

Parish Precept

The Parish Council was only informed during the week before Christmas what the tax base and grant figures for the next year will be. As the precept has to be set by 20th January, this does not leave much time for discussion. The precept will be confirmed at the meeting on 14th January but the expectation is that we will budget for the same expenditure as the previous year, as any increase is discouraged by government. Details are on the Parish Council web site. However, because the grant has been reduced, this will appear as a 1% increase on the Council Tax bills.

Of course some costs will increase so the proportion of the precept being set aside for maintenance will have to correspondingly decrease. The parish is fortunate in having a relatively new hall, car park and play equipment but these are all getting older and will eventually need major maintenance. Several items of play equipment have already been replaced and it will be difficult to accumulate enough funds in time for when a major refurbishment is required.

For the Diary....

- 14th Jan** Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- 20th Jan** Toadwatch Meeting
8.00pm at the Village Inn
- 25th Jan** Friends of Little Melton
Church Quiz Night 7.30pm
at the Village Hall.
- 4th Feb** Last ordering day for Oil
Economy Group
- 11th Feb** Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- 11th Mar** Annual Parish Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- 29th Mar** Litter Pick
see notice boards for details
- 1st Apr** Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- Apr 2014** *Next Newsletter*

Newsletter published by -
Little Melton Parish Council.
Habitat,
16 Braymeadow Lane,
Little Melton,
Norwich, Norfolk



Little Melton is fortunate to have a large population of toads and newts but ever increasing traffic means that few animals would get to the breeding pond on School Lane without help. Last year over 500 were saved and we will be meeting at 8.00pm on Monday January 20th at the Village Inn for a drink and a chat about the 2014

migration. Please come along if you would like to help the animals that eat your slugs! There is more information at www.toadwatch.org or ring John on 812472.



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

Issue no.27

January 2014

Your Parish Council wishes you all a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Housing Developments

In July, South Norfolk granted planning permission for 20 houses at the end of Ringwood Close but refused similar developments at Gibbs Close and on Mill Road as Highways set a limit of 20 due to poor visibility at the cross roads and the poor layout of Mill Road. The developers have now resubmitted their applications and have proposed that the crossroads is converted to a mini roundabout. The developers also argue that the section of footpath on Mill Road that is shared with the carriageway can be counted both as roadway and as a continuous footpath. Highways have accepted these arguments and have withdrawn their objections. The Parish Council has spent much time in pointing out the flaws in these proposals and has repeatedly questioned whether any forecast has been made of the traffic to be expected from the 1200 houses planned for the Little Melton side of Hethersett.

South Norfolk is still short of its five year land supply, which means that the current development boundary will not be a material consideration when these applications are determined by the Development Committee at Long Stratton on the 8th January at 10.00 am. *Continued on page 2*

Don't forget, there's more information, updated regularly on
www.little-melton.org.uk

'Housing Developments' continued from front page;

Our expectation is that the applications will be passed this time – though there is still concern about drainage issues affecting Mill Road. Parish Council members will attend and reiterate previous objections at the meeting. If other people wish to attend the meeting to object then please let the Parish Clerk know, as objectors from the public are only allocated a total of 5 minutes time to speak and some coordination will be required.

People are no doubt confused by how this fits in with the consultations previously held over several years by South Norfolk Council and that cannot be explained in a newsletter. There are some links on the Parish Council website but please contact the Parish Council chair, John Heaser, if you need further information or come to the Parish Council meeting on the 14th January.

LITTLE MELTON OIL ECONOMY GROUP

Last October we enclosed an order form with details shown of how and when to order. We know that there are many new people who have come to live in our village who are unaware of the Oil Group.

On a 500 litre order we save you around £30.00.

If you are leaving the village, please leave an order form for the incoming people. There are also many other parishioners who do not order through the Group – why we do not know. If you wish to talk to one of us, we can be contacted by telephone. We will be very happy to discuss any points you wish to raise. John Sanders on 810720 or John Copson on 810142.

Proposed Traffic Safety Scheme.

Due to the high number of serious accidents on the Watton Road, NCC has proposed that the speed limit should be reduced to 50mph between the A47 roundabout and just beyond the Rectory Rd junction. The Parish council has suggested that in addition to this proposal, it would be both simpler and safer to extend the existing 40mph limit on the Watton Rd (east of the A47) to just west of the Green Lane junction – so that traffic coming from Norwich to Little Melton would be in a continuous 40mph zone up to the village – rather than going from 40 to 50 and then 30. At the time of writing, Highways have agreed to extend the 40mph zone across the roundabouts as this will simplify signage but will not agree to extend it another 50m to include the Green Lane junction and Green Lane itself. Please tell us what you think.

Parish Council contacts:

Clerk: Richard Sinclair 01603 811432 clerk@little-melton.org.uk

Chair: John Heaser 01603 812472 chair@little-melton.org.uk

PARISH news

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Takes place in the Village Hall
Tuesdays 2.30pm to 4.30pm,
and Thursdays 8pm to 10pm,
£2.50 per session, loan bowls
available free, refreshments
included. **Emphasis on
sociability, not skill, but flat
soled shoes essential. Ring
Chris Starr on 01603 819006
for more details**

The Village Book Group

meets every six weeks on a Tuesday evening. Members take it in turns to recommend and introduce a book so we have a wide variety and very lively discussions. Our numbers have been fairly constant but we have room for one or two more this year. As we meet in each other's houses we can't expand too much. If you are interested please ring Joan Wheatley - 01603 812668

At Little Melton Primary School

we have lots of plans for the New Year.

We are looking to start a school newspaper, with the children taking on the writing roles. Our new school pond will be developed by children from our Eco Council, now that it has been renovated and restored with help from students from Norwich High School for Girls.

Our Quiz team will be entering the National Quiz championships in January, with the 1st round qualifying heats at Blofield Primary School.

To support the PTA/Friends of the School we are holding a non-uniform day and Christmas present swap.

There will also be a new Chess club for beginners after school, where children will be taught how to play from scratch.

Year 2 children will also be collaborating with children from across the cluster as part of an exciting musical 'Olympic Legacy' project, celebrating Olympic values, and culminating in a joint production at Cringleford Primary in March.

There is always lots going on at the school.

Have a look at our website at <http://www.littlemeltonprimaryschool.co.uk/> which also includes our weekly newsletter, to parents to find out more.