

Melbourne Parish Council

Mrs J Storer, Clerk to the Parish Council, 2 Mansfields Croft, Etwall, Derbyshire DE65 6NJ
Email: Melbourneclerk@aol.com



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Melbourne Parish Council held at 7.30pm Tuesday 7th January 2014 at the Shone Lounge Room, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, High Street, Melbourne

Councillors Present: Cllr J Carroll (Chair), Carpenter, Collyer, Earp, Hicklin, Howard, Hudson, Jackson, Minifie, Parker, Sharp, Smith, Stockill

In Attendance: Mrs J Storer (Clerk). Cllr Mrs Chilton, 1 member of the press, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Hewlett, 3 Parishioners, PCSO Emma Guest (to 7.39pm).

Cllr Carroll welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone present a happy and prosperous new year.

585. Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Butler and Cllr Willmore.

586. Declaration of Interests: No declarations were received.

587. To grant any dispensation resulting from declarations of interest: No dispensations were necessary.

588. Variation of Order of business: There were no variations to the order of business.

589. Public speaking: No comments were received.

590. Police matters: PCSO Guest reported that within the Parish there have been a couple of burglaries plus an attempted burglary, where the offenders were caught in the act. Swarkestone Sailing Club has suffered a number of break ins over the last month and details were provided to the meeting. A request was made for access to the CCTV monitoring equipment within the Assembly Rooms to be re-visited as remote access by the police is now highly unlikely due to security concerns by the Police IT section. Before Christmas, tree maintenance equipment was removed from premises on Trent Lane, Kings Newton.

Cllr Collyer requested an update on the police staffing situation in Melbourne. PCSO Guest reported that PC Vicky Ball has started in the area on 6th January. The staff at the Melbourne station is Sgt Todd, PC Ball and PCSO Guest. It was added that access to the police van is now limited and more patrols will be done on foot and by bike.

7.39pm PCSO Guest left the meeting.

The Chairman returned to the public speaking part of the meeting to allow comment from the Floor.

A resident requested additional dog fouling bins for the Cricket Field, which currently has 2 bins; one litter and one dog fouling and both are often full. The Chair replied that there is no capacity in this year's finances for additional bins, but the request could be considered in the next financial year and added that litterbins are capable of taking dog fouling waste.

The same resident asked if the traffic calming measure at the junction of Kings Newton Lane and Derby Road can be removed. This was after a vehicle had clipped the kerb at this point.

Councillors echoed that the measure was installed to slow traffic down. A further request was made for the pavement edging to be painted white to assist motorists identify the traffic calming measure. Councillors stated that the area is lit and edging of the pavement was not necessary. Cllr Jackson added that in his opinion, the works have made a big improvement and they have done a wonderful job.

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The Chair returned to the agenda to allow Cllr Mrs Chilton to address the meeting.

591. District and County Councillors

County Council

Cllr Mrs Chilton reported that there has been no highway maintenance works carried out in the area. Rural Action Derbyshire is operating a community oil buying scheme. The Clerk was provided with the details for the website. Pool Cottage - DCC has lifted all suspensions and it has received a registration from the Care Quality Commission so will now be moving forward. Cllr Earp enquired as to when the list of outstanding highway works at Melbourne will be undertaken and provided some examples of the outstanding works. Cllr Mrs Chilton reported that the cobble sets outside the Baytree have been repaired and that she is awaiting an update on other matters.

Cllr Carroll enquired when the Mobile Library Consultation will start. Cllr Mrs Chilton did not have a date but recommended that the County Council's website is monitored as details of all consultations will be placed on the website.

District Council

Cllr Harrison reported that 2014 is the 40th anniversary of the formation of SDDC. Celebrations of the District Council's achievements will be held at no cost.

Budget formulation through to 2017 is underway, with a progress report being taken to the Finance Committee on 16th January. In the meantime, there are no intentions to introduce car parking charges, charges on waste bins or to cut grants to Parish Councils or voluntary organisations. He also invited the Parish Council to reconsider its decision on the community listing of the public toilets.

The planning application for a footpath at Sweet Leas has been slightly amended. Without the amendment, the footpath crosses over private land; resulting in potential risks and the Parish Council was requested to make comment on this.

Paul Grimley has been elected as the Vice Chair of the Independent Airport Committee for the next 2 years. Passenger numbers have increased and further growth is expected with improvements in the economy. EMA has been invited to respond to the Update on the Sustainability Plan and a copy was provided to the Clerk for the Parish Council's consideration.

Cllr Carroll thanked Cllr Harrison for his report and made a request for reports to be provided electronically so Councillors can consider the contents. Cllr Harrison replied stating that his preference was for oral reports and ones which included all the latest information.

592. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 3rd December 2013.

The Minutes of the meeting held 3rd December 2013 as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

593. To receive reports from Committees

Facilities Committee – held 9th December 2013

No matters were raised from the Facilities Committee.

Highways Committee, meeting of 9th December 2013

Cllr Earp took the meeting through the minutes.

Cllr Hicklin requested clarification over the confusion of the siting of the diversion signs at the Late Night Shopping event. This was provided and Cllr Hicklin will feed back this information to the Promote Melbourne Committee.

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Cllr Collyer reported that the ditch at Jawbone Lane has not been cleared well and is overflowing. This matter will be considered at the next Highways Committee meeting along with further consideration of the one way system around the Melbourne Industrial Estate. Cllr Carroll reported that all information relating to the imposition of TPO on Jubilee Close have been given to the residents concerned.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow clarification to be provided about the proposed pedestrian access to Sweet Leas. Cllr Hewlett reported that a compromise has been reached between SDDC and the developers to move the proposed footpath further along Station Road. The Parish Council agreed to consider the amendment despite not receiving any formal notification from SDDC of the change in position. A sketch of the proposed relocation of the footpath was provided by Cllr Hewlett. The compromise as explained by the District Councillors was considered and Councillors agreed that there was no objections to the proposal as described to the meeting.

Burials Committee – 9th December 2013

Cllr Earp enquired if there are any sanctions that could or would be imposed if the owner of the memorial bench is not maintained. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the relative advising that the bench will be removed on health and safety grounds if necessary maintenance is not undertaken. **(Action: Clerk).**

Finance Committee – 16th December 2013

Cllr Carroll explained that there was a long and detailed discussion of the needs of the Parish Council, including what is to be faced in the future. As a result it is recommended that the precept is increased by 25%, adding that this Parish Council has one of the lowest precepts in the District, plus the increase equates to 8p per week on a Band D property. The Chair added that the Parish Council has aspirations to maintain and increase the services provided, particularly in light of possible changes to service levels from other organisations and Government bodies/agencies.

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

There was one item on the agenda which is to be taken with the public excluded.

595. Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported on the attendance at the Senior Citizens Christmas Party which was very good and added that the various Christmas celebrations in Melbourne had been a great success.

596. To receive the Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report had been previously circulated. The report was accepted. The Clerk reminded the meeting that at the last meeting, revised Standing Orders had been agreed and the financial level for tendering had been set. However, this was at odds with the level within the Financial Regulations and clarification was sought as to what the level is to be in order to have consistency. AGREED the level at which tendering should be set, is £5000, as per the Financial Regulations.

The Clerk had previously circulated correspondence from the Vicar relating to the requirement for an application to be made to the Diocese for the felling of the Beech tree in the Old Burial Ground. The Clerk sought the Parish Council's views on the future responsibility of the Parish Council for the Old Burial Ground. Cllr Carpenter considered that it is unreasonable for the Parish Council to meet the financial costs of the Old Burial Ground yet does not have the final decision making powers on major activities within the Old Burial Ground. He expressed the view that the Parish Council could be responsible for the maintenance, but on the proviso that the

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Diocese hands over the decision making to the Parish Council. Cllr Jackson reminded the meeting that the upkeep of the Old Burial Ground has previously been minimal but is escalating due to the requirement to undertake tree maintenance. He added that he considered that the Parish Council cannot now remove any responsibility it has. Cllr Earp agreed with this view and added that the Parish Council should retain the responsibility as to pass it over to either SDDC or DCC would not improve the matter; as based on recent experience, little is given to the Parish. Further comments from Cllrs expressed concerns about the level of control that the Church has, whilst the Parish Council appears to have all of the financial responsibility.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders.

Cllr Harrison informed that this Parish had received a significant amount of funding eg for MSP and asked Cllr Earp to withdraw her comments that nothing is received from the Councils.

Cllr Earp appreciated that significant funding has been received for projects but that routine maintenance is a different matter. She referred back to earlier in the meeting when she requested updates on the outstanding matters relating to highways, how long these matters have been outstanding and how difficult it had been to get funding for even minor repairs.

Cllr Carroll commented that it was unlikely that any help would be received from SDDC due to the current economic climate. Cllr Minifie requested that other options are investigated; other suggestions were then made about the use of the Old Burial Ground such as a wildlife area.

Cllr Carroll reiterated that the Parish Council has been made aware that the tree is suffering from a fungal growth, which can undermine its stability and consequently its felling had been recommended. Adding that as the matter is one of Health & Safety; the tree should come down.

Cllr Carroll informed that if no action is taken and the tree comes down eg in a storm, then no insurance company would pay any funds towards any financial costs incurred. In addition, Parish Councillors could be jointly and severely liable for all cost and could even be individually surcharged.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders

Cllr Harrison agreed with the comments made by the Chair: that if the report on the condition of the tree makes recommendations and nothing is done; the responsibility lies with individual Cllrs and he recommended approaching SDDC for an emergency application.

The Chair returned to Standing Orders

RESOLVED: the tree should be felled as a matter of urgency. (**Action: Clerk**). No action will be taken regarding the application to the Diocese. The future of the Old Burial Ground will be considered by the Burial Committee.

597. Reports from representatives on outside organisations

Senior Citizens Centre – Cllr Sharp reported that the Christmas Party was held on 16th December and was successful.

Infant School Governors – Cllr Smith reported that the Christmas Concert was excellent and the School continues to be full.

Safer Neighbourhood – No report

Education for Melbourne – Cllr Minifie had nothing to report.

Festival – Cllr Carroll had nothing to report.

Sporting Partnership – Cllr Jackson will continue to circulate the minutes and reports of the MSP meetings. He has attended the meeting with the architect.

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Athenaeum – Cllr Butler, via the Clerk, will attend the next management meeting at the end of the month.

Promote Melbourne – Cllr Hicklin reported that no formal meeting has been held to follow up the Late Night Shopping event, but it appears to have been very successful.

Assembly Rooms – Cllr Howard reported that work continues on the project to replace the boiler. The new website will be launched shortly.

EMA Liaison Committee – Cllr Collyer reported that there has been no meeting. Cllr Carroll commented that she and other Parish Councillors used to attend meetings relating to the Airport and wondered whether these meetings were still occurring. Cllr Collyer is not aware of the existence of any other Committees.

Donington Park Liaison Committee – Cllr Parker reported that there is nothing to report.

598. Correspondence

1. DALC – Various Circulars
2. ICCM – Winter issue of The Journal
3. SDDC – Summer Holiday Provision 2014
4. DCC – Various highway matters
5. SDDC – Notification of Broadband provision within South Derbyshire
6. DCC – Notification of road closure at Blanchcroft on 14th January 2014
7. Mrs G Kerr – Offer of assistance with traffic scheme for the village
It was agreed to accept the offer to meet with a traffic consultant. No dates were provided; instead the Clerk was requested to obtain the room availability and to circulate this to Cllrs.
8. SDDC – Notification of consultation by Police Commissioner re the Police Precept for 2014/15

599. Finance

a) RESOLVED the accounts for payment as circulated were approved and payments were authorised.

b) Budget appraisal/risk assessment

Currently there are no amendments to the risk assessment.

c) Precept for 2014/2015

The revised budget agreed at the Finance Committee (16.12.13) was circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Carroll explained how the recommended precept was arrived at, adding that whilst the headline percentage figure was large, this actually equated to £4.82 increase p.a. for a Band D Property. RESOLVED: unanimously to set the precept for 2014/15 at £40,960.00. The necessary forms were completed. A press statement had been previously prepared to explain the increase in the precept and a copy of this was circulated to Cllrs. A copy of the press statement will be sent directly to the Village Voice.

600. Consideration of Planning Applications

9 2013 0983 – the felling and pruning of trees at Chantry House, Church Street, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

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9 2013 0982 – the pruning of a lime tree covered by SDDC TPO 374 at 30 Penn Lane, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2013 0978 – the pruning of a horse chestnut tree covered by SDDC TPO 374 at 28 Penn Lane,
Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2013 1008 – the pruning of trees at 85 Castle Street, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2013 0826 – the change of use from agricultural land to residential at 58 Ashby Road, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

9 2013 1025 – the removal of existing columns and installation of 6NR 15 metre high galvanised
(grey) steel columns with floodlighting to serve the existing rugby pitch and training area on land at
SK3724 7292, Cockshut Lane, Melbourne
NO OBJECTIONS

601. For information only

Cllr Parker reported that the steel lamppost on Cockshut Lane is still leaning and appears unsafe.
The Clerk will report the matter to the Highways Dept. (**Action: Clerk**)

Cllr Jackson reported that the metal railings outside Blatch's need repainting and that the sign by
the railings is leaning. Both matters will be reported to the relevant agency (**Action: Clerk**).

Cllr Hicklin reported a sizeable puddle that forms outside of the Indian Restaurant. There is a
large pothole next to the speed hump on Packhorse Road. Both of these matters will be reported
to the Highways Dept (**Action: Clerk**)

Dog fouling continues to be a constant problem and the consensus of the meeting was that
additional bins are not the solution but that a community response is required. Consideration was
given to bringing civil action against identified offenders with the use of the CCTV to assist with
identification. Clarification will be obtained as to whether the Clerk can access the CCTV for this
purpose. (**Action: Clerk**).

602. Date of committee meetings

Burial Committee will meet at the Assembly Rooms on Monday 13th January 2014 at 7.30pm
Facilities Committee will meet at the Assembly Rooms on Monday 13th January 2014 at 8.00pm.
Highways Committee will meet at the Assembly Rooms on Monday 13th January 2014 at 8.30pm.

603. Date of the next Parish Council meeting

The date of the next full Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 4th February 2014 at 7.30pm in
the Shone Lounge.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:17pm and moved to the
Confidential section of the meeting.

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

603. To receive an update on the public toilets

The minutes of the confidential section held 3rd December 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

Cllrs were unsure as to what was meant by Cllr Harrison, when earlier in the meeting he had requested that the community listing of the public toilets is reconsidered. There has been no further information or communication received from SDDC relating to the toilets and without this, the Parish Council agreed that nothing further can be done relating to the listing status. **RESOLVED:** nothing further can be done relating to the future of the public toilets until something has been received in writing for the Parish Council to consider. It was further resolved that no further talks will be held with SDDC on this matter until written information is received and has been considered.

The offer made by Mrs Kerr was accepted and a date is to be arranged to meet with the traffic consultant. Once this meeting has taken place, consideration can then be made as to what action, if any, the Parish Council wishes to take relating to traffic problems within Melbourne. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35pm.