

LITTLE MELTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
at the VILLAGE HALL, MILL ROAD, LITTLE MELTON
TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008

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| PRESENT | Stewart Cable (Chairman) – and also representing the Parish Council – Wilf Chamberlain, John Heaser and Graham Tomlin. County Councillor Judith Virgo and District Councillor Christopher Kemp were also present as were seven parishioners namely Anne Carter, Jean Chamberlain, Ann Evans, Harold Kerlake, Anne McDonnell, Richard Smith and Margaret Waller. In addition the Clerk of the Parish Council, Richard Sinclair, was present. |
| APOLOGIES | Apologies for absence were received from Joan and Garry Wheatley. |
| MINUTES | The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 20 March 2007 were read by the Clerk of the Parish Council and, on a proposal by Wilf Chamberlain which was seconded by Graham Tomlin, approved and signed as a true record of the business conducted. |
| REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL | <p>The annual report was read by the Chairman, Stewart Cable, and included references to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The beginning of the year 2007/2008 with the new Parish Council and the welcoming of one new member, John Heaser. *The election of our two District Councillors - Garry Wheatley and Christopher Kemp – for the new Cringleford Ward and the continuing in office of our County Councillor Judith Virgo. *An increase in the number of planning applications, considered by the Parish Council, to 21 in number, with only 4 of these recommended for “refusal”. *The ongoing consideration/consultation regarding the Joint Care Strategy under which the Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk Council areas are preparing a new planning strategy for the whole Greater Norwich Area. One of the ten possible areas for large scale essential growth under consideration lies between the A11 and the B1108 outside the A47 NSB and would mean significant development with the expansion of Hethersett and possibly Little Melton. *Continuing work to the Development Brief for the Norwich Research Park including the creation of a new link road from a roundabout at the Colney Hall entrance to Hethersett Lane and improvements along the stretch of the Watton Road from the A47 junction to the hospital junction. *Norwich City Council’s continuing bid for unitary status and the likelihood that this will result in a much larger Norwich City Council area. *The request for eleven highway improvements submitted to the local Highway Authority (Norfolk County Council) and the positive response in respect of four of the proposals. *The continuing programme of improvements to the Village Hall with the replacement of one set of external doors and also the emergency repair of one of the higher level windows. *Replacement of security fencing around the Millennium garden courtesy of funding from the Village Hall Committee/Community Trust. *Replacement of defective timber slatted seating, via the excellent |

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| | <p>efforts of Wilf Chamberlain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The satisfactory report following the annual inspection of the young children's play equipment and area. *The erection of two more dog waste bins. *Use of the VPF football pitch by Hethersett Wanderers FC adult team and the occasional other hiring. *The return of the glass recycling facilities (together with a textile bank) on the Village Inn car park. *The successful audit of the PC A/Cs for the financial year 2006/2007 and the introduction of a three monthly self monitoring procedure. *The establishment, by Norfolk Constabulary, of a local Safer Neighbourhood Team and the appointment of Charlotte Mason as our PCSO. *The replacement of the Anglia Service 59 Wymondham to the N & N University Hospital by the Konectbus Service 9 with the partial loss of middle of the day services. *Improvement of communication via the introduction of a quarterly Parish Council newsletter and the anticipated updating of the PCs website. *Adoption of new Code of Conduct, by the Parish Council well in advance of the deadline of 1 October. *Precept bid, to SNC, for 2008-2009 of £14,000. *A very well deserved thanks to everyone who works in all the organisations within and supports the village. *Advance notification of his standing down – by the current Chairman, Stewart Cable – at the conclusion of year 2007/2008 by when he will have completed seven years in the office of Chairman. In conclusion Stewart was thanked for his report with Graham Tomlin saying it was a particularly comprehensive and impressive annual report. |
| COMMUNITY TRUST | The annual report was read by Richard Smith, Trustee and Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, after which he was thanked for his report by the Chairman of the Parish Council. |
| PAROCHIAL CHARITY | Jean Chamberlain read the annual report. No comments followed the reading of the report. |
| MELTONIANS | The report was read by Harold Kerslake. No comments were forthcoming. |
| ALL SAINTS CHURCH | The annual report was read by Churchwarden, Margaret Waller. The Chairman of the Parish Council concluded this report by saying that the fund raising events had been much appreciated and in particular formally thanked Graham Tomlin and Margaret Waller. |
| HOMEWATCH | The report, received from Ron Websdale, was read by the Chairman of the Parish Council without any following comments. |
| LITTLE MELTON PRE SCHOOL NURSERY | The Clerk of the Parish Council read this annual report. No comments were forthcoming. |
| FRIENDS OF LITTLE MELTON CHURCH | This report, submitted by the Chairman David Perrin, was read by the Chairman of the Parish Council without any comments. |
| MOTHERS UNION | The annual report of the Mothers Union, as submitted by Rosemary Manley, was read by the Clerk of the Parish Council. |
| BOOK CLUB | The activities of the recently created Book Club were reported by |

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| | <p>Anne McDonnell who said that monthly meetings were held in Noggs Room at White Lodge Nurseries. No comments followed the reading of this report.</p> |
| HISTORY GROUP | <p>Anne Carter read her report, which mentioned there were no formal meetings. No comments were made in respect of this report.</p> |
| TOADWATCH | <p>John Heaser read his annual report. Stewart Cable thanked John for his verbal excellent report and added that this had highlighted the level of motor traffic travelling up and down Green Lane and this was something that the Parish Council may need to look into.</p> |
| BOUNDARY COMMITTEE MEETING – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW | <p>John Heaser reported on his attendance at the meeting held on Thursday 13 March at County Hall at which two members of the Boundary Committee and representatives from parish and town councils were present. The meeting was part of the early consultation process – this consultation period ends on 11 April – and information gathered would be termed evidence based augmentation; that is to say if the Parish Council wanted to become involved it would need to provide evidence on how Little Melton operates including how it operates within the surrounding area. It was noted that the main area of consultation would be from July through to September 2008 and that under Stage Four the Boundary Committee will consider the responses received during Stage Three and will advise the Government on new local government structures by 31 December 2008. Stewart Cable said that Little Melton was not part of Norwich and made the case for the village not becoming a part of Norwich under any reorganisation. The matter of publicity was then raised and the Chairman said that – if possible, having regard to deadlines etc – the Parish Council would endeavour to keep parishioners informed although it had to be said that substantial publicity was being given in the local press and on television and radio. County Councillor Judith Virgo added that the County Council was producing regular newsletters/pamphlets and the contact information within these included a website address and District Councillor Christopher Kemp also emphasised that SNC was circulating information which contained a website address etc. Mr Kemp mentioned that one of the options the City Council had advanced was that the enlarged boundary to Norwich would be contiguous with the River Yare which would mean that Little Melton remained outside the city. However if Norwich expanded to, say, the Norwich Policy Area then Little Melton would likely be included as such an area would include Hethersett and Wymondham. Mr Kemp stressed that the Boundary Commission was interested in quality responses/comments with it envisaged that 2/3 options would form a short list in July and then one favourite (or possibly two) being put forward. SNC was, Mr Kemp also said, holding two consultation evenings, one for just nearby parishes, and a second for all 117 parishes within the District Council.</p> |

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| | <p>In terms of costs of planning and implementation it was still the case that any reorganisation could easily exceed in the region of £100m and it was not apparent how the costs were to be funded or over how many years.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked John Heaser for his attendance and helpful reporting of the Boundary Committee meeting on 13 March.</p> |
| CONCLUSION | <p>Finally the Chairman thanked everyone who had attended and submitted an annual report on behalf of “their” organisation. A good number of the reports were comprehensive and this, the Chairman said, reflected the high levels of interest in our village.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.25 pm.</p> <p>CHAIRMAN.....</p> <p>DATE.....</p> |