

**THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER at**  
**Mellor St Mary C of E Primary School, Brundhurst Fold, Mellor**  
*commencing at 7.00 p.m.*  
 Local Government Act 1972  
**MELLOR PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

**Cllr Venables welcomed members of the public to the meeting.**

**Those present.**

**Cllrs Venables (Chair), Barnes (Vice-Chair), Mellor, Proctor, O’Grady, Dickinson-Gater, Fletcher, Colborn and Brunskill. 7 members of the public.**

**Cllr Walsh and Cllr Alan Schofield joined the meeting after it had started.**

- 1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.**  
Apologies accepted from Cllr Walsh (prior appointment).
- 2. To receive declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.**  
None
- 3. Adjourned for public session (max 5 minutes per person).**

A resident spoke at length about the TPO situation. Namely; the trees cause a safety issue to small children (thorns and holly bush) in an area designated as a children’s play area on the asset register .Mellor Parish Council have disrespected the Yerburgh family who gifted the piece of land for open recreational activities, primarily for children as a children’s play area .Intoduced a resident & friend of the Yerburgh family who believes Mellor Parish Council have received correspondence from Daniel Thwaites Plc expressing their displeasure at learning of these events.

The same resident also said on looking back at previous Minutes, web pages, financing and auditing, there are many discrepancies, untruths, deceptions, and cover ups how things have developed and believes the previous Parish Council and Mellor Parish Council use corrupt practices; are dishonest. fraudulent and are deceiving the residents of Mellor and on this basis wants the trees removing as they are a nuisance and annoyance. Resident wants a copy of Mellor Parish Council’s letter from the Solicitors and the correspondence from Daniel Thwaites Plc

Another resident asked if we can share the letter from Waddington & Co Solicitors

Finally, a third resident raised concerns about the safety issue with trees. Not all English like they said they would be.

Cllr Venables informed residents we are awaiting a response from RVBC which can take up to 6 months and advised there is no further action MPC can take, we know as much as they do. As soon as we hear from RVBC, Cllr Venables advised residents they will be informed.

Cllr Barnes advised we cannot share the e-mail from Daniel Thwaites Plc as is a GDPR issue and advised the e-mail was sent to us privately. Legally it cannot be shared.

A resident stated they do not agree with the fact we are awaiting a response from RVBC advising we are not answerable to RVBC and are here as a corporate body to represent the people of Mellor. Therefore, it is for MPC to deal with the TPO but the issue for the residents is about the trees. Resident want the trees removing and have made complaints.

Cllr Barnes advised at the EGM that MPC agreed to object to the TPO to remove the trees and would take

legal advice and act upon that. Currently we cannot legally remove the trees because of the TPO.

Cllr Colborn advised it was important to understand how the land came into ownership. In 1976 there was a sale process to Mellor Parish Council. It was not gifted to Mellor Parish Council and it is important this is understood.

Cllr Walsh joined the meeting.

**4. To resolve and confirm the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th October.**

Resolved

**5. Any matters arising not covered in the agenda for information only.**

None raised

**6. To consider any further actions regarding the recent TPO placed on Mellor Parish Council.**

As point 2 above, all documentation is currently with RVBC. We are currently awaiting a response.

Cllr O'Grady asked the chair (who advised this is not an agenda item) to allow Cllrs to vote in relation to a resident stating that in their opinion MPC both past and present engage in corrupt practices etc. rejects this completely

Proposer- Cllr O'Grady

Seconder- Cllr Brunskill

6 objected

3 abstained

Cllr Proctor wants to make more investigation into comments

All Cllrs having read the letter agreed to share the advice Mellor Parish Council received from Waddington & Co Solicitors.

Proposer Cllr Venables, Seconder All Cllrs

**Action** -Clerk to email a copy to those who made written complaints to MPC

Cllr Fletcher proposed a motion to stand behind the advice, relocate the trees & TPO remains.

Cllr O'Grady suggested a vote without taking the advice into consideration to allow the council to move forward.

Council voted favorably 8/2 in relocating the trees if & when legally able to do so.

**Action** -Clerk to email RVBC

**7. To discuss an update regarding the grassed area WP and playground.**

Not relevant- discussed under Finance Item G

**8. To consider any response regarding planning applications**

**A 3/2023/0424 Sunnyside Barker Lane Mellor**

No observations

**B 3/2023/0651 Watery Gate Farm Nickey Lane Mellor.**

Cllr Colborn advised Application withdrawn

**NEW APPLICATION not on weekly list in time for agenda preparation**

**C.3/2023/0319 62 St Marys Gardens, Mellor**

No observations

**9. Finance matters**

Balance £65,244.38 at 30/10/223

Scholarship Fund £,1218.15

Agreed by all

**Note members need to agree changes to signatories on the NS&I account**

Forms to be completed and returned with evidence of agreed signatories.

**A To consider and approve payments**

**Easyweb Direct Debit £36.60**

**CHQ1816-£79.99 – M O’Grady (365 Subscription)**

**CHQ1817-£360.00 - Playquest Ltd (Playground inspection)**

**CHQ1818-£164.00 – Altham Parish Council (Spid Mellor Lane)**

**CHQ1819-£445.50 – Clerk’s salary (25/09/23 – 25/10/23)**

**All payments authorised**

**B. Easy Web price increase January 2024.**

Noted

**C. Speed Indicator Signs Invoice.**

CHQ1818-£164.00 – Altham Parish Council (Spid Mellor Lane)

**D To receive an update from external auditor PJ Littlejohn.**

This matter is now closed

**E To agree a date for a Finance and Asset Sub Committee meeting.**

Date agreed Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Cllr Fletcher to join as a Committee Member

**F Update on internet banking. Inc policy and procedure.**

**Action** -Cllr Mellor to amend draft

**G. Playquest Quotes.**

**Following complaints from residents about plastic bench being too near road.**

**Quote received from Playquest at £500 to reposition only suitable place between swing and slide.**

Proposer Cllr Brunskill

Seconder Cllr Proctor

Cllr Barnes mentioned zig zag area again and difficult access with a pram.

Cllr Colborn suggested to get both these areas attended to at the same time to save on cost etc.

Resident mentioned about a company called Replay in Darwen who we can contact for a second quote.

**Action** – Cllr Venables to arrange further quotes

**10. Update regarding the recent SPid located on Mellor Lane and agree further locations within our Parish.**

Cllr Venables confirmed date of next meeting with Mr Pinder.

Cllr Barnes expressed concerns over the slow progress

**Action** – Cllr Barnes to follow up with current provider in addition to obtaining quotes for equipment elsewhere. LCC Cllr Alan Schofield would like to see Data Report which Cllr Barnes will send to him.

**11. Update on the Traffic and Speed Awareness in our Parish.**

No new meeting date confirmed, ongoing issues with Google Maps.

**Action** Cllr Dickson- Gater offered help with Google Maps.

**[www.lancsroadsafety.co.uk](http://www.lancsroadsafety.co.uk)**

- 12. To consider and approve the purchase of the telephone box located on Branch Road Mellor Brook, Mellor Parish.**  
Application to purchase sent. Sarah Wells and Cllr Brunskill advise change of use application needed.  
**Action** -Cllr Mellor to follow up.
- 13. To discuss the preparation needed at the Memorial Gardens for Remembrance Sunday.**  
**Action** - Cllr Barnes to put on Facebook - residents to help clean the area and/or any neighbouring properties able to provide water  
Cllr Proctor & Cllr Walsh to carryout / arrange clean up.  
Service on Sunday at 10.15am in church
- 14. To discuss the Bio diversity grant and possible planting of seeds etc in our Parish**  
**Action** - Deferred to December agenda Cllr Barnes to review.
- 15. To receive an update from Mellor Village Hall.**  
None received  
**Action** - Clerk to email Paul Wallace regarding car park grant application and minutes from the AGM.
- 16. To receive reports (if any).**
- A RVBC report Cllr Brunskill Cllr Walsh;**  
None
- B RVBC Liaison Cllr Brunskill Cllr Walsh**  
None
- C Bae Systems Cllr Brunskill –BAE Meeting cancelled no new date received.**
- 17. To discuss RVBC bidding information re disposal of Woodland at The Rann, Off Saccary Lane, Mellor.**  
No further action
- 18. To discuss RVBC Capital Grant Application (Mellor Village Hall Car Park).**  
**3 quotes are awaited**  
**Action** - Clerk to e-mail Paul Wallace for update & Cllr Barne to assist with the application.
- 19. To discuss the Broadband in Mellor**
- Report received considered mis-leading as the findings do not reflect the experience of many residents.  
**Action** – Cllr Brunskill will raise the matter at Bae Systems meeting for support for fibre optic cable,  
At this point in the meeting Cllr Brunskill objected to a resident recording, the resident referred MPC to its own recording policy in this matter.
- 20. To discuss complaint by residents to resolve a motion to make an application for tree works.**  
**(a) Application for tree works consent from RVBC**  
**(b) Obtain quotes for re-locating the trees.**
- Action-** Clerk to chase legal dept for a response within 14 days limit prior to submitting application.  
Cllr Proctor to assist with application and obtain quotes.

**9PM EXTENSION OF TIME GRANTED TO CARRY ON**

**21. Matters brought forward by members not covered in the agenda.**

Telegraph pole on Mellor Brow hazard as no reflector.

**Action** –Clerk to contact BT and refer matter by e-mail to LCC Cllr Alan Schofield

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

**Note the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

**Michelle Root( Parish Clerk)**

DRAFT