

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MELLOR PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT MELLOR METHODIST CHURCH ON THE 4th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Cllrs. B. Murtagh (**BM**- Chairman), Mrs. S. Brunskill (**SB**), Noel Walsh (**NW**), Ian Moss (**IM**), Mrs. P. Young (**PY**), Mrs. M. Johnson(**MJ**), Mr. N. Marsden (**NM**), clerk (T. Taylor **TT**)

Also in attendance: Canon CA Dorrán, LCC Cllr. Alan Schofield, (**AS**), 4 residents

Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, then Canon Dorrán lead all in prayers. He then wished members well, but left the meeting following the Public Session due to other commitments.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Mrs. Dot. Crooks, Mrs. Margaret Young, Alan Upton

Public Session

In response to a resident's query, BM informed that Darwen Coaches are to start D 15 bus service from 22nd February, but no details available as yet.

A resident requested that MPC write to Royal Mail to ask for re-instatement of postbox on Church Lane, copy of letter he had received was supplied.

Action – Clerk to write, proposed NW, seconded SB, all in favour

Mr. Hymas as MCA Chairman updated Council re MCA, including installation of defibrillator completed which may have an impact on Public Liability Insurance and MCA have expressed concern regarding the future of Mellor Library. **AS informed** that 40 libraries are scheduled for closure (no details confirmed until Budget Meeting 11.02.16) but "Neighbourhood Centres" are being considered, which could include a library as well as other facilities. In response to a resident's query re. traffic calming measures, AS explained that 3 options which have financial implications are being considered.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2015 and the Special Meeting held on 14th January 2016 (following amendment as PY had sent apologies but was not present at Special Meeting) were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from Those Minutes

4.1 A reply had been received from Rev. Sue Williams explaining that Remembrance Sunday Eucharist Service could not be moved to another time due to other services in the parishes within the benefice, suggested that the time for the Silence be at a different set time. Following discussion it was agreed to give further consideration to this at a later meeting.

4.2 Clerk has reported the footpath from Whitecroft Lane and requested inspection of all footpaths. Verbal response is that inspection will have reasonably high priority.

Action: Clerk to monitor – Agenda item for future meeting, with map, discussion of all footpaths

5. Planning

5.1 Council were informed of the need for consultation of all Planning Applications in Mellor **by all councillors** whenever possible, in order to avoid any perception of bias.

5.2 Planning applications received since December meeting

3/2016/0090 – 10 Bosburn Drive – conversion of existing double garage to living space

3/2016/0988 – Spread Eagle – single storey extension to form prep room

3/2015/0982 - Extension at Deershaw – APPROVED

3/2015/0898 – Loft Conversion, Corner Way – REFUSED

3/2015/0900 – Extension at Higher Channels, Further Lane – no update

3/2015/0957 - Conservatory at Clementina, Barker Lane – APPROVED

3/2016/0074 – 37 Whitecroft Lane – non material amendments to 3/2015/0380

3/2016/0096 - Middle Warble Hey Farm, certificate of lawfulness only

3/2015/0843 Sacchary House APPROVED

3/2015/0854 64 Branch Road APPROVED

3/2015/0779 34 Bosburn Drive APPROVED

3/2015/0823 Hillcrest, Barker Lane REFUSED

6. MCA request for TENS licences

6.1 Councillors considered responses to questionnaire circulated – 35 replies from 114 sent, 26 in favour, 9 against. Cllr Crooks was thanked for all her work distributing. Following discussion to include all negative comments, it was

RESOLVED (proposed NM, seconded NW, all agreed) that a **Working Party (NM, DC, AU, BM & Clerk)** meet to compose draft terms of agreement for MPC / MCA, for ratification at March MPC meeting before putting this to MCA for their consideration.

7. **Bus Services**

7.1 Flyers & petitions had been circulated, following Special Meeting, explaining how residents could comment on changes prior to LCC Budget meeting. BM agreed to collect petitions & liaise with Clerk

RESOLVED (proposed NM, seconded IM, all agreed) Clerk to write to LCC Cllr. Fillis to object to cuts in service, prior to budget meeting, include hard copy of all petitions, similar to letter sent by RV Liaison Committee.

8. **Options for future of Mellor Library**

8.1 Options were considered but until details of closure are known, this item was deferred.

9. **Consider options for Parish Grant Scheme**

9.1 **Noticeboard - AGREED** (NM proposed, SB seconded, all agreed) that a large replacement noticeboard be erected by Evabel Ltd by War Memorial, (£1015 per quote) and Clerk to obtain a price to move the existing board to a site by Playground / Library on 2 new dug in posts **TT** to investigate via LCC ownership of land adjacent to shops, near postbox , and to enquire about deeds for land near playground

9.3 **Benches** were considered, to replace Mellor Brow & Mire Ash with recycled plastic style, **TT** to investigate how these should be fixed and fully price for more than 1 bench, possibly more in future.

NOTE IN NEWSLETTER – Note to residents / local businesses that, following LALC guidance there is no conflict of interest if benches are donated / sponsored, as any other consideration e.g. Planning Application must be considered in isolation.

9.4 **TT** informed Council that **street signage** is RVBC responsibility, gave each councillor copy of street map, she asked all to look around for any lack of signage, which RVBC will then inspect

9.5 **Play Area Equipment** - Councillors wish to consider this further, to include a “tower type” of climbing frame, **TT** to obtain quotes.

10 **LALC Newsletter**

10.1 This had been circulated, including Training for Play Area & Risk Assessment Insurance (FOC), also Chairmanship Workshop. Feedback from New Councillors Course in January was ongoing.

11. **New Audit Regime**

11.1 **TT** explained that an Internal Auditor is still necessary, however Council can opt out of & appoint their own External Auditor, seemingly no advantage to this for Mellor. All agreed not to change.

12. **Grass Cutting Contract** All agreed this can be approved at an increased cost of 1.5%.

TT to contact RVBC to assume that Abbott Brow is part of contract, asking for confirmation / clarification.

13. **Accounts**

13.1	Balances –	Business Account to end January	£6083.78
		Business Deposit Account	£11,059.81
		Scholarship Fund	£1,178.41

13.2 **The following payments were all approved:**

B'burn College (Newsletter 109)	£210.00	1368
RVBC Cleaning War Memorial	£281.49	1369
Teresa Taylor Dec salary	£300.00	1370
HMRC – PAYE to 05.01.16	£225.00	1371
RVBC – Grounds maintain. Pay 2	£1653.40	1372
EON – War Memorial lights	£39.65	1373
Teresa Taylor Jan salary	£300.00	1374

13.3 **TT** informed Councillors that Lloyds Bank have paid £100.00 as goodwill gesture following all issues with mandate changes.

13.4 **NS & I Account (Scholarship Fund)** **TT** asked for information re. Signatories for this account, as she had received statement via C. McDonald. All unsure, it was therefore **RESOLVED (all agreed)** **TT** to contact C. McDonald, then write to NS & I, asking PY to sign letter. Signed minutes may be needed, however as account is not in use, this is not urgent.

14. Correspondence

- 14.1 **Nickey Lane temporary closure notice** had been circulated & posted on Noticeboard.
- 14.2 **LALC ballot for invitation to Buckingham Place Garden Party** – PY's name has been put forward
- 14.3 **St. Mary's Orchestra** – Mrs. Julie McGurty wants volunteers for a special performance.
- 14.4 **Pensions Regulator auto enrolment** TT will investigate, non urgent
- 14.5 **Meeting re BAe – Thursday 25 February, Mellor Brook Community Centre, 5pm viewing, meeting 6pm**
- 14.6 **CPRE Free Planning Training**, County Hall Tuesday 15th March 10.30am – 2.45pm
- 14.7 **Lancashire Best Kept Village** – after discussion it was **RESOLVED (SB proposed, seconded MJ) that Mellor enter as new village**, no entries this year for Certificate of Merit categories
PY apologised, but needed to leave, as she had informed Chair at the start of the meeting.

15. Matters from Councillors

- 15.1 Concern was expressed that there has been little progress regarding speed control measures, however LCC finances have been earmarked that some works will be done in new financial year
- 15.2 **IM** reported that 1 of the drains on Mellor Lane had been cleared, however 4 out of 6 drains are still blocked, recent flooding had caused urgent sandbagging to avoid flooding of MCA. Drains opposite 35 Mellor Lane and opposite top of St. Mary's Gardens are blocked. It was pointed out that these can be reported by any member of the public, to LCC Highways, but each problem should be reported as an individual event i.e. 1 report for each blocked drain
- 15.3 **Finance Workshop** – AU, BM, TT reminded to attend, LALC 6.45pm Tuesday 23rd February

16. Newsletter / Website

- 16.1 **TT** has met with Fiona Murtagh for handover of Website, but not as yet had a chance to update. As instructed, she presented Fiona with a bunch of flowers as a thank you for all the work she has done. Next newsletter will be due in early May.

17. RVBC Report

- 17.1 It was noted that RVBC had done a sterling job during the floods over the Christmas period
- 17.2 RVBC Liaison meeting had received an interesting presentation by War Memorials Trust on grants.
- 17.3 RVBC Liaison Committee has sent letter of objection to LCC Cllr. Fillis re cessation of bus services.

18. Tree Warden

- 18.1 No matters raised

19. War Memorial

- 19.1 It was noted that the spring bulbs are now coming up, some in flower. Councillors felt that currently there were no projects which would need War Memorial Grant, however it may be prudent to get another quote for future cleaning of the War Memorial. Leaves need to be stored better, following June meeting **BM & IM to further discuss composting bins from pallets**

20. MCA Report

- 20.1 TT informed Councillors that MCA had not met in January, except for EGM and no minutes had been received from this

21. Play Area

- 21.1 Since MY had given apologies, the log book was not signed and there were no urgent matters for discussion.

The date of the next meeting was agreed for **Thursday 3rd March 2016, at the Methodist Church at 7pm.**

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.38 pm, thanking all for their participation, with apologies that the meeting had such a long agenda, since there had been no meeting since December.