

# Melbourne Parish Council

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



## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Melbourne Parish Council held at 7:30pm Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at the Shone Lounge Room, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, High Street, Melbourne**

### **In Attendance:** Cllr Carroll

23 members of the public; 1 member of the press.

Cllr Hewlett, Cllr Harrison, Mrs J Storer (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Carpenter, Smith and Wilmore (who advised in advance, that he will be late)

### **Presentation of the first Dr Freeman Award**

Cllr Carroll welcomed all to the meeting.

Cllr Carroll explained to the meeting that the award was to commemorate Dr Freeman and its purpose was to recognise an individual or organisation who has significantly contributed to the community of Melbourne. Cllr Carroll went on to explain that Kate Dumelow had produced and organised the excellent Jubilee Celebrations and that the Parish Council had voted her to be awarded the Dr Freeman Award.

Cllr Carroll introduced Bryony Balen to the meeting, and briefly explained about Bryony's trip to the South Pole, Bryony was invited to present the first Dr Freeman Award to Kate Dumelow.

The award was presented and received. Kate Dumelow expressed her thanks and appreciation for the award.

### **To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, as previously circulated were confirmed as an accurate record.

### **To receive the Annual Report for 2012/2013 – Cllr Carroll**

The past year has been an eventful one and I report here only the highlights. More details will be given by our committee chairs.

- The financial management of the council remains sound and we end the year in line with our budget. Threats from cuts in local government finance across the country may mean we will face some challenges during the years to come.
- The sad death of Cllr. Dr. Brendan Freeman meant we welcomed a new Councillor, Malcolm Stockhill, to the Council. The council were encouraged by the interest that was shown and it was a difficult choice from some able candidates.

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- The hand over to the Board of the Leisure Centre renamed the Melbourne Assembly Rooms came right at the end of Nigel Collyer's term of office as chair. The Parish Council is pleased with the progress that has been made over the past year and wishes them well.
- The Jubilee Celebration was a great success thanks to all who took part in the organisation. The collaboration of the Parish Council with the Civic Society saw completion of the restoration of The Castle Square Monument and it's unveiling by Lord Ralph at the event. Sadly the light was not lit until much later.
- We said a fond farewell to Norman Hill who had been our clerk for over 30 years and welcomed Jacqui Storer to fill his place.
- The installation of CCTV is nearing conclusion.
- We have continued support for the Sporting Partnership and the proposed improvements at Cockshut Lane Playing Fields.
- The discussions on a one-way-system are on-going. Before any conclusion is reached there will be public consultation on the matter.
- The Council has adopted the General Power of Competence which is part of the Localism Act which gives "A Local Authority has power to do anything an individual may do" The power enables the Council to work with others to provide cost-effective services, be innovative and meet the needs of local people.
- 2 of the objectives for the past year have been fulfilled -:
  - Lasting memorials to Brendan Freeman as you have seen.
  - Giving support to Melbourne Footpaths Group to make Melbourne a "Walkers are Welcome town".
- The 3rd – to allocate areas of the town to councillors to monitor highway issues is in the process of agreement.

I conclude by thanking all the council staff and Councillors for their hard work over the year. Also, I thank all the members of the public who have taken the time to bring their concerns to the Parish council Meetings.

## **Burial Committee Report – Cllr Hicklin**

Firstly a huge thank you to Cllr David Carpenter for all of his time and effort he has spent bringing the cemetery records up to date. They are now clear and coherent. An Amelanchier tree/bush was planted in memory of the late Cllr Dr Brendan Freeman. A memorial plaque will also be sited soon.

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The soil heap has been removed leaving the unsightly area now neat and tidy. Work is due to start on the rendering on the front entrance wall. The toilets have been painted and internal features replaced. Melbourne Tree Services have carried out the work on the trees. They are now in a good and tidy condition. It was resolved to allow people to buy black plaques for the Garden Of Remembrance, quite a few people have taken up this opportunity to replace their old plaques. An exhumation took place late last year and was dealt with swiftly and with dignity by all those involved. The grounds as always are in excellent condition thanks to the diligence of our sexton, Robert Holman.

## **Highway Committee Report – Cllr Earp**

This year the Parish Council supported the Jubilee with the erection of Union Jacks. Christmas trees and lights were erected again this year. The Parish Council is investigating the possibility of replacing the Christmas lights with LED lights, and a provision has been made in the 2013/14 budget for their replacement. The Market Place wall has been cleaned and 4 posts on the bus shelter have been replaced. Two CCTV cameras have been installed with the remainder awaiting installation together with a BT line. Thanks were extended to Melbourne Assembly Rooms for their co-operation with the installation of the CCTV. The proposal for the one way system will go out to public consultation before any decision is made. There continues to be irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to foul the public highway and pavements. To try to alleviate the problem the Parish Council has installed three new bins. Encouragement was given for people to clear up after their dogs. Thanks were extended to the lengthsman for doing a wonderful job keeping the Parish tidy.

## **Recreational Committee Report – Cllr Jackson**

Lothian Gardens – There is a continued maintenance programme, and the inspections are undertaken by ROSPA and their recommendations are considered by the Parish Council.

The shelter which was damaged some time ago, this is in hand.

The two wet pour areas need to be either repaired or replaced, quotations have been received and these will be considered at the next Recreational Committee meeting.

The Children's play area gate and fence need to be reassessed.

Old Burial Ground – An annual tree maintenance programme is in place and work on the trees has been carried out.

Summer Sports – The Parish Council has laid on 5 sports and play sessions during the summer holidays, with an average attendance of 30 children per session, this is a slight increase in previous years. There are provisional dates booked for this summer holidays.

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Bonfire Night - The Carnival Committee held a bonfire night at the Recreation Ground which proved to be very popular, with several hundred of people attending.

Sporting Partnership – Matters regarding this have moved very quickly and grants have been received which total £1.3 million, these have come from SDDC, Sport England and the County Council. The Sporting Partnership is optimistic that the results of further grant applications could be announced shortly. The final pitch layout has been agreed. The next stage will be to tidy up and landscape the in filled land and to install a drainage scheme on the whole site. It is hoped that the building works could start later this year.

## Public Questions and Answers

The Chair opened the meeting to questions from the Floor.

Dr Black informed the meeting that some youths were targeting the surgery and the Assembly Rooms and the amount of damage that has occurred has gradually increased in intensity. The amount of money required to carry out the repairs is of concern along with the level of damage. He added that the Police have been involved with a more visible presence and the Police have provided opinions and support.

Cllr Carroll read out an email from PCSO Guest regarding this matter.

Cllr Carroll informed that the Parish Council would give their support to help resolve this matter.

Cllr Earp stated that a CCTV camera has been installed which covers the Lothian Gardens, but its position may be altered to encompass the Surgery and rear of the Assembly Rooms.

Dr Black urged that pressure is maintained for a police presence.

It was agreed that the concerns should be conveyed to the Police.

Cllr Collyer suggested that the village does not have a focal point for young people and suggested that at some point a scheme will have to be devised to address this lack of facilities.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm.