



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



MPC(10)M\_APM

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 30th April 2010 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in Lindos Centre Main Hall Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

**Present:**

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott  
Mrs JEM Abbott  
Cllr Mrs ME Addington  
Mrs S Bale  
Mr J Bale  
Cllr Mr J Bidwell  
Cllr MN Bond [District & County Councillor]  
Cllr Mr PJ Brockett [Chairman]  
Cllr Mr GK Butterwick  
Mr S Danckley  
Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley

Mr J Eckersley  
Mrs P Ferguson  
Mr JC Hampton  
Mrs MA Hampton  
Cllr Mrs EJG Hilson  
Cllr Miss LS Leonard  
Cllr Miss KS Martin  
Mrs DM Needham  
Cllr Mr HM Needham  
Mr A Thomson  
Mr WJ White

**In Attendance:**

Mr MJ Green [Clerk to Melton Parish Council]  
Mrs DE Linsley [Assistant Clerk to Melton Parish Council]

**10.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**10.02 REPORT ON THE WORK OF MELTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2010**

The Chairman of Melton Parish Council, Cllr PJ Brockett, welcomed councillors and residents to the annual parish meeting which would be his last as Chairman as he was standing down in May whilst remaining on the council. He thanked councillors and residents for their warm support during his time as chairman.

The following is the text of overview:

Good evening and thank you for coming out tonight to Melton's Annual Parish meeting of 2010. My name is Peter Brockett and I have been Chair of Melton Parish Council for the past year. Unless there are any objections it is normal for chairperson of the Parish Council to chair this meeting.

By law, all Parish Councils in England are required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting round this time of year. We arranged this date a year ago. It is perhaps fortuitous that we did not select next Thursday.

An Agenda was posted on the public notice boards as well as on the Council's website and copies are available here.

The purpose of having this meeting is so that the Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and that is encapsulated in my report which has been and is available.

It also enables you, the registered electors, to have your say on anything which you consider is important to the people of Melton.

Being an open meeting anyone may attend. However only registered electors may ask questions. Those will usually be answered by me or by the Parish Clerk or another Councillor.

A registered elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything pertinent to the people of Melton. This will be welcomed and is really the main purpose of the meeting. It is to enable you, the electors, to have your say.

Whilst my fellow councillors are in attendance, and will speak as necessary, the purpose of the meeting is to enable you, the electors, to have your say. As your Councillors, we will listen. Minutes will be taken. The press have been invited. Finally how long will the meeting last? As long as need be, within reason. It really depends on you and the number of questions and the discussions that are raised. Generally, the meeting will last no longer than 2 hours. I am sure that many will want to go home to watch the final Prime Ministerial Debate or will it be Europa League football

You have my report, and I stress that it is mine. It is my summary of the works of the Parish Council over the past year and my observations. Unfortunately there is an error, or more accurately an omission, in that I failed to accord welcome to Miss Buffy Barrington who joined us last May. My apologies.

Also, since writing it, we have started looking at the situation of and potential for affordable housing in the parish and working with advisers and providers in this field.

We have also submitted a report to the Scrutiny Committee of Suffolk Coastal who have been charged with investigating that Council's planning rules and procedures, or lack of them. One piece of recent information provided to us is that the company looking to use the CEL site may not be pursuing the matters. But there are rumours as to the future of both the Girdlestone site so 'continue to watch this place on the map'

So nothing stands still or is still in Melton

I now invite questions

A copy of the chairman's report has been available on the parish council website and is attached to these minutes.

Matters raised by residents:

- Provision of cycle racks
- Excellent condition of Melton Playing Field
- Concerns over the condition of some of the trees in Burkes Wood that appear to be dead or have dead limbs

#### **10.03 MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009**

Minutes MPC(09)APM previously circulated were received, noted and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr Needham

Seconded by: Cllr Eckersley

#### **10.04 THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The chairman welcomed the two district councillors and thanked them for offering to talk about their work at the district council. Their talk covered:

- A typical week for a distinct councillor included this week attendance at various committee meetings including the 'grants task committee' where £50k had been allocated to various local good causes and the licensing committee where they considered licensing a local taxi
- Setting the budget to ensure services are provided but in the current climate some 'belt tightening' was inevitable
- SCDC was top of the recycling league in Suffolk
- 4 out of every 12 new homes must be 'affordable' and during the last year 38 units had been provided
- 15,000 eligible people have free bus passes
- Car parking charges have been kept low
- Melton interest brought to the forefront of discussions
- Two main characteristics of local government in UK change orchestrated central government and local government being subject to immense central control
- Local government is really local administration
- In a budget of £62m from SCDC, only £7m comes from council tax the rest from central government who at the same time charge £33m for housing benefits
- Central government takes business rates from Suffolk to use for purposes that may or may not have anything to do with Suffolk
- There are over 1000 unelected Quangos set up by various governments employing many people for example the Audit Commission employs over 2,000 people.

- The three levels of local democracy include the Parish Council [who are vigilant and work tirelessly as advocates of the residents and are a haven for democracy], Suffolk Coastal District Council who employ almost 500 staff responsible for planning, housing, benefits and some health issues, and Suffolk County Council who employ over 25,000 staff and Cllr Bond sits on the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, the Audit Committee and the Health Committee
- County Councillor locality budget has been used for local matters such as the dropped kerbs at Dock Lane/Melton Road junction and a feasibility study into the options for a pedestrian/cycle path on Woods Lane
- Inevitable that following the general election local spending cuts will be inevitable – which will lead to the need to find better ways of providing local services but SCDC is committed to retaining the free bus pass provision

#### **10.05 THE WORK OF THE MELTON TRUST**

Mr Tony Thompson, one of the two representatives of Melton Parish Council on the board of trustees of the Melton Trust was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for agreeing to talk about the work of the trust.

The trust is a charity set up in 1897 originally as the Poor Estates Charity and is administered by six trustees, the Rector, 2 representatives of Melton Parish Council and 3 co-opted trustees.

The trustees meet at least twice a year to discuss and consider the various grant applications received from residents. Funds are invested with Churches Charities and Local Authority Investment Managers under strict rules set down by the Charity Commission.

The income is used in 'relieving residents of Melton in hardship need or distress.

In 2009 over £9.000 was given in grants including 177 grants at Christmas, bereavement grants, hardship grants and educational grants. No request was declined in 2009.

Further information about the trust is contained in the Melton Messenger and the contact for the Charity is The Rector Melton Rectory Station Road Melton IP12 1PX.

#### **10.06 OPEN FORUM**

The following items were commented on during the open forum

##### **10.06.01 SCDC Scrutiny Committee**

The meeting was advised that a robust response had been made by Melton Parish Council following an invitation by the scrutiny working group to comment on the planning function at SCDC.

##### **10.06.02 Horse and Groom Public House**

The meeting was advised that the Grade II listed building had been sold to a developer but as yet no formal planning application had been lodged on which Melton Parish Council could comment upon.

##### **10.06.03 Girdlestones**

The meeting was advised that currently the application was subject to various matters to do with the developer providing community benefits such as crossing at Wilford Bridge, Traffic Calming, Railway Crossing and improvements to the Melton Crossroads Traffic Lights.

Although there is still fierce opposition to the proposal legal matters are still being considered by the action group but should all fail the 'fall back' situation suggested by Melton Parish Council was that there should be community engagement with the discussion over community benefits. The district councillors were pushing hard for a partnership approach with the developers and local groups.

The meeting was advised that the rumoured concrete fabrications factory on the CEL site would not now be progressing.

##### **10.06.04 Burness Parish Room**

It was reported that the district council had given a generous grant to the Burness Management Committee towards the cost of insulating the building.

#### **10.07 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011 commencing at 19:00 at a venue to be arranged.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:40

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Chairman]