

Down to Business.....

The PC has set a precept for next year of £15,775 which is an increase of 12% over the previous year. The increase is largely due to an anticipated rise in the cost of maintaining the playing field and to an increase in the Clerk's hours and salary (which is set by a national body). The Councillors do not receive a salary and no one has claimed any expenses in recent years.

The PC has invited tenders for the playing field maintenance and will seek to obtain the best value for money. The Clerk's hours have to be increased to deal with extra planning applications and additional responsibilities being placed on the PC (see below for some examples). The PC also has to make provision for the long term maintenance of the Village Hall, Tennis Court and Children's Play Area - all of which were new at a similar time and are all getting older together!

The PC was asked to review the vision statement for the extension of the Norwich Research Park, which will include the construction of new roads and a new junction with the Watton Rd. No time-table for building has yet been seen.

Freedom of Information.

The PC is now required to publish a wide range of information on www.little-melton.org.uk. The information should be in place by the New Year. People without web access can request printed copies from the Clerk - please see front page for contact details.

Newsletter published by
Little Melton Parish Council.
Habitat, Braymeadow Lane, Little Melton,
Norwich, Norfolk

For the Diary....

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| 5th Jan | Mobile Police Office. Village Inn. 1.40pm - 3.10pm |
| 12th Jan | Wildlife Group talk on Ashwellthorpe Woods. |
| 13th Jan | Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall |
| 25th Jan | Bingo. 7.30pm Village Hall |
| 31st Jan | Friends of Little Melton Church Quiz, Cheese & Wine. 7.30pm Village Hall. |
| 2nd Feb | Wildlife Group Meeting 8.00pm Village Inn |
| 3rd Feb | Oil Group ordering deadline. |
| 17th Feb | Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall |
| 22nd Feb | Bingo. 7.30pm Village Hall |
| 17th Mar | Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall |
| 28th Mar | Litter Pick 11.00am Village Hall |
| 29th Mar | Bingo. 7.30pm Village Hall |
| 7th Apr | Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall |

Litter Pick

Thank you to the people who turned out for the litter pick, there were 8 bags collected and 3 fly tipping sites cleared by the District Council. The next pick will be Sat 28th March, 11:00 at Village Hall, please come and help keep your village tidy.



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

Issue no.7

January 2009

we wish you all a
Happy New Year

and hope that 2009 is a good year for all of us

Greater Norwich Development Plan

The PC has protested against plans to build many thousands of new homes in the LM/Hethersett area - mainly because it would lead to a massive increase in traffic through the village. At least 40 parishioners have written letters of protest to the District Councillors. By the time this newsletter is printed it is expected that the GNDP will have decided whether our village will see major development - please see www.little-melton.org.uk for the current status.

A very BIG thank-you

Eagle-eyed locals will have noticed that the old damaged parish notice board on Mill Road (Old Church Hall) has been replaced with an excellent new one. The Parish Council, and indeed parishioners, are very grateful to John Symonds for his hard work and generosity in providing the materials and his time free of charge, and not forgetting the owner of the Old Church Hall for allowing us to use their land for the notice board.

Parish Council contacts:

Clerk: Richard Sinclair 01603 811432 - clerk@little-melton.org.uk

Chair: John Heaser - chair@little-melton.org.uk

www.little-melton.org.uk The website has grown, check it out for more news about Little Melton.....

Bingo The Last Sunday in every month is Bingo Night in Little Melton Village Hall. Cash prizes are given and profits given to Breast and Prostate Cancer Charities. Eyes down 7.30

From the Primary School;

At the end of last term the whole school visited the church for a short Christmas service. The children were able to see how the decorations they had made out of recycled materials had been displayed inside the church.

As a growing school we have recently added to our facilities; we have had a cycle shelter installed and extended the playground. By the time you read this our playground markings should have been painted.

This term, our activity week from 2nd - 6th March will have an arts and crafts focus. We would love to hear from community members who would like to come and work with the children or perhaps demonstrate their own skills or areas of expertise. And of course we welcome everyone on the morning of Friday 3rd April at 9.30 am to our Easter Assembly.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Two matters have been highlighted by the Police recently, although not particular to our village, they have occurred in the South Norfolk area.

Several reports have been received of a male in a white van loitering around schools. Descriptions of the vehicle have been vague other than it is a white van. Reinforce the message to children to always say no to any person they do not know, if approached, and report the matter to a parent, teacher or Police.

Various incidents have been reported of fake gold jewellery being sold to members of the public. These con artists, believed to be eastern European, are even stopping vehicles. In one incident a vehicle was flagged down by two males in a light blue, foreign plated vehicle. They gave the driver a sob story about having to visit a sick relative in Birmingham. He was offered what was said to be an 18 ct. gold necklace for cash, which he handed over. Needless to say when he checked later the item was gold plated and worth very little.

Oil Bargains.....

The Oil ordering group goes from strength to strength. Those people who order between 500 and 900 litres are saving on average 6 pence per litre. That amounts to a considerable saving of approximately £30 on a 500 litre order. If you would like to know more, or talk to us, we can be contacted by telephone. John Sanders on 810720 or John Copson on 810142.

Norfolk County Couascil has two services it is offering to people;

Assistive Technology is offered by Social Services and involves using technology to increase independence and allow people with disabilities to stay in their own homes. For further information call 0844 800 8014.

The Council also offers a **Teleshopping** service to help over 65s or over 50s referred by Adult Social Services to have help with delivery and unpacking of groceries. If you or you know someone who could benefit call 01603 729183

PARISH news

CHURCH NEWS

After a busy Christmas, a quiz evening will be held on Saturday 31st January at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm, in aid of the new facilities appeal. Please bring your own drinks and glasses, we shall provide the bread and a selection of cheeses. £6 adults and £1 children. We also hope to have some items to auction so bring your cheque books.

The building work at the church is now well advanced. Deliveries and weather permitting, it should be ready for Easter. There will be a Grand Opening which will be well publicised when we can make a firm date. So many people have supported us, we hope everyone will come to see and benefit from the improvements.

The Little Melton Pre-School Nursery children and staff enjoyed a very busy term especially with all the Christmas events which were well supported and enjoyed by many in the village. The craft fair and coffee morning in particular was very successful, and it was great to see so many people there.

If you have a child that you are thinking of placing with us, we always welcome visits from prospective parents and children so that you can see for yourself the great atmosphere at the nursery! Some spaces are still available but these tend to be taken up quickly in the Spring. Our opening hours are now 9.15am to noon.

For more information contact Jill Dyke, Supervisor on 01603 812362.

POLICE NEWS

The new Police Community Support Officer for our parish is PCSO 8319 Timothy Philpott who has recently replaced Charlotte Mason. Timothy Philpott can be contacted at OCC Jubilee House, Norfolk Constabulary, Falconer Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk. NR18 OWW tel:01953/424164 or via email philpott@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Village Wildlife Group

10 members of the Wildlife Group saw an amazing variety of Fungi when they visited Colney Hall in October. The next event will be a talk on Ashwellthorpe Woods to be held on 12th Jan in the evening.

Members will again be helping toads to cross the road safely during March when the toads migrate to the breeding ponds. Please contact John on 812472 for more info or meet us in the Village Inn on Mon Feb 2nd at 8.00pm when we will be having an informal chat about our plans for 2009.

Little Melton Mothers Union are maintaining a healthy membership and a very happy one. As a result of our coffee morning we were able to send £100 to A.I.F.A. (children from this area to have a holiday in Hemsby) and £85 to Burma Mothers Union. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 1.30 in the Village Hall and we welcome visitors.