

Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

December 2023



Items not on the agenda (information only)

Progress is being made in setting up .gov.uk email addresses for the chair, vice-chair and clerk. The domain name has been registered and the clerk email address is capable of sending and receiving emails. Once a new chair has been appointed, and vice-chair if applicable, the .gov.uk email addresses will go live. This is expected to be in January/February. The switching of the office broadband/phone line is still being progressed.

Disabled and pedestrian access to the village hall site was raised by a member of the public at the last meeting and a solution is being costed.

Since the repair to the Common car park/Village Hall entrance, the road surface has started to breakdown. Highways are aware of the situation and are planning a repair as soon as they have the budget available. This is likely to result in some disruption to the access. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

Highways are also aware of the flooding around the junctions of Norwich Road/B1113, The Common (Lower) and East Carleton Road. They are planning on clearing the ditches and gullies but this will require traffic control. We will pass on more information once we have it.

Did you know your Parish Councillors are all volunteers? Between them they have a lot of knowledge and experience that they bring to the Council. They carry out actions, discuss and agree on behalf of Mulbarton residents and we are looking for more volunteers who would like to become councillors. We are allowed a maximum of 11 councillors but currently only have 6. If you have an interest in what happens in Mulbarton and you can spare a few hours a month, contact the clerk to find out more about joining us.



Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

December 2023



Items on the agenda

Item 1: To appoint a new Chair of the Council

Sadly, Mark Kerr decided to stand down from the Parish Council in December. When any councillor steps down it is with immediate effect. Mark was not only Chair to the Council but was also on many of the council's working groups and was a key part of the council. Mark does however, remain a very willing volunteer that the council is still working closely with.

Item 11: Working group updates

Allotments

Notice has been sent to all allotment holders to advise them of the change in tenancy agreement, with effect from 1 January 2025. Allotment holders welcome these changes, and many have contacted the clerk to express their appreciation. It is always nice to hear when we get something right! New plot holders are now being issued with the new tenancy agreement.

We do have plots available at The Swamp, Long Lane and Oakley Park South, if you are interested, please contact the clerk. There is still a waiting list at The Meadows.

Open Spaces and Play Areas

We are still collecting quotes for repairs and new equipment at The Meadows.

Item 19: South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan

South Norfolk Council is carrying out a Focused Regulation 18 Consultation on Alternative Sites and Focused Changes for the Draft Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan (VCHAP). The deadline is 5 February 2024.

Item 20: Clean up & Bloom Grant

A Clean up & Bloom grant is easily accessible funding from the Pride in Place Scheme. There is up to £300 available per Parish and can be used to purchase plants, arrange litter picks, etc.

Item 21: Battery Energy Storage & Safety

The Parish Council have been contacted by a Policy and Performance Consultant who is lobbying for guidance on BESS safety. Mulbarton Parish Council have been contacted due to Mulbarton's proximity to National Grid's substation at Dunston and the surrounding BESS's.

Item 22: Mulbarton Primary School becoming a feeder school for The Hewett Academy

The Parish Council have been contacted as there is concern over Mulbarton Primary School becoming a feeder school for The Hewett Academy. The Parish Council has no powers on this decision and is not consulted on by the decision makers. Individuals can have their say by completing survey from Inspiration Trust. Following the email from a concerned resident, the Parish Council have posted information about this on their website and Facebook page. The deadline for the survey is 15 January.

Item 23: Traffic issues around Mulbarton Primary School

Mulbarton Primary School are raising the issue of traffic around the school particularly around drop off and pick up times. They have contacted Highways and as a result the yellow zig-zag lines on Long Lane are going to be repainted once the weather has improved. They are also asking the Parish Council for support.