the effects on the amphibians that migrate through the plot.

Subsequently, on 8 January, the PC had been notified of an amended planning application, which showed the S/W facing elevation now at a height of 4750 (originally 4125) and the N/E facing rear elevation to have Sandtoft Arcadia Pantiles rather than Sandtoft Neo Clay Pantiles, plus other amendments.

After considering the changes it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no further comments or views to make on this proposal.

2012/0066 – Mr S Hood proposing single storey flat roof extension to rear and 2 storey pitched roof extensions to side and front of existing 2 storey pitched roof at 35 Braymeadow Lane

Neither neighbour had submitted any comments on this proposal to the Parish Council and, taking this into account, the Parish Council agreed that the response, to SNC, would be “no views or comments”.

2013/0092 - Mrs J Grady seeking Outline Planning Permission for 28 dwellings south of Ringwood Close.

2013/0086 – Mr I Clarke seeking Outline Planning permission for 20 dwellings off Mill Road.

2012/1836 – Timewell seeking Outline Planning permission for 20 dwellings off Gibbs Close.

The Chair introduced discussion of these 3 applications – 2013/0092 and 2013/0086 having

recently been received, from SNC, and 2012/1836 - by confirming that the Parish Council were agreed that it should respond, to the District Council, on these 3 proposals in overall terms, acknowledging that because 2012/1836 had been submitted earlier, the PC had already made some initial comments (objection) in respect of 2013/1836.

It was noted that local neighbours potentially affected by these proposals had been formally informed of the receipt of these proposals by the PC, had been invited to inform the PC of any concerns they had, and also been invited to attend this Parish Council meeting.

In addition the three applicants had been sent a copy of the PC's proposed two and a half page draft response to SNC. The Chair then invited comments from the floor including on the draft response to the District Council Planners.

Mr I Clarke said that he disagreed with the Parish Council's draft response to his OPA 2013/0086 and he contested that the arrangement of attenuation ponds would not in fact add to the flooding problems in the area as the rate of discharge from the ponds would be small.

A number of points/comments were made including:-

- All three proposals were on land outside the current development boundary.
- No one wants to see the building of 68 new dwellings in LM – this was confirmed when the Chair asked the meeting if anyone present wanted to see 68 new dwellings for Little Melton and not one person said they did.
- There were serious concerns at how the drainage of water from the proposals contained in 2013/0086 would be provided.
- Existing flooding problems along sections of Mill Road were continuing to be experienced.
- There were local concerns at the proposed staggered junction at Mill Road/Gibbs Close.
- The JCS allocation for Little Melton (Service Village) had been 10-20 new dwellings.
- The lack of a 5 year supply of land, by the District Council, was causing considerable problems, not least because landowners/developers were hoping to obtain planning permission for development in the meantime before a 5 year supply was obtained.

Concluding this lengthy debate the Chair requested that the Parish Council come to a decision as to whether the draft, as proposed, should be amended or approved as drafted, and on a show of hands the PC unanimously agreed that the draft, dated 11 February, should with minor amendments be sent by the Clerk to South Norfolk Council in response to the three proposals.

RESULTS

2012/1804/0 Hethersett Land Ltd & Landowners proposing residential led mixed use development of 1196 dwellings and associated uses including Primary School, Local Services (up to 1,850 square metres (GIA) of A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, D1 & B1 uses) comprising shops, small business units, community facilities/doctors surgeries, sports pitches, recreation spaces, equipped areas of play and informal recreation spaces. Extension to Thickthorn Park and Ride including new dedicated slip road from A11, on land north of Hethersett Village Centre, Little Melton Road, Hethersett.

This application was approved, with 26 conditions, by the SNC Development Management Committee on 30 January.

2012/1880/0 Bullen Developments proposing offices, laboratories and academic space for principally research and development activities, buildings for health and health related uses and buildings for further ancillary uses. Associated car parking, access, infrastructure, internal access roads and strategic landscaping.

This application was approved, with 22 conditions, by the SNC Development Management Committee on 30 January.

It was noted that the Chair and the Clerk had both attended the very lengthy SNC Development Management Committee meeting held at the District Council offices on Wednesday 30 January. It was further reported that the Chair had spoken very strongly of the traffic implications – especially for Little Melton – and the necessity for a joined up traffic plan for the whole local area, based on proper and comprehensive information – as well as pointing out that the TIA did not show any implications for Little Melton! Regrettably the Committee did not require the creation of an area wide traffic plan as a condition to granting outline Planning Permission.

2012/1477/0 Norwich Research Partners proposing new offices and laboratories for research and development activities along with ancillary and complimentary uses with access from Colney Lane and Hethersett Lane and all other matters reserved. Demolition and reprovision of existing buildings. Associated car parking, infrastructure, internal access roads, landscaping and cycle parking, on Norwich Research Park North, Colney Lane, Colney. Approved.

2012/2075 - Mr W Chamberlain proposing white PVCu brick mounted lean to hipped style conservatory to rear of Greta, Mill Road. Approval.

2012/2036 - Miss L Garratt proposing single storey rear extension to 2 Birch Close (revised). Approved. It was noted that the Chair had attended the recent SNC Planning meeting and had, together with local District Councillor Garry Wheatley, spoken firmly and very well against this proposal – but all to no avail as the decision was approval.

2012/2265 – Mr J MacCormick (Saffron Housing Trust) proposing to fit 80 mm thick insulated rendering system to external envelope of the properties at 1 & 3 Great Melton Road. Approved.

GNDP - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED TO THE NORTH OF HETHERSETT

LDF – SITES SUGGESTED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LITTLE MELTON

C.I.L. REGULATIONS 2010 (AS AMENDED) - CONSULTATION

Other than being discussed elsewhere on the agenda there was nothing further to report on these three items.

PARISH AMENITIES

FOOTBALL PITCH

Discussion ensued on the question of ways to reduce (particularly) casual use of the top goalmouth during the summer and therefore the re-turfing of the goalmouth.

The purchase of a mobile goal was, it was agreed, costly, would cause possible problems with the storage of a permanent goal, relocation and possibly compromising of the football pitch maintenance.

Taking this in to account, and other considerations, it was finally agreed that the PC would this year purchase just one new socket and one new cover for a socket as it was thought best to slightly relocate the top permanent goalmouth goal 8 yards to the east – for the duration of the close season.

This year the PC would seek to have the re-turfing of the normal goal area undertaken at an earlier date so that it would stand a better chance of becoming established prior to the commencement of the season 2013/2014.

It was appreciated that a rota of volunteers for the undertaking of the watering of the new turf (during dry weather) would be necessary.

PLAY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE – ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION 2012 REPORT

It was noted that the date of the Spring Play Equipment Working Party/Litter Pick had been brought forward by one week to Saturday 23 March.

Regarding the regular (weekly) visual inspection of the play equipment, with a view to detecting any problems at an early date, John Symonds – because he was often up at the village playing field/village hall – said he would carry out this task and then report the outcome to the Clerk.

TREE INSPECTION

It was confirmed that the tree surgery had been recently undertaken and that the next inspection was due in the Autumn/Winter of 2015.

SECTION 106 MONEY – RECEIPT/USE

It was confirmed that there was nothing further to report under this item.

VILLAGE HALL RESPONSIBILITIES

There was nothing further reported on this matter.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Chris Starr said that he was unaware of any further progress on this provision.

John Heaser added that he would speak to the Head Teacher before the next PCM.

HIGHWAYS

PROPOSED CYCLE PATH LINK

John Heaser reported that the latest information was that this would not be provided until 2021, which seemed to be somewhat late as it was far better for dedicated cycle routes to be in place prior to the new NRP/residential development to encourage cycling, at the outset, as an alternative means of transport and take cars etc off the local roads.

REPORTING OF MAINTENANCE MATTERS

The Clerk referred to Norfolk County Council Highways contractors undertaking the recent filling of potholes etc in Little Melton, particularly at:-

- the Green Lane/School Lane junction,
- Ringwood Close near to the junction with Mill Road,
- Braymeadow Lane/School Lane junction,
- dropped drain cover in the middle of School Lane just south/west of the shop,
- outside Greta on Mill Road.

In addition a number of other potholes etc required maintenance repairs and with these in mind County Councillor Judith Virgo very kindly volunteered to raise all these defects/issues with the Divisional Highways Surveyor, Gary Overland, if the Clerk notified Judith of the precise details of those matters requiring repair.

The Clerk said he would email the details to the County Councillor within the next couple of days.

COMPLIMENTARY SAMS PROJECT

Chris Starr agreed to make enquiries to see if the Parish Council can borrow a SAM.

HGVs/COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC

PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED

Nothing further was reported on these two items.

SMALL LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT BIDS FOR 2013/2014

Following the letter of 6 December, from Graham Plant, Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation, a further letter, dated 31 January, had been received from Graham Plant (a) stating that the additional funding sum, for the "Parish Partnerships" initiative was to be increased from £100,000 to £1,000,000, (b) NCC is to now support up to 75% of the cost, and this will be applied retrospectively (so parishes which paid 50% of the cost of a 2012/2013 project will receive a refund of half their payment and be encouraged to consider putting this sum towards another bid, i.e. in 2013/2014), and (c) the deadline date for submissions had been extended to 30 April 2013.

As it was not abundantly clear whether this meant that NCC would actually – assuming a project received approval – fund a project in the 2013/2014 Programme 100%, the Clerk was instructed to clarify this matter with the Capital Programme Manager.

Should total funding of the capital cost of a project, for a second VAS, be the case the Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit a bid for the provision of another VAS. It was appreciated that the location would need to be agreed soon so that a bid could be made in advance of the (revised) submission date of 30 April.

The two initial location options were thought to be either on the north side of School Lane, in advance of the school, coming from the crossroads, or on the eastern side of School Lane, in advance of the local shop and garage.

OVERGROWN HEDGING

Nothing further was reported on this matter.

FLOODING IN MILL ROAD

As discussion had taken place, on this issue, under the item of Planning Applications, in particular in respect of PAs No 2013/0086, No 2013/0092 and 2012//1836, there was no further consideration at this juncture.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk of the Council's schedule of correspondence, as at 6 February, given to all Parish Councillors, was noted.

Two particular items were noted (a) the Northern River Valleys meeting on 6 March and, (b) the changes to the timetable of the Konect Service 9 bus service for our village – essentially this would result in a two hourly service.

DISTRICT, COUNCIL AND REGIONAL DOCUMENTS

There were no documents reported under this heading.

FINANCIAL

BILLS

On a proposal by Wendy Gilyead which was seconded by Paul Canning, the following invoices were authorised for payment:-

Abate Limited – advance payment 17/1-16/3/13 moles, VPF (101220)	£ 118.80
Mr R Sinclair – refund for the purchase of new grit bin (Braymeadow Lane) (101221)	£ 145.80
Mr R Sinclair – refund official telephone 811432 – 14/1-13/4/13 (101223)	£ 57.86
CGM Ltd. – VPF tree surgery – 25 January (101222)	£ 352.80
Heaser Business Consulting – 2 multi pack Epsom ink cartridges (101224)	£ 55.18
Little Melton Primary School – hire of hall for PCMs 15/1, 12/2 & 12/3/13 (101225)	£ 37.50
Mr R Sinclair – refund (50%) official B/B 25/1-24/2/13 (101226)	£ 9.49
Mr J K Symonds – snow and ice clearance VH car park (101227)	£ 25.00

On the receipts side, it was noted that a payment, to the Parish Council, of £200.00 for the loss of 20 lattice mats was expected to be received soon, as the invoice from the Parish Council has been rendered to Great Melton Farms.

MONITORING REPORT

Chris Starr said that all financial transactions – had been found to be in order for the latest monitoring check he had undertaken.

INTERNAL VERIFICATION

Wendy Gilyead reported the successful undertaking of the I.V. – for the three months mid-September to mid-December - on 11 February 2012, and said that all transactions had been found to be in order.

HETHERSETT & MELTONS SPORTS ASSOCIATION - LITTLE MELTON REPRESENTATIVE

Harold Kerslake confirmed that he had attended a meeting of the Association the previous evening at which the issue of the proposed joined-up off-road cycle path from Hetherset and Little Melton to the NRP, UEA etc was discussed. The timing of this provision was a matter for concern.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Nothing further was reported under this item.

DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was confirmed that this was to be held on Tuesday 12 March 2013, commencing at 7.30 pm in the local school.

The Clerk added that he would shortly be sending out the invites to local organisations and erecting the public notices on the noticeboards etc in the village.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 2 April 2013 beginning at 7.30pm in Little Melton Primary School.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

Chair.....

Date.....