

LITTLE MELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
at LITTLE MELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, SCHOOL LANE,
LITTLE MELTON on TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2015 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

John Heaser (Chair), Tony Berry, Paul Canning, Russell Cole and John Symonds.
District Councillors Christopher Kemp and Garry Wheatley were also present as was County Councillor Judith Virgo.
PCSO Darren Sore, from the Hethersett and Mulbarton Safer Neighbourhood Team was also present.

CO-OPTION

Following the completion of his Declaration of Acceptance form Russell Cole was co-opted, and welcomed, onto the Parish Council with immediate effect (replacing Jo Runeckles).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Wendy Gilyead and Harold Kerlake.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk asked if any members wished to declare an interest in any item/items on the agenda but no declarations were registered.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 November 2014 were – on a proposal by John Symonds, which was seconded by Tony Berry – 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

Invited to speak PCSO Darren Sore introduced himself and said he had replaced Kirsty Stannard, who had become a Police Constable, and added that Glen Hambling and himself were responsible for thirteen parishes in the Hethersett and Mulbarton Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Darren Sore reported on the last three months of crime statistics affecting Little Melton, namely four crimes including the theft of domestic heating oil from a property on Mill Road. Darren Spore added that over this period there had not been any (further) calls from Little Melton to the Norfolk Constabulary. The Chair then reported two concerns to the PCSO which were (1) the potential problem for construction traffic to the agreed development (20 new houses) to the south of Ringwood Close, travelling through the centre of the village, and said it would be sensible for the weight restriction on the short section of Burnthouse Lane near the crossroads to be lifted for the period of construction, and (2) could the Police show an occasional presence to help deter flytippers who dropped rubbish at the bottom, i.e. north/east end of School Lane.

With regard to the first point District Councillor Christopher Kemp pointed out that it would be highly unlikely that the Local Highway Authority would agree to the temporary lifting of the weight restriction. PCSO Darren Sore concluding said he would try and attend our parish council meetings where possible and left the meeting at approximately 7.50 pm.

County Councillor Judith Virgo confirmed the change to a committee system at County Hall and said that there was to be a full Budget meeting during February.

PLANNING

PARISH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

2014/2431 – Peter Graves (Developing Solutions Ltd.) – formerly in the name of Grady - seeking approval of Reserved Matters on land south of Ringwood Close for 20 residential units etc.

The holding of the open to the public “drop in session” held on the evening of 19 December – with 11 parishioners in attendance - was reported. The main areas of concern were highways implications and in consequence the formal reply to SNC Planning had recommended:-

- The provision of some areas for visitor parking.
- Construction traffic should be routed (from the south) via Burnthouse Lane – rather than through the main part of the village (past the school, shop, garage and pub etc.). This would require the temporary lifting of the 7.5+ ton restriction zone on the short northern section of Burnthouse Lane.
- Restrictions on working hours in order to minimize the disruption to nearby residents.

2014/2590 – John Innes Centre seeking approval for field trials building and specialist crop-scanning and measuring equipment etc. on land south of Bawburgh Road, Bawburgh.

Consideration then ensued on this proposal – despite the application being outside the parish boundary – and various implications were discussed and in conclusion it was agreed that Little Melton Parish Council

would respond to SNC that it had no objection to the proposals. However it would point out that it had concerns regarding the visibility (as proposed) of the Fields Trial Station building looking west from the top section of Stocks Hill, Bawburgh, and it was therefore hoped that this building could be relocated to a less visual siting, and it is suggested that this should be approximately 100 metres or so north behind the copse.

2014/2650 – Mr Ben Kemp seeking a Variation/Removal of condition 6 of planning permission 2014/0368 to include car sales within permitted uses.

Considerable discussion took place on this latest proposal - which Little Melton Parish Council had not been consulted on until LMPC had requested details. This was somewhat surprising as the earlier (original) proposal/permission, which had been granted on appeal - stating that there should be no storage beyond the confines of the farm buildings - had included consultation with LMPC.

The proposal as (partly) approved in mid-2014 now referred to a proposed change of use of barn to car repairs and MOT testing station. It was noted that the conditions of the approval had not been complied with.

Reference was therefore made to planning application No 2014/0368/CU – date of decision 16.6.14 – which the LMPC also had not been notified of/consulted on!

The Parish Council had only learnt of the latest planning application via Joan Wheatley who had expressed substantial concerns at the proposals and even emailed Sandra Dineen, Chief Executive of SNC expressing her considerable concerns and suggested that the way that the application has been handled amounts to maladministration.

The PC resolved to object to any retail use as this will increase traffic at the site significantly above the assumptions made by the planning inspector when he overruled the objections made by local councillors and officers.

ALL CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk confirmed the email of 9 January, from Kim Woodhouse, Innovation Business Support Manager, SNC which had stressed that all consultee comments should be addressed to planning@s-norfolk.gov.uk, rather than sending them directly to the Case Officer!

GNDP - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED TO THE NORTH OF HETHERSETT LDF – SITES SUGGESTED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LITTLE MELTON

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NORTH OF HETHERSETT

It was noted that there was, at the moment, nothing further to report on the anticipated starting date for this development.

District Councillor Christopher Kemp added that the principal reason for the refusal of the Wymondham Rugby Club recent proposal was to preserve the gap between Wymondham and Hethersett.

LDF SITES SUGGESTED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LITTLE MELTON BY LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS ETC.

Nothing further – other than what was on the agenda elsewhere - was reported under this item.

Following the conclusion of this item the County Councillor and District Councillors left the meeting at approximately 8.40 pm.

PARISH AMENITIES

CONTRACT WITH CGM

With the existing 3 year contract with CGM expiring on 12 March 2015, the Clerk said that it was now necessary for the Parish Council to seek competitive quotations for a new contract for the 2015 season.

The Clerk was therefore authorised to seek competitive quotations for the maintenance of the VPF, on the basis of a slightly amended specification.

In addition the Clerk would also request quotations for the clearance of snow from the Village Hall car park, when needed.

PLAY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE – 2014 ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION

Remedial work was continuing and it was noted that Paul Canning had undertaken a lot of work during 2014. John Symonds said he had purchased the wood for the replacement slats to the wooden seat (reference his email of 30 September), but said that he had yet to erect the new backboard to the basketball ring.

DOG FOULING NOTICES ETC.

Paul Canning reported that all the new signage was now in place and was formally thanked for this excellent work.

SECTION 106 MONEY – RECEIPT/USE

Nothing further was reported under this item.

DEFIBRILLATOR

It was noted that Jo Runeckles was still pursuing whether any maintenance was necessary.

HIGHWAYS

PROPOSED CYCLE PATH LINK FROM LITTLE MELTON TO HETHERSETT – UPDATE

Nothing further was reported under this item.

REPORTING OF MAINTENANCE MATTERS

John Heaser reported on the meeting in Little Melton with Richard Deller NCC Highways, himself and the Clerk on 10 December following the continued reporting of many highways defects. These were inspected in the presence of all, but Richard Deller, whilst noting the necessity for repair said that such action would not be as quickly undertaken as wanted due to significant budget constraints.

In conclusion Richard Deller – at John Heaser's prompting – said he would access and edit the Google Highways spreadsheet that John Heaser had set up to record the defects and when remedial action had been undertaken.

In addition the Highways Rangers' anticipated visit to Little Melton in December was noted – this followed the Parish Council sending an email to the HRs on 9 December reporting that work was required to (a) clear the leaves, vegetation, fly tipping and mud at the eastern end of School Lane, up against the steps to the A47/NSB, (b) clear brambles and considerable amount of mud on the north/east (disused) section of School Lane, and (c) clear brambles around signs and make signs vertical at the School Lane/Green Lane junction.

HGVs/COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC TRAVELLING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

It had been drawn to the attention of PCSO Darren Sore (earlier in the meeting) that there was still a problem in that some very large lorries/container vehicles still came – incorrectly – through the village.

Hence it was suggested to Darren Sore that additional signage was necessary from the west and for any HGVs coming up the slip road off the NSB (from eastern direction).

PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT (MILL ROAD) – CONSULTATION

Following the Parish Council's response email of 28 November, to Richard Bacon, MP, supporting his proposal, the Parish Council was now awaiting the outcome of the consultation.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

The road closures on Mill Road, from 23/1 – 28/1/15, and on Great Melton Road, from 29/1 – 4/2/15, were noted.

OVERGROWN HEDGING

John Symonds said that the overgrown hedging fronting the allotments on Mill Road had recently been cut back.

ANGLIAN WATER INSTALLATION OF NEW WATER MAIN

It was appreciated that work was continuing on the installation of a new water main from Bawburgh/Little Melton to Hethersett water tower and that work was scheduled to complete in the Spring – probably April.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk of the Council's schedule of correspondence, as at 7 January, as given to all Parish Councillors, was confirmed, as was receipt of a few items since the issuing of the agenda.

DISTRICT, COUNCIL AND REGIONAL DOCUMENTS

There was no correspondence discussed under this item.

FINANCIAL

INVOICES

On a proposal by Tony Berry, which was seconded by John Symonds, the following invoices were authorised for payment:-

Mr R Sinclair – Refund official tel: 811432 & B/B 14/12/14-13/1/15 (101350)	£ 24.26
Mr R Sinclair – Clerk's remuneration 1/10 - 31/12/14 £1,378.65+nonconsolidated payment of £29.73 (101351)	£1,408.38
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax on Clerk's salary 1/10 – 31/12/14 (101349)	£ 344.67
Little Melton Village Shop – January 2015 Newsletter printing (101352)	£ 21.25
Mr R Sinclair – Refund - 1 & 1 Internet Ltd. – Webspace basic fee (101353)	£ 44.93

RECEIPTS

Two receipts were reported – both from HAFC - £91.50 for the hire of the VPF football during October, and £56.00 for the hire of the VPF football pitch during November.

INTERNAL VERIFICATION

It was noted that the next IV – for the 3 month period 1/9 – 30/11/14 – will be reported soon, it is anticipated, at the next PCM on 10 February 2015.

PARISH PRECEPT 2015/2016

Consideration was given to finalising the Parish Precept for the financial year 2015/2016 and after some discussion it was unanimously agreed – upon a proposal by Tony Berry which was seconded by John Symonds – that the total funding requirement should £20,891, comprising of £19,810 actual precept and a grant of £,1081from SNC, i.e. a total of £20,891.

This represented a percentage increase of approximately1.5% - or 83p on a Band D property - from the previous financial year.

Within this overall figure it was agreed that the annual grant, for churchyard maintenance, should be increased (slightly) to £1,500.

Concluding the Clerk was instructed to submit the completed form to SNC by the submission date of Friday 23 January.

CLERK’S PAY AWARD

The recently awarded Clerk’s national pay award, w.e.f. 1 January 2015 was confirmed, this meaning that his salary should increase by £151.96 p.a. Unusually the award, on this occasion, was accompanied by one-off non-consolidated payments of £29.73 (payable in December) and £2.08 (payable in April 2015).

It was noted that these payments would not require an increase in the parish precept for 2015/2016.

On a proposal by Tony Berry, which was seconded by John Symonds, the Parish Council approved the award.

NORFOLK CONSTABULARY – PROPOSED PCSO PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

The Clerk confirmed the receipt on 17 December, of a letter jointly from Charlie Hall, Deputy Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary and David Moore, Executive Committee Member, Norfolk ALC, which offered a PCSO match funded partnership scheme for the provision of PCSOs.

However in view of the tight budget constraints Little Melton Parish Council was operating under it was not felt that funding could be allocated for such purposes.

HETHERSETT & MELTONS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

No report was made under this item.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 10 February 2015 beginning at 7.30pm in Little Melton Primary School.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....