

## MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh      Bev Leek      Richard Tucker      John Joyce

**First Public Session.****1.1 Police Report.**

PC Glenn Hambling apologised for PSCO Sore being unable to attend the meeting. He reported that since the last meeting and midnight last night there had been one reported crime: theft of mail. Although the incident had occurred in December the crime had only recently been reported. PC Hambling explained that Inspector Provat is still planning to deliver his presentation to the Parish Council about what local neighbourhood policing would look like over the next few years, unfortunately a suitable date has yet been found.

Cllr Legg asked about lorries using The Rosery, Rectory Lane and other roads in the area, stating that there was little crime but lots of comments about lorries. PC Hambling replied that he had previously carried out checks in the area though he had witnessed few examples of illegal activity during the exercise.

**1.2 District and County Councillors' Report.**

Cllr Foulger reported that Norfolk County Council's consultation on the review of their budget for next year and going forward had now ended and they were now looking at where savings could be made with a budget planned for April/May after various committee agreements. Cllr Foulger reported that some recycling centres would be opening again on Sundays and planned closures to others would now no longer take place. Cllr Foulger reported that he had raised several concerns with Highways regarding lorries in the village, they advised that residents should forward to them the registration and the name of the company of any offending vehicles. With regards to concerns about the damaged pavement outside the school carpark, Cllr Foulger reported that contractor would be required to repair it at the end of the contract or before if it became dangerous.

Cllr Foulger took note of reports of a large pot hole at the end of The Rosery and also that a lot of damage was being caused to the kerbside/verges outside the Co-op where large vehicles were cutting the corner. In response to a question Cllr Foulger reported that no decision had yet been made about the proposal to increase council tax to cover a 2% increase in adult social services.

Cllr Legg reported that the District Wards boundary consultation would begin this year with the results being reported sometime next year. He also reported that SNC have not yet set their budget for next year, though they have stated that they can balance the books for this year but future years could be a concern and they will need to look at their reserve to possibly counter this. There were no questions for Cllr Legg from the Parish Council or public.

### **1.3 Public Session**

Vivienne Clifford-Jackson introduced herself and explained her role as SNC Community Connector and the support that can be offered through the Help Hub.

In response to a question about agenda item 9, Cllr Leigh explained that it was to discuss and understand the responsibilities of the Parish Council, SNC and the Owner.

Mr Aldous reported that no progress had been made by the Co-op with regards to their waste management and the dangers this was causing highway users. It was discussed that the local store manager was being prevented from implementing changes by his Head Office and that further advice should be sought to progress concerns further.

Cllr Leigh thanked Cllr Foulger and Legg for their support of money in the form of a grant for to provide new tennis court nets when the area is refurbished.

### **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 Cllrs Sewell and Goff.

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

Cllr Joyce upon review of the agenda made a declaration of interest with regards to agenda point 12, review of planning applications, as it related to a neighbouring property.

### **5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Leek.

### **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 financial summary. Following proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Joyce all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes

### **7.0 To discuss the options for the signage on the finger post sign.**

Cllr Leigh reported that the brackets had been removed to be sand blasted and painted by a Colorcote who will complete the work on the 16 pieces at less than cost in return for a mention in parish publications; the work carries a 25 year guarantee. Cllr Leigh explained that the wood of the sign fingers was rotten and would need to be replaced and once the wording was decided new letters would need to be purchased. Following discussion about what destinations should be displayed on the signs no conclusion was reached. Cllr Leigh proposed that the council agreed an estimated £250 budget for the work on the fingers, this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Leigh reported that the black and white poles will be wire brushed and repainted by the handyman during the month; the Council already has the paint for this.

Cllr Leigh updated the council on the progress that he was making on refurbishing and painting the village sign; he expressed his thanks to Mrs Wright for providing a historical photograph of the sign so that the colours would duplicated to the original as it appears they were changed the last time it was painted. Following discussion Cllr Leigh agreed to look at the costs and practicality of having a solar powered light on the sign.

#### **8.0 To discuss suggestions for the adopted telephone box.**

Cllr Leigh reported that to date only one suggestion had been put forward for the future use of the phone box. It was agreed that a plaque in memory of Mr Charlie Yallop should be located in the box and following discussion it was decided to defer any decision for a future use for the time being to allow residents to put forward suggestions.

#### **9.0 Review of the management of the Common.**

Following discussion it was concluded that the official manager of the Scheme of Regulations covering the Common is South Norfolk Council; the land is in private ownership; the day to day upkeep of the land, i.e. Grass cutting is left to MPC who have also cut back the brambles along the B1113 side to clear the bridle path; any changes to the byelaws or scheme of regulation would have to come from the Secretary of State and any enforcement of the byelaws should be SNC's responsibility.

Cllr Leigh reported that SNC have recently had the trees on the Common inspected and from this 24 trees have been highlighted as needing work carried out on them or felled. This work will be completed before the end of March to avoid interfering with breeding birds. A copy of the inspection and maps are on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Leigh reported that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust have been in contact offering to complete a free county wildlife site survey on the Common. All Councillors agreed that permission should be granted for this to be completed.

Cllr Leigh reported that following a Commons Steering meeting which involved members of the Park Run and SNC he had put together an alternative route for the them to consider in order to give the Common a rest and proposed that MPC endorse this alternative plan. Following discussions and seconding by Cllr Leek it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Leigh would propose this alternative route to the relevant parties.

### **10.0 Request from the Scouts to allow Puddleducks to have pony rides on the land covered by the lease.**

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objection to the Scouts allowing Puddleducks', in celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to hold pony rides on the land covered by the Scout's lease; although the Scouts have not yet formally agreed to the request themselves they wished to have permission from MPC as the grantor of the lease.

### **11.0 Welcome Booklet update.**

Cllrs Leigh and Leek reported that work had started on updating the Welcome Booklet; notices have been placed on the notice boards to encourage groups and organisations to provide their details. Mrs Wright has also offered to include a piece in the next Parish News, with returns by the end of March. Cllr Leigh invited that the Park Run to include their details need to be included in the next version of the booklet.

### **12.0 To consider any planning applications.**

10 Bluebell Road, NR14 8AR - Two storey extension to front aspect (enlarged porch and bedroom extension above). Cllrs Sewell and Goff will consider this application and respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Leigh reported that he, along with Cllrs Foulger and Legg have corresponded numerous times with SNC and highways about the development at Long Lane. It was noted that all issues relating to this development should be reported directly to the Case Officer, Chris Watts whose contact details are on the parish council website.

### **13.0 Correspondence requiring consideration.**

- Email on behalf of the schools to making preliminary enquiries about the feasibility of using Orchard Park for this summer's sports day. This request was agreed in principle; more details are requested/to be provided once plans start to be put in place.
- Email from Norfolk ALC – update on changes to the audit arrangements – all Councillors have received a copy of this.
- Letter from Democratic Services at SNC relating to Parish Council Member Allowances – following discussions all councillors agreed that they would not be claiming this allowance and the money would be used to the benefit of the community instead.
- Email from Norfolk ALC – confirmation that Cllrs Leigh and Sewell will be attending the meeting at SNC on 26.02.16.
- Email from SNC – details of their interactive 2016-20 South Norfolk Corporate Plan that is now available on their website.
- Email from Chris Watts, SNC's design officer for the Long Lane development, to Chairman Leigh regarding complaints about the development – following discussion it was again stated that any complaints or issues relating this development should be directed to Mr Watts.
- Email from SNC about the District Boundary Review that Cllr Legg had mentioned at the beginning of the meeting.

#### **14.0 Sub-committee/liaison officer reports.**

Cllr Joyce reported that the Neighbourhood Plan still had one more step of going before the full council at SNC before it could be formally adopted.

Cllr Leigh asked if anyone had any suggestions for the Common that they let him or Mr Aldous know so that they can be taken to the next Commons Steering Committee Group. Mr Aldous is the residents representative.

Cllr Leek reported that the vegetation around the bus stop opposite the Co-op had been cut back and the roof would be repaired during February, a seat/bench would then be installed in March.

Cllr Leigh reported that research was still being undertaken into the skate park users request for a volcano to be installed. Cllr Leek has a site meeting arranged for half term week with a contractor to discuss details and projected costings. A feasibility report will be presented to Councillors when this information is available together with potential grant applications.

Cllr Leigh reported that a contract had been awarded for the resurfacing of the tennis courts area; however it was subject to satisfactory references being received and approved by himself and Cllr Tucker. Thanks were again made to the district councillors for their financial contribution to this project. Cllr Leigh is still awaiting the electrical contractor awarded the work on the floodlights to make contact to plan a site meeting and to progress the work.

It was reported that Cllr Sewell has made contact with the individual who raised a concern about the Tas Valley walk and has arranged to meet to ascertain if the pathway mention is actually part of the official path.

Cllr Leek reported that there is fallen tree at the Meadows, although this is not interfering with any allotments it will be added to the schedule for removal. Cllr Leek reported that a delivery of play bark has been ordered for delivery during half term week for the Common's play area.

Cllr Leek confirmed that a community litter pick has been arranged for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 10am. All equipment will be provided by SNC.

Cllr Leigh reported that he and Cllr Leek had been looking at options for improving the entrance to the Meadows site. A new pedestrian gate will be installed during this month.

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

No Councillor at this time wished to add any items onto the next agenda.

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

A member of the public suggested that a plaque in memory of Brian Tungate could also be included in the adopted phone box. It was also discussed that there is a collection within the village to install a memorial bench by the football pitch in Mr Tungate's memory.

A member of the public raised the management of the Common and why he had heard there was a proposal to ban some activities on the land. It was unanimously stated by MPC that there was never

any consideration of banning any activities on the Common or banning the Parkrun, discussion were on going on to ensure all were working for the benefit of all in the community. The Common as previously stated has byelaws and these cannot be changed by MPC. The Management Plan of the Common was proposed by SNC in consultation with the Norwich Fringe Project and was designed to be a five year rolling plan.

Mr Court, on behalf of the Scouts, asked to view the proposed alternative route for the ParkRun as it would pass by the Scout Hut. On review he had no objections.

It was raised that the Football Club has talked about drainage on Orchard Park and there was concern that this would restrict the use of this area that has always been for the benefit of the whole community and not just one group. Cllr Leigh reported that as far he was aware this project was not even at the feasibility stage and that there would not be any restrictions in the future on the community as a whole using Orchard Park.

It was suggested that the verges around the Common need to be raised; Cllr Leigh reported that the flints that had been dumped on the verges had been reported to Highways, as they were responsible for putting them there after road sweeping, as their presence would prevent the grass from being cut under contract.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next meeting will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm.

## Payments for January 2016

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
151382	Glasdon	2 x dog bins	173.04	34.60	207.64
151383	Farmbits	Gate for Meadows	50.68	10.13	60.81
151384	MVHMC	Room Hire: Oct – Nov – Dec 2015	45.00		45.00
151385	Puddleducks	Reimbursement for MNP referendum	99.75		99.75
151386	P. Leigh	Expenses – village sign	103.78	18.56	122.34
151387	B. Leek	Expenses – stationery & postage	24.27	4.73	29.00
151388	A Phillips	Expenses – flowers	29.99		29.99
151389	A.Phillips	Salary	552.76		552.76
151390	HMRC	PAYE	143.98		143.98
151391	Glasdon	Grit Bin	188.17	37.63	225.82
151392	A Nixon	6 hour labour for bus stop & village sign preparation	75.00		75.00
		<b>Total for month:</b>	<b>1486.42</b>	<b>105.65</b>	<b>1592.07</b>