

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely at

7.30pm on Monday 5th October 2020

Councillors present via remote videoing platform:-

Adam Banham Gerald Peachey Beverley Leek Steve Sewell Richard Tucker Derek Aldous

Also in attendance were two District Councillors and two members of the public.

1.0 District and County Councillors' Report

Following an explanation that the meeting was being held remotely as permitted under The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 4th April 2020 and allows local authorities to conduct meetings remotely, Cllr Leek welcomed the District Councillor in attendance.

District Cllr Clifford-Jackson stated that in addition to the items in the report she had sent into MPC she wanted to add there is a consultation about the offshore proposals by the National Grid, and although it was too late for us members might wish to respond; she has emailed and if a reply is received she will forward it on to MPC. District Cllr Clifford-Jackson reported that things are quietening down into a new routine at SNC with everything online and staff working from home.

District Cllr Nigel Legg reported that he had learned today that a number of staff are working in the SNC offices at Long Stratton, although he believed they were not welcoming the public at present and suggested getting in touch to make appointment if necessary.

1.1 Public Session

In response to a question from the public about the length of time the church clock has been away for repair, Cllr Peachey reported that current indicators are that the clock will be re-installed during the third week of October.

In response to a question from the public about the dead rabbits on the Commons, Cllr Leek reported that SNC have advised that the current numbers infected do not warrant a visit from themselves but she has removed some of the rabbits and continues to monitor the situation.

2.0 To close the meeting to public participation

Cllr Leek closed the meeting to public participation and formally started the Parish Council meeting.

3.0 To receive and consider apologies for absence

All Councillors 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 (item 15) and the GNLP (item 14).

Cllr Peachey declared an interest in relation to item 10.

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September 2020

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 7th September 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Sewell and seconded by Cllr Banham. As this is a virtual meeting arrangements would be made for the meeting Chairman to sign the minutes at a later date.

5.1 To confirm and sign the minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 21st September 2020

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 21st September 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Peachey and seconded by Cllr Banham. As this is a virtual meeting arrangements would be made for the meeting Chairman to sign the minutes at a later date.

6.0 To receive financial report and approve invoices for payments as per schedule for July

A proposed schedule of payments and the latest financial summary were reviewed. Following proposal by Cllr Banham and seconding by Cllr Tucker all payments were duly passed. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

6.1 Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2020

Cllr Leek reported that the external auditors had completed their limited assurance review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Cllr Leek read out the External auditor's report: *On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability 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.

Cllr Leek reported that the relevant information and documents have been published on MPC's website in accordance with current regulations.

7.0 Working group report on completing items on the outstanding works list

Cllr Banham reported that the working group was now getting into a routine and there were a number of quotes ready for consideration later in the meeting. He reported that next week's working group would be discussing ideas for the car park and replacement of the bench on the Common and the working group would be meeting via Zoom so additional councillors could participate.

7.1 To review quotes for Common signs and bin work scope

Cllr Banham reported that four contractors had been asked to quote for this work and that two contractors had provided quotes with a third stating that he was unable to quote due to present work commitments.

Following discussions Cllr Banham proposed that Contractor 1 be awarded the contract, this was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed.

7.2 To review quotes for repairs to the zip wire at the Meadows

Cllr Banham reported that four contractors had been asked to quote for this work; two contractors did not respond, one had inspected the zip wire but had not submitted a quote although they had reported on their findings and the fourth had provided a quote.

During discussions it was noted that the zip wire is nine or ten years old; completion of these repairs could be completed by the spring which would then allow MPC to plan a replacement project for the future.

Following discussions Cllr Leek proposed that the repair work be completed by Contractor 3, this was seconded by Cllr Banham and unanimously agreed.

7.3 To review quotes for play bark for the Common and village hall play areas

Cllr Banham reported that four contractors had been asked to quote for this work; one had not replied, one was unable to quote and two contractors had quoted. During discussion of the two quotes received it was noted that MPC needed to take into consideration how the successful contractor would access the Common and be confident that this would be completed in a sympathetic way in light of recent weather conditions.

Following discussions Cllr Banham proposed that Contractor 1 be awarded the contract, this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

7.4 To review wording and quotes for replacement village hall car park signs

During discussions it was noted that the current signs are in disrepair and do not mention MPC; the addition of MPC on the signs may deter future problems with businesses wanting to use the car park for trade and also that the current disabled parking signs may not be legal as they do not use the blue symbol.

Following discussions Cllr Peachey proposed that 10 parking signs and 3 disabled parking signs be ordered, this was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed.

8.0 To consider request from Football Club to extend the term of their lease for Mulberry Park

Cllr Leek reported that she and Cllr Sewell had met with the Football Club following the last MPC meeting to discuss their request and to answer some questions that councillors had raised.

Cllr Sewell gave a summary of the meeting and the information that had subsequently been provided by the Club Chairman, that all councillors had a copy of. It was noted that the Football Club's request for consideration this evening was to extend the term of their lease to 10 years and that all items on their "wish" list would have to be requested individually as outlined in the current lease and then discussed/approved by MPC and be subject to any planning applications applicable.

Following discussions Cllr Leek proposed that MPC agree to extend the Football Club's lease of Mulberry Park to a ten year term, this was seconded by Cllr Sewell. The vote was five in favour with one councillor abstaining.

9.0 Update on discussions with Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors to consider the request for Cadent Gas to install a gas governor on MPC's land

Cllr Sewell reported that he and Cllrs Peachey and Tucker had met with Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors (IHCS) last week to discuss their proposal to install a depressurisation station within the village hall car park.

Cllrs Sewell, Peachey and Tucker outlined the proposals: to run a new gas pipe from the corner of the Common along Long Lane/The Common and in through the car park to improve the gas supply in the village and replace an existing gas governor located in the village; the gas governor would be sited along the side of the car park where the clothing bank is presently and be a similar size to the electrical substation. The suggested location would require the removal of one tree plus one dead tree in order that it could be sited further back. The surrounding railings would be sympathetic to the surroundings. IHCS were informed that land owner permission would be required to cross the common land at the front of the village hall site. IHCS would pay for a land agent to represent MPC and to pay legal fees; reinstatement of the car park would be completed by IHCS. The work would take 4 – 6 weeks during which time there would be some traffic disruption.

During discussions it was noted that MPC need to confirm that there are no Tree Preservation Orders on the trees previously discussed and that the gas governor needs to be 20 metres from any house.

Following discussion Cllr Sewell proposed that MPC agreed in principle to the proposal to site a gas governor in the car park and to move forward with discussions with Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors, this was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed.

10.0 Premise Licence Application: Norfolk Spirit Company

Cllr Leek informed the meeting that Cllr Peachey had formally withdrawn from the meeting for this agenda item due to a declaration of interest, and had now disconnected from the videoconference at this point and would not participate in the following discussion.

Cllr Tucker reported that there is a planned hearing by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub Committee on 13th October as a result of the objections raised by MPC and a decision is needed by MPC as to whether to continue to oppose the application and if so who would represent MPC at the Committee meeting.

During discussion it was noted that the only MPC objection that the Committee would take into consideration was that raised about traffic, as the storage of alcohol is not a licensable activity and the planning department, police and fire service had raised no objections. It was confirmed that no response has been received by MPC from planning as to why they do not consider there is a need for a change of use planning application.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that MPC would not attend the meeting on the 13th October but would continue to pursue their grievance with the Planning Department.

Cllr Peachey re-joined the meeting.

11.0 Request for a heritage notice board

Following discussion all Cllrs were in agreement that they were interested in the idea in principle and would like to have further discussions regarding the plan and costs/funding of a heritage board.

12.0 To discuss correspondence from Dalcour Maclaren and renewal of EE and Three mast agreement

During discussion it was noted that the current lease is due to expire in Spring 2021 and since the lease was last looked at legislation has changed and new guidelines issued with regards to payments landowners can expect, which are lower than currently. It was agreed that MPC should engage with Dalcour Maclaren as rent received would not be enough to cover legal costs. It was unanimously agreed that a working group would convene to reply to the correspondence and highlight concerns including increased liabilities in relation to safety and security of the site. Cllrs Aldous, Banhan and Sewell agreed to lead the working group.

13.0 Update on wind farm proposals

During discussion it was reported that the Judicial Review to challenge the government's decision on Norfolk Vanguard has proceeded to the next step and will now go to a full judicial review which indicates that there is a worthwhile arguable challenge.

Norfolk Boreas enquiry closes in a week's time and there are three reviews currently running: one by National Grid as the electricity supply operator and whose interim report was published on 30th September. The second is by Ofgem and the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy which was partially set in motion by Norfolk MP's following their meeting with the Energy Minister. The third, running in the background, is by the Crown Estate who have concerns regarding their leasing out of the sea beds in light of all the challenges.

14.0 GNLP SNC village cluster document

Cllr Leek reported that SNC's GNLP Village Cluster document has not yet been published and following no objections deferred the item to the next meeting.

15.0 To consider any planning applications:

- 2020/1739 – 41 Long Lane, NR14 8AW: two storey side extension. It was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections to this application and that neighbouring properties have a right to submit their own comments if necessary.
- 2020/1448 – Orchard Cottage, The Common, NR14 8JQ: amended plans for single storey rear extension and new entrance gates. It was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections to this application and that neighbouring properties have a right to submit their own comments if necessary.
- 2020/1816 – 19 Rectory Lane, NR14 8AG: front porch & two single storey rear extensions. It was unanimously agreed that MPC had no objections to this application and that neighbouring properties have a right to submit their own comments if necessary.

16.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

Cllr Leek reported that there were no additional correspondences requiring consideration.

17. Liaison officer reports

Cllr Leek reported that there had been a lot of interest in the plots at the Oakley Park South allotment site and that once the weather and ground conditions improved she would mark out the left hand side plots, many of which have already been allocated. It was noted that Hopkins Homes need to be chased again to complete their outstanding work on the site.

Cllr Sewell reported that he had received information about an offer from the Woodland Trust for trees that could be delivered in March, that may be a good way to replace the trees outside the Surgery that were planted last year. Following discussions it was agreed that Cllr Sewell would research the offer and further discussions would then be picked up by the Outstanding Works working group.

18.0 To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda.

- SNC GNLP village cluster document
- Budget planning for precept setting

19.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

District Cllr Clifford-Jackson reported that she would follow up with SNC's planning department the lack of response that was raised earlier in relation to 46 Minnow Way as she was already following up a number of issues with them. Cllr Clifford-Jackson reported that she wished to remind all that the consultation period on the Government's white paper was ending soon and it was unknown at this time how or if the proposed changes would affect the GNLP or current Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Clifford-Jackson also stated that the Government's plans for local government reorganisation had been questioned by SNC as not being the right time to make such changes. She also reported that SNC's grant funding would be discussed next week as a number of District Cllrs had not spent their funding budgets.

A member of the public wished to say well done to all the Cllrs and to the meeting Chair.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 2nd November at 7.30pm.

Payments for September 2020

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102658	Came & Co	Annual Insurance	1842.52		1842.52
The above payment was approved at the extraordinary meeting held on 21.09.20.					
102659	Smith of Derby	Clock servicing – 5 year LTA	839.00	167.80	1006.80
102660	PKF Littlejohn LLP	AGAR – limited assurance review	300.00	60.00	360.00
102661	Bartlett Signs	Disable parking signs	140.00	28.00	168.00
102662	Printerland.co.uk	Black toner	135.00	27.00	162.00
102663	S Sewell	Padlocks for allotments	195.95	39.19	235.14
102664	Iceni T/A NTS partnership	Jubilee Gardens	65.00		65.00
102665	A Phillips	Expenses	37.19	2.16	39.35
102666	A Phillips	Salary	789.74		789.74
102667	HMRC	PAYE	271.69		271.69
102668	Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Grounds maintenance	1078.50	215.70	1294.20
		Total for month:	5694.59	539.85	6234.44