

Melbourne Parish Council
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Minutes of the meeting of Melbourne Parish Council held in the village hall at 6:30pm on Monday 13 July 2026.

Present: Councillors Cooper (in the chair), Thomas, Lee, Tomalin, Johnson, Rollason, Downes, Breeze and Kemp.

Cllr Hammond, Ward Councillor, attended the meeting.

26/20 Apologies – None.

26/21 Members of the public present – 6 for item 26/25

26/22 Declarations of interest – Cllr Thomas declared a pecuniary interest in Minute 26/28

26/23 Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11 May 2026 – Agreed – that the minutes of the meetings be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

26/24 Matters arising from the minutes – nothing outstanding.

26/25 Highways – surface dressing of local roads (Ash Lane) and update on Main Street (NC) - Initially Main Street was 341st on ERYC's list for resurfacing which meant the work would commence in around 10 years. ERYC had now brought forward the work and it was 67th on the list which meant the works would take place in around 2 years. The works would cost around £1million which was around 10% of the annual highways budget. Cllr Hammond advised that ward councillors would continue to push for work to be brought forward wherever possible and the Parish Council agreed it would keep raising this issue with ward councillors. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Hammond for his hard work on bringing the work forward.

Agreed – a notice would be placed on the notice board and website advising residents to email Cllr Hammond with complaints about the state of Main Street so he could pass these on to ERYC.

26/26 Parish Council's current financial position - £23,721.74 – Noted.

26/27 Requests for payment – Approved:

- a. ERVAS Jan – Mar 2026 – £22.20
- b. Village Hall Hire for meeting 11/5/26 - £20.17

26/28 Bee Keeping on Kidd Lane Parish Plot – Having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, Cllr Thomas left the room and took no part in the discussion.

Councillors raised concerns about the tone of the emails which had been received recently from Cllr Thomas and Mr Thomas. Further concerns were also raised about the confrontational approach Mr Thomas had taken to the ecologist undertaking the woodland assessment and the tone of communications with Greener Pocklington. Greener Pocklington had already been successful on behalf of the Parish Council in obtaining grants of over £3,000 and the Parish Council valued its work and did not want anything to jeopardise its relationship with the organisation.

As the owners of the land the Parish Council had tried to get Cllr Thomas and her husband to sign an agreement setting out the Parish Council's terms for them to place the hives on the plot. This had been unsuccessful and no agreement was in place.

The parish council had also been informed by Cllr Thomas when permission was granted that the bee hives were a hobby. The Parish Council discussed whether this was the case because products were being sold. The Parish Council agreed it had a duty to satisfy itself that there was no conflict of interests between councillors and personal ventures.

It was agreed that improving the biodiversity on the plot through work by Greener Pocklington was the main aim of the Parish Council. As such it was **agreed that the Clerk would seek legal advice on the next steps.**

26/29 Nature Recovery Update

- a. Greener Pocklington – Greener Pocklington had successfully applied on behalf of the Parish Council for a grant of £3,500 from Statkraft.
- b. Future Kidd Lane plot management – Cllr Cooper informed the Parish Council of Greener Pocklington's plans for the coming months. The suggestion of laying down bark was not thought to be a good idea. Wild flower planting was suggested. There was also consideration of what other local groups were doing and how joint working could be carried out. **Agreed unanimously that the Parish Council authorise the grant application.**
- c. Mowing concerns at the Kidd Lane parish plot – **not discussed**
- d. Thornton Church – leaving space for nature – **Noted.**
- e. Litter picks – the Parish Council agreed to keep this under consideration – **Noted.**

26/12 Membership of ERNLLCA – Agreed we would not renew membership.

26/15 Statkraft – funds for public rights of way – Agreed Cllr Breeze would pursue this with support from Cllr Cooper.

26/18 Correspondence since the last meeting – Already circulated. Noted

26/19 Councillor Forum

- a. FP1 – gates either repaired or removed and so accessible. Better signage was needed. **Agreed Cllr Hammond would raise the issue of signage with East Riding of Yorkshire Council**
- b. Cllr Johnson explained the role of local charity The Joseph's Trust for information.
- c. New East Riding Local Plan being developed. The timetable had been released which Cllr Cooper discussed. The sites that had been put forward had been made public and these would be consulted on in October 2026 as part of the public consultation process.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be 6:30pm on **Monday 28 September 2026.**

All agenda items for the September 2026 meeting must be with the Clerk by Friday 18 September 2025.