

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Monday 4th April 2022 at 7:30pm

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

1.0 District and County Councillors' Report

It was noted that District Cllrs Legg and Francis were not in attendance as they were attending Bracon Ash's parish council meeting but may be able to attend the meeting later.

1.1 Public Session

In response to a question from a resident it was noted that repairs to the slide on the Common are currently with contractors.

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

All councillors were in attendance.

4.0 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

Cllr Peachey declared an interest in matters relating to item 17 under ref. 2022/0348.

Cllr Banham declared an interest in matters relating to items 9, 15, 16 & 17.

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

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

This item was deferred from the March meeting as there was not then a quorum of Councillors who had been present at the ordinary meeting on 7th February. The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2022 were unanimously agreed by those Councillors in attendance at said meeting, as being a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Sewell and seconded by Cllr Banham.

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

This item was deferred from the March meeting as there was not then a quorum of Councillors who had been present at the closed meeting on 7th February. The minutes of the Closed Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2022 were unanimously agreed by those Councillors in attendance at said meeting, as being a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Sewell and seconded by Cllr Banham.

5.2 To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2022

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Peachey and seconded by Cllr Leek.

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

The minutes of the Closed Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Peachey and seconded by Cllr Leek.

6.0 To receive financial reports and approve invoices for payments as per schedule for March

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

6.1 Retrospective approval of appointment of contractor for replacement bins and signs on the Common

Following proposal by Cllr Banham and seconding by Cllr Sewell it was unanimously agreed to retrospectively approve the awarding of the contract to Contractor 1.

6.2 To appoint an internal auditor for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)

Following proposal by Cllr Reeve and seconding by Cllr Peachey it was unanimously agreed to appoint Ms Jowett as the internal auditor.

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 last meeting reviewed the outstanding works list and aimed to work through the list in the next few months. The next working group meeting will be Wednesday 13th April.

7.1 Consideration of Meadows tree works report and action required

Following discussion of the survey report, Cllr Peachey proposed that all the recommended works be approved as set out in the estimate provided. This was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed.

8.0 To agree to change the date of the Annual Parish Meeting to Monday 23rd May, with Monday 30th May being approved as an alternative date

Cllr Sewell proposed that the date of the 2022 Annual Parish meeting be changed to 23rd May or 30th May. This was seconded by Cllr Banham and unanimously agreed.

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

It was noted that Cllr Banham would not take part in any discussion of this item.

Cllr Aldous reported that confirmation of funding from SNC is still pending and once an update on this is received, MPC will be able to discuss proceeding with stage two of the Neighbourhood Plan review.

10.0 Request from Mulbarton Scout Group for permission to install a wood store

Cllr Leek proposed that the Scout Group be given permission to install wood and equipment stores as detailed in their correspondence; this was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed.

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

Cllr Leek reported as follows: I wish to update the Parish Council further to last month's meeting with regards to Mulbarton Wanderers and Belles Football Club.

Following advice from our solicitors regarding the request for the installation of a further stand and hedging, due to the unincorporated status of the football club and risk of liability we cannot agree at this present time.

Last month I reported a possible breach of the terms of the lease, by allowing Mulberry Park to be used by Easton College. MPC wrote to the football club and requested that they comply with the terms of their lease; further correspondence followed with misleading information being given twice to MPC.

MPC therefore had to seek clarity from both the FA and the Thurlow Nunn League. This information was passed to our solicitors to action further which resulted in them writing to the football club and requesting that they cease their arrangement with Easton College with immediate effect.

MPC feels disappointed that their valuable time should have been wasted on this breach and that the football club should act with such disrespect.

Lastly it has been brought to MPC attention that parents and coaching staff have been told that MPC has withdrawn their consent to use Orchard Park for the children's teams, this again is misleading information. MPC wrote to the football club last November and asked them to stop cutting the grass on Orchard Park as MPC has always maintained this area with its own grounds maintenance contractor twice fortnightly which comes at no cost to the football club. MPC also requested that after football matches the football club takes down the Respect taped boundary around the pitches so Orchard Park could be enjoyed by others.

Moving forward MPC would like correspondence from the football club to include representatives from the football committee and relevant coaching staff and not just from the chairman which is always on a work or private email with no inclusion of the committee. We feel this will ensure that information is shared correctly.

MPC looks forward to the next football season and a positive way forward with the football club.

MPC would like to offer its congratulations to the Mulbarton Belles ladies team on reaching the finals of the county league to be played at Carrow Road on 25th May.

Cllr Reeve proposed that further requests from the football club are put on hold until new lease negotiations start early next year; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

12.0 Update on meeting with the MVHMC trustees and correspondence received

It was noted that the matter is pending advice from MPC solicitors and until such time this is received there is no action required this evening.

13.0 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.

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

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

15.0 Update and consideration of any actions required on wind farms

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

Two reports on wind farms and recent developments affecting the local area were received and noted. The monthly wind farm update report will be added to the MPC website.

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

It was noted that about 300 acres are being proposed for solar and wind farm developments as well as plans for three battery storage sites. An email response from SNC was received and noted.

It was reported that following an online meeting with MPC to raise concerns about the industrialisation of South Norfolk, Richard Bacon MP has offered his assistance in facilitating a meeting with SNC and other parish councils.

17.0 To consider planning applications received

2022/0382: 40 Minnow Way Mulbarton Norfolk NR14 8FP – Proposal: Certificate for proposed lawful development of erection single storey extension 3.370 from original rear elevation. It was noted that this application has now been withdrawn.

2021/1647: Land North Of Lantana Norwich Road Mulbarton Norfolk - Proposal: New dwelling with integrated garage – this application has been referred to SNC's planning committee and will be discussed by them on 6th April 2022. It was noted that the planning officer is recommending approval of the application.

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

18.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

(i) Request from Explorer Scout to hold a car boot sale at the scout hut on 8th May 2022.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Peachey and seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed to give approved on the understanding that the event was over seen and supervised by the Scout Group leaders who would also be responsible for providing a risk assessment to MPC.

(ii) Offer from Treetops Nursery for community project support.

Following discussion it was noted that the offer be acknowledged and that MPC would let them know when they had a suitable project that may wish to be involved in.

19.0 Liaison officer reports

Cllr Tucker reported that he had attended a Police priority setting meeting with PC Stuart Barnard and a councillor from Hethersett; police priority areas for Mulbarton include anti-social behaviour and speeding. PC Barnard had reported that Mulbarton was quiet compared to the rest of his beat area. It was noted that if residents do not report incidents, then the police won't know about them.

Cllr Leek reported that the Community Speed Watch team have now put up their speed watch area signs.

Cllr Leek reported that one allotment at the Swamp was currently being taken up and then all 72 allotments would be filled. A work scope for an additional water trough at the Meadows is currently being prepared and will be presented at the next meeting.

Cllr Peachey reported on a recent meeting of the Mulbarton Common Steering Group, which noted that SNC have completed their works on Grimm's Pits, and had installed a temporary barrier around the small-leaved lime tree to minimise root compaction. Re-surfacing of the footpath to the south of the Common will start when weather conditions permit and replacement disabled parking signs and bins are currently in progress. A site for the covid plaque has been found and consideration is being given to also installing a bench. The parking of vehicles on the Common has been raised with SNC, and removing the horse chestnut tree stump.

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

- Installation of additional water trough at the Meadows allotment site.

21.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

A member of the public suggested that a link to the police online reporting page be added to MPC's website. It was confirmed that item 12 is pending legal advice.

It was confirmed that the water is now on at the Meadows allotment site and water at the Swamp would be turned on next Saturday (09.04.22).

In response to a resident's concern about the corner of Long Lane, it was explained that MPC are waiting for a response from Highways who are the statutory authority and that County Councillor Elmer sits on the NCC Highways committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.07pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Payments for March 2022

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102813	First Mulbarton Scout Group & Guides HQ	Venue Hire 28.03.22	10.00		10.00
102814	South Norfolk Council	Annual service charge for dog bins	2101.40	420.28	2521.68
102815	G Peachey	Padlocks	20.82	4.16	24.98
102816	Printerland.co.uk	3 toners	361.81	72.36	434.17
102817	Playground Supplies Ltd	Meadows surfacing	3787.50	757.50	4545.00
102818	Bartlett Signs	Invoice 40721 - chq 102800 cancelled	174.00	34.80	285.60
		Invoice 40773 – tree signs	64.00	12.80	
102819	S Sewell	Expenses	12.89	2.58	15.47
102820	Talking Elm	Silver birch & Meadows trees and survey report	825.00	165.00	990.00
102821	HMRC	PAYE	282.64		282.64
102822	D Aldous	Expenses	144.30	23.98	168.28
102823	A Phillips	Salary	808.27		808.27
102824	A Phillips	Expenses	24.45	4.55	29.00
102825	Supplies for Schools Ltd	Shredder	68.43	13.69	82.12
102826	Spire Solicitors LLP	Legal Advice	300.00	60.00	360.00
		Total for month:	8985.51	1571.70	10557.21