

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Monday 7th March 2022 at 7:30pm

Councillors present: Derek Aldous, Adam Banham, Beverley Leek, Gerald Peachey and Steve Sewell.

1.0 District and County Councillors' Report

District Cllr Francis reported:

- SNC have confirmed the council tax increase of 3%.
- There are no updates on the proposal to combine SNC & Broadland District Councils offices.
- The launch of SNC's Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) in the form of a loan from SNC that can be used to fund infrastructure in advance of development and is then repaid from CIL receipts.
- SNC are looking at providing free electric vehicle charging points to village halls and requests should be submitted to them. No decisions have been made regarding who pays for the electricity or the maintenance of these charging points.
- Talks continue about a new surgery, possibly at Hethersett, though there is some resistance from doctors.

District Cllr Legg reported:

- SNC have an underspend on their revenue budget and are looking for community projects capital expenditure ideas. The village hall roof has already been put forward as a suitable project.
- SNC have grants available for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations of up to £200 that can be applied for via a Parish Council.
- SNC staff are now working three days a week from the office.
- In regards to the new surgery and comments in the parish news magazine, nothing has been agreed and if a new site was at Hethersett, then the current buildings could still be used as satellite hubs.

1.1 Public Session

Rev. Miller read out a prepared statement on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.

2.0 To close the meeting to public participation

Cllr Aldous closed the meeting to public participation and formally opened the Parish Council meeting.

3.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Reeve and Tucker.

4.0 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

Cllr Banham declared an interest in matters relating to items 9, 17, 18 & 19

Cllr Sewell declared an interest in matters relating to item 9.

Cllr Peachey declared an interest in matters relating to part of item 19, ref 2022/0348

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2022

The meeting was not quorate in respects of Councillors who had been present at the ordinary meeting on 7th February and this item was deferred until the next meeting.

5.1 To confirm and sign the minutes of the closed Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2022

The meeting was not quorate in respects of Councillors who had been present at the closed meeting on 7th February and this item was deferred until the next meeting.

6.0 To receive financial report and approve invoices for payments as per schedule for February

The financial report including the budget tracking report was noted. Following proposal by Cllr Sewell and seconding by Cllr Leek all payments for February were unanimously approved. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

7.0 To approve a Pension's policy

Cllr Aldous proposed that the Pensions Policy and contribution rate be formally approved. This was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

8.0 Working group report on completing items on the outstanding works list & next working group meeting

Cllr Banham reported that the work scope for repairs to the slide at the play area on The Common and other play equipment has been completed for signing off at the next outstanding works working group. He also reported that the Meadows play equipment repairs have been completed and a contractor has been agreed for the footpath on the south side of the Common with work being completed when the weather improves.

Cllr Banham confirmed that the next working group would be on Tuesday 15th March when the outstanding works list would be reviewed to identify the next projects.

9.0 Neighbourhood Plan Review working group update and consideration of actions required

Cllr Banham left the meeting prior to discussion of this item.

Reports from the working group and from the planning consultant were received and noted. Following discussion during which it was noted that Stage 1 of the proposals had been completed, Cllr Aldous proposed that first part of the Stage 2 be approved on the understanding that no further expenditure will be incurred after this stage until MPC have heard from SNC in respect of grants, and that the working group

should meet again to consider the latest information. This was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Banham returned to the meeting after discussion of this item.

10.0 Update on legal advice regarding the lease of Mulberry Park and consideration of actions required

Cllr Leek reported as follows. Further to my update from last month's meeting regarding the Football Club's requests, I wish to report that, we have to date received some preliminary legal advice regarding these matters which I would like to share with the Parish Council.

Due to the Football Club's unincorporated status, it is not recommended that a 30-year lease be granted as any lease would have to be made to individuals which would create legal difficulties.

Mulbarton Parish Council are still awaiting a face to face meeting with our solicitors to discuss these issues further and also a potential breach of the existing lease.

We have recently been in correspondence with the Chairman concerning the current use of Mulberry Park and it is proposed to seek further clarification about this matter.

In addition to this, approximately 7 feet of natural hedging has been removed from Orchard Park and synthetic grass installed on the ground by the Football Club with no permission from the Parish Council, so we shall be writing to them in due course asking them how they will be reinstating the hedging and to again request them to tidy up and remove rubbish, old goal posts and heaps of soil at both Orchard and Mulberry Park sites.

Regrettably MPC cannot move any requests forward until there has been satisfactory conclusion to the outstanding issues as reported.

11.0 Update on meeting with the MVHMC trustees and correspondence received

It was noted that Cllrs Reeve and Tucker who had attended a meeting with the MVHMC trustees were unavailable this evening to provide an update. During discussion it was noted that MPC welcomed the information provided and would continue to investigate the matters raised. Cllr Sewell proposed that MPC seek legal advice to ensure that MPC followed due process; this was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

12.0 Designation of trustee for Rich's Trust

Cllr Aldous proposed that Cllr Leek represent MPC as a trustee; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

13.0 Review of safety at Long Lane/The Rosery junction

Following discussion, during which it was noted that MPC are not the responsible authority, it was agreed that MPC would go back to Highways and County Councillor Elmer, who is on the NCC Highways Committee, to progress previous requests.

14.0 Request from the Scouts to use Orchard Park on 21 May 2022 for their 40th anniversary celebrations

Following proposal from Cllr Sewell and seconding by Cllr Leek, it was unanimously agreed that the Scouts could use Orchard Park as requested.

15.0 Update on transfer of allotment land and request from Cadent Gas to install a gas governor

It was noted that there has been no update from the solicitors regarding the land transfer and no decisions or actions are required by MPC at this meeting.

15.1 Update on request from MALGA regarding site checks, community shed and terms of allotment agreement

Cllr Leek reported that correspondence had been sent to MALGA so that the matter of site checks and community sheds can be moved forward. In respect of changing the terms of allotment rent payment dates it was advised that MPC does not intend to change the payment dates, as this would involve changing the terms of the current agreement for 72 allotments.

16.0 Renewal of EE & Three mast agreement and consideration of any actions required

It was noted that there has been no updates and no decisions or actions are required by MPC at this meeting.

17.0 Update and consideration of any actions required on wind farms

Cllr Banham left the meeting prior to discussion of this item.

Reports on wind farms and recent developments affecting the local area were received and noted. These documents will be added to MPC's website.

18.0 Update and consideration of any actions required on solar farms & industrialisation of South Norfolk

A report on a recent public consultation meeting held by EDF Renewables for the Bloy's Grove solar farm proposal was received and noted.

19.0 To consider planning applications received

2022/0285: Kupressos, The Rosery, Mulbarton, Norfolk NR14 8AL - Proposed single storey rear and side extensions. Following discussion it was agreed that MPC has no comments to submit.

2022/0317: 3 Oatfield Chase, Mulbarton, Norfolk, NR14 8GU - Erection of front porch. Following discussion it was agreed that MPC has no comments to submit.

2022/0348: 16 Minnow Way, Mulbarton, Norfolk, NR14 8FP - Single storey front extension. During discussion it was noted this may be an over development of the land and Cllr Sewell will review the application again before advising MPC if comments need to be submitted.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Peachey and Sewell will look at the remaining three applications requiring consideration once SNC's planning portal was available. These are:

2022/0332: The Nurseries, Norwich Road, Mulbarton, NR14 8DE - Use of a dwelling house without any occupancy restrictions. (Continued occupation in excess of 10 years, non-compliance of FH.13523. condition no.3)

2022/0383: The Oaks, The Rosery, Mulbarton, Norfolk, NR14 8AL - Proposed new outbuilding with existing outbuilding/shelter to be retained and re-positioned..

2022/0248: 8 Badger Close, Mulbarton, Norfolk, NR14 8NT - Single storey side and rear extension to form shower room and rear lobby.

Cllr Banham returned to the meeting after discussion of this item.

20.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

(i) Request for permission to stay overnight in a motorhome in the car park following an event in the village hall. The request was referred to MPC as the owners of the adjacent car parking area by the village hall.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Banham and seconded by Cllr Leek that permission not be approved; the vote was four in favour with one abstention.

(ii) Request from the Country Music Club organiser to be permitted to have a food van on the car park for two charity events being planned.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed in principle that this be approved in line with permission previously granted to Puddleducks for their charity events.

(iii) Speed Watch update and agreement for signs to be placed at entry points to the village. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Leek would check the suggested locations and liaise with the group so that the signs can be installed.

(iv) Email regarding speeding and loss of ducks on the B1113. During discussion it was noted that Highways are the responsible authority.

21.0 Liaison officer reports

Cllr Leek reported that she will be completing a work scope for the installation of an extra water trough at the Meadows allotment site.

Cllr Peachey gave a report following a recent meeting of the Mulbarton Common Steering Group, which noted that the small leaf lime on the Common was suffering from soil compaction and SNC will put in posts and rope to keep pedestrians off the area; the ditch by Forge Orchards had been dug out and cleared by MPC councillors; the south side path will be repaired when weather permits; repairs to the two fingerpost signs are almost complete and restoration of Grimm's pit will be completed by SNC when weather permits. SNC will shortly start work on ponds 3 & 4 to remove invasive species, though there is no further news on

Connecting the Claylands or Birchfield Lane pond. SNC's new tree survey will commence in the autumn and MPC are looking at replacing the horse chestnut tree by the village sign and will be arranging for the covid plaque to be positioned.

22.0 To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda.

- Appointment of internal auditor

23.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

A representative from MALGA thanked MPC for the response to its requests and advised that following their meeting in March they will respond; names of designated representatives for the Swamp and Meadows sites when MPC begins six monthly checks were advised, it was also noted that the Swamp site had not and did not want a community shed.

A resident noted that the surgery entrance was unsightly and that as the gully was full there was no drainage.

A representative of the Football Club was advised that as stated earlier in the meeting, their request for a stand will not be considered until outstanding issues are resolved.

In response to a concern about the pothole near to Budgeons it was advised that the owner of the land would be responsible for repairs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 4th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Payments for February 2022

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102805	K Gooch	Common hay cutting 2021	260.00		260.00
102806	First Mulbarton Scout Group & Guides HQ	Venue hire: 21.03.22 & 28.02.22	30.00		30.00
102807	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Equipment repairs at Meadows	2061.91	412.38	2474.29
102808	A Phillips	Salary	698.79		698.79
102809	HMRC	PAYE	208.64		208.64
102810	B Leek	Expenses	19.45		19.45
102811	Compass Point Planning & Rural Consultants	Neighbourhood Plan – determination of review scope	450.00		450.00
102812	Norfolk Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription 2022/23	593.65		593.65
		Total for month:	4322.44	412.38	4734.82