# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF MELLOR HELD IN ST. MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 3rd MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM

**Present**: Cllrs. N. Marsden, S. Brunskill, Q. Colborn, D. Crooks, J. Hymas, M. Johnson, A. Mellor, M. O’Grady, M. Venables,R. Walsh. Also in attendance: 11 members of the public, some representing various organisations and Parish Clerk

**Vice Chairman, Cllr. Hymas asked all to join in silently reflection on the tragedy currently occurring in Ukraine**

# **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from PCSO Aimee Jarrett & Headteacher Ms. Embley-Peers. These were received and approved.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 05 March 2020 had been circulated to Parish Council and were available on the Parish Council website for the public; they had not been approved by Parish Council, due to Covid pandemic but they were approved & signed as a correct record.

1. **Parish Council Chairman’s Report**

Chairman of Mellor Parish Council reported on the previous two years for the Parish Council. He explained that much of the work of the Parish Council had been conducted under Emergency Powers. During that time the Clerk has worked closely with both himself and the Vice Chairman to ensure that the Council’s statutory duties were completed.

Councillors received regular email updates, the normal email distribution, including planning and the Clerk ensured that all councillors were consulted and their vote registered before any important decisions had been made. Remote monthly meetings had been considered, but due to Mellor’s inherent problems with the reliability of the local broadband supply this was discounted. Full protocols would have had to be agreed by all Cllrs before any remote meetings could take place which was not feasible without being able to meet physically!

The Parish Council is back to its normal way of working and is catching up. All need to concentrate on the future and how to enhance the lives of the residents of the parish.

Council is looking into the possibility of providing additional defibrillators at 2 locations in the village conscious that at the moment there are only 2 at the Millstone and the Village Hall. Following consultation with local residents and discussions within the Council, draft costings to re-design the grassed area above the Children’s Playground have been sought and hope to progress this during the year. It is hoped that tree planting in recognition of the Queens’ Jubilee will start the project off.  
Council is liaising with Mellor Community Association(MCA)regarding the Jubilee celebrations and will be discussing, tonight, what support both financial and practical, can be offered.

Council Chairman has spoken regularly to Chairman of MCA regarding the damage to the hall floor following flooding and I know he is working hard to find a solution. It is understood the additional drainage facilitated by the Parish Council, financed by Ribble Valley Borough Council is working well.

Cllr Hymas continues to look at the proposed The Mellor 2020 Footpath Project. It is hoped that this can now be progressed in line with the decision taken some time ago.

The iconic red telephone kiosk on Mellor Lane, now owned by the Parish Council is being considered as a site for a defibrillator. We now need to decide on its future use.

Council continues to press LCC Highways to look at the issues regarding speeding in and around Mellor. Chairman is in contact with Ramsgreave Parish Council, who have the same issue. Hopefully we can combine forces to ramp up the pressure on LCC to act. Chairman has also had meetings with Nigel Evans MP regarding a range of local issues including speeding.

Council acquired “litter picking” equipment, but unfortunately due to Covid Rules this was put this on the back burner. Perhaps a group of volunteers can make use of the equipment to keep our streets clean. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact the Clerk.

Dog fouling remains an issue yet strangely no-one sees anything…it must be early morning or late-night dog walkers who are responsible.

Parish Council continues to respond to planning applications as they come in and are acutely aware of the concerns of residents regarding major developments at various locations in the area. That said, we are only a consultee and able to express opinions both for and against applications provide they are 'material' and relevant to planning, for example: Noise, Nuisance, Disturbance Overshadowing, Out of Character, Road Safety, against Local Planning guidelines contained in the Ribble Valley Core Strategy which runs to 182 pages and the National Planning Policy Framework which runs to 75 pages. Council is also aware that the Core Strategy needs updating and have recommended to RVBC that Parish Councils receive updated guidance on any new regulations as they come into force.

Finally, the Chairman wished to thank his fellow Cllrs for their support, constructive comments and understanding over the last 2 years. He particularly thanked Cllr Hymas who had given sage advice and enormous help to both himself as Chairman and to the Clerk.

A full report will be published on the Parish Council’s website <https://www.mellorparishcouncil.org.uk/latest-news.php> and in the next Parish Newsletter.

1. **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 had. of necessity needed imaginative planning & action in order to follow Covid lastest guidance. 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)

**Police** Unfortunately PCSO Aimee Jarrett was off duty & no Report was received. All were informed that PCSO Jarrett would hold a Drop In Session at Mellor Village Hall on 14 March 2022 from 10.30am.

**St. Mary’s School & FOSMS –** Mrs Embley-Peers(Head Teacher)had sent her apologies and a report. The full report will be on the Parish Council website

Mellor St Mary CE Primary School continues to be a vibrant, charming and good village school which was visited by OFSTED on the 13th March 2019 who reconfirmed their ‘Good’ judgement, and they now have a judgement of Excellent from SIAMS – the Church of England School Inspection Feb 2020. Her Report included: **Admissions** – School is currently oversubscribed.

**Breakfast and After School** – continue to thrive in school thanks to the dedicated staff who run these important wrap around care services, Mrs Holroyd for Breakfast Club and Mrs Dewhurst who manages After School Club on behalf of school.

**Sporting Events** – Already this year, school has taken part in a number of sporting events through the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Schools Partnership programme

**School, Church and Community Events** – School continues to build on our relationship with St Mary Church and hasalready taken part in a number of special occasion worships, including Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Nativity and they are planning our Easter Service with Rev Karen and the United Benefice on Friday 1st April.

**FOSMS** – Friends Of Mellor St Mary continues to go from strength to strength despite having to cancel many events due to Covid.

Please continue to look at the school website as they are constantly 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 –** No report was given at the meeting. The Community Association continue to manage events at Mellor Village Hall & to host events and take bookings for other organisations

**St. Mary’s Church –** no report given

**Mellor Juniors Football Club**

Mellor Junior FC had 90 players registered at the start of the season and now has 105 players aged from 6 to 16 years. The managers run 8 teams in three leagues with the introduction of a new Under 7 Mixed team and a new Under 10 Girls team this year. The Under 6 youngsters train at Mellor Village Hall on Thursday evenings. It is thought that we need around 100 players to run the club on a sound financial and social basis. The teams play weekly from September to May against teams from around East Lancashire. The subs remain at £22 per month

Chair Graeme Taylor taylor.g15@sky.com

Secretary Liz Glass secretarymellorjfc@hotmail.com

**Mellor Luncheon Club** – no report

**Indoor Bowling Club** – no report

**Mellor Village Show –** Cllr. Crooks reported on this popular annual event held in Mellor Village Hall which is an ideal opportunity for villagers (and family and friends) to come together and celebrate local produce, arts and crafts. Plans are well under way for the 2022 show which will take place on Sunday 4th September. There will be classes for flower arranging, photography, home produce, garden produce, art and crafts and specific classes for childrens crafts etc. If you haven't previously visited the Show do go and have a look. there are categories to reflect many interests.

Show schedules and entry forms will be available from Mellor Library and local shops, from early summer. Entries are welcomed from residents of Mellor and District, their families and friends and those who belong to the various organisations in and around Mellor :also from children who attend the three local schools.

If you would like to help with the 2022 show or have any queries please contact -

M Nicholson on 814121 or D Crooks on 812021or [www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow](http://www.facebook.com/mellorvillageshow) Mellor Parish Council was thanked for their support including the show schedule in its publicity.

**Mellor Connections –** Cllr. Hymas reported that Mellor Connections was not meeting and had not done so for the last two years, due to Covid. No events were currently planned.

**Mellor Allotments** –No report had been received

**Mellor Babies & Toddlers –** no report

**St. Mary’s Sunday School & Vision** – no report

**Mellor Youth Orchestra** No report had been received

**Balderstone and District WI**  Balderstone and District WI President reported on this local group, which has existed for 103 years and is the 2nd oldest WI in Lancashire. The last 2 years have been a challenge as it has been to many groups but they have worked hard at supporting each other through this difficult time. They quickly decided to try zoom and it was used successfully for both committee and main meetings, and although some members did not use it, many found great benefit. It was used for the craft group and they even tried a book club. Members also had the opportunity to join County and National events and workshops. W.I.resumed meetings at the Community Centre last August (following Government guidelines) and the members have been keen to get back to normal. They have been holding full meetings with speakers since September. The 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. The members have a wide range of interests and their opportunity to exhibit their talents at the 2 WI shows held each year. W.I.meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Mellor Brook Community Centre at 7.30. If you would like more information please contact WI President, Carolyne Hymas tel 01254 813282

**Balderstone Brass Band :** The past 2 years have been on hold due to the pandemic and this could have really killed the band off as just a month before the 1st lock down we held a meeting to discuss either keeping the band going or folding it as we were down to just 6 players. We came back to rehearsals in August 2021 with renewed vigour, some new faces and a learners group.

We now have 17 regularly turning up at rehearsals on Monday nights for the main band from 7.30 till 9.30, and there are 10 in the learners group including 3 adults, 2 of whom are parents of some of the children. The Band offers free lessons and instrument for anybody who wishes to go along and learn from 6.30 till 7.15. They have a brand new committee who are working very hard to get things moving along and Nicola the new secretary has done an amazing job getting a number of bookings for the band over the coming months through to summer, including playing 2 days at the Royal Lancashire Show at the end of July.

The band has forged very close links with Chorley Silver band and work as a team to have as many players available for both bands. The earliest records found to date of Balderstone band are back in 1876, so in 4 years time they will be 150 years old, quite an achievement and the Band will be organising some special events to celebrate this fact.

The Band has also made a change to the music that they are playing, moving away from the traditional overtures and Gilbert and Sullivan type selections to more foot tapping sing along tunes ranging from Glenn Miller type big band swing style to tunes by Adele and other more recently popular, covering from 1950's through the years up to practically today's music.

The most significant plan in the pipeline is a change of name and rebranding from Balderstone Brass Band to Mellor and District Brass Band, bringing more into the belonging of the community but still keeping the original links, as they have not rehearsed in Balderstone for what must be over more than half the band’s life.

All we are asking is if any organisation is planning an event then please don't forget Balderstone Brass Band if a brass band is required and we can support the community in events around the locality. <balderstonebrassband@gmail.com>

**Feedback from residents & interested parties regarding any queries or issues of concern**

**All** 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

**Chairman of Mellor Parish Council** thanked all for their attendance and input, then closed the meeting at 7.34pm, inviting all who wished to stay for the Parish Council Meeting which followed.