

## MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Councillors present:-

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

### **1.1 District and County Councillors' Report**

District and County Councillor Foulger reported that he would not be standing as a candidate in the forthcoming district elections, however he would be continuing as a County Cllr for the next two years. He reported that as he had taken on more responsibilities at County level he no longer had time to offer at District level.

District Councillor Legg reported that SNC are currently in purdah. He reported that he had attended a seminar today (01.04.19) on how Suffolk councils had amalgamated and had rationalised their management structures as a result; he thought that it was likely that this is the way SNC would go in the future.

Cllr Leigh reported that SNC had still not completed the work on the trees at the school/surgery, which was originally planned for November 2018 and then January this year and was then informed would be completed last week. Cllr Legg suggested that a complaint be submitted to SNC.

Cllr Leigh reported that the disable parking and the no exit signs at the school/surgery car park had been removed over the weekend. This incident will be reported to the Police and also the security patrol contractor.

### **1.2 Public Session**

A member of the public asked Cllr Foulger if the road sign opposite the swamp allotment entrance was going to be replaced/removed as the pole was badly rusted and had previously raised with him. Cllr Foulger stated he would contact Highways to discuss. It was also suggested that the issue be reported via the Highways online reporting portal on their website as this would give a reference number that could be chased if necessary.

A member of the public raised a concern about the state of a farm entranceway between the Grey's Nursery and Swardeston as there was a lot of mud on the road around the entrance. The resident reported that they had raised their concerns with the Swardeston Clerk but had not had a respond back.

A resident on the Oakley Park estate thanked Cllr Legg for his support as he reported that faster broadband was now available on the new development.

### **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**

All Cllrs were in attendance.

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

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

### **5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after being proposed by Cllr Leek and seconded by Cllr Banham.

### **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 Leek and seconding by Cllr Banham all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes. Cllr Leigh reported that Swardeston had declined to contribute toward the legal costs for objecting to the wind farm substation proposal.

#### **6.1 To review security patrol contract from May 2019**

Cllr Leigh reported that patrols were currently taking place on 3 nights a week at a cost of £424 per month; 7 nights cost £1000. Following discussion it was agreed to leave the contract at three nights per week and review again at the May meeting. It was agreed that a meeting between the Police Beat Manger and a couple of Cllrs should be arranged.

#### **6.2 Appointment of internal auditor for 2018/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

Cllr Leigh reported that Ms Jowett had completed the internal audit for the past few years. Following proposal by Cllr Banham and seconding by Cllr Sewell it was unanimously agreed to appoint Ms Jowett for the 2018/19 AGAR internal audit.

#### **6.3 Annual maintenance of MUGA**

Cllr Leigh reported that he had asked the contractor to look at MUGA and to advise if any additional work, to that covered by the contract, would be needed this year. The contractor has not yet replied.

#### **6.4 Approval of Play Inspection contractor**

Cllr Leigh reported that the contractor that had completed the inspection for the last few years had quoted £170 plus vat for this year's inspection and report. Following proposal by Cllr Leigh and seconding by Cllr Leek it was unanimously agreed to appoint D Bracey to complete this year's inspection.

### **7.0 To discuss Football Club's requests:**

- Removal of middle gate and replace with a smaller one

During discussion concerns were raised about emergency access to Mulberry Park; although there would still be wide gates at the top and bottom of the area, parking during matches and events restricts the access to these gates. It was agreed that further clarification would be needed that may include the need for a formal evacuation/emergency plan and stewardship of the car park, particularly in the case of the Club's May festival.

- To install a gate between Orchard Park and Mulberry Park

Discussions raised concerns regarding conditions imposed by the Football Association and the impact that these have on local amenities and creeping enclosure of land owned by MPC which is not covered by the lease agreement for Mulberry Park. It was agreed to write to the Norfolk FA and ask what the penalties are for not complying with their conditions. It was noted that it was good to see the Club doing well, but they may have out grown their village site. Following discussion it was agreed that this gate could be installed on the condition it was not locked.

- To install retractable railings from middle gate to the pitch

It was agreed that the same concerns for the removal of the middle gate were applicable to this request.

- To install 50 seats within the stand

During discussion concerns were raised that the installation of seats may encourage more anti-social behaviour and that being plastic may be flammable; it was noted that a bench on the Common was destroyed by arson last summer. It was agreed that once the soak away had been signed off that the seats could be installed.

### **8.0 Request from Scouts for meeting to discuss options concerning present HQ and Orchard Park**

Cllr Leigh reported that the Scouts had a waiting list of over 60; he raised concerns about the possible resurrection of building a new community social hub on a site that already has a village hall and social club. Following discussion it was agreed that any debate for the site should be for the village as a whole and not be led by one organisation wanting to satisfy their own needs. It was agreed that this should be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting and until this meeting had taken place any meeting with the scouts should be deferred.

### **9.0 Request from Blakeys to site advertising A frame on the Common in line with other locals businesses**

Following discussion it was agreed that any request to site temporary signs should be on a case by case basis and in line with Common bye laws, and cannot be permanent or rights transferred. It was raised that advertising consent may be needed. It was agreed to reply to the request that MPC had noted the request and that the owner should look at getting any necessary official permissions from SNC.

## **10.0 Update on allotments and status of S106 agreement**

Cllr Leigh reported that MPC and Hopkins Homes (HH) solicitors were now talking and correspondence suggested that that HH had not paid Anglian Water fees and hence the work hadn't been completed on the water supply. Provision of a tool shed and the land being rotivated also form part of the S106 agreement for the site. It was noted that MPC was not party to the S106 agreement between HH and SNC.

## **11.0 Planning application: 2018/0872**

Cllr Leigh read out an email from the SNC Planning Officer regarding the application:

*"I am emailing to advise that we have taken the decision that planning application 2018/0872 will not be heard at the meeting of the Development Management Committee on 27th March as previously advised. This is because we are expecting our latest housing land supply figures to become available in early April and therefore we consider it appropriate that the application should be determined in the light of the revised housing land supply position."*

Cllr Leigh reported that having spoken to the Planning Officer and that the next Development Management Committee meeting would be 24th April and the Officer's recommendation report , because of the Easter Holidays, would be produced on April 12th. Cllr Leigh reported that MPC's response had been updated and would be finalised pending SNC's recommendation and circulated to all Cllrs prior to submission; concerns were raised that the developers wanted to be involved in the management of the Common through an S106 agreement to which MPC wouldn't be party to. It was noted that SNC's leader had publically stated that they had a five year land supply.

## **11.1 To consider any other planning applications**

- 2019/0569: Stile Close, NR14 8BH – It was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections to this application.
- 2019/0587: 18 Hare Close, NR14 8QQ – It was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections to this application.
- 2019/0653: 47 Rectory Lane, NR14 8AG – SNC confirmed that as this is an agricultural application, no consultees are notified.
- 2019/0141: 16 Birchfield Lane, NR14 8BZ – amended plans. It was unanimously agreed that the original comments submitted are still relevant.

## **12.0 Update on Hornsea Project Three offshore wind farm**

Cllr Aldous reported that the Planning Inspectorates enquiry closes at midnight on Tuesday (02.04.19); MPC's submissions including that written by the Solicitors have been accepted by the enquiry. The Inspectorates has three months to produce their report which goes to the Secretary of State, who can make changes and alterations to it. Cllr Aldous reported that at the final hearing it was raised if National Grid had failed in meeting its statutory duties and MPC were not the only

Parish Council to use legal/professional advice on challenging the proposal. It was noted that trial hole testing has started at Swardeston, and that none of the neighbouring Parish Councils, who will be directly affected, raised any representation during the enquiry or wished to support MPC in doing so.

### **13.0 Correspondence requiring consideration**

- Email from resident advising that the Norfolk Records Office may be in touch with MPC regarding the archiving/preserving of old photos and documents relating to the village. The Heritage Group have completed and submitted the relevant paperwork, so no action required by MPC.
- Email forwarded by resident from Highways: *The Safety audit has been completed and submitted to our Developer Services team and the estate road developer for consideration. The junction area of Long Lane and The Rosery has been constructed in accordance with the approved plans in regards to the planning permission for the development. It also meets highway standards. This will not be reviewed further. The purpose of the junction geometry is to force slower vehicle movements. I have engaged with the property owner of 'Rowans', whom has agreed removal of two small bushes that do hinder vision when implementing a right turn manoeuvre into Long Lane. The Safety Audit also noted that further consideration should be given with regards to extending the 20mph into Long Lane and The Rosery.*
- Letter from resident in support of MPC's proposal for a new war memorial. It was unanimously agreed that any decision would be for the "new" Parish Council to take forward post elections.
- Email from Mulbarton Church advising that their Good Friday procession would be taking place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10am.
- Email from Highways stating that School warning signs would be installed sometime in May.
- Email from SNC's Community Assets Delivery Manager, confirming that their tree contractor who is doing the work by the school/surgery, will remove the tree that has fallen into the Village Pond.
- Email from tennis coach: he is still trying to engage a new coach and hopes to resume Monday evening coaching sessions after the May half term.
- Email from Oakley Park resident raising concerns about water in the attenuation ponds on the estate and there being no warning signs or lifesaving equipment available. The resident has also contacted the RLSS who have advised they will raise these concerns with the developer and will keep the resident informed of any progress.
- Email from resident concerning the missing disabled signs at the surgery/school car park. It was agreed that quotes will be obtained to replace these signs.

### **14.0 Sub-committee/liaison officer reports**

Cllr Leigh reported that the signs damaged would be reported to the Police.

Cllr Leigh reported that whilst waiting for a planning decision on application 2018/0872 and possible S106 conditions, it would be advisable to have a strategy ready and a meeting of the Common Steering Committee Group, the last report produced covered 2015-2020, and after work was completed in the first two years nothing has subsequently been done. Cllr Leigh noted that if the ponds silt up then this affect drainage on the Common.

Cllr Leigh report that he has a possible solution for the skate park ramp gaps and would like to instigate a working party to complete the work.

Cllr Leigh reported that he believed the main areas for consideration/work in May were the allotments and war memorial.

Cllr Leigh reported that the fibre glass for repairing the youth shelter roof had been delivered and he would order a couple of protective suits so that the work can be completed.

Cllr Leigh reported that the contractor asked to quote for clearing/maintaining the ditches around the Common had not yet replied.

Cllr Leigh reported that the grounds maintenance contractor had begun again today and he has asked for the bench by the bus stop on the Common top road to be added to the schedule so that the nettles under the bench can be kept under control.

Cllr Reeve reported that the nine children, who had been told they were not going to Hethersett Academy in September, have now been told this decision has been reversed and the parents are waiting for this to be confirmed by NCC. During discussion it was noted that NCC have little influence over Academy catchment areas and with the exception of Hethersett, which has always been the default school for Mulbarton, there are a number of schools that are under capacity. It was raised that there is no transport provision for children going to Hewett and in four years' time there will be 90 children moving on from Mulbarton. Cllr Leigh reported that 60 dwellings had been built in the surrounding areas in the past few years and these all use the services provide by the village. This was putting undue stress on the already stretched services.

#### **14.1 Review of outstanding works list**

An update list was handed out for review and updating.

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

- Dardan contract review
- War memorial

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

In relation to the wind farm substation proposals, a resident asked why lorries would need to reverse to Swardeston from Harford Bridges and why didn't they build a slip road. It was explained that Highways would not allow for direct access from the A47/A140; it was also noted that should the substation go ahead the work will be happening at the same time as the industrial estate at Keswick is being built and the potential installation of the roundabout needed to facilitate this new estate.

Cllr Legg reported that SNC do allow business to use A boards to advertise their wares on or about/adjacent to the site of business although they cannot transgress any bye laws.

In response to the correspondence relating to attenuation ponds, Cllr Legg reported that closed ponds are no longer favoured by Drainage Boards but said Drainage Boards could still install safety measures as they have done on the NDR.

Cllr Legg reported that he had been advised that any children from the village going to Hewett would get transport support.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May following the Annual Parish Meeting, which starts at 7.00 pm.

## Payments for March 2019

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
1025838	Mulbarton Words Week	Grant for 2019 events	250.00		250.00
102539	GSL Darden Ltd	Security Patrols	424.00	84.80	508.80
102540	D Aldous	Expenses – Wind Farm hearing	33.30		33.30
102541	Richard Buxton Client Account	Legal Advice Windfarm	1500.00	300.00	1800.00
102542	P Leigh	Expenses	52.76	8.95	61.71
102543	A Phillips	Expenses	18.62	0.50	19.12
102544	A Phillips	Salary	595.65		595.65
102545	HMRC	PAYE	163.32		163.32
		<b>Total for month:</b>	<b>3037.65</b>	<b>394.25</b>	<b>3431.90</b>