

## MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

7.30pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Councillors present:

Derek Aldous, Adam Banham, Gerald Peachey, Steve Sewell and Richard Tucker; Beverley Leek (joined the meeting at 7.40pm).

### **1.0 District and County Councillors' Report**

District Cllr Legg reported:

- The initial accommodation review for South Norfolk and Broadland Councils has been completed. The only suitable site for joint premises recommended by the consultants is at Broadland Business Park. A final decision is due in December.
- SNC staff are still mainly working from home and this is making it difficult to get hold of anyone.
- SNC Village Cluster Housing Allocation Plan: Another 65 applications for sites to be included have been received by SNC. It is unclear how these will be reviewed and/or accommodated into the Plan.
- SNC's planning committee are still operating on a reduced number of members.
- Orsted battery bank at Swardeston: Although no formal application has been made, concerns are being raised that the technology hasn't been fully studied. Improved water supply, infrastructure, and arrangements to accommodate emergency vehicles would be needed.
- Health Scrutiny Committee: The committee continues to challenge for better services in relation to GP's and cancer services. In the future there may be one purpose-built surgery in the area with the three current surgeries being used as satellite buildings.

### **1.1 Public Session**

No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

### **2.0 To close the meeting to public participation**

Cllr Aldous 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 8, 9 and 19.

#### **5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Peachey and seconded by Cllr Sewell.

#### **5.1 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

A correction to this agenda item was noted in that the extraordinary meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 were unanimously agreed by the four councillors, who had been attendance, as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Sewell and seconded by Cllr Leek.

#### **6.0 To receive financial report and approve invoices for payments as per schedule for September.**

Following proposal by Cllr Sewell and seconding by Cllr Tucker all payments for September were unanimously approved. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

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

Cllr Banham reported that the last outstanding working group had discussed options for rubber crumb/wet pour in the high wear areas of the Meadows play area and completion of a work scope for repairs in this area was ongoing. Also discussed were options for obtaining additional trees that could be used to replace the oak tree on Orchard Park, the forthcoming litter pick, removing the talking book and posts at the play area on the Common and suggestion for a working party to complete some minor tasks at the Meadows.

Cllr Sewell reported that MPC may be able to access trees via the County Councillor that could then be planted around the perimeter of Orchard Park. Following discussion that orchard packs of trees may also be available that could be used at the Oakley Park South allotment site, Cllr Sewell stated he would look at the electrical pylon on that site and take advice regarding any potential future problems from planting trees in its vicinity.

#### **8.0 Neighbourhood Plan Review working group report and consideration of actions required**

Cllr Banham left the meeting before discussion of this item.

Cllr Aldous reported that a working group had met to consider the advantages and disadvantages of updating the Neighbourhood Plan; how this could be achieved e.g. working groups or forming committees and how any changes could be funded. The working group concluded that MPC may want to consider

having the existing Mulbarton Neighbourhood Plan looked at by an expert, to see how much of it would meet the latest legal requirements, or whether there are any particular advantages in making specific changes over the next year or two. The possibility of leaving the existing plan unchanged until nearer to its end date of 2030 should also be kept open.

Following discussion Cllr Leek proposed that an independent advisor be identified to advise MPC on the advantages/disadvantages of updating the current plan, this was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

#### **9.0 To consider joining CPRE (Norfolk)**

Following discussion Cllr Sewell proposed that MPC become a member of CPRE (Norfolk), with payment to be made by annual direct debit; this was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

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

#### **10.0 To consider request from the Scouts to use Orchard Park for their annual fireworks display and bonfire on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

Following discussion Cllr Leek proposed that permission be granted subject to MPC receiving copies of the insurance cover and risk assessment as provided in previous years; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

#### **11.0 To consider request to use car park for a Christmas Fayre on 19th December: 3pm to 10pm**

The council discussed the response to its letter of 11th August and noted that there were still a number of concerns and queries outstanding to be addressed.

Cllr Banham proposed that any decision be deferred to the next meeting to allow for possible receipt of a new plan for a reduced scale event with occupation of the site limited to 24 hours, with music ending at 8:00pm, and marquees to be cleared away by 10:00am Monday 20th December, subject to confirmation that Treetops would not be operating at that time. This would also be subject to sight of public liability insurance cover documentation and a revised risk assessment taking into account the issues identified.

This was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed.

#### **12.0 To consider Treetops request for works to the outside area at the back of the village hall**

Following confirmation that no reply had been received to the email/letter sent on 11 August 2021 requesting further details about the proposal it was agreed that MPC did not have sufficient information to make a decision. It was unanimously agreed that if additional information is provided or a new request submitted it would be added to the next available agenda for consideration.

#### **13.0 To receive and consider pre-application engagement correspondence from Cellnex UK for the development of an electronic communications base station at the telephone exchange**

The council noted correspondence received describing the proposal to erect a new mast at the telephone exchange. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Sewell would contact the land agent to ask why this

particular site had been chosen, whether the mast could be moved to the rear of the property, and whether planning permission was necessary. It was noted that the mast was for the Anglian Water smart meter programme, but other utilities operating in the same area had not needed one.

#### **14.0 To discuss and agree a response to the Transport for Norwich Strategy consultation**

Cllr Peachey reported that the consultation on the proposed Ipswich Road scheme had closed and was being dealt with separately from the Norwich Transport Strategy (NTS), with a decision likely in the next few months. Following discussion Cllr Peachey proposed that a letter be sent to the South Norfolk councillor on the NTS committee expressing MPC's concerns about the impact the Norwich Transport Strategy and the proposed Ipswich Road scheme would have on the residents of Mulbarton; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

#### **15.0 To consider requests from the Football Club:**

##### **15.1 To extend the Football Club's lease of Mulberry Park**

The meeting noted that the lease only covers the playing surface of the pitch, that the Football Association have previously advised that an extension to the term of the lease is not necessary, and that the original term of the lease reflected advice from MPCs solicitors.

Cllr Leek proposed that MPC take legal advice on the implication of extending the term of the lease for the pitch on Mulberry Park; this was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed. The item will be added to the next available agenda for consideration once a reply has been received.

##### **15.2 To install a drainage system on both Orchard Park and Mulberry Park**

Following confirmation that no reply had been received to the email/letter sent on 11 August 2021 requesting further details about the proposal it was agreed that MPC did not have the necessary information to make a decision. It was further agreed that if additional information is provided or a new request submitted it would be added to the next available agenda for consideration.

##### **15.3 To install a pa system to be used on match days only**

The meeting noted that no reply had been received to the email/letter sent on 11 August 2021 requesting further details about the proposal and it was agreed after discussion that MPC did not have the necessary information to make a decision.

##### **15.4 For permission to finish the path all around the pitch, maintaining a consistent size of 1 meter wide by 150mm deep**

Following discussion it was agreed to defer this request pending the Football Club providing the materials specification and site plan as this path is outside the area covered by the existing lease.

##### **15.5 To situate a 20ft container next to the tea hut, behind the trees to obscure it from view, for storing groundsman machinery and equipment, and festival equipment and cabling**

During discussion it was noted that the existing shed needs to be cleared by the Football Club of their old equipment, and the area around the shed cleared of miscellaneous items, so that this space could be used, rather than requesting additional storage on land outside the area covered by the existing lease.

### **16.0 Update on renewal of EE & Three mast agreement**

It was noted that there was no update on this proposal and no decision or action was required by MPC at this meeting.

### **17.0 Update on wind farms**

CLlr Aldous provided a report on recent developments affecting the local area and confirmed that MPC will continue to raise concerns and issues and make representations regarding wind farms, battery storage, and related projects with the Planning Inspectorate, South Norfolk Council, and other bodies, and is in the early stages of obtaining legal advice on recent developments.

### **18.0 To consider planning applications received**

CLlr Banham took no part in discussion of this item.

- **2021/2016:** 50 St Omer Close Mulbarton NR14 8JU

Proposal: Single storey rear extension, side garage extension and first floor extension.

MPC had no comments to make on this application and it was noted that neighbouring properties have a right to submit their own comments if they have any objections.

- **2021/2059:** Middle Cottage Norwich Road Mulbarton Norfolk NR14 8JT

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer

The following information / comments were raised in discussion of this application and will be submitted

- This application should be referred to Committee
- It is in the conservation area.
- Overlooks neighbouring gardens.
- Over development.

- **Amended planning application: 2021/1647:** Land North Of Lantana Norwich Road Mulbarton

Proposal: New dwelling with integrated garage

It was noted that this application has been resubmitted as trees noted on the prior application have been removed. MPC original comments to this application still stand and there is no need for them to be resubmitted.

### **19.0 To receive and consider reply from SNC's Director of Place**

CLlr Banham left the meeting before discussion of this item.

Following discussion of the correspondence received sporadically since March 2021, it was unanimously agreed that a further letter/e-mail should be sent and a face to face/remote meeting should be requested to focus on the specific questions that have not been answered to MPC's satisfaction.

CLlr Banham returned to the meeting.

### **19.1 Correspondence requiring consideration**

- Email requesting information regarding the speed bump at the vehicle access to the village hall car park and why it is not marked similar to the pedestrian entrance. During discussion it was noted that this is a private road for vehicle access and there is no obligation for any speed bumps to be marked and there had been no other reports of incidents. The outstanding works working group will investigate the practicalities of marking this speed hump at their next meeting.

### **20.0 Liaison officer reports**

Pump Track: Cllr Peachey reported that he and Cllr Tucker have a meeting tomorrow (05.10.21) with SNC's Mr Allen (Communities Officer) and a planning officer to discuss the pump track proposals and to receive advice on potential planning matters.

Allotments: Cllr Leek reported that the water troughs at the swamp and Meadows site have now all been lowered; the Long Lane site has had the grass cut and the contractor will soon be turning the ground as specified in the work scope. It was noted that MPC have 72 allotments, there are five still available at the Long Lane site and waiting lists for the other three sites.

Litter pick: Cllr Leek reported that the litter pick will on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 10am. There will be no refreshments after the event and the event risk assessment will be added to the website shortly.

Mulbarton Common Steering Group: Cllr Peachey reported that the next meeting is being held next week (11.10.21) and will include a site visit if weather is suitable. It is hoped that the outgoing Community Assets Management Officer will be able to update the group on progress with previous proposals for work on the pits and ponds and also an introduction to her temporary replacement within SNC.

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

- Bus shelters – it was unanimously agreed that the outstanding works working group would initially look at options and then make recommendation for MPC to consider in the coming months.

### **23.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> public session**

A representative of MALGA thanked MPC for lowering the water troughs at both sites and for moving the gate at the Swamp, which was really helpful and improved safety.

Cllr Legg reported that following many years of complaints about the trees behind 122 Cuckoofield Lane, Saffron Housing have agreed to do a site visit with himself. He has also managed to identify someone at SNC who may be able to update him in relation to the north end of the Meadows being available for purchase.

Cllr Legg reminded MPC that whatever they decide with the Neighbourhood Plan could be superseded by SNC Planning. He also noted that the Norwich Transport Strategy would have a big impact Mulbarton and surrounding villages.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

## Payments for September 2021

| Cheque Number | Recipient                                | Details                          | Net total      | Vat           | Amount £'s     |
|---------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 102762        | Came & Co                                | Annual Insurance                 | 1920.40        |               | 1920.40        |
| 102763        | BP Electrical                            | Floodlight smart meter fault     | 40.00          | 8.00          | 8.00           |
| 102764        | Supplies for schools                     | Key box and stationery           | 41.88          | 8.37          | 50.25          |
| 102765        | DJ Ireland Groundworks & Paving Services | Lowering allotment water troughs | 750.00         | 150.00        | 900.00         |
| 102766        | NTS Partnership<br>T/A Icení             | Jubilee Gardens maintenance      | 68.00          |               | 68.00          |
| 102767        | CPRE Norfolk                             | Donation for legal costs         | 500.00         |               | 500.00         |
| 102768        | Ribbonsdale                              | Grounds maintenance              | 1158.57        | 211.71        | 2090.28        |
|               |  | Ditch clearance                  | 600.00         | 120.00        |                |
| 102769        | A Phillips                               | Expenses                         | 29.08          | 2.21          | 31.29          |
| 102770        | A Phillips                               | Salary                           | 860.73         |               | 860.73         |
| 102771        | HMRC                                     | PAYE                             | 317.93         |               | 317.93         |
|               |  |                                  |                |               |                |
|               |  | <b>Total for month:</b>          | <b>6286.59</b> | <b>500.29</b> | <b>6786.88</b> |