

Meeting minutes of Great Melton Parish Council

Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7.30 pm, held at Great Melton Cricket Pavilion

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).

1 Apologies for absence

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Margaret Dewsbury (District and County Councillor).

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 23 September 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.

5 Open forum for public participation

No members of the public were present.

6 Updates from councillors

6.1 Update on forthcoming meeting with Highways regarding speeding/traffic

Cllr Fleming, Cllr Markham and two horse riders attended a meeting in late September with the Deputy Highways Engineer to discuss speeding issues in the village. It was a positive meeting and several suggestions to address speeding were discussed. The highways' representative explained that the village does not have a speed limit because it is not sufficiently residential, although he accepted the concerns of the councillors and horse riders. Funding, for instance for any road schemes or signage, would not be possible until 2023-24 (using the Parish Partnership scheme where the Parish Council and County Council each pay 50% of the cost).

Cllr Fleming reported that he had just received a reply from the Highways Engineer. Horse rider signs and village gateway signs that drivers would see as they enter the village look to be possible; the re-configuration of the junction of Pockthorpe Road with Melton Road would need to be assigned to a central design team for possible consideration. These ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

Councillors will identify signage to be cleaned, branches cut back, etc, as the Clerk had received a response from Highways asking for specific signs to be reported.

6.2 Update on the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Project

The Parish Council's land agent reported that the Land Agents' Group is currently negotiating with Equinor regarding the commercial terms and finer points of detail (heads of terms) which will form the basis of the agreement with them, granting them the right to lay the cables across all their clients' land. Cllr L Richardson plans to attend an Equinor webinar in December and will report back at the next meeting.

7 Planning applications

7.1 Update on application decisions taken by South Norfolk District Council (SNDC)

SNDC approved the following recent applications: Circle Cottage, High Green (2021/2047) – Replacement of existing roofing materials on main roof, rear lean-to extension roof and rear outbuilding.

3 The Croft - Erection of garage and store building (revised design).

7.2 Comments sent to South Norfolk District Council since the last meeting

The Parish Council sent in no objection comments to the above applications. Cllr Collins was not involved in commenting on 3 The Croft as owner of the property.

8 Finance

8.1 Update on the Council's finances up to late November

The Clerk shared a summary of the finances. The Council has spent 84% against budget (£3,105) and received £8,057, which is more than expected due to the receipt of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment of £5,155.59.

8.2 Approval of payments

The following payments totalling £401.23 were approved by the Council:

The Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath and crosses	£42.00
L Cantera*	Salary and related expenses	£359.23

*to be paid on 29 December 2021

8.3 Community Infrastructure Levy payment received

The Clerk explained that in late October 2021 a CIL payment was paid to the Parish Council by the District Council. It is a charge which is levied by the District Council on new development in their area aimed at delivering the infrastructure needed to support development in their area. It must be used within 5 years of receipt on parish projects. CIL can be used for outdoor equipment such as village signs, noticeboards, benches, litter and dog bins; traffic control measures, road safety signs and speed messaging signs; building or refurbishment of community buildings and gardens; CCTV and defibrillators. Councillors discussed using CIL to tackle speeding, such as to purchase speed activated messaging signs (SAM) and making use of the Parish Partnership Scheme. The Clerk was asked to contact Westcotec to discuss the possibility of a SAM for the village and Cllr Fleming will contact the Highways Engineer.

8.4 1st draft of the budget for 2022-23

The Clerk presented the draft figures and asked councillors to contribute ideas. The Clerk will bring back the budget for approval at the January meeting allowing councillors time to consider any amendments.

8.5 **Formal disposal of the old noticeboard**

The wooden noticeboard was replaced in April 2021 with a new man-made timber noticeboard as it was in a poor state of repair. The Chairman fitted the new noticeboard and took the old one away. The Council **RESOLVED** to formally dispose of the noticeboard and allow the Chairman to either keep or dispose of it. The old noticeboard will be removed from the asset register.

9 **Expansion of Hethersett and impact on the doctors' surgery**

Cllr Sears contacted District Cllr Phil Hardy at South Norfolk Council to ask about any expansion plans for Hethersett surgery. The surgery was offered land previously to expand which was not pursued at the time but it is hoped that a new surgery will be built because it is too small for the growing number of patients. Cllr Sears will keep in touch with Cllr Hardy and report back any news on this topic.

10 **Correspondence**

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

11 **Village litter pick**

11.1 **Agree a date for the March litter pick**

The litter pick was set for the weekend of 12 and 13 March 2022.

11.2 **Thank you to the lady who cycles around the village litter picking**

The Council **RESOLVED** to send a card to the lady (who wishes to remain unnamed) to thank her for litter picking.

12 **Date of next meeting and items for the next meeting agenda**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 January.

Councillors agreed to keep an eye on the drainage issue at the dip in the road between Great Melton and Hethersett by taking photographs and reporting to the Clerk.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.34 pm.