

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

7.30pm on Monday 2nd September 2019

Councillors present:-

Peter Leigh Derek Aldous Adam Banham Gerald Peachy Richard Tucker

1.1 District and County Councillors' Report

County Councillor Colin Foulger reported that the Great Yarmouth third river crossing proposal was going before the planning committee on Friday (06.09.19); he explained that this project had been worked on for the last two years and the bridge design was interesting as when it is raised the lower third will be in the water. He reported that a third river crossing would help with traffic to Gorleston and the docks, which are not serviced by a direct route. Funds are being made available from Highways England and Norfolk County Council and if approval is given the work should be completed in 18 months to two years.

District Councillor Nigel Legg reported that SNC continue to work on the local plan (Greater Norwich Local Plan) and that the plan should be out for consultation reasonably soon. He reported that he hasn't seen much detail on the plan and believed that areas that had had major development in the past may be spared; the plan may allow limited development in all villages e.g. 3 houses; with 120 villages in SNC this would only equate to 360 with no indication at present were the other 2000 plus homes would be.

District Councillor Nigel Legg reported that he spoken to the case officer in relation to planning application 2019/1629, as concerns had been raised about a commercial development in a housing estate and had been informed that if planning consent was granted there would be strict conditions applied.

District Councillor Gerry Francis was also in attendance.

District Councillor Vivienne Clifford – Jackson sent her apologies for being unable to attend.

1.2 Public Session

No members of the public wish 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 Cllrs Beverley Leek and Steve 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 in particular planning application 2019/1661 (neighbouring property)

Cllr Aldous declared an interest to planning application 2019/1629 (neighbouring property) and would not comment when discussed later.

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th August 2019

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 5th August 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed after being proposed by Cllr Peachey and seconded by Cllr Tucker.

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 Banham and seconding by Cllr Aldous all payments were duly passed. A copy of payments is attached to these minutes.

6.1 Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Cllr Leigh reported that the external report and certificate for 2018/19 had been returned. The following was read from the report: *“On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: None”*

Councillor Leigh thanked the Clerk for all her efforts in again achieving a favourable report from the external auditors.

6.2 Review of quotes for skate park resurfacing

Cllr Leigh reported that no other quotes had been received and in light of the fact only one quote had been received he recommended that MPC should delay making a decision and look at other options for the area. This was agreed by all Councillors.

6.3 Approvals of costs for 2 days work to finish Common ditches

Cllr Leigh proposed that the contractor be authorised to complete the ditches around the Common, two days' work, this was seconded by Cllr Banham and unanimously agreed.

6.4 Review of quotes for work on the Meadows hedges

Cllr Leigh reported that only one contractor had submitted a quote from the three contacted. Cllr Leigh proposed that the quote be accepted; this was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

6.5 Approval of costs to repair car park entrance potholes

Cllr Leigh apologised for not having any costings available for the meeting and stated they would be available for the next meeting. He had identified a suitable material but actual volumes had not been determined. During discussion it was noted that the original front car repairs appear to have stood up well and with regards to the entrance various options had been tried and would continue to be tried.

7.0 Request from the Football Club for permission to plant hedge along chain link fence

Cllr Leigh reported that the Football Club had requested: *“permission to install a native hedgerow along the chain link fence, between the football pitch surround and the car park.*

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Councillors present could not support this request at the present time.

8.0 Men’s Shed – update since last meeting

Cllr Tucker reported that following his meeting with Liza from NCC, she has now moved onto a new job but had asked Cllr Tucker to link in with her boss as her replacement may be able to provide future support. Cllr Tucker reported that he has arranged a meeting with the ambassador of the Norfolk Men’s Shed association later in the month to discuss a village awareness event that MPC had previously agreed to advertise and fund.

9.0 Update on New Common Management Plan

A copy of the village ponds map was handed out, as some ponds are known by names and/or numbers but referred to in the plan by numbers, and also a proposed work scope for two ponds (4 & 7) for autumn/winter this year. Cllr Leigh reported that he had photographed the ponds last week and two ponds have no water in them and three are shown reduced water levels, particularly Church Pond, which is due to recent weather conditions.

Cllr Leigh reported that if MPC were happy with the proposed work scope, then this would be refined and sent out to contractors for the end of the month and asked for delegated authority for himself and Cllr Aldous to move this work forward. It was unanimously agreed to grant Cllrs Leigh and Aldous delegated authority on this matter.

During discussion it was noted that MPC need to make relevant parties and the village aware of any work planned and its benefits to minimise adverse reactions to a digger being seen in the ponds. Cllr Leigh reported that there are no greater crested newts in ponds 4 and 7 and timewise October onwards is ideal to complete this type of work; if no work is taken on the ponds then the water table will stay high which causes boggy conditions/areas. Formal approval for any work will be given at the next meeting.

9.1 To discuss impact of Park Run on the Common

Cllr Leigh reported that he had noticed that numbers on the weekly Park Run were high and one runner he had spoken to came from Old Catton to take part; several areas of the route are compacted at present.

During discussions it was noted that the Park Run had previously been asked to alter the course on the Common to which they were reluctant to do; they do not contribute to any of the facilities and input into local businesses is limited; the run normally moves onto the winter course in late October; the Common is a village amenity and most Park Runs are completed on hard standing routes; the last meeting, late last year, was felt to have been constructive and it was suggested that another should be convened in the near future .

10.0 War Memorial – update since last meeting

Cllr Tucker handed out a summary of the meeting that he and Cllr Aldous had had which identified two main action points for discussion: as most of the potential sites are on common land should MPC write to the Common owner and get an agreement in principle for siting a memorial and secondly should MPC continue managing this project or open it up to a committee.

During discussion it was noted that a land at Rectory Lane/Bluebell Lane may be a possible alternative location and that the final design will affect the cost and future maintenance; it was agreed that the MPC would at present manage the project and Cllr Tucker and Aldous will work on design/costing proposals that could then be used to publicise the proposal of a war memorial and gauge residents interest and support.

Cllr Leigh thanked Cllrs Tucker and Aldous for their work to date on this project.

11.0 Planning Application:

2019/1627 – The Oaks, The Rosery, NR14 8AL: Following discussion it was agreed to re-submit the comments previous submitted for application 2018/1064, to recommend refusal of the application.

2019/1655 – 6 Nightingale Close, NR14 8BB: Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections.

2019/1629 – 5 Pightle Close, NR14 8GJ: Following discussion it was agreed to submit comments recommending refusal of the application.

2019/1661 – 6 Wild Radish Close, NR14 8DB: Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections.

Cllr Leigh adjourned the meeting to allow Cllr Francis to speak.

Meeting adjourned.

Cllr Francis reported that he had spoken to a resident neighbouring this property who was concerned about light infringement.

Meeting resumed.

2019/0014 – Land south of Cuckoofield Lane, Bracon Ash: following discussion it was unanimously agreed to re-submit the comments previously submitted in recommending refusal of the application.

11.1 To consider any other planning applications

The following applications were received today (02.09.19):

2019/1713 – Sunny Oak Barn, Swainsthorpe Road – change of use of land from agricultural to equine, including erection of stable building

2019/1714 – Sunny Oak Barn, Swainsthorpe Road – erection of cart lodge

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs would look at the details of the plans and circulate any comments for submission prior to 23 September.

12.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

- Email from a resident containing photographs of metal and wood benches that have been installed at a local railway station and wondered if they or something similar would be an idea for the replacement bench on the Common.
- Email from resident concerned about the low water level in Church Pond and would it be possible to import some water into the pond. During discussion it was noted that water levels will fluctuate due to the weather and as previously mentioned two of the ponds are currently dry.
- Email from resident in response to Chairman's report in the Parish News. The resident stated: *"as 80% of the village is involved with the Football Club the MUGA should be converted into a 3G pitch."* Following discussion it was agreed that MPC would continue to meet the needs/interests and offer a diversity of sports to all villagers and it would irresponsible to increase future precept values to finance a 3G pitch and burden future Cllrs with this. It was noted that a business plan written circa. 10years ago was given to the Football Club a couple of years ago as a basis for their business plan for improving facilities but nothing had been forthcoming from this interjection by MPC
- It was noted that no correspondence had been received from the Co-op regarding their planned Harvest event on the land beside the store. Concerns have been raised by residents in the vicinity that they have not been given any curtesy notice and questions asked about where stall holders will park and who would restore the site should there being in any damage (recent work to complete sunken areas where time consuming and caused disturbance to residents). It is understood that no permission has been granted by SNC for the land to be used.

13.0 Sub-committee/liaison officer reports

Cllr Leigh reported that water has been connected at the second phase allotment site and it is actually site one that needs connecting to the high pressure main, and not the other way round that MPC had previously been told. He reported that the hole on phase one allotments has now been backed filled and Hopkins Homes are waiting for Anglian Water's high pressure connection team to attend site. Cllr Leigh reported that the phase two site only has two water troughs for 20 plots so it may be necessary to install a further one at a later date but the priority at the moment is to get both

sites connected and the legal transfer completed. Cllr Leigh reported that both sites will need to be ploughed again next spring, before tenants occupy them, due to the delays incurred this year by Hopkins Homes.

Cllr Leigh reported that he had noticed on Sunday afternoon that the bench on the corner of the Common had been damaged but when he went to look at this morning to carry out repairs the work had already been done. (Post meeting update: a resident has made contact to say he completed the repairs and replaced all the missing bolts)

Cllr Leigh reported that there won't be a need to order any trees for planting by the surgery car park as there are 100 – 200 saplings of various species on the Common, many of which can be transplanted. The area may need spraying prior to the planned planting in November and some stakes may need to be bought but no protective "spirals" as there are plenty in the shed.

Cllr Aldous reported that a decision on the Hornsea wind farm is due at the beginning of October.

13.1 Review of outstanding works list

A revised list was handed out. Cllr Leigh reported that additional bird spikes would need to be purchased. The need for more bark on the Common was discussed, it may be cheaper to purchase by the bag than have a bulk order.

14.0 To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda

- Approval of costs to repair car park entrance potholes
- Approval of costs and work scope for work on ponds 4 & 7
- Awarding of grounds maintenance contract commencing April 2020

15.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

A resident asked why an additional two days' work is needed on the Common ditches and why the work wasn't all completed in one go? Cllr Leigh advised that the contractor was originally going to use a specially designed bucket to work on the ditches but then hadn't so the work was slower than planned and MPC had only approved three days' work so it was necessary to get approval for the additional days' work.

Cllr Legg advised that he would follow up with SNC about the Co-op using the green beside the store for their event and find out if permission has been requested or granted. It was noted that they have been advertising on Facebook and approaching businesses in Norwich.

Cllr Legg reported that water tables everywhere were low and that SNC wouldn't fill any ponds. It was agreed that MPC would tell Cllr Legg when any work on the ponds was planned so that he could talk to SNC officials to prevent a repeat of the issues encountered last time the ponds were worked on.

It was noted that the Park Run had never approached the land owner for permission to hold the event on the Common and officially such an event contravenes the Common byelaws.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm

The next meeting will take place on Monday 7th October 2019 at 7.30pm.

Payments for August 2019

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102589	PKF Littlejohn LLP	AGAR	300.00	60.00	360.00
102590	Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Grounds maintenance	1017.49	203.49	1220.98
102591	A Phillips	Expenses	16.17	0.55	16.72
102592	A Phillips	Salary	617.28		617.28
102593	HMRC	PAYE	172.43		172.43
102594	Bartlett Signs	Common signs	133.00	26.60	159.60
		Total for month:	2256.37	290.64	2547.01