

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 13th April 2015

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh – Chairman	Beverley Leek	John Herbert
Steve Sewell	John Joyce	Peter Munks

First Public Session.

1.1 Police Report.

PCSO Sore reported that between 2nd March and midnight 12th April there had been three reported crimes; theft from property, graffiti and fear/provocation of violence. There were no calls regarding noise, nuisance or antisocial behaviour. There were no questions from the public or Councillors.

1.2 District and County Councillors' Report.

County Councillor Foulger reported that the infant & junior schools were having an exhibition to show the plans for the £1.5m improvements that are planned; all are welcome to view.

District Councillor Legg reported that due to purdah things are quite; SNC are having a blitz on littering and fly tipping and they have asked that incidents of fly tipping or suspicious vehicles are reported.

District Councillor Herbert reported that he is stepping down from serving as a district councillor and from the Parish Council and that he felt privileged to have served the community over the past years. He stated that there was now a stable parish council that had accomplished some fantastic achievements over the years including The Swamp, extension to the village hall, skate park to mention a few and thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to be a Councillor. The Chairman thanked Councillor Herbert for his contributions over the last nine years and wished him well with his future ventures.

1.3 Public Session

The following were raised by a resident:

The Meadows – concern that the path and surrounding area had not been restored after the water pipe was installed. Cllr Leek stated that she had walked the area this evening and it was safe. Cllr Leigh stated that the trench would need to settle else a depression would be left and that this would take time and the area would then be fully restored.

Dog bins – Cllr Leigh reported that there were 12 dog bins in the village that the Parish Council pays SNC to empty.

Gate at The Meadows – Cllr Leigh reported that the gate was scheduled to be replaced during the summer.

Traffic calming on Cuckoofield Lane - Cllr Leigh explained that Highways don't see the need for traffic calming in this area which is actually in Bracon Ash. Cllr Joyce added that the introduction of traffic calming can solve one problem only to create another eg. Noise and the reality is that most of the speeding vehicles are actually locals. Cllr Herbert stated that the speed limit is not the problem it is the enforcement of and unless the police are there on a regular basis then a lower speed limit will make little difference.

Parking at The Meadows – Cllr Leigh reported that this area is a designated parking area and entrance to allow contractors onto the site to maintain the grounds. It was commented that parked vehicles do not appear to be causing an obstruction as they need to allow space to open their doors.

Mr Rod Barker informed that the Council that the bin on Orchard Park had been upturned and that all the bins were full. Cllr Leek stated that she would empty these in the next few days.

Mr Tony Jenkins wished to echo Cllr Herbert's earlier comments about the magnificent achievements of the Council in particular to The Swamp and general support of allotment holders and MALGA.

Cllr Leigh informed the meeting that in the last term of office, MPC has spent circa £400,000 on various community projects and raised circa £84,000 in grants.

2.0 To close the meeting to public participation.

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

3.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Standley.

4.0 To receive declaration of interest on items on the agenda.

No Cllr upon review of the agenda felt it necessary to make a declaration of interest.

5.To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 2nd March 2015.

The minutes for the meeting held on 2nd March 2015 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after proposal by Cllr Sewell and seconding by Cllr Herbert.

6.0 Finance -To receive financial report and approve invoices for payment as per schedule.

A proposed schedule of payments was handed out for approval in addition to copies of the latest bank reconciliation. Following proposal by Cllr Herbert and seconding by Cllr Joyce all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes.

6.1 To approve purchase of new IT equipment.

Following discussion it was decided to defer any decision on new IT equipment till later in the year as it is anticipated that new operating systems will be launched by then.

7.0 Formal Council acceptance of the re-drafted Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Leigh enquired as to whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan was legal and was the property of Mulbarton and not SNC. This was confirmed by Councillors Joyce and Herbert. Cllr Joyce reported that the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan dated April 2015 was ready for submission and that the Parish Council's formal acceptance of this version was part of the formal process that creates the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Joyce outlined that there were five policies in the submission document that were still in dispute with SNC and that a decision was needed as to agree with SNC planners or what the parishioners wanted; if it goes to the Planning Inspector in its current form then there were three likely outcomes: it would be accepted, it would be thrown out or changes would be recommended before it went for public referendum, which if accepted is when the Plan becomes a legal document. Cllr Joyce reported that of every plan he has seen recommendations for change had been made by the Inspectorate.

Cllr Joyce proposed and was seconded by Cllr Herbert that the current submission version, dated April 2015 is submitted and that the Neighbourhood Plan team is given delegated powers to make minor amendments as necessary with any major decisions being referred back to MPC. This was unanimously agreed by all councillors.

8.0 Formal acceptance of revised standing orders 3.a.i

Following proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Sewell the revision to standing orders was unanimously approved.

8.1 Formal recording of Councillors consent or otherwise of Councillors to receiving a summons by email.

All councillors consented to receiving summons by email and acknowledged that they could change this at any time.

9.0 Big Litter Pick – Saturday 25th April 2015

Cllr Leigh reported that a litter pick had been scheduled for Saturday 25th April at 10am. The meeting point is the Parish Office and all are welcome. SNC will be providing the equipment.

10.0 Car Park resurfacing – latest update.

Cllr Leigh reported that he had emailed the contractor again and he would chase again this week. The plan is to complete the work in two stages so that access to the Village Hall can be maintained.

Cllr Leigh reported that he has a meeting scheduled with the new Commons Officer from SNC tomorrow and he would raise the issue of the large potholes in the front carpark that is under their responsibility.

11.0 Scout's request to remove hedge for building works.

Cllr Leigh read out the email request from the Scouts. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that MPC would approve the request subject to them getting the correct and necessary approvals.

12.0 To review and update planning applications.

2015/0713 – Heather Cottage, The Common, NR14 8JQ – to fell a eucalyptus & cedar tree within a conservation area.

2015/0708 – North Barn, 17 Rectory Lane, NR14 8AG – minor internal refurbishment to second floor bedroom, new roof light & repointing brickwork to areas of external envelope.

Cllr Sewell will review the applications/paperwork and facilitate any necessary response.

13.0 Correspondence requiring consideration.

Cllr Leigh adjourned the meeting to allow Ms Rachael Ives to participate.

Meeting adjourned.

Ms Ives explained that having spoken to SNC informally and before any future formal meeting, for which there will be a charge, she would like to gage the Council's views on the options being put forward for the Tea Room project. Following discussion, Ms Ives felt she had a feel what Cllrs wanted and didn't expect or need a formal vote from them on the options.

Meeting resumed.

Cllr Leigh reported that SNC have confirmed by email that either the new or old Commons Officer plus Mark Heazle, Communities Officer for sport & wellbeing and the Park Run director would be accessing the damage caused to the Common by the weekly run. It was noted that parts of the run are at present are being redirected to try to encourage regrowth and limit further damage.

Cllr Leigh reported that SNC have committed to work on three ponds with a spending of c£5000.

Cllr Leigh reported that BT are offering communities the opportunity to adopt a red phone box for £1. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would enquire if the box in the village is available for adoption.

14.0 Sub-committee/liaison officer reports.

Cllr Leigh reported that new swing seats had been fitted in the play area behind the village hall and that next inspection will be in July.

Cllr Leek reported that she has applied for a grant for a roundabout and picnic tables for the Meadows play area.

Cllr Leigh thanked Mr Melvin Creasey for his commitment to the Jubilee Garden and acknowledged him as a great asset to the village.

Cllr Herbert offered to move the spare telegraph poles that PCSO Sore had requested be sited near the schools.

15.0 To receive any items for inclusion in the next agenda.

None received.

To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session.

Mr Geoff Kitchen on behalf of MALGA thanked the Council, and in particular Cllr Leigh for the support given to the organisation to get water at the allotment site. Mr Kitchen invited all members of the Council to a celebration of the switching on of the water and looked forward to issuing a joint press release to celebrate the collaboration.

In response to a comment about the anti-parking logs around the surgery, Cllr Leigh responded that nothing else could be done here as it is Common land, under SNC management.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30pm.

Payments for March 2015

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
151284	Small Fish	Invoice 0533 – Consultancy fees	1090.00	218.00	1308.00
151285	Small fish	Invoice 0541 – Consultancy Fees	580.00	116.00	696.00
151286	Norfolk Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription 2015/16	467.21		467.21
151287	South Norfolk Council	Annual charge for dog bins 2014/15	306.50	61.30	367.80
151288	TMA Bark	Bark for Jubilee Gardens	184.00	36.80	220.80
151289	HMRC	PAYE	140.74		140.74
151290	A. Phillips	Salary – March	542.31		542.31
151291	B. Leek	Expenses	20.53	2.67	23.20
		Total for month:	3331.29	434.77	3766.06