

Melbourne Parish Council

Mrs J Storer, Clerk to the Parish Council, 2 Mansfields Croft, Etwall, Derbyshire DE65 6NJ



Minutes of the Meeting of the Melbourne Parish Council held at 7:30pm Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at the Shone Lounge Room, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, High Street ,Melbourne

849. Councillors Present: Cllr Earp (Chair), Butler, Carroll, Collyer (from 7.57pm), Hicklin, Howard, Hudson, Minifie, Parker, Sharp, Stockill, Smith,

In Attendance: Mrs J Storer, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Mrs Chilton (from 7.55pm), Cllr Hewlett, 1 member of the press from Village Voice, 11 members of the public, Mr Rob Butler from Swadlincote Fire Station.

850. Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Carpenter (work), Jackson (Holiday).

851. Declaration of Interests: No declarations were made.

852. Variation of Order of Business: there were no declarations of interest made.

853. Public Participation

The Chair introduced Mr Rob Barber, a union representative at Swadlincote Fire Station. He explained that the Fire Authority is conducting a Trial at Swadlincote Fire Station which commenced on 6th January 2015. An explanation of the trial which is to use retained fire fighters over the night periods, of what the system was prior to 6th January and since, was given. The impact of the trial upon Melbourne as perceived by the fire officers was explained. The trial ends on 6th June 2015 but to date no perimeters of what is a considered to be a successful or unsuccessful trial have been provided by the Fire Authority. Leaflets were left for any interested party to take.
7.45pm Rob Barber left the meeting.

Barry Thomas enquired whether any arrangements have been made to repair the benches at Thomas Cook Gardens. The Clerk informed that Community Payback have been instructed to carry out repairs and to cut back the shrubbery.

Barry Thomas reported that the twitchell between Dove Garage and Quick Close has no legal status. DCC is aware of this and has suggested that an application can be made to give the twitchell legal defination. In order for the twitchell to receive official status as a public footpath, proof needs to be provided that the twitchell has been used for at least 20 years without any impediment. The support of at least 30 parishioners is required.

District Councillor report

Cllr Harrison reported that he is pursuing the broadband box problem. This is a joint project between DCC and Open Reach and the procedures used to site a new broadband box were explained. He has asked for the box to be relocated a few metres along Potter Street and away from the Chemist.

The capacity of Cemeteries within South Derbyshire is of concern to SDDC, who will be carrying out a survey on available capacity within the cemeteries in the district.

The investigations into the summer floods is still ongoing; Severn Trent are awaiting a response from a private owner on Tivey Way.

Discussions are occurring between the 10 local authorities in Derbyshire about a combined authority. Cllr Harrison said the local authorities will continue as present, but

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are proposing to work together solely about economic development. SDDC is likely to approve the arrangements.

It has been reported in the Derby Telegraph that the Derby City Conservative Group are proposing the extension of the city boundaries into South Derbyshire. Cllr Harrison vowed to resist any plans to bring Melbourne into the City.

7.55pm Cllr Chilton arrived.

The anticipated planning applications for housing developments in Melbourne have not come before the Planning Committee yet, and Cllr Harrison thanked all those who opposed the applications for further development in Melbourne.

7.57pm Cllr Collyer arrived.

Cllr Bob Wheeler has issued a press statement about the volume of planning applications being received in the district; this statement confirmed that local views will be considered on a case by case basis, together with the state of the infrastructure.

County Councillor report

Cllr Chilton reported that she has been on a visit of the proposed site of the East Midland Gateway and should the application be granted, there will be significant traffic congestion whilst the alterations to the junctions at the M1/A50 interchange take place. An update will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Crescent has been confirmed as being the responsibility of SDDC.

The gritting concerns raised at the January 2015 meeting have been raised and Cllr Chilton provided the details of the times and dates when gritting took place.

The Kings Newton monument ownership is unknown so research is being undertaken to establish ownership and responsibility.

Cllr Chilton reiterated the delays in resolving the problems of the 2014 summer flooding. Public Footpath 8 (pfp 8) relocation requires work to be undertaken on the ground before the scheme can be legalised and for this the landowner's consent is required. This consent is being sought.

Regarding secondary education provision, three areas have been looked at by DCC; Wragley Way, Boulton Moor and Melbourne. It would appear that as Chellaston Academy will extend and that it is unlikely to exclude pupils from Melbourne, no new school will be built at Melbourne. Instead it appears the preferred site is at Wragley Way. Cllr Earp asked why only part of Penn Lane has been resurfaced whilst other areas requiring attention were left. Cllr Chilton will pursue why this has happened and what works are being undertaken at the kerbs at Coronation Close.

Cllr Parker stated that he is still unhappy about the response to the concerns raised about the lack of gritting and snow clearance and cited specific examples when gritting has taken place when there has been no frost or snow. Cllr Chilton will take this forward again.

854. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2015 as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

855. To receive reports from Committees and working Parties

Highways Committee

Cllr Smith made a request to Cllr Chilton to follow up the number of complaints that had been received about potholes in the area.

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No other matters were raised.

Facilities Committee

No comments were raised.

Telephone Kiosk Working Party

Whilst no meeting has been held, Cllr Earp informed that a contractor will be needed to make good the pavement once the kiosk has been removed. No contractor is known and a plea was made for the details of any recommended contractor to be given to the Chair or to the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Cllr Carroll reported on the Working Party's success at the Open Day held on 24th January when residents of Melbourne were invited to comment on the key issues faced by them and the community. The two biggest areas of concern are education and transport/parking.

The next meeting of the NDP Working Party will be held on 5th February and it was agreed that these meetings should be held prior to the Parish Council meeting, so allowing any matters or concerns to be raised at the Parish Council.

Mr F Hughes has written an article for the Village Voice about the consultation exercise and to provide a precise of the report provided by Rural Action Derbyshire.

A further request for help to assist with the NDP in any way was made.

856. To determine if any matters are to be taken with the Public excluded

No matters were determined to be taken with the public excluded.

857. Chair's Announcements

a) The Parish Council supported the application to make the twitchell between Quick Close and Dove's Garage a recognised public footpath.

b) The Chair reported on her attendance at the Joint Liaison Meeting held between SDDC and Parish Councils.

The Natwest Bank in Melbourne would like to reassure people that the Bank is not closing and to demonstrate its commitment to Melbourne, it wishes to sponsor something within the village. Ideas for schemes are sought, whilst the Bank is assessing how much funds will be available.

858. To receive the Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report as previously circulated was accepted. There were no comments made on the report.

859. Reports from representatives on outside organisations

Senior Citizens Centre – Cllr Sharp reported that there had been no meeting.

Infant School Governors – Cllr Smith reported that there had been no meeting.

Safer Neighbourhood – The next meeting will be held on 4th February 2015.

Education for Melbourne – There was no report provided.

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Festival – There was no report provided.

Sporting Partnership – There was no report provided but the latest set of minutes of the MSP meetings, has been circulated to Cllrs.

Athenaeum – There was no report. Cllr Hicklin enquired if the Athenaeum was still operating as she was led to believe that it has been closed since Christmas. Cllr Butler reported that she has not received any response to her emails and will make further enquiries as to whether it is open and operating.

Assembly Rooms – There was no report.

Donington Park Liaison Committee – Cllr Parker reported that there had been no meeting.

860. Correspondence

1. DALC – Various Circulars
2. Pegasus – Invitation to meet with the Parish Council about possible application off Smith Avenue.
Majority view was to refuse to meet with the developer
3. Mrs J Long – copy of email sent to Cllr Harrison seeking assistance in obtaining a meeting with the planning dept at SDDC and with the CEO regarding the various proposed developments within Melbourne
4. Terry Clay – Expressing the thanks from the Rotary Club for the Parish Council's organisation of the Christmas Event.
Majority view was to refuse to meet with the developer
5. Matt Williams – Proposed idea to interview a Parish Councillor
No volunteer has come forward
6. SDDC – Community & Planning briefing session – 18th February 2015
Cllr Earp and Cllr Stockill are to attend
7. Clerks & Councils Direct
8. SDDC – Naming of streets for the 66 dwellings at Kings Newton
The proposed names were considered to be generic and of no relevance to Melbourne. Cllr Jackson has previously circulated some suggested alternatives. It was agreed that these names were preferable and that names relating to the heritage of Melbourne should be used. Several suggestions were made and the matter will be discussed further at the Highways Committee meeting on 9th February.
9. MSP – minutes of the meeting held 17th December 2014
10. Mrs Holland - Request to hold the Wakes Fair 5th – 13th October 2015
11. Mr M Hall – Email complaining about the safety of the High Street Carpark
The Parish Council was concerned about public safety and the lack of confidence should by residents when using the carpark. Whilst this matter is not within the powers or responsibility of the Parish Council, the matter will be considered at the Highways Committee meeting on 9th February.

861. Public Toilets and Defibrillator

The Committee met to discuss the purchase of the public toilets and made the recommendation that the Parish Council purchase the public toilets.

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Cllr Carroll expressed concern about the funding of the ongoing maintenance of the public toilets if they are purchased. To purchase the public toilets will also increase the precept; expectations will be high to carry out improvements and the group which the Parish Council has suggested could raise the funds for the improvement works, has not met since summer 2014; this option may no longer be available.

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Stockill seconded the following proposal:

That Melbourne Parish Council purchases the public toilets for the price of £1.50 from South Derbyshire District Council

RESOLVED unanimously to purchase the public toilets for £1.50.

Now that a decision has been made to purchase the public toilets, a decision was made to erect the defibrillator onto the side of the public toilets once they are in the possession of the Parish Council. This will be subject to planning consent as the public toilets are within the conservation area.

862. Finance

a) RESOLVED the accounts for payment as per attached sheet were approved and payments were authorised.

b) Risk assessments

There were no amendments to the risk assessment.

c) To consider the 2015/16 budget

As per minute 840), the had Clerk ascertained the costs of running the public toilets from SDDC, noting that the figure provided by SDDC for the rates of the toilets was incorrect; it was in fact significantly lower than that previously provided. The budget had been circulated and the Chair provided an explanation as to the reasons for the increase.

RESOLVED to set the precept for the year 2015/2016 at £63,026.

863. Consideration of Planning Applications

9 2014 1202 - the pruning of lime trees at Melbourne Hall, Church Square, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2014 1145 - outline application (all matters to be reserved) for the residential development of upto 120 dwellings at land at sk3825 9795 and Jawbone Lane, Kings Newton.

OBJECTIONS on the grounds of access being unsuitable, the affect upon the capacity of the cemetery, the intrusion into a rural area which will join Kings Newton and Melbourne. The infrastructure is unable to cope with such a large development and the development is perceived to have a detrimental impact upon the provision of education provision within Melbourne.

Councillors thanked the Civic Society for its fulsome objections to the applications. Councillors also noted that Linden Homes had circulated a leaflet to certain homes via email in response to the leaflet distributed by a resident group opposed to the application. Some of the residents had expressed to Councillors, their anger at receiving the leaflet from Linden Homes.

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9 2014 1187 – two storey side extension and alterations at 32 George Street, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2015 0034 - the felling of a sycamore tree at 71-73 High Street, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2015 068 - the erection of an extension at 55 Victoria Street, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

864. Consultation for consideration

i. DCC – Consultation on the Combined Authority proposal

(Consultation dates 2 – 23 January 2014) The consultation period has now ended, although the consultation document had been circulated by email, no comments were made.

865. To consider the lease between Melbourne Parish Council and SDDC and to agree the Heads of Terms in the interim

The Clerk reported that the solicitor had provided a full report on the proposed lease and the solicitor had sought assurances and clarification from SDDC. There was a minor area still awaiting clarification from SDDC, but the recommendation was that the lease is accepted in principle.

RESOLVED to accept the lease between the Parish Council and SDDC, to lease land at Cockshut Lane to SDDC and then to sub lease to the MSP.

The Clerk brought Cllrs attention to the proposed Management Agreement which will come into effect when the lease is signed, and which will provide for the Parish Council to continue to run the facilities at Cockshut Lane and to retain the income,. This Agreement will continue until the time that the facilities are withdrawn due to construction taking place. The Parish Council expressed a desire to continue to maintain the facilities, to accept public liability for the area, but not to insure the buildings, provided that the necessary checks and surveys are continued with.

RESOLVED The Management Agreement was accepted.

866. For information only

a) Cllr Sharp reported that the grate in front of the butchers on Derby Road was loose and required attention. The Clerk will report this to DCC.

b) Cllr Hicklin reported that the brick sets outside of the Natwest have not been replaced evenly following their removal for work by a utility company. This maybe a trip hazard and will be reported to DCC.

c) An enquiry was made as to whether the two trees in the front car park at the Assembly Rooms could be removed, to generate some additional parking provision. Councillors expressed mixed opinion as to whether sufficient parking would be achieved and about the loss of greenery in the centre of Melbourne.

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d) Land at the corner of Queensway was also put forward as another possible place to make a carpark. The use of grasscrete was discussed, but was considered to be unattractive and impractical.

e) Cllr Hicklin reported that a meeting had been held with the lady about a burial plot in dispute. The lady has taken the evidence provided by the Parish Council that the records of the location of the burial are correct and she will contact the Clerk or Cllr Hicklin once the evidence has been studied.

867. Date of the next Parish Council meeting

The next full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Assembly Rooms, Melbourne. This will also be the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Committee meetings are as follows

Highways Committee Monday 9th February 2015 7.30pm

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.18pm.