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# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**NOTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 AT 6.00PM IN THE JUBILEE ROOM,  
CARLILE INSTITUTE, MELTHAM**

Present:- Cllr Jurczyszyn (Mayor), Cllr's Barrowclough, Batty, Coates, Crankshaw, Jackson, King, Noon, Varley, Wrathall and White.

1: To elect a Chair for the Annual Town Meeting.

***The Town Mayor was elected as chair for the Annual Town Meeting***

2: Welcome and report by the Town Mayor – Cllr Ann Jurczyszyn.  
To discuss any points raised from the report.

***The Town Mayor presented her report to the meeting.***

It was an honour to have been elected as Mayor of Meltham Town Council and I would like to thank all members of Council, the Town Clerk, Mark Brook and Tara Ball, the Community Projects Delivery Manager, for their hard work and commitment to their roles and to the chairs of the committees, who will also be submitting their reports this evening.

In May, Cllr Kate Buchanan, resigned from the council and I thank her for her service and wish her well. In September we welcomed Cllr David Batty, who was co-opted onto the Council.

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I'd like to start with the exciting news that Meltham Town Council are set to take over the management of Broadbands Recreation Ground. At the time of writing this report, we are very close to completion, but do not yet have a date. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the team who have facilitated this for their diligence.

We have continued with our improvements to Robert Ashton Memorial Park and have updated our aims and requirements for the park, including enhanced landscape quality, improved landscape, opportunities for recreation and sport, provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity and to encourage natural woodland regeneration. The annual Picnic in the Park has become a popular and successful event and once again we have provided a grant to the Friends of Robert Ashton Park Group to support this.

Members of Council spent a lot of time and effort into the plans for the purchase and ambitious development of the park lodge, so it was extremely disappointing that the Kirklees planning advice was that we couldn't proceed with the 2 storey building and with reluctance we decided not to proceed.

Over 500 residents took part in the recent Ask Meltham consultation and Councillors have been sharing the results and asking for feedback at drop in sessions and coffee mornings. I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions at Helme and Meltham C of E Schools, talking to the young people who will most likely be replacing us in years to come! Main issues to be addressed include ongoing efforts to improve the appearance of Meltham, such as hanging baskets, improved Christmas Lights, tackling litter and anti-social behaviour, parking and enforcement of traffic violations, information about community events and promotion of green spaces.

We've already started to address these issues by liaising with local police and ward Councillors, planning events such as the Community Day on May 16th and organising volunteer and litter picking sessions. The Christmas Lights committee rose to the challenge, with their fundraising efforts and volunteers certainly Made Meltham Sparkle. We've continued to support and fund the Library and Youth Provision, and it has been good to see members of the youth group join in

community projects, such as the Picnic in the Park, litter picking and the colourful Flowerbomb project.

We support our more mature residents too and held the annual Xmas Gift event, with musical entertainment and refreshments.

As Mayor I have really enjoyed taking part in many civic and community events this year. I always enjoy meeting and chatting to people, (as you may have noticed!) and it is lovely to get involved with the Flowerbomb, Light Up the Pleasure Grounds, the Remembrance Commemoration, which was very impressive this year, with beautiful poppies all over Meltham.

As a member of the Communications Group, I'm very aware of the need to ensure that information is received by as many residents as possible and hope that the Meltham Mercury newsletter and new, improved information boards around the Town and local parks will address this issue.

In my last month as Mayor, I'm delighted to present the Pride of Meltham awards to the 3 worthy recipients at the Annual Civic Dinner. Thanks once again to everyone who has supported me in my role over the year.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Ann Jurczyszyn  
Town Mayor of Meltham

- 3: Report by Cllr Spencer King on issues within the remit of the Planning, Environment and General Purposes Committee.  
To discuss any points raised from the report.

***Cllr King presented his report.***

Membership of the committee has stayed stable over the past 12 months with many members continuing on from 2023/24. It is important to note that there is a good balance within the membership with some members with detailed knowledge of the planning process whilst others have a very deep knowledge of the township and its diverse need due to being resident for many years. The main role of the committee as a statutory consultee on planning issues affecting the township is to scrutinise new planning applications submitted to Kirklees Council and make representations to Kirklees planners with regards to any issues that we feel would have a negative impact on the local area and its residents.

To this end we invite the public to attend meetings if they so wish and we take note of any correspondence from residents concerning active planning applications. We would actively encourage residents to attend meetings in person if they feel that they have a concern over any planning issues affecting the area and a good number have done so over the past 12 months. Whilst not all of the concerns of residents fall within the scope of planning regulations it provides valuable context to the committee about local concerns.

On 25th March 2026, new plan-making regulations were brought into effect which introduced new requirements to commence preparation of a Local Plan: The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. It is not yet clear what impact that the change of local plan will have in this area, and it will be important to keep abreast of any forthcoming changes to ensure that we make representations where appropriate to protect our township and its green spaces. The published timetable for the preparation of this plan is set out in the document at the link below but the adoption of the new plan is not expected to happen until April 2029.

[Kirklees Local Plan Timetable](#)

The work to keep on top of the town cleanup continued this year with reported areas of concern either addressed directly by the council or brought to the attention of relevant responsible bodies where appropriate. It is worth continuing to note the hard work and dedication shown by volunteers from many local groups in keeping the township clean and tidy and this really feeds into the culture of taking pride in the area in which you live.

The committee has had input in to many of the projects being considered by the Town Council with regards to improving the facilities and amenities within the area and has fed this back into full council and other relevant committees.

Finally thank you to my fellow committee members, the Town Clerk and the local residents who have engaged with the committee in the last 12 months.

Yours sincerely,

*Spencer King*

Cllr Spencer King  
Chair of Planning, Environment & General Purposes Committee

- 4: Report by Cllr Richard Noon on issues within the remit of the Finance, Assets and HR Committee.  
To discuss any points raised from the report.

***Cllr Noon presented his report.***

We come towards the end of the municipal year, I would like to open with thanks again to our Town Clerk, Mark Brook and our Community Projects Delivery Manager, Tara Ball for their commitment to delivering for our residents.

Last year, I reflected on how the Town Council has begun to transition from a position of continual review of policy and internal processes, to

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one where we can focus more on visible outcomes for the Township. As Mark has become more confident in his role and Tara has begun to be freed up from the day-to-day, to now focus on driving project delivery upon priorities which the Town Council have opted to focus on for the last couple of years. This has meant that tangible outputs are now starting to show and much of which will become a reality in the 2026/27 municipal year.

That is testament to the drive and persistence that this committee has, which is then largely supported and wholly endorsed by the wider Town Council at Full Council meetings.

- Project 142 – a vision to transform The Lodge at the entrance to Robert Ashton Memorial Park has been shelved. The Town Council are now working with Kirklees Council to orchestrate the disposal of the property in a sensible manner.
- After a number of previously unsuccessful attempts in the past, we are now within touching distance of the transfer of The Broadlands Recreation Ground Trust back to Meltham Town Council. This is the result of over 3 years of negotiation with Kirklees Council Corporate Trustees, again with unanimous support from Full Council. Our budget for the coming year includes a £40,000 budget head for improvement works and our plans for managing the area going forward, alongside a vision for it's future, which will be presented to Full Council and of course the residents of The Township in due course.
- Our plans to improve the day-to-day management of Robert Ashton Memorial Park will be going to tender shortly and this will herald a new era of maintenance and management of the park.
- Our investment in Youth Club activities within the Township has seen dividends with the Youth Club now seeking alternative locations to deliver their services due to the popularity of it
- Attempts to recover Section 106 funds owed to Meltham Town Council following much needed investment in the park continues

– the funds recovered from this will be used to define and deliver what will be referred to as ‘Phase two’ of the continued investment in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park, whilst also funding other Council priorities. To date, we have recovered £85,699.42 from a total of £215,608.

- I’m pleased that the Town Council were able to retain the services of Tara Ball, who now works in a project delivery capacity, enabling a focus on delivering projects on behalf the Council.

During the current budget year, Meltham Town Council has also provided grants to Meltham Cricket Club; providing £10,000 to help fund the installation of two-lane, all-weather nets. Alongside the regular support for Meltham Scarecrow Festival, Picnic in the Park, repairs to the clock on the old Town Hall and support for the annual ‘Carols in the Park’ event. The Town Council also contributed £5,000 to the Carlile Institute which supports the costs of hosting Meltham Library within the building.

Importantly, ‘Make Meltham Sparkle’, the team behind the installation of the Christmas lights in the village each year received confirmation that the working arrangement will be that Meltham Town Council will continue to purchase lights for the team to install; so switching the arrangement from a grant request to a supply and install relationship. This should be fruitful in coming years.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Town Clerk and the Councillors who sit on this committee for their diligence, patience, and commitment to ensuring that we deliver value for money to our residents, whilst also striving to deliver more for our community.

Yours sincerely,

*Richard Noon*

Cllr Richard Noon

Chair of Finance, Assets & HR Committee

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5: Public Question time – an opportunity for those attending to ask questions or to raise issues of concern.

Cllr Wrathall reported that a number of residents had requested that a bench be installed on the corner of Holmfirth Road and Tinker Lane.  
It was agreed that the clerk is to liaise with Cllr Wrathall and Kirklees Highways, with the outcome to be discussed at a full town council meeting.

Cllr Jurczyn is to send a map location to identify the area to the Town Clerk.

*Cllr Ann Jurczyn*  
Town Mayor

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm