

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely at

7.30pm on Monday 1st March 2021

Councillors present via remote videoing platform:-

Adam Banham Gerald Peachey Beverley Leek Steve Sewell Richard Tucker Derek Aldous

Also in attendance were three District Councillors and 5 members of the public.

1.0 District and County Councillors' Report

Following an explanation that the meeting was being held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 4th April 2020 and allows local authorities to conduct meetings remotely Cllr Leek welcomed those present to the meeting.

District Cllr Legg stated that he since he had sent in his report, he had had a couple of complaints regarding the path between the village hall and the Church asked if some consideration could be given to maintenance of this matter. He had also been contacted by a resident regarding SNC not issuing annual bin collection calendar fliers; he reported there is a phone number on SNC's website that calendars can be ordered from and this information would also be in the next SNC Link magazine that is delivered to every home in their area.

District Cllr Clifford-Jackson wished to highlight that the census is this month and encouraged people to register for postal voting prior to 19th April. She added that concerns about Bracon Lodge being registered as a wedding venue were being looked into and recommended the planning enforcement training that SNC had provided to District Councillors.

District Cllr Francis reported that his fellow district councillors had already covered all issues and had nothing further to add.

Cllr Leek reported that apologies had been received from County Councillor Colin Foulger.

1.1 Public Session

A member of the public wished to raise two questions: the access road to the village hall car park is still in bad repair and the additional seat that is being installed on the Common is still missing. Cllr Leek reported that the access had been done at the same time as the front car park but repairs are limited by the materials that can be used and some pot holes are now visible. Cllr Sewell reported that the new bench weighs over a ton and in order to avoid damage to the Common when siting it the contractor is waiting for the land to dry out some more and hopefully the new bench will be in situ by Easter.

In response to a question about how a resident could contact the Parish Council to use Orchard Park for exercise classes, Cllr Leek advised them to contact the Clerk via the Parish Office.

2.0 To close the meeting to public participation

Cllr Leek closed the meeting to public participation and formally started the Parish Council meeting.

3.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Reeve.

4.0 To receive declaration of interest on items on the agenda

Cllr Banham declared an interest in matters relating to items 12, 15 and 16.

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2021

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 1st February 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Sewell and seconded by Cllr Banham. As this is a virtual meeting arrangements would be made for the Chairman to sign the minutes at a later date.

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

A proposed schedule of payments and the latest financial summary were reviewed. Following proposal by Cllr Banham and seconding by Cllr Tucker all payments were duly passed. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

6.1 To review quotes and appoint contractor for the bus shelter repairs and maintenance

Cllr Leek reported that one contractor had replied to say they were unable to quote and four others had not responded. It was unanimously agreed to send the work scope out again to new contractors for review at the next meeting.

6.2 To review quotes and appoint contractor for work on the Common

There was only one response to the work scope for short-term maintenance work on the Common. After discussion, Cllr Aldous proposed that the Council proceed with Contractor 1 for the work at the two pedestrian accesses on the south side, and to negotiate with that contractor for minor work at the north pedestrian access, subject to a budget limit of £250 plus VAT. If this did not lead to an acceptable outcome, it would be brought back to another meeting; this was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed.

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

Cllr Banham reported that the outstanding works working group at their next meeting would be discussing a proposed work scope for the Common play area, looking at other areas on the list that could be linked into a single work scope and also the gate at the back of the village hall opposite the MUGA.

Cllr Peachey noted that a number of projects had been completing during the preceding month including the installation of cycle racks at the village hall, anti-parking posts installed and a lock on the gate at the Oakley Park allotments.

7.1 To discuss the provision of an enclosed designated dog friendly area for the village

In response to residents, there was pressure to find a dedicated enclosed area for exercising dogs. Cllr Aldous summarised that, after examining all the available options, it would not be possible to use allotment land for this purpose. There was additional amenity land available at the top end of the Meadows, which Mulbarton Parish Council had until recently held under licence from SNC. Whilst this could be used for walking dogs, there was insufficient parking to allow the area to be promoted to professional dog walkers, and this would simply move the problem from one part of the village to another. It did not seem to be practical for the Parish Council to operate a formal scheme. It had also become clear that the Lark Rise estate was under-provided with amenity land. Options for the future included resuming the licence for the Meadows Extension as amenity land.

8.0 Update from working group meeting with the Football Club

It was reported that the meeting had discussed the Football Clubs plans to improve drainage on Orchard Park and their wish to install changing rooms/toilet facilities. It was noted that Orchard Park is not included in the lease the Football Club has for Mulberry Park and that there are covenants on what the land (Orchard Park) can be used for and as previously discussed MPC would not underwrite any long term funding provided by the FA. The meeting had concluded with the agreement that the Football Club would seek more clarity from the FA before approaching MPC again and that they would remove the scaffolding tower on Mulberry Park at their earliest opportunity.

8.1 To discuss request from the Football Club regarding their lease

Cllr Leek reported that pending further updates from the Football Club there was nothing to discuss on this item.

8.2 To discuss request from the Football Club to host a Festival in 2021

Following discussions it was agreed that clarity was needed from the Football Club regarding the hours they were proposing to have amplified music playing on both days. It was agreed that if permission was granted it would be on a one-off basis and not set a precedent for future years; it was noted that this event is a fund raiser for the Football Club and is outside the remit of their lease.

9.0 Emergency Planning – to discuss feasibility of completing and maintaining a plan

Following review and discussion of SNC's suggestions for community emergency plans and those of the Norfolk Resilience Forum it was agreed that completing a plan was not a priority for MPC and the practicalities of maintaining such a plan would outweigh any benefits and the village has shown over the last few years that it can overcome challenges without a formal plan in place.

10.0 Update on discussions with Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors (IHCS) and their request for Cadent Gas to install a gas governor on MPC's land

Cllr Leek reported that a second on site meeting was planned for 9th March.

11.0 Update on renewal of EE & Three mast agreement

Cllr Leek reported that a payment to Strutt & Parker (S&P) had earlier in the meeting been approved and Dalcour Maclaren had been informed that S&P were now acting on MPC's behalf in regards to the lease renewal and any outstanding rent reviews.

12.0 To discuss and sign a co-ordinated planning letter to SNC

Cllr Leek informed the meeting that Cllr Banham had formally withdrawn from the meeting for this agenda item due to a declaration of interest, and had now disconnected from the videoconference at this point and would not participate in the following discussion.

Following proposal by Cllr Sewell and seconding by Cllr Tucker it was unanimously agreed to sign and send the proposed letter to SNC.

Cllr Banham re-joined the meeting.

13.0 Update on wind farm proposals

Cllr. Aldous gave a detailed report on each of the projects affecting the area. The Judicial Review of the Norfolk Vanguard project took place in January with the result announced in February. It has resulted in the government's approval of the project in July 2020 being quashed. This could now lead to further consideration of other projects, such as Hornsea Three, and other projects in Suffolk. Additional questions had been sent to Equinor for the Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal projects, and replies were expected soon. The government had recently announced the Round 4 leasing projects, and there was nothing new added off the coast of Norfolk.

14.0 Update on Solar Farms

With the exception that ground scanning equipment had been seen on the Bloy's Grove site recently there were no further updates on either proposed projects.

15.0 GNLP SNC village cluster document

Cllr Leek informed the meeting that Cllr Banham had formally withdrawn from the meeting for this agenda item due to a declaration of interest, and had now disconnected from the videoconference at this point and would not participate in the following discussion.

Cllr Leek reported that SNC's village cluster document is still not available and that Cllrs had a two page summary regarding the GNLP in their briefing papers which would be discussed further by the working group on 2nd March in preparation for the village cluster document being published.

Cllr Banham re-joined the meeting

16.0 To consider planning applications received

There were no planning applications for consideration.

17.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

- Parish News update – deliveries will now commence from 8th March
- Grant application query – following discussions it was agreed that Cllrs Sewell & Leek would review the current policy to see if further clarification is need on the number of applications one organisation can make in 12 months and then report back at the next meeting with their proposals
- Bin collection calendars – the Clerk has a contact number for SNC that residents who are unable to access the information online can call for a printed calendar
- Footpaths – as previously mentioned by Cllr Legg; it was agreed to add this matter to the outstanding works list

18.0 Liaison officer reports

Cllr Leek reported there had been a number of incidents of antisocial behaviour at Oakley Park South allotments and recently a shed had been broken into at the Meadows site, this incident has been reported to the police.

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

- To review quotes and appoint contractor for the bus shelter repairs and maintenance
- Review and update Grant Awarding Policy

20.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

District Cllr Legg stated that although a planning application for changes at Thickthorn hadn't as yet been submitted the start date has always been planned for January 2023. With regards to planning enforcement Cllr Legg advised that when planning approval is granted MPC should check that it is compliant with the Neighbourhood Plan as it is difficult to change at a later date.

A member of the public wished to state that Orchard Park is a community amenity and not just for the Football Club.

A representative from the Scouts advised that they were hoping to hold a bonfire and fireworks event this year, ideally on Saturday 6th November, and correspondence requesting permission to hold this event will be sent in due course to MPC.

A member of the public asked if the village hall car park barrier could be lowered at night as there were several cars using the car park late at night. Cllr Leek asked that any residents with concerns regarding criminal activity should report it to the Police and that it was not feasible to close the car park on a daily basis at night.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.47pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm.

Payments for February 2021

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102701	Sturgis Landscapes	Additional grounds maintenance	600.00		600.00
102702	APC Pest Control Ltd	Quarterly pest control	120.00	24.00	144.00
102703	Strutt & Parker	Mast lease land agent	500.00	100.00	600.00
102704	DJ Ireland Groundwork & Paving services	Cycle park and junction posts	1555.00	311.00	1866.00
102705	A Phillips	Expenses	62.43	12.50	74.93
102706	A Phillips	Salary	790.89		790.89
102707	HMRC	PAYE	272.79		272.79
		Total for month:	3901.11	447.50	4348.61