

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh Beverley Leek Richard Tucker Adam Banham Derek Aldous Emma Reeve

**First Public Session.**

Cllr Leigh opened the first public session by thanking the District Councillors for their support last Wednesday at SNC's planning meeting that was discussing the application for 15 houses at Bracon Ash. SNC approved the application despite opposition from MPC and local residents.

**1.1 District and County Councillors' Report**

District & County Councillor Foulger stated that he didn't have a lot to report except there is a full County Council meeting next week with only one item on the agenda, to discuss the Council's budget.

In response to a question about when the last part of the NDR will be opened, Cllr Foulger reported that it is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> March but may be a few days later.

District Cllr Legg reported that SNC are planning to increase their part of council tax by 3.5% which is approximately £5 for a Band D property, this is still to be ratified by the full Council.

Cllr Legg reported that he had spoken to SNC's Economic Development Officer regarding broadband speeds at Oakley Park and had been advised that although the site had been provided with a new roadside cabinet, it is copper based not fibre and probably not superfast. If it's not superfast then Openreach can approach the developer with a gap-funded modular for upgrade. Cllr Legg pointed out that residents' complaints are useful to influence decisions; he also added that SNC could possibly put in wireless broadband as they want 100% cover in the district.

Cllr Legg reported that the Section 18 consultation (GNLP) which covers development of properties up to 2036 was open and that all should feel free to comment on it as wished. He stated that he response to concerns from residents about sites put forward for development under the "call for sites" initiative, this list was only a wish list only and not a confirmed development list; he was hopefully that there would be no development round locally.

**1.2 Public Session**

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

**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 were received from Cllr Sewell.

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

Cllr Banham declared an interest in any matters relating to planning and GNLP.

### **5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were unanimously agreed (two Cllr abstained from the vote as they had not been present) as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Aldous.

### **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. Cllr Leigh reported that he would like to check on the fence repairs work before the invoice is paid but for it to be approved so that payment can be made to the contractor in a timely manner once any remedial work is completed. Following proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Banham all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes.

### **6.1 To review and approve quote for works to the main car park.**

Cllr Leigh proposed that the quote for repairs for the gravel area of the main car park be accepted; this was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed. Cllr Leigh that the work had been provisional booked for week commencing the 12<sup>th</sup> February, subject to the decision this evening and this would now be confirmed with the contractor.

### **6.2 To review and approve quotes for two replacement bins on Orchard Park.**

Cllr Leek reported that she had not had a reply from SNC as to whether they would empty the bins on Orchard Park and if so there would be a charge. Following discussion regarding the condition of the current bins, Cllr Leek proposed that two new bins be ordered and installed at a cost of £490; this was seconded by Cllr reeve and unanimously agreed.

### **6.3 To review cost of street sign for The Common.**

Following discussion about the work completed on the area by the village sign and having a road sign in keeping with the area, Cllr Aldous proposed that a new road sign be ordered and installed, with a budget of £300, this was seconded by Cllr Leek.

### **6.4 To review and approve budget for appreciation gift for PCSO.**

Following discussion during which it was questioned if Parish Councils could legally employ /engage private security to replace the service that PCSO's used to provide, the Clerk was tasked to research this. Following discussion, Cllr Aldous proposed a budget of £100 for an appreciation gift for the villages departing PCSO; this was seconded by Cllr Banham and unanimously agreed.

### **6.5 To review initial quote for car park.**

Cllr Aldous reported that he had reviewed some provisional quotes for supply of grid mesh for the front car park and that the cost would run into tens of thousands as the area, in order to last, would need digging out as there is currently heaving of clay and frost damage. An option to use gravel, it is common land so a permeable surface only is allowed, would probably only last a season. Cllr Aldous stated that he had no proposal at present for the front car park.

During discussions it was reported that the front car park was repaired at a cost of £4000 three years ago and this had only lasted 18 months, not helped by it being used by traffic that it was not designed for. It was noted that drainage and sewage pipes need to be taken into consideration with any proposal. It was agreed that there was a need to formalise a strategy and plan.

### **7.0 To review hay cutting on the Common.**

Cllr Leigh reported that there were concerns raised last year regarding the cutting of the Common and this was probably a combination of the weather and also the timing of the cutting. Cllr Leigh has spoken to other contractors who have advised that the hay, due to dog fouling, is of low quality and has limited re-use. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that MPC would review again after this year's cut.

### **8.0 Update and review of ParkRun.**

Cllr Leigh reported that last weekend's Park Run had been cancelled after he raised MPC's concerns regarding the condition of the route with the run Director. It has been agreed that MPC will review on a weekly basis whether, in its opinion, the ground is recovered enough to be run on. Cllr Leigh reported that there had been a run Director on site Saturday morning to inform runners of the cancellation.

During discussion it noted that the Common is very water logged at present and it was questioned if this may be partially due to the fact that the water levels in the ponds are too high as they haven't been cleared recently and this is keeping the Common water level high. It was agreed that a long term strategy for the Common and MPC land is needed in consultation with the Common Steering Committee and the land owner. It was also noted that it was important to balance the requirements of any group user with the rights of parishioners to use the land and that 100-200 people using a strip two metres wide would cause more damage than the same number of walkers who spread out over the area. It was discussed that now the brambles have been cut back on the Common there may be an option for the Park Run to alter the summer course to take some pressure off the current route; it was noted that Park Run rules only allow for a maximum of five laps. It was agreed that no blanket ban would be put in place during winter months and that weekly reviews would continue as to whether, in its opinion, it is acceptable to MPC that the week's Park Run takes place.

### **9.0 Update on CCTV upgrading.**

Cllr Leigh reported that he is waiting for quotes from another two companies; though from talking to these and reviewing the previous two quotes the number are going to be high. Once he and Cllr Sewell have looked at quotes and work scopes they will report back with a proposal.

### **10.0 Update on Lanpro proposal for land north of Mulbarton.**

Cllr Leigh reported that the consultation had now closed. It was noted that quite a few streets in the village appear not to have been leaflet dropped. Cllr Leigh reported that a local resident had set up a petition to oppose any further potential development in the village and that the petition could be found on: [you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-ruining-mulbarton](http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-ruining-mulbarton); a link will also be placed on MPC's website.

It was noted that it is unknown when Lanpro will be submitting an application. Cllr Leigh reported that Lanpro had asked if MPC would like them to make a presentation at a meeting; it was unanimously agreed that this was not welcome although they would welcome Lanpro holding a public consultation meeting in the village.

### **10.1 Update on Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).**

Cllr Aldous reported that he and Cllr Leigh had been to the SNC meeting/briefing session on the GNLP and that SNC had stated that the District Council was only responsible for housing and that they had no influence over other services for example education. During discussion it was noted that the GNLP does not give any consideration to green belt areas and it was felt by MPC that the document is not for presentation to the community but meeting the statutory requirement of presentation to the planning inspector. Cllrs Aldous and Tucker agreed to draft a response on behalf of MPC, for approval at the next meeting in order to meet the consultation deadline.

### **10.2 To review options for road traffic monitoring through village.**

Cllr Leigh reported that Bracon Ash had completed a traffic density/flow survey as part of their recent planning application objections and thought that this would be an option for the village in order to bench mark the current situation. It was unanimously agreed to get costings for such a scheme to be installed on the B1113 near the pub.

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

2017/2655: Ash Cottage, 21 Rectory Lane – amended plans: change of land to extend residential curtilage. Erection of a porch at the front of the property. Single and two storey rear extensions. Construction of a new detached garage. It was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections and that neighbouring properties had a right to submit their own comments if necessary.

2018/0206: Mulbarton County First School – construction of permeable surface footpath and access road for pedestrians and emergency and maintenance vehicles. Application will be determined by Norfolk County Council ref Y/7/2018/7001.

### **11.0 Correspondence requiring consideration**

Email from SNC Economic Development Officer - broadband speeds at Oakley Park. This correspondence was covered by Cllr Legg in his District Councillor report at the beginning of the meeting.

### **12.0 Sub-committee/liason officer reports.**

Cllr Leigh reported that the swings on the Common had been reinstated and they had passed a safety inspection on the basis that some minor remedial work (bolt covers etc.) was completed within the next month.

Cllr Leek reported that she would contact the pest control regarding moles at the Meadows play area and would continue to follow this up.

Cllr Leigh reported that the areas on the Common that were bramble cut late last year may require revisiting again in March to see if they need another cut to maintain future summer growth. He also reported that the footpath sign on the other side (west side) of the B1113 needs fixing or replacing.

Cllr Leigh reported that the night silencing of the church bells has been arranged and the Church will be liaising directly with the contract to sort out details of the installation.

Cllr Leigh reported that the MUGA area will be due a maintenance visit around March time and when this is completed the contractor will also do the line markings around the basketball hoop. He also reported that the village sign solar light has been fixed and is now a welcoming sight into the village. The cabling to the village hall play area floodlight has been connected and paid for by MPC so the area is lit in the late afternoon/early evening, providing a play area that can be used during the winter months.

Cllr Leek reported that a litter pick has been arranged for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.

Cllr Leigh reported that the water will be turned on at the allotment sites at the end of March. He reported that he has been trying for the last couple of months to get an answer as to when the allotments at Oakley Park will be handed over to MPC. It is understood that the area has been rotivated, although it should have topsoil and be rotivated before being handed over. The water system is in place and the only outstanding work is for the water tanks to be installed.

### **12.1 Review of outstanding works list.**

Cllr Leigh reported the major work on the list has been completed with the exception of agreeing a lease with the Football Club which has been outstanding since September 2016. MPC's solicitor, as of last week, was still waiting for a reply from the Football Clubs solicitor who had last been contacted in November. It was confirmed that the Football Club do not currently have a lease to use the land.

Bench at the bus stop – plans have been revised that no longer require a concrete base on the Common and this new plan together with images of suggested bench types will be resent to the Common land owner to seek permission to install.

No entry sign needed at the school/surgery carpark and some of the vegetation needs to be cut back; also to be added: disabled parking signs in this car park have been damaged and need to be reinstated.

Cllr Leek has chased the play area contractor again to confirm a date that they will be completing the work agreed with them last year.

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

- Grant request from Words Week

- Front car park

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

A representative of MALGA reported that the group has organised a talk by the Lady Mole Catcher, which will be a ticket event that is hoped will also raise the awareness in the village of MALGA.

Cllr Leigh confirmed that the hedge between the Rich's Trust allotments and the new plots on Oakley Park would not be removed.

A member of the public stated that work had started on the second allotment site at Oakley Park but work was being delayed due to the need to move overhead wires. Cllr Leigh reported that there would be 13 plots on the first site to be released by SNC/developers and the second site was about twice the size.

The Football Club Chairman stated that a number of leisure/sporting groups had got together and wanted to know what MPC's plans were to improve facilities as currently there is only one changing room. Cllr Leigh stated that the ParkRun has not had facilities since they started and that this was first that MPC knew about them having a problem with this set up. Cllr Leigh stated that the lease was with their (Football Club) solicitor and this had been ongoing since September 2016 and were no further forward despite MPC's efforts and previous MPC have managed to complete leases within three months. The Football Club Chairman stated that the lease was still their solicitor. Cllr Leigh stated that permission was granted for the Football Club to install a stand along the pitch on Mulberry park last May and it had still not been installed; he also stated that MPC try to accommodate all groups as best as they can and that the proposed venture by the Football Club for new facilities had not been backed by a sound business plan.

A member of the public stated that he thought the Park Run was great but could they look at alternative routes, possibly using the foot paths around the farm land at the back of the village hall site? Cllr Leigh reported that alternative routes had been suggested and that all need to be flexible to maintain the land that was available. The Football Chairman stated that they had offered to help the Park Run find an alternative route and to measure it for them. Cllr Leigh reported that the owner of the Common was not happy with the condition of the land and that MPC was open to suggestions.

A member of the public asked about yellow lines and zigzag road markings by the school. Cllr Leigh reported that the problem was with enforcing such restrictions which is the responsibility of SNC. It was also noted that the line markings opposite the One Stop shop had not been reinstated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm

The next meeting will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 @7.30 pm

## Payments for January 2018

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102376	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Swing fittings	45.92	9.18	55.10
102377	Abate	Quarterly pest control	122.00	24.40	146.40
102378	MVHMC	Room hire: Oct – Nov – Dec 2017	45.00		45.00
102379	Anglian Water	Swamp allotments	4.02		4.02
102380	Cozens	Power supply to VH play area flood light	120.00	24.00	144.00
102381	Smith of Derby	Deposit for church night silencing device	371.10	74.22	445.32
102382	9 to 5 Supplies	3 x toners	305.28	61.05	366.33
102383	David Bracey	Common swing inspection	80.00	16.00	96.00
102384	JD Services	MUGA fence repairs	450.00	90.00	540.00
102385	DJ Ireland	Common entrance, bridle path sign moved & swing on Common	648.38	129.68	778.06
102386	A Phillips	Expenses: mileage & office supplies	26.97	2.98	29.95
102387	A Phillips	Salary & ex gratia payment	857.76		857.76
102388	HMRC	PAYE	347.48		347.48
102389	P Leigh	Expenses: mileage & padlock	31.89	2.65	34.54
102390	DJ Ireland	Car park repairs	415.00	83.00	498.00
		<b>Total for month:</b>	<b>3870.80</b>	<b>517.16</b>	<b>4387.96</b>