

MULBARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Mulbarton Annual Parish Meeting held on
on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.00pm.

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh – Chairman	Steve Sewell	Beverley Leek	John Joyce
Victoria Goff	Derek Aldous	Richard Tucker	

In attendance: District Councillor Colin Foulger, PCSO Sore, Rector Adrian Miller and several residents.

1. Chairman of the Parish Council opens the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillor Peter Leigh welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Nigel Legg.

3. Police Report.

PCSO Sore apologised that his beat manager, Sgt Glen Hambling being unable to attend this evening's meeting but he hoped that his new manager would be able to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

PCSO Sore reported that since 4 April and midnight last night there had been four reported crimes: a stored caravan was broken into and then there was one incident that led to the remaining three crimes reported: theft from a retail outlet, public order offense and assault. During the same time period there were no calls to Police regarding noise, nuisance or antisocial behaviour.

PCSO Sore reported that between May 2014 and April 2015 there were 25 reported crimes. Between May 2015 and April 2016 there were 21 reported crimes. PCSO Sore reported that these figures for Mulbarton were comparable to other parishes of a similar size.

PCSO Sore reported that he had visited the construction site at Long Lane to discuss problems that the construction traffic and vehicles were causing in the village. It was discussed that issues are still continuing. There were no questions for PCSO Sore from the residents or Councillors present.

4. To confirm and sign the minutes of The Annual Parish meeting held 1st June 2015.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

5. Parish Council Chairman's report – Peter Leigh.

Cllr Leigh as Chairman of the Parish Council read out the following report:

Chairman's Report May 2016

Again we have had another busy year. The elections in May last year were disappointing in the number of applicants, who came forward to serve on the PC, but we were able to co-opt another three Councillors and this has brought the number up to seven.

The most significant achievement of the past year has been the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan and we appreciate all the team's efforts, led by Councillor John Joyce, in driving this plan through to completion. The Plan is now an integral part of the Planning process.

There has been a lot of activity associated with the Common over the past twelve months. Notable achievements have been:-

- *The refurbishment of our Village Sign*
- *After waiting 18 months for Highways to perform we took it upon ourselves to refurbish and replace the finger signs that are at the North and South of the Common on the B1113. The work was carried out by volunteers, a local handyman and Colorcote of Hethel who kindly blasted and powder-coated the cast iron fittings at a special price to the PC; we have also added signs for the Doctors' Surgery, School and Village Hall.*
- *More maintenance work was carried out to a number of ponds - part of the agreed five year work programme.*
- *The unofficial car park in front of the Doctors' Surgery/School was resurfaced by SNC*
- *After one or two problems the Council managed to sort out an alternative route for the Park Run to maintain their activities and it is anticipated that both the Common and the route around Mulberry Park and Orchard Park will be utilised in the future.*
- *We have commissioned, in partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, an ecological survey of the Common. Hopefully this work will be complete by the end of the year and will be made available to all interested parties.*
- *We have made moves to improve pedestrian access to the Common at the same time making it more difficult for motorised access to the grasslands.*

Despite some opposition the bus café (Blakeys) is now up and running and early indications are that it is a success. The need for a café was highlighted in the responses to the Neighbourhood Plan.

In close collaboration with MALGA we now have a permanent water supply to both allotments. As a team we have also been meeting with Hopkins Homes to finalise the layout and access to the two new allotment areas that form part of the new development. Anyone interested in an allotment should, in the first instance, contact our Clerk Anne to be put on the waiting list.

We are still experiencing problems with Hopkins Home over traffic management and the cleanliness of the roads. Despite help from our District Councillors, SNC's planning officers seem reluctant to get involved.

The solar farm on Brick Kiln Lane is now fully commissioned and producing power to the grid. We should shortly be receiving our yearly payment from the solar farm people and this will continue for the productive life of the farm - currently estimated at 25 years. We felt that they carried out their work in a professional manner with little, if any disruption to the village - unlike Hopkins Homes.

Our finances are robust and again we have passed both the internal and external audits with no comments.

We are shortly to commence work on the renovation of the tennis courts and associated fencing. The surface will be all weather and the area will also be marked out for 5-a-side football and netball. We have had interest from someone who is keen to start coaching all ages for the tennis and hopefully this will kick-off this summer. Our thanks to District Councillors Colin Foulger and Nigel Legg for their financial support in this endeavour.

Our thanks to the our Clerk, Anne and Vice-Chairman, Beverley for their efforts in putting together the new PC website and also the updated Welcome Booklet, which will be available electronically, but a limited number of hard copies will be available for people without access to a computer. If you know of a group or organisation that is not featured please contact the Clerk.

Finally a big thank you to all our Councillors for their support over the past twelve months. Don't forget, they are all volunteers who have given their time freely and all have forgone their right to an allowance to enable the money to be used in the Community. Also thanks to Nigel and Colin for their help and advice over the past year.

6. County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Foulger as County and District Councillor for the Parish read out the following report:

Annual County Council Report for Parish Councils 2016:

Devolution:

Local council leaders in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have agreed a deal with the government – to devolve significant powers to local level. The deal has been produced after months of negotiations with authorities across Norfolk and Suffolk and latterly Cambridge and Peterborough. The draft agreement suggests a combined authority be set up across the four authority areas in East Anglia, but councils would still keep their sovereignty and deliver local services. It would see the transfer of significant resources and powers from central government to the region, but at this stage specifically for infrastructure, housing, economic development and jobs and skills. Between now and the Summer each council in East Anglia will have the chance to debate the detail in the draft agreement.

Highways:

A new pot-hole and small project fund of £1.5million to ensure not only good quality roads, but crucially a good standard of road safety – cyclists and motorcyclists are especially vulnerable to potholes.

Parish Partnership Scheme:

Funding of £3800K for 122 small scale highway projects across Norfolk has been agreed by Council. The money from the County Council's Parish Partnership scheme will be matched by parish and town councils who were invited in June 2015 to put in bids for funding schemes important to their local area. This comes on top of the £1.5million pot-hole and small projects scheme mentioned above. Popular bids have been for vehicle activated signs, trods as well as part-time advisory 20mph signs with flashing warning lights specifically outside 12 schools in the county.

NDR:

Work is now underway on this important scheme which is expected to help deliver 10,000 new homes and 12,000 new jobs. The road, when it opens, will be a 20km dual carriageway running from the A47 at Postwick south-east of Norwich through to the A1067 north-west of the city and is currently the

country's biggest local authority promoted road building project. The road is expected to be open to traffic by early 2018, although there is an ambition to have the NDR open to traffic before Christmas next year 2017. Of course this target depends upon good progress with earth moving over the coming months as well as key structures such as the twin bridges over the Norwich to Sheringham railway and Plumstead Road.

GCSE exam results:

Norfolk's schools have narrowed the gap on the national average at GCSE for the second successive year according to provisional results published. Early results suggest that Norfolk has climbed 35 places up the national league tables over the last two years, with a 16 place jump since 2014. 53.8per cent of students achieved A* to C grades, including English and Maths, while 63.7per cent of students performed above the national average of 66.6per cent.

Norfolk has seen a big rise in the number of 16-18 year olds now in education, employment or training.

There are also other numerous bits and pieces of news that may be found on the council's website www.norfolk.gov.uk

A resident ask Cllr Foulger if there were any plans to improve the junction of the B1113 and A140 in light of the plans to build more houses in Bracon Ash. During discussion it was noted that there had been plans six years ago but these had been dependant on either a government grant or a housing development paying for the improvements; a roundabout would not improve the situation as the A140 traffic would have priority. It was discussed that there was no simple answer due to constraints of land space available, wildlife habitat and money.

A resident asked if there were any provisions for schools and pre-school with any new developments as the three pre-schools will be close to capacity at the start of the September term. Cllr Foulger reported that he led to believe that the four replacements/rebuilt class rooms at the infant and junior schools had been planned to cope with increase demand. He reported that NCC will only spend money when they see an actual growth in numbers not on what was thought was going to happen.

It was raised that SNC are shortly to issue a letter to land owners under the heading " Call for Sites" which encourages them to promote parcels of land for a particular use or development to submit this land for consideration for potential allocation in the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

Cllr Leigh reported that a EIA screening option for four parcels of land off Norwich Road had just been received, the plan is for 200 homes to be built within the four plots.

7. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Legg was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Foulger had already reported in his capacity as County Councillor.

8. Reports from local groups and organisations.

Rector Adrian Miller, Mulbarton Church: reported that following a changeable year last year he wished to mention five things for this year:

The Church has been granted a training post, for up to four years and the successful candidate will be starting in July.

There will be a special church service on June 12th to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

At the recent annual church meeting, the Church's finances were reviewed and despite cutting expenditure there was an increase in the deficit and there was potential to run out of money by the end of the year. A grant has been applied for roof repairs and money has been designated towards the costs.

Following the relaxation of regulations regarding pictures on grave stones/memorials the church is again inviting comments of support from residents regarding Norwich Diocese's new regulations relating to the visual appearance of the grave area.

The Church has nearly finished preparation that will allow it to be open during day light hours. Volunteers are being sort to help lock and unlock daily.

Cllr Leigh asked if there were any updates on the plans for extending Harvest House. Rector Miller reported that their appeal had been turned down; and the latest plan submitted is similar to the last but slightly smaller.

The church clock chimes were discussed; Rector Miller reported that the chimes have to be manually turned on in the morning and off again in the evening; if anyone can help with this daily task then please contact Rector Miller. Cllr Leigh offered to look at options to make this task automated.

Mrs Jill Wright, Parish News: reported that the Parish News was still being published four times a year and that there were usually enough contributors. The advertisers in the Parish News help to fund the costs and Mrs Wright encouraged all to support them. Thanks were given to Brain Law for his printing services and for liaising with advertisers and to Sue Sterling for proof reading and Pauline Campion and her team of volunteers for distribution. Additional distributors are always needed.

Mrs Jill Wright, Heritage Group: reported that there is a small committee group that arranges the meetings. This winter's meetings of heritage interest have included the importance of ponds, Norwich yards and the 8th in the East project. The next talk/meeting is in June and will be followed by a walk around the Common to look at the wildlife; places can be booked through Words Week.

Ms Tammy Sharpe, Park Run: reported that they were hoping to be back on the Common this week for the weekly run although they had had no reply from SNC to date. It was reported that the two routes were going well and there were no issues to report following the start of the cricket season/training last Saturday.

Mr Tony Jenkins, MALGA: thanked MPC for their help in getting water on at the Swamp and Meadow's allotment sites which was appreciated by all. It was reported that the 30 plus allotments being proposed by Hopkins Homes as part of the Long Lane development were needed as the village was expanding and that the allotment sites at the far end of the development will have raised beds making them accessible to all. Mr Jenkins wished to thank MPC and in particular Cllr Leek for support and encouragement of MALGA. Mr Jenkins will shortly be attending the National Allotment Association AGM and will report back to members after the event.

Mr Chris Carter on behalf of **Mrs Marina Carter, Village Website:** thanks were passed onto MPC for their financial support for the upkeep of the site as the site is still not yet self-sufficient; Rector Miller has been appointed as an independent person to review accounts. It was reported that the site gets

between 10 and 40 visits a day. It was reported that there had recently been problems with sending out the info-mail mainly to btinternet addresses and apologies that Mrs Carter was unable to resend. It was requested that clubs, groups and organisation keep Mrs Carter up to date with their details so that that site information is correct.

Cllr Leigh read out the following report on behalf of the **Women's Institute**:

MULBARTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT TO MULBARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016 - *Mulbarton Women's Institute continues to flourish, attracting 41 members from the villages of Bracon Ash, Flordon, Mulbarton, Swardeston and Wreningham. Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with the exceptions of August and December. During the past year speakers at our meetings have given excellent talks on a wide range of topics including, Diamonds, Pets as Therapy and the Needs and Care of Prisoners on Release from Gaol, and during the coming months we look forward to hearing another varied selection featuring, among others, Living in Turkey, Corndollies and Genetics. 2015 was the Centenary Year for the National WI and Mulbarton Ladies shared in the Norfolk celebrations at Gressenhall. Other outings have included a trip to Burghley House and afternoon tea at the Britannia Cafe which is attached to Norwich prison. Our Garden Club has also enjoyed visits to gardens and Garden Centres. Our WI supported the village when we helped with catering for Mulbarton Words Week and our affiliated Craft Group gave a generous donation to provide equipment at the doctors surgery. On May 29th we look forward to being involved in Mulbarton Fun Day. New members are always welcome and contact made be made with: Ellen 570544 Irene 570866. Alice Lince*

9. Any other business.

No other representation was made.

Cllr Leigh thanked those that had attended and invited those that wish to to stay in the hall for the Parish Council AGM and ordinary meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm