

## Down to Business.....

### Precept 2010/2011

The 2010/2011 precept will rise to £19,767, up from £15,775 this year. Most expenses have remained constant and the PC has even managed to reduce some costs such as Insurance and playing field maintenance. However, there has to be substantial increases to provide for maintenance of the following items which were all new at much the same time about ten years ago but will need expensive maintenance at various points over the next 20 years. Currently the PC only has about £4000 in hand towards these costs.

- Village hall car park
- Children's play area
- Tennis court

In addition we have to provide for an increase to the Clerk's hours due to the continued increase in correspondence, planning applications and local development plans such as the GNDP. We also have to provide for regular maintenance to the trees owned by the PC in order to ensure their safety – some of which overhang the children's play area. The full details are on the website.

### Cycle Path Campaign

A good publicity event was held on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and MP Richard Bacon and several County Councillors offered support for the campaign – pictures are on the web site. The current task is to ensure that a joined up approach to the provision of cycle paths is included in development plans for housing at Hethersett and for the Research Park. A planning application for a major new development at Colney Hall is expected soon and it is hoped that it will include provision for cycle paths.

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Habitat, Braymeadow Lane, Little Melton,  
Norwich, Norfolk

## For the Diary....

- 12th Jan** Parish Council Meeting  
Village Hall 7.30pm
- 25th Jan** Toadwatch meeting  
Village Inn 8.00pm
- 26th Jan** Wildlife group, Bat talk  
Noggs Barn 7.30pm
- 28th Jan** Meltonians AGM &  
CD Quiz.  
Village Hall 2.15pm
- 30th Jan** Quiz, Cheese & Wine  
Village Hall 7.30pm
- 2nd Feb** Oil Economy Group last  
ordering day.
- 16th Feb** Parish Council Meeting  
Village Hall 7.30pm
- 16th Mar** Parish Meeting  
Village Hall 7.30pm
- 27th Mar** Litter Pick  
Village Hall 11.00am
- 6th Apr** Parish Council Meeting  
Village Hall 7.30pm
- Apr 2010** Next Newsletter

## Litter Pick

The next litter pick will be on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00 at the village hall. We will meet at the Village Inn afterwards. Many thanks to the 10 volunteers in October – a picture is on the website.



# Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

Issue no.11

January 2010

*Happy New Year*

The members of the Parish Council would like to  
wish you all a very Happy,  
Healthy and Prosperous 2010

### Have your say.....

### Parish Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

This meeting is open to all parishioners and anyone can speak at the meeting. We will have a new format for the meeting in 2010 – please come along and make your views known.

- ☐ Parish Councillors will introduce themselves
- ☐ Representatives of village organizations will give a very brief overview of their activities for the previous year.
- ☐ The results of the update to the Parish Plan (see enclosure with this newsletter) will be announced.
- ☐ Break for coffee and biscuits – opportunity to read full annual reports from village organizations and to talk to representatives.
- ☐ Open discussion of Parish Plan and questions from Parishioners.

### Parish Council contacts:

**Clerk: Richard Sinclair 01603 811432 - [clerk@little-melton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@little-melton.org.uk)**

**Chair: John Heaser - [chair@little-melton.org.uk](mailto:chair@little-melton.org.uk)**

**Don't forget to visit [www.little-melton.org.uk](http://www.little-melton.org.uk)**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In the first week of December there was an attempted break-in at the Village Shop. The potential thieves were unable to gain entry, but residents should be aware that this shows there are obviously criminals in the area looking for opportunities to steal. This incident may fall in line with the spate of thefts which took place in Hethersett around the same time. The other main criminal activity reported recently has been the continual scams attempted by telephone. There are several often reported in the newspapers but the ones known are reported by the Home Watch in South Norfolk will be detailed and shown on the Village Notice Boards and at the Village Shop.

### Why, why, why is it....

that some inconsiderate dog owners/walkers continue to ignore our pleas to clear up after their pets. Particularly on the village playing field, which is of course a public area and as such is well used by many in the village and particularly by children and very often by the younger age children. Apart from the dog mess getting on clothing and shoes (bad enough) there is the more serious possibility of the health of playing field users being put at risk. So if you see any offending dog owners/walkers please inform South Norfolk Council Environmental Crime Team on Freephone 0808 1682 999. There are of course dog waste bins around the village with one being located immediately outside the south-east corner of the village playing field - so there is no excuse for not bagging it up and depositing dog mess in the dog waste bin.

## PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

The nursery has had a great 1<sup>st</sup> term of the academic year, and congratulations and a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Pre-School Christmas Craft Fayre. The event was a huge success and raised monies towards the running of the nursery.

The nursery is currently making plans to enhance our facilities at the village hall and we are looking forward to making the experience for the children even better.

A few places are still available in each session but these do get taken up quickly during the spring term. For all our details please visit our website

[www.littlemeltonpreschoolnursery.co.uk](http://www.littlemeltonpreschoolnursery.co.uk)

## WILDLIFE GROUP & TOADWATCH

James Boddy kindly allowed us to hold a fungal foray again this year at Colney Hall on 3rd October. Because of the very dry weather, less species were recorded than last year; the number of species recorded (13) being about the same as the number of members attending.

People wishing to help with the toad migration are invited to meet for a drink at the Village Inn on Monday the 25th Jan at 8:00pm - we will be joined for the first time by volunteers from Great Melton. More info at [www.toadwatch.org](http://www.toadwatch.org). Please phone John on 812472 if you would like to help but can't come to the meeting.

Sam Phillips, chairman of Norwich Bat Group, will be giving us a talk on Bats on Tuesday 26th January at 7.30pm in Noggs Barn, School Lane. More details on the Wildlife Group website or from 01603 814134.

## Oil Economy Group

We continue to grow as more and more people join. We welcome two new people into the group to assist us with ordering and computing etc. Christopher Bayne from Bawburgh and Edwina Clarke from Little Melton

For more information call  
John Sanders 810720 or  
John Copson 810142

# PARISH news

## CHURCH NEWS

We were delighted to welcome people during December. The Primary School and Pre-school Nursery visited the Church for carol singing and Christmas Celebrations. They also joined in our art project with Hethersett Junior and High Schools. Working with Rachel Hay, sculptor from Wreningham, the four schools made a camel, sheep, donkey and cockerel, which together with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus made by Fiona and Becky Doonan, made up a unique crib scene in church. It was great and we thank all the participants, if you missed it some of the figures are on display in Hethersett Library this month.

Santa's grotto, before Christmas, and the coming Cheese and Quiz evening are in aid of the Walugu Project, Education in Ghana. The Quiz night is Saturday 30th January in Little Melton Village Hall at 7.30 pm. There's no need to book and we shall be auctioning donated gifts. Don't forget to bring your own wine. If you can offer something for the auction please contact Margaret Waller on 01603 811890. We look forward to seeing you, teams of 8 people maximum please but if you come along we'll make up teams on the night. Adults £6 and accompanied children £1.

## Little Melton Primary School As seen on TV!.....

The children were so excited at the end of last term when a production team from 'BBC Newsround' came to film and speak to them about their involvement in the campaign for a safer cycle route to Hethersett. We are so proud that we have been able to contribute and for the village of Little Melton to be recognised nationally!!

The topic this spring term is 'The Victorians'. If anyone in the village would like to speak to the children about any stories or artefacts they have relating to this era, do please call us. To consolidate their work on this topic, the children will visit the Gressenhall museum and workhouse during the term.

We are celebrating Book Week from March 22<sup>nd</sup> - similarly, if you would like to come and read to or with the children, do please contact us to arrange a time.

[www.littlemeltonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.littlemeltonprimaryschool.co.uk)

## Hedges in need of a trim!

We asked you in the last newsletter to give some thought to those who use our footpaths, and to consider if your hedges or trees were encroaching onto the footpath causing inconvenience or even danger to users.

Many of you have taken this on board and cut back the offending growth.

Unfortunately some have not. Whilst delivering these newsletters the Parish Councillors have taken note of any problems and these properties will be contacted directly in the near future, and reminded of the financial consequences if the County Council have to undertake the work.

## Little Melton Parish Plan update

The last Parish Plan was issued in 2006 and was based on a process that started in 2005. The table below lists the main outcomes that are still relevant today. Please let us have any comments on these issues – please quote the Reference number of the section that you are commenting on. Please also feel free to make comments on issues that are not referred to below. Comments can be emailed to [clerk@little-melton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@little-melton.org.uk) or handed in to the shop or to 16 Braymeadow Lane. Any comments will be collated and presented at the Annual Parish meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Ref	In 2006 the Parish said/requested	Action since 2006	Things to consider
<b>1</b>	There were some requests for additional clubs, sports groups and youth activities.	A Book club has started and Hethersett Athletic hold regular football matches and training sessions on the playing field. Village organizations are listed on the website	Provision of playground facilities for older children – grants may be available but volunteers are needed to take this forward.
<b>2</b>	Improvement to bus services	There have been several changes and the service has recently improved – there is a link to the timetable from the website.	
<b>3</b>	Safer means to cycle to work and school	A campaign for a cycle path is currently under way – details are on the website.	
<b>4</b>	Improvements to pavements and action to deter speeding vehicles.	The footpath along Mill Road has been extended. No volunteers came forward to run a community speed-watch.	Publicise the community speed-watch scheme again and request volunteers
<b>5</b>	Request more visible policing	The local PCSO liaises with the PC. Fortunately there is very little crime in LM but this means that LM not a priority area for police patrols	
<b>6</b>	Introduce a 20mph speed limit on School Lane	Continues to be on the annual Highways wish list but not considered necessary by Norfolk County Council Highways department.	We will keep asking
<b>7</b>	Introduce a 20mph speed limit on Mill Road	Rejected by Norfolk County Council Highways department as unenforceable	
<b>8</b>	142 households would like to dog bins to be provided	Bins are slightly more popular with dog walkers than non dog walkers. 5 households made strong complaints about dog excrement on pavements and footpaths. 3 bins have been provided and are emptied twice a week	Dog fouling of pavements continues to be a problem even close to the bins.  Should we stencil pointers to the nearest bin on to the pavements?

Ref	In 2006 the Parish said/requested	Action since 2006	Things to consider
<b>9</b>	Only permit a small number of new houses	A development of social housing off Gibbs Close has been completed. A small number of new houses on infill sites have been approved.	The PC has actively worked to reject proposals for many 1000's of new houses both in LM and Hethersett. The current Greater Norwich Development Plan is for 1000 new houses in Hethersett, Wymondam, Crigleford, Attleborough and Longwater plus the dualling of the A11 will all lead to increased traffic through LM – how can this be mitigated?
<b>10</b>	Complaints about litter and fly tipping	One fly tipper has been prosecuted on the evidence of papers that were dumped.	Volunteers pick up litter on the Saturday of the weekend that the clocks change. Details are in the PC newsletter and website. More volunteers are always welcome to help with litter picking. Report fly tipping to South Norfolk on <b>0808 1682999</b>
<b>11</b>	Provide a rural footpath	No action	Volunteers needed to run a feasibility study.
<b>12</b>	Provide a wildlife area	A wildlife group has been started – see the website. No land has been identified for a wildlife area – although one site was investigated.	Volunteers needed
<b>13</b>	Improve communication from the PC	A quarterly newsletter and an improved website have been provided. PC minutes are on the website and displayed in Village Hall. A monthly update is included in the Good News magazine.	