

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Meeting: 28 September 2020 (Full Council)

Date of Report: 23 September 2020

Agenda Item: PC042/20) Request to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day

Proposal to Mark Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January in Melbourn

Thank you for the information you forwarded concerning arrangements for the September Parish Council meeting on 28 September 2020 and the suggestion I made to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January in Melbourn. I trust this email provides what you seek. This being so, I request that you forward this email to Parish Councillors in the normal way - as you would with any other necessary background/information material you forward to Parish Councillors in advance of a Parish Council meeting in respect of an Agenda item tabled for discussion and decision.

In May 2020 I wrote to the Parish Clerk and suggested that the Parish Council, as the village and the parish's main civil local authority, discuss and consider marking Holocaust Memorial Day. This falls next year on 27 January as it has done every year since the Memorial Day's foundation in the United Kingdom in 2001 following the Government's leading role - along with 45 other Governments - in establishing Holocaust Memorial Day during the previous year.

The Parish Clerk, having requested and received further information from me, thought the suggestion a good idea and brought the correspondence to the attention of the Parish Chair suggesting that a Parish Council discussion be held in September - with a view to including the matter in next year's budget which would typically be finalised in December.

The proposal that I would wish to have the Parish Council discuss and decide is that:

"Melbourn Parish Council mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January next in Melbourn with an occasion that was both modest and understated, as well as decorous, appropriate and in keeping with the matters involved."

I believe the Parish Council, being the village and the parish's main civil local authority, is ideally placed to take such a decision and bring the matter forward on behalf of all who make up the Melbourn Community - hopefully unanimously as a Parish Council - to a successful conclusion. I also believe the creation and holding of such an occasion, when undertaken by the Parish Council, will be seen and understood as an important statement in itself, as well as a reiteration of the traditional values long held by both the Melbourn Community and its Parish Council.

The following is a digital version of "Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 in Review", as published by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (Charity No: 1109348. Patron His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales.), which publication I shall be drawing upon when called by the Parish Chair to speak to the Agenda item: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/HMD-2020-In-Review.pdf>

I am sure all Parish Councillors will find the information contained in this published and publicly available document instructive and useful in preparation for the Parish Council meeting. I am equally sure that all Parish Councillors will find it useful that this fifteen page document sets out and explains the five goals of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust which the Trust was established to pursue, namely:

1. To promote Holocaust Memorial Day across the UK.
2. To support individuals and organisation's across the UK in marking Holocaust Memorial Day.
3. To commemorate and increase understanding of the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides, and what can occur post-genocide, through the life stories of those who suffered and were murdered in them.
4. To enable others to work towards a safer, better future by
 - Promoting a society free from hatred, prejudice and persecution and
 - Working to reduce the likelihood of future genocide.
5. To be a financially sound, effective organisation.

I have noted the September meeting's 19.30 start time, the fact that it is to be held remotely using the Zoom platform, and your advice that the Parish Chair will invite me to speak when the Agenda item is reached. I should be grateful if you would in due course advise me of the approximate time you estimate

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

at which the Agenda item will be taken, the time allocation made for the Parish Council's discussion of the Agenda item, and the number of minutes allocated to me to speak when the Agenda item is reached.

Thank you again for your interest and support in bringing this matter to the attention of the Parish Council and I look forward to hearing from you.

Every good wish

.....

Resident and Elector