

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

(District of South Cambridgeshire)

A meeting of this Council was held on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm in the Austen Room of the Community Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire SG8 6DZ

Members of the public are reminded that copies of reports and supporting documentation for agenda items can be obtained from the Parish Council website or on request to the Clerk

Present: Cllrs Alexander, Barnes, Campbell, Clark (Chair), Cowley, Davey, Kanagarathnam, Kilmurray, Travis

Absent:

In attendance: Abi Williams (Parish Clerk), 12 members of the public

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MINUTES – COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT FUNDING

Meeting started 19.30

PC147/23 To receive and approve apologies for absence

It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllrs Hart and Wilson.
Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Alexander. All in favour.

PC148/23 To receive any Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Members are reminded that they are required to ensure their Declaration is updated within 28 days of any change in circumstances.

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

Declarations of interest were made by Cllrs Travis and Kilmurray in item PC153/23b – dispensation was granted to stay for the discussion but not to vote.

Cllr Cowley declared an interest in item PC153/23d) – verbal dispensation was stay in the meeting (as Cllr Cowley was applying for a Community Benefit Grant) but not to vote.

Cllr Cowley also declared an interest should discussion be required re allocation of funds to applications in the event of non-full amounts being awarded – dispensation was granted to remain in the meeting but not to vote.

PC149/23 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 27 November 2023

Cllr Davey noted corrections to PC138/23a) Remove repeat of Cowley in 'In favour' line. Also noted correction to Worcester Way and not Worcester Wat in item PC137/23a).

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes, including the corrections as above, of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 November 2023 as an accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Davey. All in favour.

PC150/23 To report back on the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 27 November 2023

Nothing to report.

PC151/23 Public Participation: (For up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments and questions to the Parish Council – 3 minutes per item).

Twelve members of the public were in attendance as representatives for the grant funding applications.

PC152/23 To note report on Community Benefit Grant Funding from May 2023

It was noted.

Cllr Kilmurray joined the meeting, was available for all votes going forward 19.53

PC153/23 To consider applications for community benefit grant funding

a) Turn on to Christmas £630.00

A representative was in attendance and answered questions on the project.

The applicant explained this is a free community event for the village involving the lighting of a Christmas Tree, children's activities. Funds (made available through Melbourn Fete) had already been spent as the event is already organised. Funding would be used for final payments and to pay back the Fete Committee. On a show of hands councillors indicated support for the application.

It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £630.00 to the Turn on to Christmas.

Proposed by Cllr Davey, seconded by Cllr Barnes.

In favour: Cllrs Alexander, Barnes, Campbell, Clark, Cowley, Davey, Kanagarathnam

Abstain: Cllrs Kilmurray, Travis

b) Relate £5,000.00

A representative was in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicant explained that they would like to move back to in person consultations after having to release a property in Cambridge due to funding cuts and moving to online consultation during covid. The funding would possibly allow for 1 day's availability in The Hub, consisting of around 4/6 sessions. It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £5,000.00 to the Relate.

Proposed by Cllr Davey, seconded by Cllr Alexander.

In favour: Cllrs Alexander, Barnes, Campbell, Clark, Cowley, Davey, Kanagarathnam.

Abstain: Cllrs Kilmurray, Travis

c) Melbourn United Reform Church £2,597.20

Representatives were in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicants explained the community lunch events have been extremely popular, serving around 30 of which 80% are Melbourn residents, and 87.3% of which are non-church members. Funding would be used to update kitchen equipment to allow them to continue. Council acknowledged the benefits of the project but stated that this application would be deferred (explanation below).

d) Melbourn Bell Ringers £2,000.00

A representative was in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicant explained that around £6,500 of the £8,000 need for the project to repair two bells in All Saints Church had already been raised. Funding would allow the project to move forward and allow for all eight bells in the Church to be functional. Council acknowledged the benefits of the project but stated that this application would be deferred (explanation below).

Explanation covering items PC153/23c&d

Under advice from CAPALC it was decided that these applications would be deferred to the next round of funding to allow for clarification around Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 and Section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 provides that parish councils cannot give funding to ecclesiastical charities. And Section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows parish councils to give funding to charitable bodies. Advice from the National Association of Local Councils sets out that there is an accepted legal principle, applied by the courts, which is that in interpreting what an Act of Parliament means, a specific provision overrides one of a general nature. Section 137 constitutes a general provision and does not override the specific prohibitions in section 8 of the 1894 Act.

It is the advice from CAPALC that parish councils are in general prevented by law from making grants to churches. Melbourn Parish Council are awaiting confirmation from NALC with respect to recent clarifications of the law that may allow donations to be made in the future. This clarification is expected to come in to force on 26th December 2023 and NALC have confirmed that they will be providing a briefing to ensure sector consistency around this time.

e) Melbourn Action Community Support £7,910.00

A representative was in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicant confirmed that food donations were declining although the use of the food bank and associated services was increasing. Funding has been received from ACRE, at this time no other funding had been sought. The applicant confirmed MACS were now supporting both local schools with breakfast bars and fruit juice for those that need it. On a show of hands councillors indicated support for the application.

It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £7,910.00 to the Melbourn Action Community Support.

Proposed by Cllr Kilmurray, seconded by Cllr Barnes. All in favour.

f) Melbourn Squash Club £2,400.00

A representative was in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicant confirmed that funds would be used to allow volunteers to gain a qualification that would then allow them to train others. Funds would also be used to provide time with a professional coach as in previous years. It was confirmed that Melbourn Squash Club serve all of the surrounding areas and suggestion was made to apply for funding from other areas too. The applicant confirmed that although the club serves men well it could do better with the younger players and female players – this funding would allow them to support these players through the club. On a show of hands councillors indicated support for the application.

It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £2,400.00 to the Relate.

Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Campbell. All in favour.

g) Community Support for Dementia £6,683.00

Representatives were in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicant explained that the 65% figure for users within the Parish could change on a monthly basis and was a reflection on where the numbers are today. They explained that the Community Support for Dementia offering is being recommended by GPs, social subscribers, health visitors and nursing staff as there is no other service available. On a show of hands councillors indicated support for the application. It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £6,683.00 to the Community Support for Dementia. Proposed by Cllr Davey, seconded by Cllr Travis. All in favour.

h) Home-Start Royston £2,907.34

Representatives were in attendance and answered questions on the funding request. The applicants explained that they serve 25 families in South Cambs, 7 of those being in Melbourn. The funding would go directly to supporting two families from Melbourn. Most referrals came through either medical practices or health visitors. On a show of hands councillors indicated support for the application. It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £2,907.34 to the Home-Start Royston. Proposed by Cllr Kilmurray, seconded by Cllr Kanagarathnam. All in favour.

i) John Impey Way Residents £159.00

No representative was available for comment. The council reviewed the application to purchase a TV licence for the community room at John Impey Way and on a show of hands councillors indicated support for the application. It was RESOLVED, under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, to award the grant of £159.00 to the John Impey Way Residents to purchase a TV licence. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Alexander. All in favour.

PC154/23 To consider action to be taken with regard to planted land outside New Road Cemetery.

Council discussed the options. It was noted that Cllr Travis will meet with resident and discuss options and ask what action resident would be happy with and report back to council.

PC155/23 **To note the date of the next meeting:** 15 January 2024

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 15 January 2024.

Meeting closed at 20.58