

Melbourne Parish Council
(melbourneparishcouncil.co.uk)
Annual Report April 2019 – March 2020

Planning

The Council hosted a village meeting to discuss the impact of planning application 19/00811/PLF, involving the creation of a holiday park of 14 luxury lodges in the middle of the village. The meeting was attended by 55 residents and unanimous in objecting to the development. The Council has formally objected and gained support from Natural England, The Carstairs Trust and a Ward Councillor, who will speak against the application at the planning meeting. We await notification of a date.

Yorkshire Water

A significant flooding event, causing road closures at the west end of the village occurred in October. A meeting with affected residents and the Council Chair highlighted the problems and communication with YW resulted in works to clear the drainage ditch, de-silt the sewer pipe and flush the culvert. Despite some subsequent flooding this seems to have alleviated the issue. However, there is still some agreed work to complete by YW and the Council is keeping this situation under review.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

ERYC agreed to the introduction of weight restrictions through Melbourne. The Council agreed to contribute to the costs of signs, funded over two years. Work was scheduled to commence in 2021/22 and subsequent information indicates that the last remaining stretch of the “round Melbourne route” – East Common Road, will need re-surfacing before the restriction is introduced. The Council is pushing ERYC for early completion of this work.

Grant Allocations

The Parish Council allocates grants from the precept to support local activities. Applications are submitted once a year for assessment in November. Guidance notes and an application form are available on our website.

Allocated grants:

Sports and Playing Fields Association £1,150 (£850 toward grass cutting and £300 toward a new notice board); Christmas Committee £200; Village Hall £2,316; Bowls Club £500.

Finance

The Parish Council has spent £ 11,660 over the last financial year and the closing position is £11,200. The audited accounts can be found on the MPC website.

Telephone Kiosk – Melbourne Book Exchange

The Council undertook to re-furbish the exterior of the phone box and MBEx Group kitted out the interior. The exchange was opened in the autumn and now provides the village with a very welcome community facility. Congratulations to those involved in its creation.

Speeding

Continues to be a problem. ERYC have committed to a speed survey being done in the village but only after East Common Rd is re-surfaced and the weight restriction is in place. In the meantime a Community Speedwatch Scheme has been identified if concerned residents wish to take this up.

Covid -19

The Council support the community through the Covid-19 outbreak by making available from the end of March an emergency loan scheme through the Melbourne SOS group.

Neil Cooper
Chairman
May 2020