



Parish Council Precept

The grant from government has decreased but this has been offset by a rise in the number of households paying tax. The PC has asked for a 1.5% increase (about 80p per year for a Band D house) in order to cover rising costs. The full details are under PC Duties at www.little-melton.org.uk.

Development

Outline permission has already been granted for 20 houses at Mill Rd and Gibbs Cl but the developers have applied for an additional 8 and 7 houses respectively. Unfortunately our area is still judged to have a shortage of housing supply so the development boundary is set aside. The PC has contested both additions on the grounds that nearby roads are inadequate. Also it is felt that the Mill Rd site would be overly cramped and lack on site parking provision. The PC Chair and 2 parishioners attended the December SNC Planning Meeting to request additional information about the figures used by the Gibbs Cl developer to justify only providing 4 affordable homes when 9 would normally be expected. The PC also requested more detail about the drainage proposals and the decision was deferred— probably to be considered again on Jan 6th, we will publish updates on the village Facebook page and website.

Litter Pick and Hedges

Due to the early date of Easter, the spring litter pick will be a week later than usual and we will meet at the shop at 09:30 on April 2nd, pickers and bags are provided.

The PC continues to receive complaints about pavements obstructed by hedges—please can owners of hedges check that their hedges don't overhang the path! Some hedges are best trimmed in spring, there is advice on the RHS website.

Toadwatch. If you have a toad in your garden then each spring it probably travels to the pond on School Lane to breed. Without help from volunteers few would get across the road alive! Come along to the Village Inn on Jan 18th for a chat, if you can help, even for just a couple of evenings. www.toadwatch.org

OUR MOBILE LIBRARY In Norfolk we are very lucky to have a wonderful Library and Information Service. Not only books but CDs and DVDs and a whole range of useful information. As a rural county, we not only need library buildings but also mobile vans. The service calls once a month on a Wednesday—see the back page and the PC website for dates and times.

- **IMPORTANT:** Our Mobile Library van may well be calling at Little Melton Primary School, from early next year. A whole range of resources for children and their families, too! The plan for an extra stop is being discussed.
 - The stock on each van is changed and refreshed regularly to meet your needs.
 - The van carries (e.g.) large-print books, DVDs, children's books, a wide range of novels and short stories, and topics such as cookery, DIY, local history, and health
 - You can go online to request books and other items, and pick them up from the Mobile. (When ordering, the Mobile Route No. for Little Melton is CEN 346.)
 - If your mobility is limited, the van is specially adapted to help you.
 - It's free for all ages to join the Library – do support our precious Service!
- Ray Rumsby

LITTLE MELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL (01603 811446)

The school is always happy to have volunteers to read/work with the children and/or anyone with DIY skills who might be able to help on an occasional basis.

Little Melton Pre-School Nursery

The nursery has enjoyed another busy festive season, especially being part of the church decoration event again this year, and watching the nativity play at the primary school. It is always lovely to feel part of our wider community in the village. For more information—www.littlemeltonpreschoolnursery.co.uk



Hethersett Hub Café for people with Dementia, their families, friends and carers—19 January from 10 am—12 noon at Hethersett Methodist Church Hall. Call Richelle-01603 810786 for more information. For transport call Richard 01603 814343.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY (Thursday 31st December)—Village Hall, 8pm to late

See the New Year in with music and dancing for all ages. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. £3 adults, £1 children. Tickets from John Symonds 810671, Stewart Cable 812280 or the shop. All profits to local charities.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the fund raising dance in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance in the Village Hall on 17 October and to all those who gave raffle prizes and donations to make this evening a huge success. We raised the fantastic sum of £1,517.17. Sincere thanks to everyone concerned. John Symonds (aka Mr Music) and family.

The Friends of Little Melton Church - Happy New Year to all our Members!

We were pleased to be able to donate £10,000 from our funds to enable the exploratory work on the Church Tower to start and would like to thank all who support us in any way by their subscriptions (due in January 2016!) or by coming to our events.

Our next planned event is a concert by **The Anglian Singers on April 23rd 2016**. This happens to be St George's Day and is two days after the Queen's 90th Birthday so be prepared for some patriotic numbers! More details in the next Village Newsletter or "Good News" magazines.

Annetta Evans (Hon.Sec.The Friends of Lt Melton Church)

The **OIL ECONOMY GROUP** places a bulk order every 3 months and gets the best price. The next ordering date is **2 February**—order forms are 25p and available from the shop.

All Saints Church, Little Melton

2016 has begun and the Churchwardens wish everyone a very Happy New Year. As always there is a chance to reflect on all that has happened in the Old Year, some joyous and some very sad but one thing that it has brought to mind is that so many people have helped at services, events, and in keeping the church open and running. It has given a real sense of Community and belonging so we would like to give a huge 'thank you' to all who have given time and energy in volunteering to help in so many different ways.

Quiz Evening—Saturday 30 January—7.15 for 7.30 pm start

Annual Church Quiz at Village Hall in aid of Church funds. Teams of up to 8 or make up a team on the night. Tickets can be bought at the door for £6.00 per person. This is a really popular and enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be provided but bring your own wine, beer and drinking glasses.

Tower Repairs

In 2014 it became apparent that urgent repair work was needed to the Tower as initial surveys showed extensive damage had occurred. Voids have appeared in the core of the upper walls and parapet copings and the sound openings require extensive work which is going to cost a lot of money. An application was made to the Listed Places of Worship Fund for help which was successful and we were awarded £43,400. In addition the Friends of Lt Melton Church pledged £10,000. This funding enabled us to proceed. Further surveys, including a bat survey were completed and detailed plans drawn up. In November we formally applied to the diocese for a faculty to do the necessary repairs and notices of our plans were displayed at the church for 28 days. All this has happened because of the generosity of the donors and the hard work of several people especially Fiona Doonan who did all the paperwork involved. Tenders are being received for the work so hopefully the work will start in the New Year.

Nick Ganley and Graham Tomlin—Church Wardens

Events

Dec 30th	Mobile Library
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve Party , Village Hall 8 pm to late
Jan 4th	Mothers' Union , Village Hall 1.30 pm
Jan 12th	Parish Council Meeting , at the School 7.30 pm
Jan 18th	Toadwatch , Village Inn 8 pm
Jan 27th	Mobile Library
Jan 28th	Meltonians , Village Hall 2.15 pm
Jan 30th	Church Quiz , Village Hall 7.15 pm
Feb 1st	Mothers' Union , Village Hall 1.30 pm
Feb 2nd	Oil Economy last order day, forms from the Shop
Feb 23rd	Parish Council Meeting , at School 7.30 pm
Feb 24th	Mobile Library
Feb 25th	Meltonians , Village Hall 2.15 pm
Mar 7th	Mothers' Union , Village Hall 1.30 pm
Mar 15th	Annual Parish Meeting at School, 7.30 pm
Mar 23rd	Mobile Library
Apr 2nd	Litter Pick , meet at the Shop at 9.30 am

Mobile Library times

09:35	Near to 93 School Lane
10:00	Shop
10:20	Braymeadow Lane
10:45	Crossways
11:30	Ringwood Close

The **Book Group** is still going strong, and meets about every 6 weeks. For further details please ring Joan Wheatley on 01603 812668.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Village Hall Helen Symonds (01603 810671) manages bookings for the Village Hall. Full details of regular events are on www.little-melton.org.uk (see Village Facilities) and there is an email address for bookings there.

- * **Short Mat Bowls** Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm and Thursdays 8-10pm. £2.50 per session, and all you need is a pair of very flat shoes to avoid wear and tear on the carpets. Ring Chris Starr on 01603 819006 for more details, or just turn up.
- * **Mothers' Union** 1st Monday of the month, 1.30pm. Please contact Branch Leader Allie McClean 01603 946656 or littlemeltonmothersunion@gmail.com
- * **Meltonians** - usually meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2.15pm for a very entertaining talk by a speaker followed by refreshments and a mardle. Ring John Turner 01603 811750 to learn more.
- * **Powerhoop** classes at the hall 6.30 pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings. 45 minutes workout with a weighted hoop (so easy to keep up). 15 minutes hooping and movement and many other muscle, strength and cardio routines with the hoop.
- * **Fitcamp Challenge** is 4 weeks of interval and circuit training, in a fun, supportive environment. The classes are designed to improve fitness and health through community motivation, laughter and nutritional education. All abilities welcome!

This newsletter is published by **Little Melton Parish Council**. Please contact the Clerk, Richard Sinclair, at clerk@little-melton.org.uk, 01603 811432, 16 Braymeadow Lane, NR9 3NQ if you have questions or items to be published in the April 2016 edition.

Other PC contacts and information are at www.little-melton.org.uk