

MULBARTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

7.30pm on Monday 1st November 2021

Councillors present:

Derek Aldous, Beverley Leek, Gerald Peachey, Emma Reeve, Steve Sewell and Richard Tucker.

1.0 District and County Councillors' Report

Apologies were received from County Councillor Daniel Elmer; his submitted report was received and noted.

District Cllr Legg reported:

- SNC continue with their accommodation review having instructed consultants to identify a single office for Broadland and SNC. One suggestion to date is the Horizon Business Centre at Broadland Business Park.
- SNC are offering grants to businesses to smarten up their shop fronts but there have been few takers to date.
- Battery storage installation at Swardeston: SNC have decided that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required.
- Cllr Legg is still waiting to hear from an SNC officer about the land at the north end of the Meadows regarding its availability for sale.
- Richmond Lodge has submitted a retrospective planning application, and Cllr Legg noted that if buildings are not built where originally stated then they may need to move them at a later date.
- Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan: There is nothing new to report, and it may be up to a year before any approval of recommendations is reached.
- Doctor's surgery: Cllr Legg continues to work with the health authorities in Hethersett though there are no updates from last month.

In response to a question about how much SNC and Broadland are looking to save by combining their office space, Cllr Legg stated they are expecting savings of millions of pounds over 20 years; however all they are looking at, at present is combining the two main offices. This does not take into account any satellite offices which may be needed to enable the public to access services or the cost of adapting any building found; he predicted that an increase in council tax was likely.

A report submitted by District Cllr Francis was also received and noted. In response to a question about how SNC will offset the carbon footprint of residents and staff travelling extra distances to Broadland Business Park, Cllr Francis stated that plans were still in the "early days" phase, and there will be pros and cons for any suggested sites.

1.1 Public Session

The Chairman of Mulbarton Wanderers Football Club read out a prepared statement.

A resident raised three points: 1. Street lighting has been mentioned on social media. The subject has been debated for more than 30 years and the idea was not supported. 2. There is a proposal for a new town on land between Hethersett and Wymondham that is currently agricultural and 3. The recent work to trees on the Common was a cause for comment and concern.

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

Apologies were received in advance and accepted from CLlr Banham.

4.0 To receive declarations of interest on items on the agenda

CLlr Sewell declared an indirect interest in matters relating to items 14 and 16.1.

5.0 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 2021

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by CLlr Leek and seconded by CLlr Sewell. CLlr Reeve abstained from the vote having not been at the meeting.

5.1 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Closed Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 2021

The minutes of the Closed Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 2021 were unanimously agreed by the four councillors who had been attendance as a true record of the meeting after being proposed by CLlr Leek and seconded by CLlr Sewell. CLlr Reeve abstained from the vote having not been at the meeting.

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

The financial report was noted. Following proposal by CLlr Peachey and seconding by CLlr Reeve all payments for October were unanimously approved. A copy of the payments is attached to these minutes.

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

A summary of the last outstanding works working group meeting was received and noted. The next working group meeting will be on 9th November.

CLlr Sewell reported that he still needed to remove the 'talking book' posts from the Common.

Cllr Leek reported that a resident had painted the inside of the bus shelter on Cuckoofield Lane to cover up the graffiti and expressed the Parish Council's gratitude for this offer and subsequent actions.

Cllr Tucker reported that the working party for completion of minor tasks had been cancelled at the weekend and would be rearranged.

7.1 To agree location for Memorial Plaque

Cllr Aldous reported that provisional approval had been received from the land owner to site the plaque on the Common if MPC decided that was an appropriate site.

During discussion the following sites were suggested: next to the millennium hornbeam plaque, by the new oak bench on the Common or on/by the village sign. Following discussion it was agreed that the outstanding works working group would make a final decision for siting of the sign and arranging a work scope for its installation.

8.0 Request from Blakey's Bus for maintenance on tree at entrance

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Leek would issue a work scope to obtain quotes for work on the tree in question.

9.0 Request from Puddleducks to use the car park for their Christmas Fayre on 28th November

It was noted that this request arose because Puddleduck's Summer Fayre, previously approved by MPC for 19th September 2021 had been postponed.

Following discussion Cllr Sewell proposed that the request be granted to transfer previous approval to the new date of 28th November 2021. This was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed.

10.0 Update on Pump Track planning application

Cllr Peachey reported that following a meeting with SNC Planning and Communities Officers it had been confirmed that planning permission would be required for parts of any proposed pump track.

Following discussion, Cllr Peachey proposed that a letter be sent to the planning department to clarify what the cost of a planning application would be; what variations would be allowed within any permission as the final plan may change as a result of obtaining quotes; and also, if MPC decided to look at a speedway track as an alternative would this require planning permission. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Leek and unanimously agreed.

11.0 To receive an update and proposals from the Football Working Group

Following a recommendation from the Football Working Group to send a letter regarding housekeeping on Orchard Park and Mulberry Park to the Football Club, Cllr Leek proposed that a letter be sent. This was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously agreed.

12.0 Request from the Football Club to install a pa system to be used on match days only

Following discussion, Cllr Leek proposed that permission for a PA system be granted on the condition that it is only used for health & safety pitch announcements; this was seconded by Cllr Reeve. The vote was four in favour and two against so the proposal was carried.

12.1 Request from the Football Club for permission to finish the path all around the pitch, maintaining a consistent size of 1 meter wide by 150mm deep

Following discussion, Cllr Leek proposed that permission be granted to allow the Football Club to complete the path around the pitch; this was seconded by Cllr Sewell and unanimously agreed.

13.0 Update on renewal of EE & Three mast agreement

It was noted that there was no update on this proposal and no decision or action was required by MPC at this meeting.

14.0 Neighbourhood Plan Review working group report and consideration of actions required

Cllr Sewell reported that MPC are waiting for a work scope and costing proposal for a review of the current Neighbourhood Plan and possible recommendations. It is hoped that the work scope and costing will be available for consideration at the December meeting.

15.0 Update on wind farms

Cllr Aldous provided a report on recent developments affecting the local area and confirmed that MPC will continue to raise concerns and issues and make representations regarding wind farms, battery storage, and related projects with the Planning Inspectorate, South Norfolk Council, and other bodies, and is in the early stages of obtaining legal advice on recent developments.

15.1 To approve an additional £250 cost for independent advice in relation to wind farms, related projects and their associated infrastructure

Following discussion Cllr Peachey proposed that an additional £250 be approved for independent advice in relation to wind farms, related projects and their associated infrastructure; this was seconded by Cllr Reeve and unanimously agreed.

16.0 To consider planning applications received

2021/2144: 6 Nightingale Close – Retrospective change of use to convert part of the residential garage for a beauty treatment business. It was noted that MPC submitted comments prior to the consultation end date.

2021/2287: Richmond Lodge – Retrospective approval for erection of a single storey building. It was noted that this is a retrospective application as the building has already been built and it was unclear if this building was industrial commercial or residential. Cllrs Sewell and Peachey will liaise with the Clerk to submit comments prior to the 17th November consultation end date.

16.1 To receive and consider pre-application engagement correspondence from Cellnex UK for the development of an electronic communications base station at the telephone exchange. Planning application 2021/2312

Cllr Sewell reported that the questions and concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the pre-application engagement consultation had been responded to, and that an application has now been submitted to SNC. Following discussion it was agreed that these questions and concerns would be used in MPC's response to the proposed application which the Clerk will send before the consultation end date.

17.0 To receive and consider reply from SNC's Director of Place

During discussion it was noted that MPC originally raised concerns about the industrialisation of South Norfolk and the cumulative impact of planning applications in March 2021. Correspondence sent on 23 October 2021 to SNC's Director of Place, highlighting nine planning applications for wind and solar farm related projects that are currently with SNC, requesting sight of a statutory consultation response, and proposing a meeting in the near future, has yet to be answered.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to follow this matter up again and if necessary raise a formal complaint.

18.0 Correspondence requiring consideration

- The proposed Christmas Fayre on Sunday 19th December will now be an indoor event.
- Email re. Hedge along Long Lane past Oakley Park and verge cutting at the junction of Long Lane/Rosery. The hedge is Hopkins Home's responsibility and Cllr Leek will look at the verge cutting.
- Email re. Management of the Common. The comments will be referred to the Mulbarton Common Steering Group. Should any decision be taken by SNC to delegate responsibility for The Common to MPC then this would be a matter for the full Council to discuss in the future.

19.0 Liaison officer reports

Allotments: Cllr Leek reported that the Long Lane allotments have now been ploughed as per the work scope and there are only four plots left for rent. At the Meadows there are two oak trees that may need some work completed on them, and Cllr Leek will complete a work scope for these and other trees that back onto Pheasant Close. A request had been made for a car park at the Meadows site. It was noted that there were never any plans for a car park at this site as there would be insufficient visibility off the highway and it is also an entrance to the childrens' play area. Cllr Leek will arrange for the water to be turned off in the near future and will also bring forward a work scope for a third water trough at the Meadows site.

Cllr Sewell reported that Cllr Elmer has supported MPC's application for an allocation of orchard trees for the Oakley Park South allotment site; the decision on whether this application has been successful should be known this month with trees being delivered next year. Cllr Sewell also reported that planting would take into account the guidance for planting in the vicinity of pylons, as there is one in the proposed planting area. It was confirmed that allotment holders had agreed to assist with the planting of any trees on this site.

Cllr Leek reported that MPC currently has 72 allotments in the village. This figure excludes those managed by the Rich's Trust.

It was unanimously agreed that a tree survey is required at the Meadows and this will be brought forward once costings have been received for the other tree work already discussed.

Litter pick: Cllr Leek thanked all Councillors that turned up for the event, many with family members, and confirmed that another litter pick will be arranged for February half term next year.

Mulbarton Common Steering Group: Cllr Peachey reported that the meeting on 11th October was attended by Helen Sibley for SNC, who has now moved to a new role, Jamie Henry (Broadland Community Asset Officer), Cllr Legg, MPC and the owners. At this meeting it was confirmed that apart from refurbishment of the black and white sign posts MPC have no further planned maintenance on the Common. SNC are working with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, following a successful bid for funds as part of Connecting the Claylands project, and they should advise soon which two ponds will be worked on this winter. Work on trees by SNC has now been suspended as MPC was unaware of the survey results or planned works in the conservation area. SNC have advised that trees that have been pollarded will regrow in due course. A follow-up site meeting with Jamie Henry is being planned as MPC have concerns about proposals by SNC to cut more trees on the south west corner of the Common, and the potential requirement for work on the lime tree at the village hall.

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

- Budget planning
- Anti-social behaviour reports in the village
- Junction at Rosery/Cuckoofield/Long lane

21.0 To adjourn the meeting for the 2nd public session

A resident reported that the pollarding by SNC of the horse chestnut by the village sign had been completed at the wrong time of year and raised concerns about the footpath along the Common to Birchfield Lane.

In relation to agenda item 17, Cllr Legg reported that CPRE Norfolk have produced a report in response to a planned solar farm at Mergate Lane, Bracon Ash. This report highlighted that SNC have no sequential plan for the applications being submitted for this and similar proposals.

Cllr Legg reported that in response to concerns about the hedge at 86 Cuckoofield Lane, NCC Highways had attended and trimmed the corner but the footpath was still not fully accessible, although Highways thought their work was satisfactory. A number of trees along Cuckoofield Lane have been marked and may be cut down by Highways at some stage, but he has received an offer from Saffron Housing for replanting.

A representative from the Football Club thanked MPC for approving the continuation of the path around the pitch and noted the comments made by councillors about the volume of any pa system, and confirmed that the volume would only cover the pitch area.

A suggestion was made to place the Memorial Plaque on one of the entrances to the Common and to use social media to advertise future litter picks.

It was noted that the wood from the recently felled oak tree on Orchard Park has been left alongside for collection by the Scouts at their request.

Cllr Legg confirmed that he had reported the road and puddle in front of the Cuckoofield Lane bus stop to Highways, as previous repair work had been carried out in the wrong place.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 6th December at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Payments for October 2021

Cheque Number	Recipient	Details	Net total	Vat	Amount £'s
102772	Ben Perry	Chq 102763 cancelled – payee details changed	40.00	8.00	48.00
Chq 102763 was approved on September 2021's payment schedule					
102773	Talking Elm	Dismantle and removal of T9	1450.00	290.00	1740.00
102774	Mulbarton Village Hall Management Committee	Room hire – June, August & September	62.50		62.50
102775	Mulbarton Scouts	Room hire 11.10.21	10.00		10.00
102776	Thrings LLP	Planning advise	500.00		500.00
102777	A Phillips	Expenses	26.57	5.32	31.89
102778	A Phillips	Salary	858.25		858.25
102779	HMRC	PAYE	316.42		316.42
102780	Ribbonsdale	Grounds maintenance	1158.57	211.71	3170.28
		Work at Long Lane allotments	1500.00	300.00	
102781	NTS Partnership T/A Icen	Jubilee Gardens maintenance	68.00		68.00
		Total for month:	5950.31	807.03	6757.34