

MULBARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Mulbarton Annual Parish Meeting held on
on Monday 1st June 2015 at 7.00pm.

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh – Chairman Steve Sewell Beverley Leek John Joyce

In attendance:

PCSO Darrin Sore, PC Hambling and representatives from various village organisations 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 Legg – District Councillor

Cllr Foulger – County & District Councillor

3. Police Report.

PCSO Sore reported that in the three weeks from 11th May to midnight 31st May there had been two reported crimes, involving one individual, who was arrested for fear or provocation of violence and for being in possession of drugs.

PCSO Sore introduced his beat manager, PC Glenn Hambling, of the Hethersett/Mulbarton Safer Neighbourhood Team, before reporting the annual crime statistics: in 2013/14, 30 crimes were reported; in 2014/15, there were 27 crimes reported. Antisocial behaviour reports in 2013/14 were 18 and in 2014/15 the number had fallen to 6.

In response to a question from the public about whether there had been a substantial drop in drugs use in the village as the resident had noticed a lot less needles in the village, PCSO Sore said that he is sure that it goes on in every village however it has not been brought to his attention as being an issue in this village. He continued by stating that he had been working in the area for several years and had in the past taken an early intervention approach with some that had now grown up and possibly had children of their own now.

A resident commented that PCSO Sore's presence in the village must have an effect; PCSO Sore responded that he does frequently park at the Co-op and then patrol the streets on foot and hoped that

as he been covering this beat for many years this has had a stabilising effect as his face is known. He also acknowledged that the cardboard cut-out when used in retail locations has an effect.

PC Hambling stated that PCSO Sore was a credit to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and it was pleasing that he could rely on PCSO Sore for anything concerning Mulbarton. He went onto explain that the financial situation regarding the funding of PCSO's was still unclear.

4. To confirm and sign the minutes of The Annual Parish meeting held 12th May 2014.

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 - Chairman's Report 2015

Despite lots of people expressing an interest in joining the Council, only five members submitted the necessary papers by the due date – meaning no election was needed as we have 11 allocated positions. We will obviously try and recruit Councillors from the people who originally expressed an interest but it was disappointing never the less.

May I take this opportunity to express our gratitude and thanks to two retiring Parish Councillors – Jon Herbert and Peter Munks who have been members of the last two Parish Councils each with over nine years' service to the Community.

We have had the commencement of Flordon Long Lane Development – albeit without all the necessary covenants in place. Highways have still to agree road layout etc. We have complained to SNC but their response was that an interim holding order was not necessary. To which we replied perhaps there is one law for the developers and one law for Parish Council.

We are also concerned what the impact will be if the School go ahead with their £1.5M building Project. Where are all the contractors going to park their vehicles? As everyone will know parking is already a problem in this area and to have a potential of 30+ vehicles jostling for the same space will be chaotic. If you remember under the Long Lane development plan a new roundabout was supposed to go in the junction of The Common and Long Lane.

We have recently received notification that a London-based firm want to put a 25 acre solar farm on land owned by Nick Gowing at the south-east corner of Mulbarton – just off Brick Kiln Lane. They are going through the necessary hoops to obtain planning permission and SNC have already waived the requirement of an EIA (Environment Impact Assessment). This work is due to be finalised in early 2016.

Our major Project for this year will be the resurfacing of the Village Hall car park. This will include filling all the potholes and then applying a new surface layer. We will also incorporate the necessary yellow line for disabled parking and agreed fire escape routes. Because of the costs involved some of the monies from last year's budget have been carried over. This work is being carried out in conjunction with NCC Highways department as we felt they had the necessary technical expertise to advice on the best method and also in the selection of an appropriate contractor.

WE have scheduled this work to be carried out in early August, which should minimise any disruption to existing facilities and peoples access to the complex.

We have a new Lead Commons Officer with SNC –Andy Sheppard (supported by Oliver Deeming and Gary Howard). Our initial meeting with him earlier on this month gave the impression that he is keen to put aside earlier poor management and try and get things done. We will be working with him on another Commons Management plan only this one will also address non-natural things like the front Village Hall and the School/Doctors car park, footpaths, rabbit and rodent infestation. So any problems/maintenance works etc. should be addressed to him in the first instance. He can be contacted via the usual SNC channels.

Our close collaboration with MALGA has meant that mains water is now available to the two Allotment sites and we hope it will encourage interest in this area. The Official opening was Saturday 30th May and was attended by the major financial supporters of the project and the local press. The Allotments continue to remain popular and if you are interested please contact our Clerk, Anne, to put your name on the waiting list.

Norfolk Police have found some money from somewhere, meaning our PCSO Darrin Sore is now back to his normal patrol areas. We continue to support Darrin in his endeavours to maintain Mulbarton as a safe and relatively crime-free neighbourhood.

Our litter pick on the 25th April was well attended and we managed to collect 21 bags of rubbish and one box of spent legal highs. Thanks to everyone who turned out on a miserable wet day and a special thanks to Danny Gaskin of the football club for his attitude to supporting his Village.

On the amenities side we have added a slide to the Commons play area and replaced the swings at the Childrens play area at the back of the Village Hall. We are in the process of adding a roundabout to the Meadows play area along with more picnic benches – so that everyone can enjoy the facility.

We would ask that everyone respects the “no dogs” rule in this play area, as we understand there have been one or two altercations between members of the public and some dog owners.

We continue to fund the Village website and also continue our support of the Parish magazine.

We have nearly completed the revamp of the Parish Council website and we were hoping to have it fully up and running by now but a few last minute glitches have delayed it slightly

We have renewed our contract with Smiths of Derby for the yearly maintenance of the clock in the Parish Church tower. We have negotiated a five year deal with them, which was commercially attractive and continues our commitment to the Village War Memorial.

WE also continue our support to the Church for the maintenance of the churchyard.

If anyone feels they have a role to play in the Parish Council we would welcome all to come and have a chat and see how they can contribute to better the community in general.

6. County Councillor’s Report.

Cllr Leigh read out the following email received from **Cllr Foulger**:

Unfortunately I am unlikely to be able to attend tomorrow night's meeting as I must attend the first meeting of South Norfolk Council, which is scheduled to begin at 7.30pm, following the recent elections. If as I expect not to be present, then please give my apologies.

Following my recent emails to the NCC departments for Children's Services, Planning and Highways raising concerns about construction traffic to and from the Mulbarton School during the building contract, I have only received confirmation from the Head of planning that as yet no application has been

received. However it was confirmed that the matter of access and egress by construction traffic has to form part of the application.

Naturally I will keep you informed of any further NCC responses as and when I receive them.

Kind regards,

Colin

7. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Leigh read out the following email received from **Cllr Legg**:

I will be unable to attend as it clashes with the SNC one.

Not much to report until all the positions, etc are in place for the new council.

Some form of grant schemes is likely to continue.

There have been many complaints about noise from the Lotus track at weekends. I am taking this up with the Environmental people at SNC on behalf of the adjacent parishes. There may be people in a similar position in Mulbarton.

Nigel

Cllr Leigh stated that if any local residents had any concern over noise from Lotus, then to get in touch Cllr Legg,

8. Mulbarton Allotments.

Cllr Leek reported that both allotment sites were fully occupied and tenants had been showing great commitment to their plots, she encouraged residents and councillors to go and have a look.

Mr Geoff Kitchen, on behalf of MALGA, reported that the organisation had felt it had been really positive working with MPC at both sites into order to have water connected for allotment holders. He reported that MALGA currently has about 40 members. Mr Kitchen reported that he and MALGA are very appreciative of the voluntary capacity of MPC Cllrs.

Cllr Leigh thanked Peter for manning the BBQ on Saturday to celebrate the official turning on of water at the allotment sites.

9. Play areas – future projects.

Cllr Leigh reported that the Parish Council had applied for a grant to install a traditional roundabout and additional picnic tables at the Meadow's.

Cllr Leigh reported that two picnic tables were installed last year at the Meadows to encourage all generations to enjoy the whole site: Jubilee Garden, Allotments & play area. Cllr Leigh offered thanks to Cllr Leek and her family for helping with the recent bark delivery to the village hall play area and for their support in moving that around the new slide that was installed on the Common last October.

10. Reports from local groups and organisations.

Mr Vic Rayward-Smith on behalf of Mulbarton Scout Group: Mr Rayward-Smith started by stating that they now have a new larger site thanks to MPC and this has transformed the number of activities they can now do and it is much appreciated.

Mr Rayward-Smith reported that they have a large membership and a large waiting list as they are struggling to get adult volunteers to help. The HQ is now 26 years old and although some upgrading has been done the group have plans for further improvements.

The Scout Group hosted a visit for 46 scouts from Thailand last years and an invite to visit them has been issued which they hope to complete next year.

The annual fireworks display last November was very successful with record attendance and money raised. Mr Wayward-Smith wish to thank all those involved.

Thanks also to Cllr Foulger for helping to fund improvements to the Scout hut.

Cllr Leigh read out the following report on behalf of **Rev Adrian Miller, Mulbarton Church:**

This last year has seen a lot of changes. There have been more coming and goings, the church electoral roll losing 15% of its members, but gaining 10%. Those who have moved to fresh pastures included core ministry team members. Our much loved Dawn Davidson transferred to stipendiary ministry and took a full-time post in Saxlingham Nethergate in June 2014. We also said goodbye to our lay-reader-in-training, Jan Hunt, at about the same time. Our youth worker, Danny Ellero, finished his contract with us in January 2015. From February this year, we increased the admin assistant hours from 8 to 20 per week, and employed a full-time pastoral assistant, both made possible through generous anonymous donations. These have been a great help.

Our new Rector has seen all the seasons round, and got a good feel for how things hold together across the 4 villages and churches. There has been a re-shaping of service patterns and times to make the service pattern more manageable.

The church has held various community events, attracting over 100 people to the Rectory on different days, for refreshments and good company. We supported the Christmas Fayre, with stalls, music and puppets.

We continue to see large numbers from the village gather for special occasions, both seasonal events, and marking significant moments for the village, as in the passing of some greatly treasured village characters.

The churchyard receives visitors every day. Maintenance costs have risen at a time when the church's income is in the 6th year of a downtrend, but we continue to ensure that the churchyard is open and amenable to visitors, and kept as tidy as possible. A faculty application to relax the recent church ruling on disallowing pictures on gravestones was successful, so our vicar is once again authorised to allow pictures on gravestones in the new part of the churchyard.

We are in discussions about possible future developments for the church building and/or Harvest House, to make best use of the facilities we have, and to make them fit for purpose – e.g. warmer in winter! We have recently been selected as 1 of 11 benefices in Norwich Diocese to be allocated an assistant curate for 2016.

Cllr Leigh read out the following report on behalf of **Mulbarton WI**:

MULBARTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - REPORT TO PARISH MEETING – JUNE 2015

Mulbarton Women's Institute continues to thrive with a membership of 41 ladies from Mulbarton, Bracon Ash, Flordon and Swardeston.

11 monthly meetings have been held on the 3rd. Monday Evening of each month in the Village Hall.

Outings and Visits have included a Summer trip to Audley End and an April visit to the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Norwich.

We made entries to Norfolk wide WI competitions at the Royal Norfolk Show and one lady one a second prize.

The Craft Group and Garden Club both continue to thrive.

We look forward to another successful year which will include involvement in celebrations for the National WI Centenary.

New members are always very welcome. Contacts: Irene 570866 Alice 578390

Mr Danny Gaskin on behalf of Mulbarton Football Club: Mr Gaskin reported that the club continues to thrive, with number up and it was pleasing to see that teenagers were being retained.

Mr Gaskin reported that there was a need for an additional full size pitch, as they didn't want to turn away youngsters that wanted to join and play, and as such they were looking at options on the Common.

The first team were promoted at the end of last season and although many premier teams pay their players, Mulbarton wouldn't be. If the team were promoted again and wanted to play in the Thurlow Nunn League, then better facilities would be needed; the club are looking at grants to improve facilities. Some improvements had been made to the changing rooms following donations from local businesses.

Mr Gaskin finished by stating that he was relatively new to the area and was keen to move forward with improving relations and working with MPC.

Cllr Leigh asked if the top third of the Meadows would be suitable for an additional pitch. Mr Gaskin replied that this area was too small for a full pitch and although it may have potential for a mini pitch there could be an issue around lack of toilet facilities.

Cllr John Joyce on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee 2014/15: Cllr Joyce presented the following report to the meeting:

*Busy year transforming some initial thoughts into a draft Plan. It comprised: * A residents questionnaire * Draft Plan * Residents consultation on draft Plan * Statutory consultation * Submission of Plan for examination*

Residents questionnaire in June:

** Delivery*

** Return boxes*

Residents views:

** Retaining a village feel and protecting the Common as the heart of the village are very important*

- * *Minimise traffic through the heart of the village*
- * *New employment should be small businesses*
- * *Coffee shop and youth club the two main new facilities people wanted*
- * *Medical, better mobile signal and broadband needed before extra houses*

Draft Plan consultation in November/December/January:

- * *Public event at village hall in November, Christmas Fayre stand in December and statutory consultation in January*
- * *Statutory bodies were generally supportive with a number of useful detailed comments to improve the Plan*
- * *Lengthy discussions with SNC about aspects of the Plan. Agreed some changes but had to agree to differ on some matters*
- * *Strong support for the draft Plan from residents*
- * *Strong views on street lights, mainly wanting to retain dark skies but a noticeable minority wanting lights*
- * *Most of the continuing concerns of residents related to things that are not appropriate for the Plan e.g. parking, general traffic issues and a desire for more evening buses*
- * *The Committee will compile a list of these issues for the parish council to consider after the draft Plan has completed its process.*

The Plan was submitted to SNC for formal review, examination by an independent Inspector and referendum.

SNC are undertaking a formal consultation, over 6 weeks, on the submitted Plan. It will end on 22 June. They are currently seeking an Inspector from RICS.

Next steps:

- * *the public examination over the Summer*
- * *a referendum of all residents in the early Autumn*

Cllr Leigh read out the following report on behalf of **Mulbarton Heritage Group & Mulbarton Parish News:**

MULBARTON HERITAGE GROUP reconvened last Autumn with some new people joining to organise meetings. At that first meeting of the season we heard about Medieval Food from a speaker from Dragon Hall. In early March Nick Miller introduced Edith Cavell with a lot of hitherto unknown information about her life and death. And last month we organised a fascinating talk about medieval graffiti by Matthew Champion who is organising research groups nation-wide. A few members helped out with an archaeological survey on the old Hethel air base (part of a wider study to map all the old USAAF air

bases in Eastern England) and two of us went on a workshop at Gressenhall to learn about recording archaeological finds and the value of air photos.

We are now working on a programme for next winter, hopefully to include the value and reinvigoration of ponds, Norwich's 'Yards' and the Coleman family of mustard fame. Your support is invited – details in Parish News and on posters nearer the time.

Jill Wright (Co-ordinator)

MULBARTON PARISH NEWS continues to be produced quarterly and for recent issues I have received more than enough material and have had to abbreviate some and omit other items. I always give first priority to Mulbarton news and organisations and then include non-commercial items from neighbouring villages if space. What you don't get to read are the many semi-commercial articles and charity pleas I am sent (such as Air Ambulance and Quidenham Hospice) which are very worthy causes but not specifically relevant to this village. I would like to thank the dedicated team for all the work they do – Brian Laws puts in hours sorting ads and chasing the advertisers as well as printing the magazine at little more than cost price. Sue Stirling's eagle eyes spot most of the typos and other errors before it goes to print. And Pauline Campion bundles up more than 1500 copies and takes them to the distributors. And, of course, without the distributors you wouldn't get your copy, so MANY THANKS to them all. If anyone else feels they could deliver to a small patch 4 times a year please get in touch with Pauline (her contact details on page 5) because there have been several people who have moved or had to give up due to ill-health.

Jill Wright (editor)

10. Any other business.

Ms Debbie Grenery – asked on behalf of the residents at Hanover Gardens about having seating within the bus shelter on Cuckoofield Lane and who decided the bus route, as the route now being used, whereby it goes through the village twice, is causing a problem for the residents as the stop is not as convenient as previously. Cllr Leigh replied that the bus route has been unchanged for the past two years and the majority of village residents had no complaints; following discussion it was recommended that Hanover Garden residents stay on the bus until it returns back along Cuckoofield Lane as this stop was closer. Cllr Leigh reported that the Parish Council were currently discussing an official alternative route with First Bus Group should Long Lane be closed to traffic and when finalised this would be made public. In response to a question about late night buses, Cllr Leigh reported that late night buses were run for a 12 month period previously but the trial was stopped as no one used them, as a result he thought the bus company would be very reluctant to try running them again.

Mr Vic Rayward-Smith – Ask which pathways are bridle paths and which are foot paths. He also raised a concern about the footpath by the church in the winter and whether it was possible for some resurfacing to be done as it was also causing damage to the churchyard. Cllr Leigh responded that two years ago the Parish Council had offered to replace the stile by the church with a gate but this suggestion was vetoed by the then Rector, and it was probably time to re look at this again and the surface of the footpath. With regards to bridle paths, Cllr Leigh reported that the bridle path on the west side of the Common was currently unusable due to brambles and this has been discussed with SNC. There is a map in the front car park showing where the bridle paths are and with regards to horses using the Common this was an enforcement issue for SNC and that if anyone sees any transgression, especially if they have photos, then to contact SNC and get it reported into the system as there is

currently some reluctance within SNC to act. Following discussion about signs for footpaths and bridle ways, Cllr Sewell reported that he would investigate this matter further.

In response to a question about street names for the Long Lane development, Cllr Leek reported that it hadn't been possible to pursue the idea of famous residents as the legal restrictions and red tape were too restrictive, as a result and following on the nature theme of other areas of the village the suggestion of using pond fish names had been submitted.

Cllr Leigh prior to closing the meeting wished to pay special thanks to **Mr Melvin Creasey** for his time and effort in maintaining the Jubilee Garden, stating that he did a tremendous job and the Parish Council on behalf of all residents acknowledged and appreciated his efforts. If anyone wishes to help Mr Creasey then please get in touch.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.