

Meeting minutes of Great Melton Parish Council

Thursday 20 January 2022 at 7.30 pm, held at Great Melton Village Hall

Parish Councillors present: Rob Richardson (Chairman), Bruce Fleming (Vice-Chairman), Mary Barnard, Michelle Collins, Peter Markham, Liesl Richardson and Ian Sears. Also present: Luisa Cantera (Parish Clerk) and Margaret Dewsbury (District and County Councillor).

1 Apologies for absence

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021

The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave a summary of her report, which is available to read on the website. Several councillors expressed an interest in attending an online meeting about the Norwich Research Triangle. The meeting will be hosted by local MPs George Freeman and Richard Bacon on 25 January. A brief update will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

5 Open forum for public participation

No members of the public were present.

6 Updates from councillors

6.1 Update on traffic and speed control

Cllr Fleming reported that since his meeting with Highways in September he had been trying to make progress over email with the Highways Engineer. Although the Engineer was empathetic to the issues highlighted concerning speeding traffic through the village nothing had yet been taken forward. Councillors discussed whether a formal application for changing the speed limit should be pursued. A presentation of the key issues highlighting the need for a reduction in speed limit could be put together over the coming months. The Clerk was asked to talk to other councils that have been successful in reducing a 60 mph speed limit. Cllr Dewsbury explained that in 2023-24 Norfolk County Council will be looking for low-cost highway safety/improvement projects in the South Norfolk area and councils will be encouraged to submit bids over the coming year for the Road Safety Community Fund.

6.2 Update on Anglian Water works in Great Melton

Anglian Water has commenced laying pipes on the Norwich to Wymondham route which passes through the village. The work is due to be completed by March 2022.

7 Sheringham Shoal Extension and Dudgeon Extension Project statutory project consultation

A letter from Equinor was received by the Council on 4 January 2022 regarding two offshore wind farm projects. The project is in the pre-application phase of the Development Consent Order process and Equinor (the applicant) has asked interested parties to submit any comments between 6 February and 16 February 2022. The Parish Council has land that falls within the proposed development area. The Clerk was asked to contact the Council's appointed land agent to ask for his comments, in particular concerning the level of disruption/impact on the parish.

8 Planning applications

8.1 Update on application decisions taken by South Norfolk & Broadland District Council

There were no application decisions to report for Great Melton since the last meeting.

9 Finance

9.1 Update on the Council's finances up to mid-January

The Clerk shared a summary of the finances. The Council has spent 96% against budget (£3,524) and received £8,068 in the 2021-22 financial year to date.

9.2 Approval of payments

The following payment was approved by the Council:

L Cantera*	Salary and related expenses	£359.23
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*to be paid on 28 March 2022

9.3 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment received

Nothing further to report. The recently received CIL money could be used to help fund a highways project (discussed at item 6.1).

9.4 Appointment of an internal auditor for the 2021-22 financial year

The Clerk explained that although an internal auditor had already been appointed, he had since decided to retire and therefore withdraw from being the Council's internal auditor. The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Robin Goreham as the internal auditor at a fee of £30.

9.5 Approval of the budget and precept for 2022-23

The Clerk presented a second draft of the budget for discussion. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and set the precept at £920 for 2022-23. The precept will increase by £40 compared to 2021-22.

10 Discussion about the Queen's Jubilee celebrations for early June 2022

Councillors discussed whether they had heard news of any village group organising an event to celebrate the Queen's 70th year as monarch. Cllr Barnard will try to find out and update councillors. The Council would like to have some involvement or contribute in some way, such as the purchase of commemorative coins for children who live in the village.

11 Correspondence

Councillors were able to read the correspondence ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Markham mentioned the recent and unexpected road closure of Bawburgh Road from Watton Road which is likely to be closed for several months.

Cllr L Richardson said that she had heard that defibrillators need to be registered with The Circuit website. She will follow this up.

Cllr Collins said that her daughter had drafted a flyer to advertise the litter pick taking place on 12 and 13 March. Councillors thanked her and said it would be a good idea to remind people of the forthcoming village litter pick.

12 Agreement of meeting dates for the remainder of the year

The dates for 2022 were agreed as Thursday 5 May, Monday 5 September and Monday 28 November.

13 Items for the next meeting

No items were raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.