



Chair of Meltham Town Council's Finance, Assets & HR Committee Annual Report For 2025/26

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 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.

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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