

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 4th March 2019

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh Derek Aldous Beverley Leek Richard Tucker Steve Sewell Emma Reeve
Adam Banham (in attendance from agenda item 7.0)

1.1 District and County Councillors' Report

County & District Councillor Foulger was not in attendance.

District Councillor Legg reported that SNC have increased council tax by £5 for a Band D property, which is the same increase as last year. The reasoning being is that central government council tax support grant is reducing year on year and SNC need to build up some reserves.

Cllr Leigh reported that MPC will receive no council tax support grant the next financial year.

In response to Cllr Leigh raising that 650 new homes were planned for Cringleford, Cllr Legg stated that some of these would be at Poringland and SNC has received a £5m grant to help sort out infrastructure as although land has outline planning permission no one wants to build due to there being no infrastructure.

Cllr Leigh raised with Cllr Legg the fact that the allotments still hadn't been handed over by Hopkins Home, despite 18 months of MPC pursuing the matter. Cllr Legg advised going higher than the planning case officer at SNC.

Cllr Leigh reported that the hairdressers next to One Stop had been broken into over the weekend; now that the One Stop shop has closed the area is no longer illuminated at night. The incident has been reported to the Police.

1.2 Public Session

A number of residents at the meeting wished to raise their concerns that 12 of the school's year 6 children have not been accepted into Hethersett academy due to it being oversubscribed. This was despite the head of Hethersett guaranteeing a place for all children in the catchment at their open evenings. Nine of the 12 have been placed at the Hewett School, as the nearest school with available places.

During discussion it was noted that the Hewett school had recently been Ofsted rated as good, but prior to this the ratings were poor; to date there has been no confirmation if school transport will be available for these nine and there was no consultation on the decision. The residents/parents ask for help in this matter not just for this year's year 6 children but also for the future as they foresee more problems if additional homes are built in the village.

It was agreed that MPC would have an informal meeting with the residents/parents to see what support and guidance they could offer. Cllr Reeve agreed to be the point of contact to set this up.

Cllr Legg reported that he was unaware of this issue. Cllr Leigh reported that MPC had objected and raised concerns about planning applications in regards to lack of infrastructure, services and educational needs.

It was reported that Mulbarton schools intake last September had exceeded its number and in year 2 currently there are 90 children. Concerns were raised that as there is a lot of home building in Hethersett at present this may lead to Mulbarton no longer be a feeder school for Hethersett academy in the future.

A resident thanked Cllr Leek for arranging the recent litter pick; they also offered thanks to MPC for the resurfacing work at the junction at Long Lane/Cuckoofield Lane and work on the pot holes opposite the bus stop by the Co-op.

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

Cllr Banham (in attendance from agenda item 7.0)
All other Councillors were in attendance from the start of the meeting.

4.0 To receive declaration of interest on items on the agenda

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

Cllr Aldous declared an interest in agenda item 6.1.

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 4th February 2019

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 4th February 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after being proposed by Cllr Leek and seconded by Cllr Sewell.

5.1 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 16th February 2019

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16th February 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after being proposed by Cllr Aldous and seconded 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. Copies of the latest financial summary were also handed out. Following proposal by Cllr Reeve and seconding by Cllr Tucker all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Leigh reported that the loss of the council tax support grant had been absorbed by MPC and that the returns from their assets had been maximised.

6.1 Approval of grant to Words week 2019

Following proposal by Cllr Leek and seconding by Cllr Tucker it was unanimously (Cllr Aldous abstained from the vote) agreed that a grant for £250 be awarded to Words Week 2019.

6.2 Delegated authority for installation of bollards at junction of Long lane and The Rosery

Following proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Leek it was unanimously (Cllr Leigh abstained from the vote) that Cllrs Leigh and Aldous be given delegated authority to complete the installation of bollards at the junction with a maximum budget of £1000.00.

6.3 Approval of quotes for miscellaneous work around the village

It was reported that a quote had not yet been received from the contractor. Cllr Leigh reported that some redressing work had been completed on the school/surgery carpark and some of the pot holes on the path between the village hall and church had been filled. Cllr Leigh suggested getting quotes for a linear rate for remedial work to the ditches around the Common and this way MPC could then phase the work. This was agreed.

7.0 Request from Football Club to hold Beer festival on Mulberry Park

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Reeve and seconded by Cllr Sewell, that approval be given to the Football Club to hold their fund raising event on Mulberry Park, subject to clarification on insurance and restoration of any damage. This was unanimously agreed.

7.1 Review of spectator stand and required work for completion

Cllr Leigh reported that the planning consent for the spectator stand included provision of a soakaway; he reported that a downpipe had been installed in the last couple of weeks but there was still no sign of a soakaway. The Football Club had been emailed on 27.02.19 but to date there had been no response. It was agreed that a new reminder be sent to the Club and to include removal of the temporary fencing that is behind the stand.

8.0 Request from resident for support to source gritting equipment for grit spreading around village

Cllr Leigh reported that a request had been received from a resident on Oakley Park for MPC to supply him with equipment and garage so that he could grit paths within the village. Cllr Leigh reported that responsibility for paths and roads on Oakley Park still lies with Hopkins Homes as they have not been adopted by SNC.

Cllr Leigh reported that the provisional cost of the residents request was £42,000, which is circa two thirds of MPC's precept, and although a nice gesture from the resident it was not a financially feasible option. Cllr Leigh stated that he would talk to the resident to explain MPC's position on this request.

9.0 Planning Review Group to be wound up and major council document 15: Terms of Reference – Planning Review Group to be removed from listings

Following proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Sewell it was unanimously agreed that the Planning Review Group be wound up and the related terms of reference (major council document 15) be removed from listings.

9.1 Playground Group to be wound up and major council document 16: Terms of Reference – Playground Group to be removed from listings

Following proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Sewell it was unanimously agreed that the Playground Group be wound up and the related terms of reference (major council document 16) be removed from listings.

9.2 GDPR – current major council documents under this heading to be moved into one policy document and current major council document 19: Data Protection Policy to be removed from listing.

Following proposal from Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Sewell it was unanimously agreed that all GDPR documents be moved into one policy document and that the current data Protection policy be removed from listings.

9.3 Formal acceptance of updates to Financial Risk Assessment and Parish Council Risk Assessment

Following proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Sewell it was unanimously agreed to accept the updated versions of the Financial Risk Assessment and the Parish Council Risk Assessment documents.

10.0 2018/0872 – Land east of Norwich Road

Cllr Leigh reported that he and two councillors had met with the case officer for this application to talk through his previous recommendations. Public consultation returns need to be submitted by 15th March after which date, the planning officer will then write his report for the 27th March Development Management Committee meeting. Cllr Leigh reported that MPC's solicitor will review and edit any submission that MPC propose and have it back in time to meet the deadline; Cllr Leigh welcomed fellow Cllrs' contributions to his initial draft.

Following discussion it was agreed that MPC would speak at the Development Management Committee meeting and it would be prudent to have presentations ready to cover three potential scenarios: 1. SNC change their mind and opt to approve the application; 2. To support SNC if they are still recommending refusal and 3. Preparation for an appeal if SNC refuse application.

10.1 To consider any other planning applications

There were no other planning applications to be considered.

11.0 Update on Hornsea Project Three offshore wind farm

Following an update and discussion, Cllr Aldous proposed that legal advice be taken to produce a report for submission to the enquiry, with a maximum budget of £1500.00. This was seconded by Cllr Leek. The vote was 4 in favour and 2 against. The Chairman wished for it to be recorded that he felt it was not correct to use MPC money for something which is not directly concerning the residents of Mulbarton. It was also asked what level of support other Parish Councils were contributing to the cost; none was known at present. MPC will write to neighbouring Parish Councils to ask for contributions.

12.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

- Email from Highways in relation to a query about rules and regulations on the installation of mirrors: *“Norfolk County Council cannot authorise mirrors upon the highway because they are considered to be a sign and as they do not appear with the Traffic and Signs Regulations, they would be illegal. Under the Highways Act 1980 it could possibly be considered as an obstruction and further to this if the mirror was considered a contributory factor in an accident, you could be liable. The above is the main reasoning why, as Highway Authority we cannot sanction use. However, in addition they can cause a safety problem because:*
 - *they can affect drivers’ visibility because they reflect headlamps / sunshine;*
 - *they can affect drivers’ ability to judge the distance of approaching vehicles due to the convex mirrors;*
 - *weather conditions could cause visibility problems which could be dangerous to users.*

Aside to the above, mirrors have been placed on private property. This however is a matter for agreement with the landowner concerned and may be subject to planning from Great Yarmouth Borough Council but we may also request removal if we received complaints about impairing drivers.

Speeding enforcement matters such as this are usually actioned by use of SAM2 equipment or community speed watch via the Police.”

- Email from resident regarding an old Highways terminal signage that they have been advised by Highways is now surplus but that MPC may be able to suggest a new location for. Following discussion it was agreed that MPC would look at the condition of the sign and see if it could be re-sited within the village.
- Email from Blakey’s Bus: ownership of the Bus café will revert to single ownership from 9th March and thanks to MPC for all their support, guidance and advice offered over the past three years. During discussion it was noted that the lease will need to be revised and this should be at Blakey’s expenses.

13.0 Sub-committee/liaison officer reports

Cllr Leigh reported that he had emailed the police Beat Manager, to raise that houses in the village appear to have been marked to indicate whether they were suitable for potential burglary and asked him to investigate the matter. The Beat Manager had asked how MPC were getting on with Dardan; Cllr Leigh asked the Clerk to let PC Boden know that patrols are now on a revised/reduced schedule which will be reviewed again in the summer.

Cllr Leigh reported that the last “immediate action plan” published by the Common Steering Committee was June 2015 and suggested that a meeting should be convened, especially in light of the ecology submission for planning application 2018/0872 and their wish for the developer to be involved.

Cllr Leigh reported that the ash trees outside the surgery that SNC cut down to 1.5m have still not been fully removed and asked the Clerk to contact them again to chase.

Cllr Leigh reported that the grounds maintenance contract starts again next month and if there were any extras that Cllrs thought of that needed doing then to let the Clerk know.

Cllr Leek reported that the play areas were all ok and that the zip wire would remain out of action for the foreseeable future to allow the grass to further grow through the new matting.

Cllr Leigh suggested that refurbishment of the swings behind the village hall may be a good team project for the summer and that he would shortly be ordering the fibreglass for the youth shelter roof, a risk assessment will be needed prior to commencing the work.

Cllr Tucker raised that with Highways not agreeing to install line marking outside the new school entrance as it would allegedly move the parking problems elsewhere, there is no indication to motorists that there is a school entrance/exit and perhaps a school warning sign should be installed as a minimum.

13.1 Review of outstanding works list

An update list was handed out for review and updating.

Cllr Leigh reported that the MPC’s solicitor have not heard from Hopkins Homes since 21st January in relation to the transfer of the land. The SNC case officer has received an interim completion certificate but this does still not fully comply with the S106 conditions. This issue needs to be resolved by the end of the month as the Rich’s Trust holders are being charged for water from April.

Cllr Leigh reported that in relation to the swamp allotment boundary wall no response had been received and it will be necessary to go higher up in the company to generate some action, alternatively it will be necessary to find another survey to complete.

Cllr Leigh reported that Pickleball will be relaunched in the middle of April; there has been no tennis this term as the coach was unable to get enough interest but they are looking at possibly starting again after Easter. Cllr Leigh stated that he would like to try again to get interest in putting netball on the MUGA as the court is already marked out for it.

14.0 To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda

No councillors had at present any items to be added onto the next agenda.

15.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

Cllr Leigh formally closed the meeting and opened up the second public session.

A resident raised if neighbouring Parish Council could be approached to share the costs of agenda item 11.

A resident thanked MPC for awarding Words Week a grant.

A resident wished to thank Cllr Aldous for his explanation of the wind farm plan. They also stated that the Mulbarton sign mentioned under item 12 was currently near the allotments awaiting collection.

A resident raised that the yellow lines on Birchfield Lane had still not been reinstated and was aware that MPC have previously raised the matter with highways.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.56pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1st April 2019 at 7.30pm.

Payments for February 2019

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102529	Norfolk ALC	Elections Training Workshop	30.00	6.00	36.00
102530	Anglian Water Business Ltd	Swamp allotments	96.04		96.04
102531	Richard Jackson Ltd	Transport & drainage assessment report	750.00	150.00**	900.00
102532	Bartlett Signs	2 x play area signs	58.00	11.60	69.60
102533	GSL Dardan Ltd	Security Patrols	1000.00	200.00	1200.00
102534	A Phillips	Expenses	29.71	2.42	32.13
102535	A Phillips	Salary	634.76		634.76
102536	HMRC	PAYE	189.78		189.78
		Total for month:	2788.29	370.02	3158.31

** VAT receipt issued on payment of invoice