

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF MELLOR HELD IN MELLOR METHODIST CHURCH ON THE 5th MARCH 2020 AT 7.00 PM

Present: Cllrs. N. Marsden, Q. Colborn, D. Crooks, J. Hymas, M. Johnson M. Venables, PC Duncan Park, 5 members of the public, some representing various organisations

### 1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Borough Councillors Brunskill & Walsh. These were received and approved.

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 had been circulated to Parish Council and were available on the Parish Council website for the public; having been confirmed by Parish Council, they had been signed as a correct record at April 2019 Parish Council meeting. No members of the public wished to have the Minutes read out.

### 3. Parish Council Vice Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman of Mellor Parish Council (currently there being no Chairman in place) reported on the previous year for the Parish Council. Following elections in May 2019 three new Councillors had joined Parish Council and there had been three recent resignations, namely Ian Moss, Danielle Murtagh & Bernard Murtagh. All were thanked for their contributions. There have been two new Councillors co-opted; Michael O'Grady & Quentin Colborn, with a further vacancy to be filled soon. Borough Councillors Noel Walsh & Stella Brunskill were re-elected to Ribble Valley Borough Council in addition to their membership of Mellor Parish Council and Stella was elected Mayor of Ribble Valley 2019/20, an honour which has kept her very busy.

Financial support for the security cameras installed at the Village Hall has assisted with reporting to the police any unwelcome activities. Flooding in various areas of the Parish has been addressed, with some delay but considerable improvement. The first Village Meeting was held in September when speeding, dog poo, litter picking and activities for the younger residents were topics to be addressed. One resident has recently supplied the figures of vehicle movement recorded over 25 hours on Mellor Lane, when an average of over 200 vehicles per hour were passing through Mellor. Cllr.Hymas lead the Parish Council through the successful bid for Woodland at The Rann being registered as an Asset of Community Value, meaning that the community could have a right to bid for a six month period if the land was put on the market over the coming 5 years. Litter picking volunteer groups are being set up and more people may wish to become involved. Dog mess continues to be a nuisance and a health hazard, the dog wardens have increased their presence, however it seems that evidence leading to a prosecution may be the best solution. The red phone box was renovated, thanks to Ian Moss & Cllr. Hymas and the War Memorial continues to be maintained; the Act of Remembrance was again well attended in commemoration of The Fallen. The improvements to the Play Area mean that greater use by the younger residents is enjoyed, however sadly this has also generated some unacceptable, antisocial behaviour and some damage to the new equipment. It may be possible to develop the upper, grassed area, perhaps into a community garden.

The Parish Council seeks to involve and inform all residents, but has a statutory role and therefore currently does not use social media. A strong working relationship is enjoyed with Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council; County Councillor Alan Schofield attends most Parish Council meetings and his input & tireless efforts are much valued. News items are on the new website

[www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk) and contact details can be found there, as well as current and past matters which may be of interest to residents. There is a period set aside at the start of each Parish Council meeting when all are welcome to come along and share their concerns and considerations. Details for the meetings are on the Parish notice boards (next to Mellor War Memorial and by the shops on Carter Fold), and on the website. Parish Council Vice Chairman closed by thanking his fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

### 4. Reports from village organisations - where possible these will be on the Parish Council website

**Mellor Guides & Brownies** - Guide Leader Helen gave a comprehensive report on all the activities over the last year, which included Cookouts, Camping, Community Interaction, Curriculum, Codebreaking and a Concert . Guides are aged between 10-14 and they meet on a Thursday night at the Village Hall 7:30-9:00. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Helen Adams 07762 917336 or [helendentith@btinternet.com](mailto:helendentith@btinternet.com) Or visit the main website: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

The full report from Mellor Guides will be on the Parish Council website

**Police** - PC Duncan Park introduced himself as he is new to the area, having previously covered Lammack & Beardwood areas of Blackburn. He is based at Longridge and the role means that Response is his highest priority, then Neighbourhood Policing; he therefore cannot be present in Mellor as often as may be wished, but will help when and where he can. He was receptive to various issues he was informed of, including antisocial behaviour by juveniles around the school and play area and hopes to meet the youngsters who may be involved to discuss issues with them.

**St. Mary's School & FOSMS** - Mrs Embley-Peers (Head Teacher) had sent her apologies and a report. The full report will be on the website. Mellor St Mary CE Primary School continues to be a vibrant, charming and good village school. They were visited by OFSTED on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 who reconfirmed the 'Good' judgement, which they have worked very hard to maintain. School is now waiting for its SIAMS – Church school inspection where again they are hoping to have a very positive result. Thanks to support from Friends of the School a safe dipping pond has been re-established. The external fences and gates have been replaced, adding to security, but they are not visitor proof. The school has taken part in many Church and Community projects in addition to supporting many charities.

Currently there is one place in Year 1 and categorising places for the September 2020 intake has started. The Breakfast & After School clubs continue to thrive, thanks to dedicated staff. School has taken part in a number of sporting events through the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Schools Partnership programme. Mrs Pickup their PE lead has planned a number of football, netball, multi sports and cross country competitions for all different year groups to participate in. There are a number of events coming up, including the Ribble Valley Gymnastic competition as well as Multi Skills and Tag Rugby competitions with further Cricket, Netball, Tennis and Athletic events planned for the Summer term. Friends of St Mary's have helped tremendously this year; redevelop the library and pond areas, purchase new books, provide classroom allowances for consumables as well as pay for visiting theatre shows and performances. Successful social and fundraising events include: a school disco, Bonfire Night, two Father Christmas runs, various Film nights, a number of Raffles as well as the first joint school and church Rose Queen Summer Gala. This year the school has been very grateful for the time and financial support provided by the CO-OP, which has allowed four rooms to be painted and made over. Thanks to the volunteer programme which they operate, school had a visit from 12 willing and able volunteers who kindly painted the children's and disabled toilet as well as the Breakfast club room. They have also provided over £5000 in donations to FOSMS, as part of the community action programme, which school has been part of since the new CO-OP was opened in Ramsgreave. A huge thank you to Mr Book (parent) for organising this on behalf of school. School Website – Please continue to look at the school website as they are adding new and interesting information, photos and news about school life weekly. [www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.mellor.lancs.sch.uk).

**Little Angels** - no report at the time of the meeting

**Mellor Community Association** - Chairman reported that the year started with the reopening of the main hall following the replacement of the heating system and new floor. They are grateful for the grant support received from Sport England, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Tesco Bags for Life, Co-op Community Fund and various other small grants and donations. The security lights and most cameras are in place, which has reduced antisocial behaviour around the site. One additional camera will be installed following the Chairman raising over £500 by running Blackburn 10k in November. The Trustees are now concentrating on rebuilding the finances over the next couple of years before deciding on the next project, and are also tackling maintenance issues. The hall continues to be well used with a full schedule of groups including badminton, bowls, singing, line dancing, keep fit classes, guides, brass band, pickle ball and knitting. This year has been challenging and the management committee has reduced to 6 people, following the recent resignation of Mr Kevin Dean. All thanks go to him for all the work he has put in during his time at the hall. Various fundraising events have been put on throughout the year. Their Saturday cafe continues to be well supported, and thanks go to Balderstone Brass Band for their performances at Proms Night, Christmas, and movie themes concerts. Looking to the future, the Trustees would be pleased to get new volunteers and committee members. The AGM is in July if anyone would like to be involved. Contact the Trustees through the Facebook page, by email at [mellorvh@gmail.com](mailto:mellorvh@gmail.com), or by telephone 07561 538314.

**St. Mary's Church** - no report given

**Mellor Juniors Football Club** - An excellent year for Mellor Junior Football Club who have 140 registered players from 6 to 18 years of age. The increase is due to parents stepping up as managers and coaches, a second team playing in the Under 10 age group and more girls in the Under 14 team. The eight teams play in three leagues in East Lancashire plus the Under 6s train at Mellor Village Hall on Thursday evenings. All the teams have played well this year and the commitment of the players, managers and parents in some very wet weather has been tremendous. It must be noted that the Under 18s have played as a team from being youngsters and the same manager has coached them throughout.

Social events have included an 80/90s disco in March and a Presentation Evening and Family Night will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at the Canberra Club. The annual Mellor Football Tournament will be held at Whinney Lane on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>/21st June and all are welcome to support. Thanks to our sponsors for their generous funding of the team kits. We must also thank Geoff McCann, our Groundsman, for his hard work with the pitches and we thank the trustees of the Whinney Lane site for their continued support of our village football club.

Contact details:

Club Chair	Pete Joyce	peterjoyce42@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Graeme Taylor	taylor.g15@sky.com
Secretary	Chris Taylor	christinetaylor22a@hotmail.com

**Mellor Luncheon Club** - no report

**Indoor Bowling Club** - no report

**Mellor Village Show** – Cllr. Crooks reported on what has become a well established village event - 2020 will be the 31st year and the Show will be held on Sunday 6th September. The Show was started by the then Mellor Garden Club and organised by a number of their members. The basic format remains similar each year, with minor adjustments. The schedule will be on Parish Council website - there are categories for all interests, from arts & crafts, photography, fruit & vegetables, flower arrangements and home produce. Entry forms will be available in local shops, library etc from early June.

If you would like to help with the 2020 show or have any queries please contact -

M. Nicholson on 01254 814121 or D. Crooks on 01254 812021. [www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow](http://www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow)

**Mellor Connections** - Cllr. Hymas reported that Mellor Connections was a beneficial spin-off from the "Singing for Fun" group that meets every Tuesday evening at Mellor Village Hall, Mellor Connections has now been running for 5 years with about 60 people dipping in and out over the year. It is based on the simple, but often neglected, idea that there is such a thing as community spirit - but only when and if individuals are prepared to make the effort to be involved - the group organise a number of different social events throughout the year ranging from wine tastings and themed dinners through to talks on local history. They also have an occasional walking group and to fortify them for the exercise a cake club with the simple premise of "make a cake, bring it along and share what you and others have made"

They do charge for the events they organise with all surplus revenue going to a mix of local, national and international charities.

To date they have donated £15,000 to charities including East Lancs Hospice, Headway Brain Injury Association, Air Ambulance, and River Blindness.

For a copy of their events calendar please email [johnlhymas@aol.com](mailto:johnlhymas@aol.com)

**Mellor Allotments** -2019 turned out to be challenging, starting with a very warm spring (remember February temperatures of 15 C.) followed by a reasonable summer (The 5 large waterbutts of 1000 litres did run out) Crops produced have been wide ranging, from the standard Potatoes, Peas and Beans to Corn on the Cob, Fennel and Celeriac. Since the beginning of December the weather has made it impossible to get onto the land to prepare it.

2019 saw 3 new plot holders taking up the challenge, so at present there are 13 plot holders. 3 have full plots and 10 have half plots. At the time of the meeting there is no one on the waiting list.

Expenditure and work will be needed on the perimeter fence this year, and members now hope for an improvement in the present weather conditions as sowing and planting time is getting closer.

Mrs Meryl Rishton Chairperson 01254 245 460

**Mellor Babies & Toddlers - no report**

**St. Mary's Sunday School & Vision - no report**

**Mellor Youth Orchestra** -Mellor Youth Orchestra was formed 18 months ago and since then it has performed at several village functions. At Christmas, The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church was greatly enriched by the talents of its members, following the accompaniment at the Remembrance Service at The War Memorial. Hymns were played and one senior member, Robert Lee, played a haunting rendition of The Last Post, which was very well received. Afterwards, marches and wartime songs were played. At a time when it seems that teenagers receive little good press, the Orchestra members cannot be commended highly enough for their reliability and self discipline in practice, not to mention giving up their time. It is an enormous privilege for Margaret Baldwin and Julie McGurty to work with such a talented and fun group of young people it is only fitting to name members as a tribute to the input each has given since it was founded (full details are on the Parish Council website, with their permission). Many young people in our parish, when opportunities come their way, will take advantage of them so it is often the case that some members have something else on when there is a performance. They are therefore, always on the look- out for new players of secondary school age and beyond to bolster their numbers. There is a lot of musical talent within the parish so please encourage any young person expressing an interest, to come along and try us out. As parishioners, please support events with live music within the area.

Contact either Julie McGurty [jmcgurty1@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgurty1@gmail.com) 07922131642 or Margaret Baldwin [margaretbaldw10@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretbaldw10@hotmail.com) 07732705408

**Balderstone and District WI** celebrated 100 years last year and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest WI in Lancashire. The members enjoyed a variety of special events to mark the occasion. 42 members meet monthly, when there is a speaker followed by tea, cake and lots of chat. There is a regular walking group, a craft and natter group and social outings including the new cinema group. The members have a wide range of interests and an opportunity to exhibit their talents at the 2 WI shows held each year. WI meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Mellor Brook Community Centre at 7.30. If you would like more information please contact Carolyne Hymas tel 01254 813282

**Feedback from residents & interested parties regarding any queries or issues of concern** - Members noted with pleasure the variety of opportunities for Mellor residents of all ages. However it was noted that none of these could continue without willing volunteers to organise the groups and events. Tremendous thanks was due to all of them. There were no queries or issues of concern expressed and therefore

**Vice Chairman of Mellor Parish Council** thanked all for their attendance and input, then closed the meeting at 7.38pm, inviting all who wished to stay for the Parish Council Meeting which followed.