

Clr Terry Lyons – Chairman of Environmental, Planning and General Purposes Committee 2011-2012



This has been a busy year of planning meetings, providing challenges for many of our new and existing members.

This is partly a result of an increased number of planning applications – many of them from Meltham residents improving and extending their homes, a reflection of

the quiet housing market and people choosing to stay put and improve rather than move house. But it is also because the committee has been dealing with Kirklees Council's controversial Local Development Framework (LDF - the strategic plan that will determine the number of houses and development in the Meltham area over the next 18 years). We have been considering its potential impact on the Township, as well as the changes to local planning central government is introducing through the Localism Act.

This Act of Parliament brings new powers to Town and Parish Councils by allowing them to develop 'Neighbourhood Plans' on behalf of their community. The committee is currently assessing how this may benefit Meltham; we are keeping a close watching brief on other

Parish Councils that are piloting the new plans. Clr Paul White's experience and advice, as a former senior officer in a neighbouring Local Authority, has been most welcome in informing many of our debates and discussions.

There have been two particularly controversial planning applications during the year. The proposed development on Oak Avenue provoked much resident opposition, and both Meltham Town Council planning committee and Kirklees planning sub-committee refused the planning application. Unfortunately, residents' initial joy at these decisions was dashed as the developer's appeal was upheld and the scheme granted permission. The second controversial application was at The Heys, in Helme, on green belt land. Again, both Meltham Town Council and Kirklees Council have opposed the plans, but we are yet to receive the outcome of an appeal by the developer.

I can't emphasise strongly enough that should residents have a problem, or wish to support any particular planning application, they should come to a planning meeting and make the committee aware of their concerns or support. Residents' views are a most important contribution in helping to inform the committee's decisions. So please make use of the opportunity to speak to us and share your knowledge.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow planning committee Councillors and to the Council Clerk for their support and patience during this past year.

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - June 2012



Annual Report 2011 - 2012

MELTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Meltham Town Council's mission is to actively seek ways to improve the Township we serve for the benefit of all its residents.

Clr Jean Danson – Chair of Meltham Town Council 2011-2012



I have been proud to act as Chairperson for our Township since the new Town Council election last May 2011. It has been a very busy year, but our new Councillors are now settled in their various committee roles.

I've also been very busy. Throughout the

year, I have attended various Civic Receptions of local Town & Parish Councils, and carried on the tradition of presenting flowers for special birthdays to residents.

The Civic Service in July was an especially enjoyable occasion. The theme was communities, and the 'Champion Footballers of 2011' from Meltham C. of E. Primary School, together with their teacher and coach, Mr Rose, were presented with an engraved glass plate during the service. On Yorkshire Day, August 1st, Pat Maxfield and I joined representatives from all over Yorkshire at a magnificent parade and service at Wakefield Cathedral.

My family and I were extremely proud to hold the Civic Reception this year at the Sports & Community Centre, as my husband Stan, in his role as an Independent Chair, had worked with the different sports clubs and community groups

to get that wonderful facility up and running. During the event, Sheila Sinclair was awarded the 'Pride in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw Award' for her work in organising 'Friend to Friend'. Our local butcher, George Haigh, was also rewarded for services to the community; and Neil Moorhouse was rewarded for his services to football.

On a more serious note, Meltham Town Council, like most of our society, is not immune from the impact of the recession. This year the Council has been careful to ensure wise decisions are made for our community's future; this work will continue in the coming year.

The independent nature of Meltham Town Council makes it a unique and special place, where people and community always come before politics in the wider sense – which is how I believe it should be. In the difficult and challenging times ahead, our strong collective sense of community will be more important than ever.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their attendance, commitment and service to the people of Meltham; and in particular, I would like to extend a special thanks to Sarah Armitage, our very able Town Clerk.



Let us know what you think

YOUR Members of Council.

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Clr David Maxfield – Chairman of the Communications Committee 2011-2012



Following the election of the new Council in May last year, it was decided to set up a committee that could improve how the Town Council communicates with the community. The Communications Committee decided to increase the circulation and delivery of the Meltham Mercury Newsletter. It is now issued to every home in the township twice a year – in December and June. The Meltham All Blacks Rugby Club carry out the delivery, an activity that provides them with a valuable source of extra income.

The Town Council will also produce two further issues in March and September. Although we cannot deliver these to all homes (due to printing and delivery costs), we try to ensure that they are distributed to residents through local schools and organisations within the township. We make sure that copies are available in the Library, the Crossroads Centre and the doctors' surgeries. A copy is also available on the Town Council's website: www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

We do hope that you enjoy reading the new-look newsletter, and that you find the articles interesting and informative. We seek your views about things that we could improve on, as well as things that you are happy with. Please get in touch, or come along to one of our meetings – you will be most welcome!

My thanks go to all councillors for their input, to Suzanne Gannon for editing the newsletter and to Sarah the Clerk.

Aims and Actions for 2012—2013

THE COUNCIL'S AIMS

- * That all the Council's business is open and transparent.
- * That all the Council's work is for the greater good of the community we serve.
- * That all the assets of the township are prudently managed and safeguarded for the benefit of the township's residents.
- * That a spirit of partnership is fostered with individuals, groups and other public bodies, in order to further develop activity that improves the lives of the entire community.
- * That the Council is effective in representing the Community in all town and country Planning matters.

THE COUNCIL'S ACTIONS 2012 - 2013

- * To raise, and effectively manage, income to meet the Council's budget needs and maintain a balanced budget.
- * To include public question time and public attendance at all Council meetings.
- * To improve the quality of communication with residents by having a Communications sub-committee actively seeking better communication.
- * To continue to seek ways of enhancing the physical appearance of the township.
- * To maintain and improve the Robert Ashton Memorial Park for the benefit of the wider community.
- * To financially support capital and revenue projects within the community, through encouraging applications for grants from the Meltham Town Council Community Projects Fund.
- * To support further youth development services and projects provided by both public bodies and local groups.
- * To actively engage with, and support, the West Yorkshire Police in their work with the township's residents.
- * To monitor the effectiveness of rural transport in the township and to support improvements to the services.
- * To work effectively with Kirklees Highway Services in order to improve highway and pedestrian safety in the township.
- * To encourage and assist organisations seeking to provide for the needs and interests of elderly residents.
- * To liaise closely with Kirklees Council over the impact of reduced public services, in particular to ensure that any changes to Meltham Town Hall and the Carlile Institute are in the best interests of the township's residents.
- * To monitor and ensure that Kirklees Council's services in the township are of appropriate quality and that the 'streetscene' is properly maintained, if not improved.

Clr Edgar Holroyd-Doveton – Chairman of Properties, Administration and Finance Committee 2011-2012



This last financial year has been a mixed affair. On the one hand, there have been a number of increases in our revenue expenditure, in particular with our administration costs; on the other, the Council has been able to make a number of worthwhile grants from our capital reserves, which have enabled us to benefit the community, using the historic windfall from previous sale of land.

Administration costs increased by nearly 41%: key items were election costs, salaries, insurance and the purchase of new IT equipment. Yet, within this there were reductions in conference fees, audit fees and civic costs.

The expenditure on the Robert Ashton Park remains our largest outlay. Over the year, one of the biggest efforts of your finance committee has been negotiating a new contract for the park maintenance that would enable us to both maintain, and where possible improve the park. The Council's outlay on the park increased by some three thousand pounds, but this was largely due to the development of an excellent addition to the children play area, the cost of park maintenance itself being reduced by nearly three and half thousand.

The Town Council was able to make capital grants to a number of key projects, the three largest being: £10,000 to the Meltham Pre-School scheme, £10,000 to Meltham C of E School, (both awards were granted in the previous year but paid in 2011-2012), and £10,000 to the Meltham Sports & Community Centre. In all these

cases the grants have facilitated these organisations to make valuable contributions to the community. The Town Council has also agreed to award a grant of £20,000 towards the proposed skate board park which hopefully will be built in Broadlands Recreation Ground. Friends of Meltham Greenway are driving this project and have already secured a significant amount of the total funding and are working hard to obtain the remainder.

The Town Council is fully aware that in these difficult economic times, and that we need to look for ways to provide efficient and cost-effective services to the community. The next few years are likely to also be just as challenging, as there are additional pressures from the reduction in public services initiated by the government and implemented by Kirklees Council.

I'd like to end my report by thanking my fellow Councillors, who have provided their voluntary time during finance committee meetings, and to the Town Clerk for her efforts in preparing papers, solving problems and the maintaining the accounts.

Breakdown of grant awards 2011-2012

The following grant awards have been made:

£5,000.00 to Meltham Baptist Church towards a new boiler and woodworm treatment.

£20,000.00 to Friends of Meltham Greenway towards the proposed skate board park in the Broadlands Recreation Ground. (Note that this award has not been paid yet, as further funding is required to start the project).

£1009.20 to St Bartholomew's Church for clock tower repairs.

£500.00 to Meltham All Blacks towards the provision of a new football kit and a first aid kit.

£10,000 to Meltham Bowling Club towards resurfacing paths around the greens.

£400.00 to Meltham Churches Together towards the Carols in the Park celebration.

£522.50 to the Over 70s Christmas Gift.

£10000.00 to Meltham Sports & Community Centre towards the refurbishment of their function rooms.

£500.00 to Meltham Over 60s towards the Scarecrow Festival.



Do you know of an organisation or cause that would benefit from a grant award? If so, then make your application.

Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	2011/2012	2010/2011
Income (revenue)		
Precept	£41,500	£41,500
Interest and dividends	£16,479	£17,408
Rental and miscellaneous	£2,741	£931
TOTAL INCOME	£60,720	£59,839
Expenditure (revenue)		
Administration	£42,750	£31,382
Meltham Hall Estate	£22,188	£30,123
Services	£4,263	£2,332
Expenditure (capital)	£48,531	£20,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£117,732	£84,337
Cumulative Fund Balance		
Balance brought forward 01/04/11	£710,170	£734,668
Net movement in funds	£-57,012	£-24,498
Balance carried forward 31/03/12	£653,158	£710,170

PUBLIC SESSIONS AND INVOLVEMENT AT MEETINGS

Each meeting starts with a public session where the first 15 minutes is given over to members of public who wish to raise questions or items of concern. Please come along to the Council Chamber at 7pm if you wish to speak or attend a meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting because of mobility issues, then an alternative ground floor venue can be arranged with a few hours' notice – please contact the Clerk to arrange.

www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk



Pride of Meltham Awards 2011 - 2012

Presented to:

Sheila Sinclair for her service to the community, in particular Friend to Friend.

George Haigh for his services to the community.

Neil Moorhouse for his services to the community, in particular to Meltham Football Club.

If you know of someone who deserves recognition for the work they do for the community or for their achievements – be they sporting, in the arts, academic, or whatever – please contact the Clerk or a member of Council, with details of your nomination. We'd love to hear from you.

If they're great – let's tell them!