

## **MULBARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Mulbarton Annual Parish Meeting held on  
on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.00pm.

Peter Leigh – Chairman

### **Parish Councillors present:-**

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

### **In attendance:**

Jill Wright, Marina Carter, Beverley Theobald, representatives from MALGA, and residents.

### **1. Chairman of the Parish Council opens the Annual Parish Meeting.**

Councillor Peter Leigh welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting and explained that a parish meeting in England is a meeting which all electors in a civil parish are entitled to attend. In an area where there is a parish council, the Chairman of the parish council shall chair the parish meeting. A parish meeting has no powers; it acts only as an annual democratic point of communication. Councillor Leigh then introduced the newly elected District Councillors to the audience: Councillor Legg(Con), Councillor Francis(Con) .

### **2. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies received from Rector Adrian Miller and Rev Andrew North.

### **3. To confirm and sign the minutes of The Annual Parish meeting held 14th May 2018.**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

### **4. Parish Council Chairman's report – Peter Leigh.**

Cllr Leigh as Chairman of the Parish council read out his Parish council Chairman's report:  
*I open this report with the same topic I did in May 2018 – namely the proposed development at the North end of the Village. I can report good news in that on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the SNC planning Committee unanimously rejected the amended proposal and we await what, if anything, the developer will do next. We do know that they have been in talks with the owner of the "tractor shed" within the past week. Given the refusal at Little Plumstead which had similar circumstances, and which the*

*Inspector upheld, we feel confident that we can achieve a similar result here. We have engaged the services of professional help in this regard.*

*I think it is also worth mentioning the outstanding efforts of the Mulbarton Residents Group, who not only worked tirelessly throughout the year in opposing this development and put together a very professional presentation to the SNC management committee. I would also like to thank Vic Raymond - Smith for organising the on-line petition that was part of our success. I think it shows that if we all work together to a common goal we can achieve the results.*

*I have to say I am disappointed with the local elections in that we could only muster 7 Councillors from a voting population of 2,700. We don't understand this apathy, especially in light of some of the comments made on the social media platforms. It is no use criticising the PC if you don't step up to the plate and make your views felt and contribute.*

*We have had to say farewell to Emma(Reeve) who because of family commitments, was unable to devote the time needed to the PC .We welcome Gerald Peachey who has recently arrived in the Village and wish him every success in his role as your local Councillor.*

*At district level the ward has been enlarged to incorporate Stoke Holy Cross and we now have 3 Councillors to represent the ward. At the elections two Conservative Councillors were elected and one Liberal Democrat- was elected.*

*We have managed to keep our Precept at the same level as last year i.e. no increase - this despite the fact the Rate Support Grant from SNC has gone from £3774 a few years ago to zero this year. As usual we have closely reviewed our commitments and spending and also maximised our return on Council owned assets. The Council finances are in good health and able to accommodate sudden expenditure. It is worthwhile mentioning that all the Councillors over the past 4 years have foregone their allowance entitlement and the monies have been put back into the general pot for expenditure on Village matters. This amounts to several thousand pounds over the 4 years.*

*We have lost our Sunday bus service from First bus due to it not being commercially viable. The old adage "use it or lose it". The same can be said about One Stop closing – although a new proprietor has taken over but we shall have to see if it becomes a success and ensures the Co-op keep an eye on their prices.*

*Despite the lack of management by SNC in enforcing the S106 agreement we have finally got Phase 1 of the new allotments at Oakley Park sorted out. It took direct intervention and management by MPC to get things moving. Hopefully lessons learnt on this Phase will ensure that the Phase 2 plots are handed over in a more timely and complete manner. There will be a total of 38 plots available across both plots bringing the total in the Village to 68.*

*Management, or should I say lack of management by SNC, on the Common, has lead us to have talks with the owner and District Councillor Nigel – to see if the PC can be allowed to manage the Common without either SNC or Norwich Fringe being involved. We would still respect the wildlife element of the Common and in fact one of the first tasks would be to tackle the ponds. They were identified on the 5 year plan in 2015 but nothing has been done to carry out the plan and we are concerned that they will become overgrown and not carry out the function they used to do i.e. support wildlife and help keep the water table lower on the Common and try and mitigate the usual winter flooding. We are also obtaining quotes to refurbish the ditches that surround the Common.*

*I think it is timely to remind everyone about the relentless damage done to the facilities on the Common. The park bench near the football pitch has been burnt out twice and has cost over a thousand pounds to replace/ repair. We are seriously considering whether it is worthwhile replacing it for a third time in just over twelve months*

*We have also refurbished the Doctors'/ School car park after waiting for SNC to action some repairs. The only thing they seemed to have done in this area is chop down twelve ash trees and leave the area in a pretty sad state. The mindless ones have also seen fit to rip of the disabled parking signs and the inlet and exit signs. We will sort it out but remember you are paying twice for this as SNC have responsibility for the Common under the Scheme of Regulation but we are spending Parish Council precept to maintain the areas.*

*We continue to support Marina financially in her work in maintaining the Village website.*

*Finally a big thank you to Anne, our Clerk, and my fellow Councillors for all the work they have done over the past and last 4 years.*

## **5. County Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Foulger was not in attendance at the meeting.

## **6. District Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Legg reported that in the last 18 months there had been major work on planning issues particularly the Paddock Farm proposal and he didn't think that this was the end of the process as the applicant could still appeal or submit new plans and that there was a need for collective awareness and readiness for the applicants next move.

Cllr Legg reported that SNC's AGM was next week (w/c 20.05.19) and after this they would have an indication of what direction the Council would in in the next year.

Cllr Legg reported that SNC's are proud of the work and achievements of its Help Hub which covers a huge range of issues.

Cllr Legg reported that SNC had been under pressure to build more houses, Mulbarton has expanded enormously in the last ten years, but he felt that this requirement for new builds would fall off in the next few years as so many had been built and that there should be more information later in the year when the next GNDP is produced, Parish Councils will be able to comment on this.

Cllr Legg reported that he had concerns about policing, HGV's and traffic and would need to see how a response could be stimulate from the police.

Cllr Legg finished by saying that he should have more information for the next Parish Council meeting on what SNC are proposing going forward, SNC are currently in purdah, so no business is being conducted until 26.05.19.

## **7. Reports from local groups and organisations.**

Mrs Jill Wright read out the following report on behalf of **MULBARTON CHURCH:**

*Throughout the year the Church has been regularly open in daylight hours, and continues to attract many visitors. The churchyard has been well maintained, and the PCC is grateful to the support of the Parish Council towards mowing costs, and also for volunteer help.*

*The main items with respect to the fabric of the Church this last year have been repairs to the roof, the new Church heating system, and some repairs to the stonework of the tower.*

*There was a popular and well attended Remembrance Day service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, with people coming from far and wide, as well as many local residents.*

*The Rector and Churchwardens continued to review the application of new Churchyard Regulations, and we are close to agreeing a revised set of churchyard management rules with the diocesan legal department.*

*In 2018, we undertook considerable work on the implementation of the new data protection rules, and new safeguarding regulations.*

*We also had a second open day in May 2018, with a sponsored toddler obstacle race at Harvest House to raise money for repairs to the medieval font in the Church. Over £1,000 was raised on the day, bringing the total to about £2,500 of very generous donations from interested parishioners, which is enough to start the process of applying for grants. We hope the once-in-a-thousand-years repair work will enable several thousand more baptisms in the centuries to come!*

*The PCC adopted a Memorandum in support of the Mulbarton Community Choir, so that it could have a strong accountable legal footing under the umbrella of the Parochial Church Council. We have also continued to partner with the Social Club in providing the highly valued monthly Tuesday afternoon Mulbarton Mardlers.*

*Our curate, Rev. Andrew North, has completed his three year term with us and has accepted a Commission in the Royal Army Chaplain's Department. His last day in the benefice will be Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August, before taking up his new position in September.*

Mrs Beverley Theobald, **MULBARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL:**

Mrs Theobald, as head of the primary School reported that the school continues to thrive and do well and is close to capacity. She reported that she had had a meeting today (13.05.19) with regards to admissions policy and that these conversations would be ongoing.

Mr Chris Sampson, **MALGA:**

Mr Sampson reported that MALGA is thriving with 50 plus members and they have great series of event lined up including Mulbarton Open Gardens on 7<sup>th</sup> July, when 10 gardens will be open to the public; it is hoped that this will become a permanent event being help every two years in rotation with East Carlton.

Cllr Leigh as Chairman of the **RICH'S TRUST** read out the following report:

*Not many people may be aware that a charitable trust exists in Mulbarton to help local residents in need of financial assistance. The Trust has only small amounts of money to help local people out with income derived from land rental and the small allotments alongside the south side of The Rosery.*

*The aim of the Trust is to help Mulbarton parishioners on modest incomes, who are in need of a little financial help to pay for such essentials as heating, school uniforms, equipment to make life easier or perhaps the bus/taxi fare to visit a close relative in hospital; in fact anything they would otherwise struggle to afford without this support.*

*The Almoner, Mrs Pauline Champion, would like to hear from parishioners who would benefit from a gift from Trust funds. There is no age restriction. The Trust was set up many years ago for the benefit of all local residents.*

*If a few pounds will help you get over a crisis in your family please contact Mrs Champion and rest assured your request will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. She can be contacted on 570335 or [pauline.champion@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.champion@btinternet.com)*

Mrs Jill Wright read out the following report on behalf of **MULBARTON PARISH NEWS:**

*The village magazine continues to thrive in its new and colourful format.*

*The Summer edition – currently being printed – will be 48 pages: the largest ever and maximum size for a folded and stapled magazine on this quality paper.*

*As editor I have to do a balancing act between chasing people to send me a copy so that a wide range of organisations are represented and cutting what does come in to make it fit! Although we have increased the space available, there is more than enough to fill it, hence the growth of the magazine.*

*I would like to publicly thank the others in the team – Sue who does a marvellous job proof-reading; Sara who contacts advertisers and lays out their ads (a huge task!); Pauline who bundles the magazines and delivers them to a small army of volunteers who deliver them – and we are all so grateful to all of them.*

*I have said repeatedly that I need an assistant editor, if only to guarantee it is published should I not be available. I'm glad to say that one person has approached me so I am hoping to be able to report new developments next year!*

Mrs Jill Wright read out the following report on behalf of **MULBARTON HERITAGE GROUP:**

*The project to identify the Mulbarton men who served in the First World War has dominated the past couple of years. The findings, and how we reached them, were presented at a meeting last November by Julie, Lynne and myself. That is the only meeting we have had as there has been no response to repeated pleas for others to join our organising Group to replace those who have left, nor for ideas for speakers and projects.*

However, we/I have continued to develop the history websites for Mulbarton, Flordon, Bracon Ash and Hethell, all of which continue to achieve a reasonable number of "hits" each day. Our funds had built up, so we paid to secure the Mulbarton.org.uk site for the next 10 years, and the other sites "ride" on the back of that.

We are also potential partners in a new project with the Norfolk records Office to catalogue and preserve community archives, but that awaits Heritage Lottery funding that they have applied for. If that goes ahead, it means that nearly a thousand historic photos of the area that are currently on my computer can be properly organised and stored.

Cllr Leigh read out an email that had been received that may of interest; further details are also available on the Mulbarton.info website:

#### *A Mulbarton Men's Shed?*

*Calling all Mulbarton men who might be interested in having, a Mens' Shed in the village!! Anyone interested in investigating the possibility of setting one up, considering a venue etc. where/when men can meet and natter over a brew, sharing skills and company etc., please contact Marina via the 'Contact Us' link on Village website [www.mulbarton.info](http://www.mulbarton.info) or Parish Council [mulbartonparish@btconnect.com](mailto:mulbartonparish@btconnect.com) / tel. 01508 578134 (24hr answerphone).*

*If there's enough interest, a meeting could be arranged to discuss things further. Meanwhile if you're wondering what this is about, do check out <https://menssheds.org.uk/>*

Mrs Marina Carter read out the following report on the **VILLAGE WEBSITE**:

*Firstly I'd like to say Congratulations Gerald on becoming a Parish Councillor, and Vivienne C-J and Nigel Legg, our Dist Cllrs!*

*I started the Village Website in 2000, and am grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support. Checking today - approx. 1,643 unique visits in last 30 days!*

*GDPR caused a great deal more work last year - having to request 'written consents' from those whose details are on the Website, as well as needing 'opt-in consents' from those who wished to continue receiving my monthly info-mails - currently 164 & I still get requests from people wishing to be added to e-list & appreciate the kind comments - there is a PDF link to the latest one on my Website, as well as the most recent Police Connect Alerts about numerous scams.*

*I would like to thank Carl Grant again for his patient support and help; we are aware there's work needed on the 'Useful Contacts' page which is proving a bit troublesome, but we'll get there, and still want to make the Site more accessible for whichever platform people are using. Rev. Adrian Miller helps me too with my info-mails, especially when there's a hiccup with forwarding!*

*I was pleased to introduce a link to a Village Google Calendar with Carl's help, which is useful for adding events at short notice – there's a link to that at the top of my website Home page, as well as one to the*

latest Free Quarterly Parish Magazine which Jill Wright will mention following last year's report that we're now working together, providing information for and about Mulbarton.

I work regularly on the website to keep it as up to date as I can but, as I always say, I do also need groups etc. to keep me informed of changes to their links / contact personnel etc. for this to be accurate. I'm always happy to hear from anyone by e-mail (via the 'contact us' button on the website) with ideas, updates or amendments.

Thank you, Marina [www.mulbarton.info](http://www.mulbarton.info)

### **Men's Shed for Mulbarton?**

This is something which has been mentioned to me fairly recently and I've included in my info-mails, as I believe there is a great need in our village.

There are Mulbarton menfolk who have super skills they could share, whilst enjoying a brew and a natter, but it needs someone to get the ball rolling, and I wonder if it is a project the Parish Council might be prepared to adopt and support, as it would involve finding and funding premises as a starter?

There is one near Poringland – behind The Dove PH which meets on Tuesday and Saturday mornings (and I think there's one in Wymondham too?)

For more details go to <https://menssheds.org.uk/>

### **8. Any other business.**

Mrs Wright asked the meeting what the feeling was on hosting another Welcome Meeting. During discussions a few suggestions were made for alternative locations and format. Mrs Wright will discuss these with fellow organisers of the Welcome Meetings and advise relevant organisations when a decision is made.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.41pm