

Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

June 2023



Items not on the agenda (information only)

The Parish Council has 11 seats but currently only has 7 councillors. If you read this report, you will see there is a lot going on in Mulbarton and we need your help to achieve it. This is a volunteering role with a fantastic bunch and if you can give some of your time, are interested in the local area and want a voice, contact the clerk to find out more (see the bottom of the page for contact details).



The £200 grant funds from South Norfolk District Council have been paid to the Village Hall Management Committee as agreed in May.

The accounts, as approved by the council in May, have been sent to the external auditor and published on the Parish Council website, as required by current legislation.

The data protection policy agreed at the last meeting is now available on the Parish Council website.

No progress has been made on a policy/procedure to book Orchard Park or signage for Meadows Wood.

Items on the agenda

Item 6: Parish Council's Storage

The items stored in the blue shipping container in Treetops Nursery Garden have been moved to the container on Orchard Park, put in the office or disposed of. Many thanks to the Cricket Club for the replacement container and to Mulbarton Wanderers for the use of their skip. The blue shipping container has now been disposed of and Treetops will be able to develop their outdoor area. Many thanks to Treetops for their patience while they have waited for the container to be removed.

Item 8.6 Amendment of Financial Regulations

In August 2022 the Parish Council agreed to adopt the model document prepared by the National Association of Local Councils. This is available on our website. Last meeting, councillors requested to review the cost value requiring 3 quotes. This is detailed in section 11.1 h) on page 16 of the document.

Item 16: 2023 Community Benefit from Brickkiln Farm

In June, £5,175.74 was received from Brickkiln Solar Farm. The funds are to be spent to benefit the residents of Mulbarton. The Parish Council is required to report how the funds have/will be spent.

Item 17: SAM2 sign

In 2022/23 the Parish Council won funding for a SAM2 sign. The locations have been agreed with Highways and the poles for the signs have been installed. Operators need to be trained to move the sign and download the data. The sign has been ordered and we are waiting for a delivery date.

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Item 18: Village Hall

Following on from last month's meeting, the Village Hall Management Committee agreed to the proposed tree works in the car park and the additional bark in the play area. The tree work has been completed and the bark is due to be laid before the school holidays.

The Parish Council have the right to appoint a trustee on to the Management Committee and this item has been deferred from the last meeting. The Annual General Meeting should take place in June, but this has been delayed and we await confirmation of the meeting date.

The Management Committee have asked if can be included in the discussions on the renewal of the phone mast lease on the Village Hall site. The phone lease company have advised they will only take instructions from the Parish Council but they are happy if this instruction is reached with the input of the Management Committee.

Item 23: Office IT

Broadband and phone costs are higher than the council would like. The current desktop in the office is slow, while the clerk and councillors are using their personal phones/devices to make calls and carry out play area and allotment inspections. I have given councillors several proposals that will deliver a versatile phone solution while maintaining the same land line number, improve the functionality of the current desktop, dispose of the old desktop and purchase a portable device for site inspections. This will allow the SAM2 data to be downloaded to either of the 2 computers, make it easier for calls to be received and answered and inspections can be carried out without relying on personal devices.

Item 23: Parish Partnership Scheme

Norfolk County Council are running this scheme again in 2024/25 for highway improvements. Typically, NCC will fund 50% of the total cost up to £25,000. Last year the Parish Council won the grant to fund 50% of the SAM2 sign but other opportunities may include bus shelters, low-cost footpaths, "keep clear school" markings, village gateway signs, improved crossing facilities, improvements to public rights of way, etc. All schemes will need to be approved by our Highways Engineer. The deadline for submissions is 8 December 2023.

Item 23: Parish Council Strategy

Councillors meet in June to discuss the aims of the Parish Council. The key areas where understanding the views of the parishioners and how we can improve communications.

Although both a Neighbourhood Plan Review and a Parish Plan would assist in gaining views of the parishioner more information was needed as which would be the most appropriate.

Item 27: Village Hall and Mulberry & Orchard Parks

Mulbarton Wanderers CIC held a meeting in June with many of the users and supporters of the facilities within the 3 areas. It was clear that many of the organisations had outgrown the space and facilities they had and were keen to develop the sites to meet their growing needs now and in the future. The Parish Council will discuss their role in this vision and the funding opportunity open to them that may help fund some of the feasibility costs. If this is something you wish to be involved in please contact The Parish Council, Mulbarton Wanderers CIC or Village Hall Management Committee.

Item 28: National Grid's proposed route for an overhead cable through Mulbarton

National Grid has announced the proposed route for the overhead cable from Norwich to Tilbury. More details can be found on their website (<https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury/our-proposals-south-norfolk>).