

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MELLOR PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT MELLOR METHODIST CHURCH ON THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST 2017 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Cllr. Bernard Murtagh, (Chairman), Cllrs. Mesdames. Stella Brunskill, Dot Crooks Margaret Johnson, Pat Young Messrs. Ian Moss, Nick Marsden, Michael O'Grady, Alan Upton, Noel Walsh
Also in attendance: County Councillor Alan Schofield, Rev. Charles Jefferson, the Parish Clerk & 2 residents

Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

Rev. Jefferson (St. Mary's Church, Mellor) opened the meeting with prayers.

1. To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence

1.1 There were no apologies

2. Public Session

2.1 A Balderstone resident wished to emphasise the concerns he had expressed by email, regarding lack of communication between 3 Parish Councils and 2 Borough Councils which cover the Mellor Brook area. The email had been circulated. With members agreement, Chairman then closed Public Session and brought forward Item 7 of the agenda. Members discussed the concerns, however they also noted that there are limitations on actual powers for individual councils. The geographical boundaries of the parishes cause restrictions, however it was **RESOLVED** - Clerk to contact Balderstone & Samlesbury & Cuedale Parish Councils to seek an urgent liaison meeting, to perhaps include the relevant Borough and County Councillors. Councillor Walsh offered to represent Mellor at any such meeting.

3 To resolve to confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th July 2017 (circulated)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017 be approved and signed as a true record.

4 Any Matters arising from the minutes not covered on this Agenda FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were no matters arising

5. To receive declarations of pecuniary or personal interest

There were no Declarations

6. To consider any response to be made to Planning Applications

- **3/2017/0624 - Mellor Play Area** Members were informed that the statutory 21 day period had now completed, with no objections. Planning Officers will decide the outcome by Delegated Powers, and a decision should be known by end of August.

7. To consider and approve any actions for liaison with neighbouring parishes (following the email circulated from resident of Mellor Brook / Balderstone area)

This item had been dealt with earlier, following the Public Session.

8. To further consider any action re. drainage & blocked culvert Glendale Drive area following meeting with Lancashire County Council 02.03.17 and subsequent correspondence from LCC Cllr. Schofield

8.1 Clerk read the email she had received from LCC Highways, again confirming that riparian land owner responsibility needs to be considered. The ditch had been partly dug out, but further investigation work was not defined. Members reported that the open access chamber at the lower part of Village Hall field now had much lower water levels. Matters were to be monitored.

9. To consider any further actions regarding Mellor Library; including condition of the building, tree stump causing a hazard and whether any additional opening hours be requested.

9.1 Cllr. Schofield has been looking into this with LCC officers. Members were supportive of additional opening hours and possible consideration could be given to a "Friends of Mellor Library" volunteer group assisting with this. Cllr. Schofield has also raised the issue of the hazardous tree stump.

10. To consider and approve further matters for Play Area drainage & improvements, any actions and a timeframe for this; to approve the Annual and regular Play Area Inspections in order to comply with insurance cover To consider and approve funding for any shortfall for the contract.

10.1 Clerk updated members, following Play Area Working Party meeting. Costs were circulated, showing a shortfall of £6984.50 in funding, even if the Submarine was removed from the scheme. However, £4000 had been allowed in the budget for village improvements, and the 2017.18 precept had been raised specifically to cover a possible shortfall. Members were asked to note that the costs circulated did not include the further

necessary repairs to the existing wetpour, quoted at the lower cost of £1575.00 + VAT whilst contractors are on site. It was then

RESOLVED - Clerk to complete, sign and return all paperwork to Lancs. Environmental Fund

Following agreement by the Fund, Clerk to contact all who quoted, giving approval or refusal, then to discuss drainage plan with Dixons and plan timetable for the overall project.

Clerk to notify Playquest of approval for wetpour repairs, as a separate item, whilst contractors on site

Clerk to arrange Annual Play Area Inspection in the usual manner.

11. To consider and approve any further action regarding pointing of flags at War Memorial and update on other works

11.1 Two further quotes for repointing had been received. Members were informed that planting will be carried out as soon as possible ; the contractors have staff awaiting surgery. It was then

RESOLVED Clerk to ask Trevor Howard to carry out repointing, after power washing, hopefully to do this in September / October in order that all is done prior to Remembrance Day.

12. To consider the report and any actions following Parish Clerk's Annual Appraisal

12.1 Cllr. O'Grady reported that the Annual Appraisal had been carried out. He updated members on discussions held, that the Clerk was exceeding her job description. Greater communication between Officers and Councillors themselves, and with Clerk would be appreciated and may avoid confusion which had arisen. Consideration was given to the number of emails sent, and to increased brevity in Minutes. Clerk had highlighted the length of meetings & her wish to complete CiLCA training. Cllrs. were asked if they wished to receive LALC Training - Cllr. O'Grady wished to do so. Hard copy of agreed discussions to be held in Personnel File by Clerk

13. To consider and approve any representation(1 voting delegate) at LALC AGM Saturday 18th November 10am to 3pm, County Hall whether any resolutions to be submitted and any training courses (details previously circulated) to be booked.

Members had no resolutions to put forward & no representation

14. Accounts

a. Balances

Current Account :	£17,241.46
Instant Access Account	£11,067.60
Scholarship Account	£1,178.41

b. To approve : Disbursements

Miss Ambler (Scholarship Fund	£60.00	Cheque 1461
Lancs. Env. Fund re Play Area	£3,300.00	Cheque 1462
A. Pratt 11 bench plaques	£198.00	Cheque 1463
Parish Clerk's salary July	£374.40	Cheque 1464

RESOLVED Accounts and disbursement were approved

15. To receive reports from meetings

a. RVBC Report by Borough - Councillors Brunskill & Walsh

Cllr. Brunskill reported that she is now part of The Children's Partnership Scrutiny Board and regrets that the only funding is for children with problems, thereby creating tomorrow's issues.

Members were informed that a new Guide Leader for Mellor has come forward.

Schedule 22 of Ribble Valley Housing Allocation Consultation is published for discussion and any comments.

It was noted with regret that no members had again attended Ribble Valley Lancashire Association of Local Councils meeting, when a number of matters of concern to Mellor residents were discussed. Chairman will try to attend, Cllrs. Marsden & O'Grady will also attend if notified of meeting.

16. Matters brought forward by members FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Clerk had circulated list of free courses from the Adult Learning Centre

Cllr. Young had notified Samlesbury & Cuerdale Parish Council Chairman of the email circulated by Balderstone resident.

Members were sadly informed that Canon Dorrان is seriously ill ; he has been most supportive of Mellor.

It was noted that the notice board on Carter Fold is being increasingly accessed by residents.

Setting up a Youth Group once more is under investigation

Thanks were again expressed to Cllr. Moss for cleaning the notice boards and the swings.

Members again expressed concern regarding Carter Fold frontage & bins not being closed following emptying.

17. To report any matters requiring attention to the Tree Warden

17.1 Both tree matters reported in July have had the work carried out, either by the occupier, or by Housing Association (as Landlord)

17.2 Cllr. Johnson is monitoring hedges in the Parish, but no action will be expected until early September.

18. To note Mellor Community Association Minutes (now on Mellor Village Hall website). Members are asked to note that the signed amended lease has been received, with copy sent to Parish Council solicitors.

This item was noted.

Date of next meeting - scheduled for Thursday 5th October 2017

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.12 pm, thanking all for their participation.