

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

7.30pm on Monday 21st June 2021

Councillors present:

Derek Aldous, Adam Banham, Beverley Leek, Gerald Peachey, Emma Reeve, Steve Sewell & Richard Tucker

Cllr Aldous began the meeting with a moment's silence in remembrance of Mrs Irene Eagle who passed away at the beginning of the month. Mrs Eagle was Parish clerk from 1988 to 2000.

1.0 District and County Councillors' Report

Apologies were received from District Councillor Nigel Legg and County Councillor Daniel Elmer.

District Councillor Gerry Francis is due later in the meeting and his report will be received during the second public session.

Cllr Legg's written report was received and its contents noted.

1.1 Public Session

No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

2.0 To close the meeting to public participation

Cllr Aldous 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 matters relating to items 10.0, 16.0, 17.0 and 18.0; it was agreed that he would not participate in discussions on item 10 and would leave the meeting for items 16 to 18.

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on 4th May 2021

The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and Ordinary Parish meeting held on 4th May 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by Cllr Leek and seconded by Cllr Sewell.

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

Cllr Aldous reported that at the last meeting it was agreed that in order for May's payments to be paid in a timely manner, that the Clerk would check and then circulate the relevant month's payment schedule to all Councillors and then arrange for the cheques to be signed and for the full Council to then retrospectively approve them at the next available meeting.

Following proposal by Cllr Reeve and seconding by Cllr Banham all payments were duly passed. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

6.1 To review quotes and appoint contractor for a planter at the cycle park

Cllr Peachey reported that only one of the six suppliers sent a copy of the work scope had quoted for the work, at a price of £495.00. Following discussion, Cllr Peachey proposed that MPC should buy off-the-shelf planters and trellis and install them themselves for a cost of about £327.00; this was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that the outstanding works working group would arrange a date to purchase and install the planters and trellis.

6.2 To review quotes and appoint contractor for landscaping works at Primrose Close/Wild Radish Close

Cllr Banham reported that two of the four contractors asked to quote had done so. Following discussions Cllr Banham proposed that Contractor 3 be awarded the contract. This was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

6.3 To review quotes and appoint contractor for gate and fence repairs at the Swamp & Meadows allotment sites

Cllr Leek reported that two of the four contractors asked to quote had done so. Following discussions Cllr Leek proposed that Contractor 1 be awarded the contract. This was seconded by Cllr Peachey and unanimously agreed.

6.4 To review quotes and appoint contractor to complete a tree survey on Orchard Park

Cllr Banham reported that only one of the four contractors asked to quote had done so. Following discussions Cllr Banham proposed that Contractor 3 be awarded the contract. This was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed. The contractor will be asked if they can advise and label any trees that are classified as veteran.

6.5 To review quotes and appoint contractor to complete maintenance work on the Common

Cllr Aldous reported that only two of the four contractors asked to quote had done so. Following discussions Cllr Aldous proposed that Contractor 1 be awarded the contract. This was seconded by Cllr Banham and unanimously agreed.

7.0 Working group report on completing items on the outstanding works list & next working group meeting

Cllr Banham reported that the next outstanding works working group would be held on 29th June and the items to discuss would include Long Lane allotments, provision of netball post for the MUGA and commercial waste collections. Work scopes for the Jubilee gardens and lowering of the allotment water troughs would also be agreed.

Cllr Peachey reported that the fabricator for the Puddleducks gate lock will be on site this week.

Cllr Sewell reported that a couple of the trees recently planted on the Common have been repositioned to allow the grass area to be cut by a resident, and this work is now complete.

8.0 Request from Puddleducks to use the car park for their summer fete

Cllr Aldous reported that Puddleducks have advised that the date of their summer fete has been changed to 19th September due to ongoing restrictions and not as originally requested.

During discussion it was noted that Puddleducks have considered the safety of patrons queuing at any catering vans. They will provide bins and will regularly check the car park to ensure that there is no litter and will complete a litter pick of the whole area after the event.

Following discussion and clarification that this request is not for commercial vendors but for an organised event by a local community group, who as part of their fund-raising activities are bringing in mobile caterers, for whom they will be accountable, Cllr Leek proposed that the request be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

9.0 Update from working group meeting with the Football Club & their request dated 06.05.21 to extend the lease for Mulberry Park

Cllr Tucker gave an update on meetings with and correspondence received over the last few months from the Football Club. Following discussion Cllr Tucker proposed that the draft response, which was circulated in advance, with amendments for further clarification, be sent to the Football Club and that any further consideration of their requests will take place at the October meeting; this was seconded by Cllr Reeve and unanimously agreed.

10.0 Pump track funding and update on community funding

Cllr Peachey gave an update on potential sources of funding and discussions with SNC's planning department. Cllr Tucker gave an update on consultation that has been conducted by MTM Youth Services and a meeting that was held with the Football Club, Scouts and Cricket Club who are at this time unanimously opposed to the idea of a pump track being installed on Orchard Park. It was noted that the proposed size and position of a track would not impact on any current users of the area.

Following discussion, it was confirmed that no decision in principle to proceed or not has been made and no expenditure is to be incurred until such time as a decision in principle is made. Cllr Peachey proposed that MPC continue to explore funding options, including whether a CAF grant could be awarded in principle pending any planning application decision; liaise with Norfolk Constabulary Architectural Liaison Officers; arrange a visit and meeting with the Sloughbottom BMX track club and continue to engage with MTM Youth Services. This was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed, with the exception of Cllr Banham who took no part in discussions.

11.0 Allotment land transfer

Following discussions Cllr Leek proposed that MPC's solicitors be instructed to complete the land transfer for the Phase 1 (Long Lane) site. This was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed.

Following discussions regarding the Phase 2 (Oakley Park South) site it was agreed that a list of outstanding issues, including a damaged manhole cover, would be compiled and submitted to Hopkins Homes with the intention that once these have been remedied the land transfer could also be completed for this site.

12.0 Update on discussions with Ian Holdsworth Chartered Surveyors (IHCS) and their request for Cadent Gas to install a gas governor on MPC's land

It was noted that IHCS are aware that MPC's preferred site for a gas governor is the allotment site at Long Lane and following item 11, this evening, the Clerk will advise IHCS that MPC's solicitors are being instructed to complete the land transfer.

13.0 Update on renewal of EE & Three mast agreement

Cllr Banham provided an update to date on this matter. It was noted that there are currently no outstanding decisions or actions for MPC.

14.0 Update on wind farms

Cllr. Aldous provided a report on recent developments affecting the local area. In addition to Hornsea Three and the Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal Extension projects, National Grid has recently proposed further substations in Norfolk and a new overhead pylon line from Norwich to London, and these proposals are being reviewed.

15.0 Update on Solar Farms

Cllr Peachey reported that the Bloy's Grove proposal now requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in regard to the likely significant effect on archaeology and also its cumulative impact in regard to other solar development within the immediate vicinity. The Bracon Ash proposal is still pending SNC consideration.

16.0 To receive an update from the meeting with SNC's Director of Place

Cllr Banham left the meeting.

Cllr Aldous reported that following the meeting with SNC's Director of Place a number of questions including the cumulative effect of decisions of multiple developments had been raised with SNC for a written response. As this response was only received late last week it was agreed that the working group would consider the reply and discuss a way forward.

17.0 GNLP SNC village cluster document

Following discussion, Cllr Peachey proposed that delegated authority be given to the Clerk to submit a response, after consultation with the working group, prior to the closing date which is before the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

18.0 To consider planning applications received

It was noted that there were no planning application to discuss.

Cllr Banham re-joined the meeting.

19.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

- Two emails relating to the laying of fibre optic cables. MPC were not aware that any work was being completed; Cllr Sewell agreed to complete a site inspection to check that the paths around the Common have been correctly re-instated and if not to follow this up with OpenReach and their contractors.
- Email from Oakley Park South allotment holders. Some of the queries will be added to outstanding issues list as mentioned under item 11 and the remaining items will be picked up by the outstanding works working group.
- Email from Treetops Nursery. Request for three changes to the outside area was received too late for tonight's agenda and would be added to the August agenda for consideration.
- Letter from MALGA. All allotment sheds to be secured and any incidents should be reported to the Police. Lowering of water troughs is being considered at the next outstanding works working group. It was noted that two plots at the Meadows allotment site are currently in contravention of their allotment agreement and correspondence will be sent to the tenants. Once face to face meetings are possible, Cllr Leek will attend MALGA meetings to help improve communications between MPC and MALGA.
- Email re Park Run and Common ownership. MPC is not an organising body for Park Run or the managing authority for the Common.

20.0 Liaison officer reports

It was noted that Cllrs had a briefing paper about the last Mulbarton Common Steering Group meeting and that no decision or action was required. Following this evening's meeting another Steering Group meeting will be necessary with SNC as the regulating/managing authority of the Common, who have made a commitment to reinstate the pits that have been damaged in contravention of the bye-laws.

Cllr Tucker reported that he had met with the new Police Beat Manager, PC Stu Barnard, who has been briefed by his predecessor and is keen to work with MPC. He hopes to attend meetings as operational duties

permit. PC Barnard had reiterated that incidents need to be reported to the Police and not just posted on social media.

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

No Councillor had any items for inclusion in the next agenda additional to those already noted.

22.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

District Councillor Gerry Francis reiterated Cllr Legg's concerns about the Humbleyard Practice struggling to meet current demands for their services, and that the District Councillors are concerned that planned development in South Norfolk will further stretch those resources.

Cllr Leek confirmed that letters would be sent to the Meadows allotment holders that have breached the terms of their tenancy as raised by a member of the public.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 2nd August at 7.30pm in the main hall at the Village Hall.

Payments for May 2021

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102721	Mrs M Carter	Management of village website	120.00		120.00
102722	APC Pest Control Ltd	Quarterly pest control	120.00	24.00	144.00
102723	Printerland	Toners	241.30	48.26	289.56
102724	Richard Buxton Solicitors	Professional charges - windfarms	1000.00	200.00	1200.00
102725	Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Common play area repairs	3193.31	638.66	3831.97
102726	Ribbonsdale Nurseries	Grounds maintenance	1158.57	211.71	1370.58
102727	A Phillips	Expenses	105.06	10.73	115.79
102788	A Phillips	Salary	827.35		827.35
102789	HMRC	PAYE	295.47		295.47
		Total for month:	7061.06	1133.36	8194.42