

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 4th April

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh Bev Leek Richard Tucker John Joyce Steve Sewell

Following item 3: Derek Aldous.

First Public Session.

1.1 Police Report.

Cllr Leigh reported that PCSO Sore was unable to attend the meeting as he was attending to an incident. PCSO Sore had informed Cllr Leigh that for the previous month there had been no reported crimes or calls relating to noise, nuisance or antisocial behaviour.

1.2 District and County Councillors' Report.

Cllr Foulger stated that he had nothing to report from either a County or District perspective.

Cllr Legg reported that he had a couple of local issues to raise both concerning planning applications; Cllr Leigh confirmed that these would be discussed under item 14 of the agenda.

1.3 Public Session

It was raised that lorries are continuing to use Rectory Lane despite there being a weight limit on the road and that these vehicles are causing damage to the banks. Cllr Leigh encouraged residents to take photographs and forward them to the Police.

It was raised that the church bells hadn't been heard recently chiming the on the hour. It was discussed that these may have been switched off for an event and not turned back on. Cllr Leigh reported that he would follow up.

The tree working being completed by SNC was discussed; it was noted that there are numerous oak saplings around that should be moved in over to prepare for the future and that SNC should be encouraged to plant more trees.

Cllr Leigh reported that the planned maintenance on the entrance by the Surgery had been completed and the ditch by Church Pond had been cleared to prevent unauthorised vehicle access on to the Common.

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 Goff.

4.0 Co-option of Councillor

Cllr Leigh introduced Mr Derek Aldous who wished to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This motion was proposed by Cllr Leigh, seconded by Cllr Leek and was duly passed unanimously. Mr Aldous signed the requisite paperwork before joining the Council.

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

Cllrs Leigh and Leek upon review of the agenda felt it necessary to make a declaration of interest in relation to agenda item 13 and their association with the Rich's Trust.

6.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March

The minutes of the meeting held on were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Sewell.

7.0 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 Joyce and seconding by Cllr Sewell all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes. It was noted that although an invoice had been received from Anglian Water for the Meadow's allotments this was not included on the payments schedule as sewerage charges had been applied and a correct invoice had been requested.

7.1 Review agreement with the Cricket Club for use of Orchard park and extra cuts for 2016.

Cllr Leigh reported that Hardingham Cricket Club, as discussed at last month's meeting, wished to use the cricket pitch during the summer and that the Council needed to decide if was prepared to pay for the extra grass cuts during the summer on that area of Orchard Park in light of the fact that Mulbarton Cricket Club had not yet paid for last year's rent or for the additional cuts completed in 2015. Following discussion when it was also noted that the Football Club had not paid their rent for the lease of Mulberry Park, it was unanimously agreed that the extra cuts would be paid by the Council for this year with the view that the pitch could also be rented out to other clubs and that the agreements with both the Cricket and Football Clubs should be reviewed at the next meeting.

8.0 Skate park repainting and sound proofing costs.

Cllr Leigh reported that an email had been received from a graffiti artist, Mr Reynolds, offering to repaint and brighten up the area at no cost to MPC; following review of a cost analysis of three quotes for repainting and repairing the skate park it was unanimously agreed in principle to allow Mr Reynolds to repaint the area and that a meeting with him, the Council and the end users should be arranged. Cllr Leigh proposed a budget of £1000 be authorised for repairs to the ramps, this was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously approved.

Following discussion about options for soundproofing the ramps, Cllr Leigh reported that he would look at non-flammable options available and report back on costings. The sound proofing, repairs and re-painting would need to be coordinated.

9.0 Electrical quotes for floodlights.

Cllr Leigh reported that the spectator rail and bollards that the Football Club had installed around the pitch were currently preventing the cabinets on the towers being opened fully for access and having spoken to a representative from the Club this issue should be resolved in the next week or so. Cllr Leigh reported that the cost of repairing the floodlights was £1425.00, following discussion when it was noted that last season's rent had not been paid by the Football Club despite two reminders it was proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconded by Cllr Sewell that the work be completed by Alpha Electrical once the Football Club's rent was paid, this was unanimously agreed. It was noted that the floodlight towers need to be tamper proof and that all access points should be twin locked.

10.0 Norfolk Alliance of Local Councils membership.

Cllr Leigh adjourned the meeting to allow Cllr Legg to participate in the discussion concerning Norfolk ALC as he had also been to the meeting that Cllrs Leigh and Sewell attended.

Meeting adjourned.

Following discussion about whether the MPC should continue its membership and pay the 2016/17 membership fee of £505.27 it was unanimously agreed that MPC would not at present renew its membership.

Meeting resumed.

11.0 Additional litter bins around the village.

Following discussion Cllr Leigh proposed that a budget of £270 be approved to purchase and fit a pole mounted litter bin, this was seconded by Cllr Joyce and unanimously agreed. Cllr Leek will oversee the purchase and installation.

Meeting adjourned: Cllr Leigh adjourned the meeting to allow PCSO Sore to participate as he was unavailable to speak in the first public session.

PCSO Sore reported that since 7th March and midnight last night there had been no crimes reported and no calls concerning noise, nuisance or anti-social behaviour.

In response to questions from the public and Cllrs concerns about lorries on Rectory Lane and other areas within the village, PCSO Sore stated that PC Hambling had in previous years investigated similar complaint. PCSO Sore confirmed that if photographs were sent to him he would forward and follow up with the Roads Policing Team. It was also recommended that residents with concerns should call the Police non-emergency number 101 and report issues. PCSO Sore stated that he would also visit the Hopkins Home site and give advice.

Meeting resumed.

12.0 Beacon lighting for 21st April 2016 for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Following discussions Cllr Leek offered to lead this activity with support from Cllr Sewell. A risk assessment will be completed and the proposed site for the beacon was by the village sign.

13.0 Update on allotments at Long Lane.

Cllr Leigh reported that he and representative from MALGA had met with Hopkins Homes to discuss the proposed sites for 20 new allotments on the new development. It is planned that there will be two sites; the site at the top end of the development would mirror the layout of the Rich's Trust and would be completed during 2016. It has been suggested that the site would be accessed from The Rosery with the appropriate splay being incorporated into the plans; in order to complete this the Rich's Trust would lose one plot though the Christmas tree area would be returned back to a rentable plot. The developers have proposed to install three water troughs which would be accessible to the new plots and the Rich's Trust, MPC would manage the provision of water which would be cost neutral to all allotments. The Richs Trust would be issued with one invoice for their share. Cllr Leigh reported that this proposal had been put to the Rich's Trust and they had given their support.

Cllr Leigh reported that the original S106 agreement was that the allotments would be offered to MALGA; MALGA have notified all that they wish to pass this to MPC to own and manage on a similar basis as the other two sites already in the village.

Cllr Leigh reported that the second allotment site on the new development, at the bottom end would not be available until the development is completed and at such time MPC will need to decide if there is still a demand for allotments or look at alternative uses for example an orchard.

Cllr Leigh confirmed that all costs of bring the allotments on line such as demarcation fence, water troughs, laying out the plots and any other remedial work would be borne by the developer.

14.0 To consider any planning applications.

2016/0621 – 98 Bromedale Avenue, NR14 8GZ: proposed single storey extension – no comments.

2016/0598 – Flat 7, Richmond Lodge, Norwich Road: retrospective change of use from residential flat to holistic therapy treatment room/business.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Sewell would discuss this application further with Cllr Legg and formulate a response on behalf of MPC taking into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan.

2016/0709 – Huntingfield Cottage: variation of condition 3 of permission 2006/0033, to allow independent rental of annex from main dwelling but keep it as an annex of the main dwelling. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Sewell would formulate a response on behalf of MPC taking into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan.

15.0 Correspondence requiring consideration.

- Norfolk County Council – electronic consultation for planning applications. All Cllrs have received a copy and no further discussion necessary.
- South Norfolk Council – Housing and economic land availability assessment (HELAA) methodology. All Cllrs have received a copy and no further discussion necessary.
- NCC Highways department – confirmation that yellow lines on Birchfield Lane will be refreshed during mid/late summer.
- SNC – waste and recycling routes reorganisation. All Cllrs have received a copy, FAQ from SNC is available on MPC's website and SNC have already started their communication campaign.
- Highways England – notification of overnight road closure, A11 near Wymondham between Spooner Road and Tuttle interchange, 4 April until 8 April.
- Central England Coop – reply to enquiry asking for all information to be forwarded to the email address provided. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Aldous would take the lead on formulating a response with Cllr Leigh as both had already been involved in talks with the local store manager. It was acknowledged that the waste issue continues to be a concern.
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust – request to help promote their survey of the Common and request for support. Details of how to volunteer and dates of training sessions are available on MPC's website.

16.0 Sub-committee/liaison officer reports.

Cllr Leigh reported on the latest Common's Steering Group meeting and that work identified as needing completion had been completed including restricting vehicle access onto the Common by Church Pond and opposite the surgery. SNC will be writing to the Football Club to refuse their request to use the Common as a car park for their Beer Festival in May. SNC will be inspecting the Common this week to formulate an opinion on when the Park Run can start using the Common again. Dead branches on the oak tree are still to be removed; SNC have been invoiced for the work completed to date on the hedges/brambles, the work has not been completed as the contractor did not want to take his tractor onto the Common whilst it was still so wet.

Cllr Leigh reported that the black and white finger sign posts had now been painted and the work on them was now complete. It was also reported that the posts/fence at the Pond would need monitoring as they are leaning towards the pond and if they were to collapse then the road would be closed.

Cllr Leigh reported that the area around the swings and talking book on the Common needs some remedial work and at some stage between Sunday and today the swings at the Meadows had been detached from the crossbeam.

Cllr Leigh reported that water had been restored at both allotment sites for the summer.

Cllr Tucker reported that he had resigned from the Village Hall Management Committee as he felt he was unable to discharge the duties of a trustee in accordance with the Charities Commissions regulations. This means that MPC no longer has a representative on the Committee. Cllr Tucker reported that at the last VHMC meeting the Chairman announced that he would be resigning in June and that the vice chairman announced his immediate resignation.

Cllr Joyce announced his resignation as a trustee of the VHMC citing the same concerns as Cllr Tucker.

Following discussion it was agreed that MPC should write to the VHMC asking for clarity about their succession plan to replace the Chairman and Vice-chairman.

Cllr Leigh reported he has emailed the Solar Farm developer again asking for sponsorship of a light for the refurbished village sign. Following discussion it was agreed that if sponsorship was not available then MPC would look at costs to provide.

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

- Approval of play equipment safety inspection report contractor.
- Review of Football and Cricket Club lease agreements.

To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session.

A member of the public raised that as a school governor they had recently been to a meeting at the school to discuss the intake in September, and wished to raise a concern about traffic and parking issues at drop off and pick up times. During discussion it was noted that the schools and parents all have a role in taking responsibility for ensuring a safe environment. Cllr Legg confirmed that the school roll currently is not much greater than it was a few years ago when the last estate was finished and the fact that everyone has a car and wants to use it on the school run that is contributing to the problem. In regards to whether a crossing could be installed it was noted that this would need to be raised with the NCC Highway Agency.

A member of the public wished to reiterate her concerns about noise from the skate park and whilst appreciated what had been discussed earlier to install sound proofing material wished to know why the skate park was not built out of concrete and questioned if MPC had appropriate planning permission for it. Cllr Leigh reported that building a skate park out of concrete would have increased the cost by a minimum of five. It was confirmed by all Cllrs that MPC did not require planning permission as it had permissive rights.

A member of the public noted that there used to be a bench on the Common and asked if it could be replaced, they offered to provide a sketch showing the original position. Cllr Leigh reported that he would look at this matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th May, following the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM.

Payments for March 2016

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
151404	JR Vincent-Bunn	Hedge cutting – The Common	100.00	20.00	120.00
151405	A.Nixon	Bus shelter – phase 2, install bench & painting. Fence repair, bin installation, no exit signs, fingerpost signs.	924.00		924.00
151406	Anglian Water	Water charges for the Swamp	51.55	10.31	61.86
151407	DJ Ireland Groundwork & Paving Services	Common ditch & entrance way	540.00	108.00	648.00
151408	Mrs M Carter	Village Website	120.00		120.00
151409	P. Leigh	Expenses – posts & signs	58.98	10.39	69.37
151410	B.Leek	Expenses – postage	12.96		12.96
151411	A.Phillips	Salary	514.00		514.00
151412	HMRC	PAYE	128.60		128.60
		Total for month:	2450.09	148.70	2598.79