

LITTLE MELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
at the VILLAGE HALL, MILL ROAD, LITTLE MELTON
TUESDAY 30th OCTOBER 2007 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT	Stewart Cable (Chairman), Wilf Chamberlain, Duncan Frazer, John Heaser, Graham Tomlin and Joan Wheatley. District Councillors Christopher Kemp and Garry Wheatley were also present from approximately 7.40 pm.
APOLOGIES	Apologies for absence from Tony Berry (working) and County Councillor Judith Virgo (another meeting).
DECLARATIONS	The Chairman asked if any members wished to declare an interest in an item, or items, on the agenda. No declarations of interest were forthcoming.
MINUTES	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 September 2007 were, subject (penultimate line on page three) to the correction of the wording to read “agreed to investigate further” rather than “approved”, on a proposal by John Heaser, which was seconded by Duncan Frazer, accepted as a true record of the business conducted.
PUBLIC, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARTICIPATION	The Chairman asked those present to speak on any matters not included on the agenda and the following two matters were mentioned:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog mess was occurring on paths etc. around the village – in consequence this anti social behaviour was to be highlighted in the next (December) edition of the Good News Magazine and the Clerk would include a request that dog owners make greater efforts to ensure their dogs are not leaving mess on these well used public highways. • Secondly that the recently established local Book Club had started well.
PARISH AMENITIES	<p>MILLENNIUM GARDEN FENCING</p> <p>The Clerk reported – following the Parish Council’s letter of 18 September seeking quotations from four contractors for the replacement of the existing broken/poor condition timber fencing with 1.0 m high bow topped solid galvanized steel fencing (including two hand gates) – that by the stipulated return date of Friday 26 October only one quotation had been received.</p> <p>The quotation received was from G & G Fencing Ltd. (Hellesdon) and amounted to £2,243.25 plus VAT (£392.52) i.e. a gross sum of £2,635.81.</p> <p>It was noted that any unforeseen work below ground level would be an extra cost.</p> <p>With this single quotation being roughly the cost anticipated the Clerk was instructed to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) inform Richard Smith, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, of the cost of the quotation received to date and request that the Village Hall Committee/Community Trust formally confirm that it will fund the replacement fencing at a (maximum) cost of £2,243.25. (2) Write to contractors who had not responded to date and inform them that the deadline for the submission of

quotations had been extended and that the Parish Council looked forward to receiving their quotation by 15 November.

- (3) Ask G & G Fencing to hold their quotation until (just after) the 4 December – the date of the next Parish Council meeting – when it was anticipated that the Parish Council would make a decision on the proposed new provision.

DOG WASTE BIN SITING ETC.

The Clerk reported that he had written – on 17 October – to Mr Allfrey, the NCC Highway Engineer for the Southern Area office stating that the Parish Council wished to site a dog waste bin in the grass verge – southern side - along the cul de sac section of School Lane (eastern end of the village) but to date had not received a reply. Once the consent form had been received, duly completed and signed and returned to the LHA, the dog waste bin can be erected.

In respect of dog fouling the Clerk also reported that a Mr Williams had telephoned him on 4 October regarding dog fouling on the pavement outside his mother's property (Fourways, Mill Road) at the crossroads. The Clerk, whilst expressing sympathy, had explained the difficulty of trying to address such an undesirable attitude by dog owners – particularly in respect of identifying the incidents and those responsible. The Clerk had also mentioned that the Parish Council was continuing to erect dog waste bins around the village in order to assist with alleviating the problem.

VILLAGE HALL WINDOW REPAIR

The Clerk confirmed that John Symonds had recently undertaken the replacement of the rotten frame to one of the glazings on the western elevation and that as this was envisaged to be a short term provision it was appreciated that this would not now be an openable window.

It was also reported that Mr Symonds had submitted an invoice for £22-00 for this work – which was thought to be a reasonable charge.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF YOUNG CHILDREN'S PLAY EQUIPMENT ETC.

The Clerk said that he had formally requested SNC carry out the annual inspection and provide the subsequent report in advance of the end of 2007. Shortly after this action the District Council had said that – due to a cancellation – the inspection would be undertaken in October, the report would be issued in November and the cost would be £60-00 plus VAT.

MILLENNIUM GARDEN PLANTS

The Clerk reported that in order to facilitate the erection of new security fencing, and because general garden maintenance was necessary, Herbie Gould had been requested to cut back/trim the trees and shrubs and also to cut down (to ground level) the nearby overgrown nettle area and this work had recently been carried out at a cost of £40-00.

FOOTBALL PITCH HIRINGS

It was confirmed that the Clerk had recently received:-

- a) a payment of £20-00 for the one-off match between ambulance staff held on the afternoon of Sunday 28 October

	<p>and</p> <p>b) a cheque in the sum of £100-00 for the first five matches, for season 2007/2008, played by Hethersett Wanderers FC. The Clerk added that the Secretary of Hethersett Wanderers had informed him that, excluding cup matches, they would play ten home matches during the current season.</p> <p>ALL SAINTS CHURCH GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE 2008</p> <p>The Clerk drew attention to the receipt of the letter of 25 October from Margaret Waller, Churchwarden, proposing an increase in the Parish Council annual grant to the Parochial Church Council. For 2008 the increase sought was £180 on the grant (£1,300) approved for 2007, i.e. a total of £1,480. The Parish Council agreed to consider this request, along with the several other potential increases in costs for the financial year 2008/2009, at the next Parish Council meeting on 4 December.</p>
<p>HIGHWAYS</p>	<p>ROAD NAME SIGN</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had reported to Jim England at SNC that the road name sign at the southern end of Burnthouse Lane had been completely knocked out of the ground and that Mr England had responded on 27 October stating that the District Council's contractors would be re-erecting this sign as soon as possible.</p> <p>A47 NSB OVERGROWN CYCLE/PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ETC.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had, on 22 October, emailed the Highways Dept. at County Hall and requested that the steps immediately either side of the A47 NSB, at the beginning of the cycle/pedestrian route, be cleared of overgrown vegetation etc. In addition the Clerk said he had emailed the Area Highway Engineer (Southern office) who had agreed to trim back the (overgrown) vegetation along the former part of School Lane from the NSB up to Watton Road.</p> <p>SAM PROJECT</p> <p>It was noted that Hethersett Parish Council has also sought the use of SAM (SPEED AWARENESS MESSAGE), i.e. the displaying of electronic signage, via vans which will be provided by the partnership between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Constabulary, to slow drivers down at various hotspots. It is understood that the SAM project involves measuring devices being placed whilst an operator is based in a marked vehicle with the intention being to educate speeding drivers rather than punish them.</p> <p>Little Melton is awaiting – following the submission of a request – for the deployment of SAM within the village.</p> <p>HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>It was appreciated that the Parish Council needed soon to draft its annual list of priorities sought for implementation and with this in mind it was agreed that at the next meeting (4 December) the Parish Council would discuss and finalise the list of improvements for submission to Norfolk County Council Highways.</p> <p>TRAFFIC COUNT</p> <p>Finally it was noted that a traffic count on School Lane – approximately level with the Village Inn – had commenced.</p>

PLANNING

RESULTS

Three results were reported, all for approval under delegated powers, namely:-

1. Mr & Mrs D Lee – proposed erection of garden shed at Unit 4, Manor Farm Barns, School Lane.

Approval subject to two conditions.

2. P M Townroe – proposed conversion of roof of garage to living accommodation at the Brambles, Great Melton Road.

Approval subject to four conditions. The conditions included (a) that the development shall not be occupied at anytime other than for purposes ancillary or incidental to the main dwelling, i.e. at no time shall it be sold, leased or occupied independently from the main dwelling nor shall the common ownership or occupation of the main dwelling and annex be severed, and (b) the proposed window in the east elevation shall be obscured glazing.

3. Mr A Parrott – proposed erection of single storey extension with loft bedroom.

Approval subject to one condition.

PENDING

Two applications remained outstanding, namely:-

1. Anglian Water Services Ltd – proposed erection of 1.8m high fence on highway (B1108 Watton Road, Colney) boundary.

2. Mr A Dyer – proposed extension to front of property and new pitched roof over existing flat roof at 39 Braymeadow Lane (this application had been received since the previous Parish Council meeting.

LIGHT POLLUTION

The Clerk drew attention to the letter of 25 October, and accompanying leaflet, from Clare Franklin, CPRE Norfolk Administrator, relating to Light Pollution Guidance Notes and Standard Clause. This referred to CPRE's Norfolk campaign to protect the dark skies and dark landscapes that are a special feature of night time in rural Norfolk, and in particular recommended that the Parish Council consider including a clause about lighting in any (future) responses to planning applications.

The background to this included:-

- a) light pollution was made a statutory nuisance under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (same level of nuisance as noise pollution),
- b) individuals can complain about poor lighting which effects the enjoyment of their property, and
- c) contrary to popular belief there is no evidence that lighting reduces crime, but lighting, properly positioned, with a movement sensor will be more efficient in reducing crime.

Following some discussion on this issue the Parish Council agreed that this information would be taken into account, where appropriate, when planning applications were received seeking the Parish Council's views and comments. Hence each individual application would be considered on its merits and should the question of light pollution arise the matter would be referred to the District Council's Environmental Health Department.

<p>CLERK OF THE COUNCILS CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<p>The Clerk referred to the schedule of correspondence received as at 20 October plus a few subsequent additions and highlighted some items including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *the public meeting to be held in the village hall on Wednesday 23 January entitled "Learn more about Community Sentencing". *The Norfolk Police Authority's panel type meeting (for several parishes) about Safer Neighbourhood Teams to be held on 6 November. *The EEN press report on the Expansion of the NRP. *The Norwich Union Parish Council Insurance Scheme, which might mean that the annual cost of the Little Melton Parish Council's insurance cover could be significantly lowered. *The invitation, from SNC, to a meeting on the proposed reorganisation of Local Authorities in Norfolk at South Norfolk House on 8 November. <p>With regard to the proposed Reorganisation of Local Government in Norfolk, District Councillors Garry Wheatley and Christopher Kemp drew attention to the latest directive from Central Government which stipulated that when responding through the consultative process (existing) local authorities are not allowed to opt for the status quo!</p> <p>Hence whether (some) parish councils will continue is debatable but ultimately this will depend on which option is approved and implemented. Options currently include three or four unitary authorities although Norfolk County Council is now proposing a single unitary authority for the whole of Norfolk.</p> <p>The County Council's proposal would mean one County Councillor representing i.r.o. 10,000 electors.</p> <p>It was also thought that the costs of reorganisation could amount to a minimum of £100m and maybe as much as £250m!</p>
<p>BILLS/RECEIPTS</p>	<p>On a proposal by Duncan Frazer, seconded by Graham Tomlin, the undermentioned invoices were authorised for payment:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mr R Sinclair – Clerk of the Council's remuneration for the period 1/7 – 30/9/07 (£800.82) and back payment owed for period 1/4 - 30/6/07 (£120.29) based on increased hours per week and increment w.e.f. 1/4/07 £921-11 *Marcus Kett – VPF maintenance Sept. 2007 £158-33 *Mr H Gould – Millenium garden maintenance £ 40-00 *Mr J Symonds – replacement of timber frame to high level window – western elevation of village hall £ 22-00 *Mr R Sinclair – Expenses period 1/7 – 30/9/07 £ 53-33 *Mr R Sinclair – Refund 50% of cost of broadband from 25/10 – 24/11/07 £ 9-49 <p>In addition it was confirmed that since the last meeting three receipts had been received, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Hethersett Wanders FC – hire of VPF football pitch for five matches played 19/8, 2/9, 9/9, 30/9, and 21/10/07 @ £20-00 per match £100-00 * Robert Cork – hire of VPF football pitch for one off match, for ambulance staff, on 28 October, £ 20-00 SNC – 2nd 50% of precept 2007/2008 £6,000-00
<p>PRECEPT</p>	<p>The Clerk reported the recent receipt of the usual letter from SNC seeking notification of the Parish Council's precept</p>

	requirements for the financial year 2008/2209. This letter had only just been received by the Clerk and therefore it was confirmed that, in accordance with normal practice, consideration and determination of the level of bid to be submitted by the Parish Council would be undertaken at the December meeting so that submission could be made to the District Council by the required date of Friday 11 January 2008.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 4 December, 2007 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.
	Chairman Date