

Down to Business.....

Precept

This newsletter has been delayed so that it can include the details about next year's Precept. Most of the money goes on the maintenance of the Playing Field, Village Hall and other facilities owned by the Parish Council and there will be an increase of about 2% in order to cover increased costs. However it was only at the end of December that the Parish Council learnt the full details of the changes that central government has made to local government finances and we believe that next year (2014/15) we may have to reduce the precept by approximately 5% (£1000). The full details of the precept are available on the Parish Council website.

New PC Member

In December we were pleased to welcome Paul Canning as a member of the Parish Council. Paul replaces Janet Kitchener, who resigned earlier in 2012.

Community Plan

The last Parish Plan was created in 2006 and we need to work on a new one. An evening meeting to explain how to create a Community Plan (which can influence housing development) is being held in Bawburgh on Jan 10th. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to attend the meeting or to help create a Community Plan for our village. This will be discussed at the Parish Meeting on the 12th March 2013.

For the Diary....

- 15th Jan** Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- 26th Jan** Church Quiz 7.30pm
Village Hall
- 28th Jan** Toadwatch Meeting
8.00pm Village Inn
- 5th Feb** Last ordering day for Oil
Economy Group
- 12th Feb** Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- 12th Mar** Annual Parish Meeting
7.30pm at the School
- 30th Mar** Litter Pick/Playground
Maintenance 11am
Village Hall
- Apr 2013** *Next Newsletter*

Please note that the Parish Council Meetings are now held at the School instead of the Village Hall

South Norfolk Council have asked us to remind you that you can access many Council services from their website – there are links from the Parish Council website, under Organizations and Services.



Little Melton Parish Council newsletter

Issue no.23

January 2013

The Parish Council would like to wish you all;

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013

Housing Developments in Little Melton

A planning application to build 20 houses adjacent to Homecroft has been submitted. The Parish Council is grateful to those villagers who helped conduct a traffic survey on Mill Road in order to provide the evidence to challenge the predictions of traffic submitted by the developers. Because of lack of public transport and safe cycle routes there is a much greater use of cars by Little Melton villagers than elsewhere. This application is outside of the area suggested for development by South Norfolk Council and the Parish Council is determined that overall numbers of new houses should not exceed the 50 proposed by South Norfolk Council. Highways have stated that the cross roads of Mill Road/School Lane is only suitable for 20 additional houses. It is expected that four further applications will be submitted soon. The Parish Council has also commented on the likely increases in traffic that will occur as a result of the proposed enlargements of the Research Park.

There is now an improved Konnect 9 service and the Flexibus can be called on 0300 1231145 if you need a bus to or from Wymondham at hours not serviced by Konnect or if you are disabled. More info is on the Parish Council website under Organizations and Services.

**Don't forget, there's more information, updated regularly on
www.little-melton.org.uk**

Short mat bowls

The weekly games of short mat bowls on Thursdays at 7pm at the Little Melton Village Hall have been going for two months now, and have proved very enjoyable and surprisingly popular. For those who prefer day time activities, from 8th January we are experimenting with Tuesday afternoon bowls from 2.30 to 4.30, also at the Village Hall. As for Thursday, cost is £ 2.50 per session, with loan bowls available at no charge, and a break for refreshments mid session. The emphasis is still very much on social enjoyment rather than technical perfection.



Little Melton is fortunate to have a large population of toads and rare Great Crested newts. However many are lost when they cross the road during their spring migration. Volunteers, who help the animals cross safely, will be meeting at the Village Inn on Mon Jan 28th at 20:00. Come along for a chat if you would like to help in 2013. Full details are on toadwatch.org

Dog Fouling

The Parish Council has been advised that due to fouling of the pitch, access to the Rugby ground is no longer open to dog walkers. Also, Hastoe Housing is considering blocking access to the fields from Homecroft due to fouling and loose dogs. The Parish Council has requested that the access remains open and is hoping that dog walkers will act responsibly. This is not a public right of way and land owners could ban all access if problems persist.

Defibrillator and Speed Sign

The School has raised funds to buy a defibrillator for the village and the PC has agreed to meet the running costs over the next 5 years from developer funds. It is hoped that the defibrillator will be stored outside the Shop in a secure cabinet.

Developer funds were also used to pay the village's 50% contribution to the Speed Warning sign that was installed, in December, opposite the Village Inn. Hopefully you have not seen it flash!

The spring Litter Pick and Playground tidy will take place on Sat 30th March – meet at the Village Hall at 11am. More details on the website under Parish Council Duties.

Parish Council contacts:

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

Chair: John Heaser 01603 812472
chair@little-melton.org.uk

PARISH news

Little Melton Pre-School Nursery

The nursery has enjoyed another busy festive season, especially being part of the celebrations at the church, and watching the nativity play at the primary school. It is always lovely to feel part of our wider community in the village.

We have had fantastic support from the village again for our fundraising activities and would like to thank everyone who has come along to any of the events. Any money raised by these events is totally spent on improving the facilities and activities we offer, so we always really appreciate the support we get.

The nursery has really close links with the local school, which have developed even further more recently. We have enjoyed the shared activities we have had with them and look forward to many more. We are also very grateful to them for providing a venue for our evening meetings.

Just a reminder - Prospective parents and children are always welcome to pop in for a visit, there is no need to pre-book simply come along when we are open - term-time - each weekday morning 9.15 to 12.15.

Oil Economy Group

In November we managed to save nearly 6p per litre, a saving of £29.75 on 500 litres.

For those who are not members why not join and save your money. In this day and age it is costing us more to live. We always obtain the best price to save money.

Next ordering date Tuesday 5th February 2013. Please contact us if you wish to know more. John Sanders 810720, John Copson 810142.

MOTHERS UNION

We continue to meet on the first Monday of each month. This last year our speakers have been varied and very interesting. We ended the year with our Christmas Party and when we meet in the New Year we will be discussing new committee members. New members will be welcome, and if anyone would like to join please give Rosemary Manley, the Branch Leader, a ring on 01603 810660