MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

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POLICY AND PROCEDURE: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCESS

PURPOSE: Melbourn Parish Council (MPC) has an Equality and Diversity Policy (Doc 5.02) that aims for equal opportunities for all and protection of right for all groups, and this policy works in conjunction with the Equality and Diversity policy to ensure that all members of the community have equal access to community facilities.

SCOPE: An inclusive community requires that all members of a community have fair and equal access to its resources and facilities. For example, improved access to buildings is beneficial to all members of the community, e.g. people pushing prams.

Under the Equality Act 2010, a disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to carry out normal daily activities. MPC will consider the building access requirements of all members of the community and will consider whether individuals might need other adjustments or enhancements to provide them with equal opportunities of access Council facilities and services.

This policy covers anyone with additional requirement in order to access council services and facilities.

POLICY: MPC has a policy of promoting greater access to all to Parish buildings and strives to progressively improve access to all services provided by the council.

PROCEDURE:

1. Existing Facilities and Services.

1.1 Melbourn Parish Council will ensure that its buildings comply with the Building Regulations 2010: Approved Document M — Access to and use of buildings, Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments, for use in England. Part M's requirements will be met where reasonable provision is made to ensure that buildings are accessible and usable.

1.2 Examples of accessibility requirement for disabled people, regardless of disability, age or gender include that people should be able to:

(a) Gain access to buildings and to gain access within buildings and use their facilities, both as visitors and people that live or work in them;

(b) Use sanitary conveniences in the principal storey of a new dwelling;

(c) Where a member of the public is hearing impaired, the council should offer appropriate assistance when they attend and participate in public meetings of the Parish Council and visit the Parish Office. (prior arrangement to be made with the Parish Clerk).

(d) For members of the public who have English as a second language, to attend and participate in public meetings of the Parish Council and at the Parish Office with the support of a language interpreter or translation application (prior arrangement to be made with the Parish Clerk).

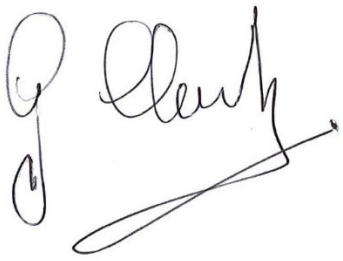
1.3 Melbourn Parish Council understand the importance of equal access for all to services and facilities and will continue to monitor the needs of those in the community. The council will strive to make any necessary changes to ensure services and facilities are accessible.

2. Future facilities and services

2.1 MPC will plan future facilities and services with equal opportunities in mind.

2.2 MPC will constantly review existing facilities and services and enhance accessibility where either technology or standards change.

2.3 MPC will ensure both staff and councillors take accessibility into account with both training and decision making.



Document Approval:

(Chair to Melbourn Parish Council) Date of Parish Council meeting: 29 July 2026

Review Policy: Every 3 years