

Mendlesham Parish Council

A Parish Council Ordinary meeting was held in the Old School Room, Mendlesham on Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7.30pm.

1. Present: Cllrs M Exley (Chairperson), A Davey, D Foster, N Foster, D Nunn, H Orton, E Ward, M Watson, S Webb and S Jones (Clerk), SCC/MSDC Cllr Stringer and two members of the public.

Apologies: Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Police.

The Mendlesham Parish Council filming statement was read out.

2. Declarations of interest:

a) To note Councillor's declarations of interest in any of the following agenda items. The Clerk reminded Cllrs she was Chair of Governors for Mendlesham Primary School.

b) To agree any dispensations with regard to declarations of interest. Not required.

3. Minutes: To approve the following minutes as a true record of the meeting:

a) Annual Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 17th May 2017.

Pages 1483-1485 inclusive were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairperson.

b) Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 17th May 2017

Pages 1486-1490 inclusive were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairperson.

c) To note draft minutes of Mendlesham Memorial Playingfields Charity Annual General Meeting Wednesday 17th May 2017.

Unanimously noted.

7.35pm A member of the public arrived.

4. Police report: see May Safer Neighbourhood Team report as appended to these minutes.

SCC Cllr/ DCllr Stringer:

See reports as appended to these minutes. Cllr Stringer also reported as part of his District report that following receipt of a judgement from The Supreme Court 10th May 2017 " Suffolk Coastal District Council v Hopkins Homes Ltd and another, Richborough Estates Partnership LLP and another v Cheshire East Borough Council" it had become apparent of the need to consider planning applications against a broader range of planning policies which had previously been thought to be lapsed whilst Mid Suffolk District Council did not have a five year housing pipeline. The need to reconsult on some applications had been agreed, including the Stackyard planning application, an agenda item for this meeting. Cllr Stringer also reported there would now be a published fee for pre planning application advice.

Public Forum:

A member of the public expressed her concern about Mendlesham Preschool and the lack of uncertainty for parents regarding hire of Mendlesham Community Centre Small Hall from September 2017.

She was advised that this was an agenda item for the following Community Centre Charity meeting and the Parish Council were fully in support of the need for the community to have an Early Years provision. However, as Trustee for the Community Centre Charity, the Parish Council have responsibility to protect the Community Centre Charity and the amount outstanding debt for non payment of hire fees over some 18 months had left no option but to terminate the hire of the hall as at 31.3.17.

7.45 three members of the public arrived.

However, it had been appreciated that the Preschool had then had to cope with exceptional circumstances which was why the Summer 2017 hire terms had been agreed, subject to further discussion and further information required to discuss hire from September 2017. The complete information requested, whilst notified as a requirement for a decision earlier in the year, had only been received on 25th May, so despite Preschool requests, the later meeting was the first opportunity for the hire to be an agenda item for a meeting. The clerk also advised the member of the public she was Chair of Governors for Mendlesham Primary School.

A member of the public left.

5. Planning:

a) Applications

1428/17 The Stackyard Nursery, Old Station Road, Mendlesham:

Erection of a two storey dwelling.

After discussion including consideration of the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan, that the "red" settlement boundary and the local plan policies still applied, albeit to be balanced against the implications of the lack of a MSDC five year housing pipeline, Mendlesham Parish Council unanimously recommended that this application is accepted with the following comments:

- Whilst this application is outside the settlement line of Mendlesham village, it is adjacent to the village and is therefore not isolated. The residents can access the village via a footpath on opposite side of the highway.
- Whilst the site is on the approach to the gateway to the village it will be well screened from the road, particularly during summer months.
- The size and design of the property has been considered with the design considered sympathetic to neighbouring properties and the gateway to the village.
- This is a large property, but equally it is located on a large plot.
- The application is supported by our Neighbourhood Plan Policy MP1 plus supporting paragraphs.
- We understand that an existing highways access for the adjacent business site will also be used for the residential property so there will not be an impact to the highway.

b) Results: none

c) Report on meeting with Mid Suffolk District Officers re Neighbourhood Planning, including Affordable Housing Needs Survey.

Cllr Exley, Cllr Stringer and the Clerk reported further to a meeting with Bill Newman, Mid Suffolk District Council. MSDC were currently working towards a new local plan which would also include new housing allocations for all eligible villages and site allocations.

Bill had confirmed that if the Parish wanted to proceed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan and allocate sites which would meet the local needs for the next 20 or so years, MSDC would respect this local work when it came to the new Local Plan .

The alternative for the Parish would be to leave the decisions to Mid Suffolk DC.

d) Proposal to continue with Neighbourhood Plan work to include site allocations, Special Landscape areas and non designated registered assets. It was unanimously agreed that Mendlesham should be proactive and work towards site allocations plus any other requirements to update the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan. It was unanimously agreed to reform the Parish Council Advisory Neighbourhood Plan committee with Cllrs Exley, Orton and Ward plus Mr Dawson as a member of the community. It was noted more public volunteers were required and this would be requested as part of the next Parish Newsletter.

e) Proposal to instruct Community Action Suffolk to undertake an Affordable Needs Survey at a cost of approx. £4k.

The meeting with Bill Newman had confirmed that Community Action Suffolk were the only organisation locally undertaking this work.

It was agreed to investigate further including challenging the content and value of the report that would be received if commissioned. **Action: Clerk** and an agenda item for the next meeting.

f) Proposal to apply for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the "Mendlesham Woodland Oak" and any others. It was agreed that further enquires should be made about the value of a TPO for the Mendlesham Woodland Oak. **Action: Clerk**

A member of the public left the room and returned.

g) Any other planning correspondence and matters: none

6. Reports:

a) Clerks report & delegated decisions. Actions taken from last meeting and correspondence received since last meeting:

Financial:

Community Centre insurance claim re break in 3.9.16 - insurance monies £761.16 received.

Grant from Mendlesham Community Council £397.54 re electrical works carried out to 50 50 shop received.

Parish Council records sent to Internal Auditor.

MSDC Street Cleansing grant application quarter ending June 17 £357.18 sent.

New dog bin:ordered.

Scout Hut: complaint received from local resident re overnight party and camping. Noise until 2am. Inspection of site - two large bins bags of rubbish, one full of alcohol tins and bottles. Investigation found this was something the Scouts had given permission for. Will not be happening again. Site/rubbish to be cleared and meeting with Scouts chased/to be arranged.

Dog incident:

Victim suffered a nasty dog bite when he went to check a person lying in a ditch. Homeless dog owner was camping at Stulps Water near the Anglian Water Pumping Station at the Oak Farm Lane/ Brockford Road junction.

After many communications via 101 and Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team, with Police Commissioner Tim Passmore copied into all emails, it became clear the Police Neighbourhood Support Team were dealing with the matter re dog/owner but Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team contacting land owner. 2.6.17 land cleared, gate and sign erected -assume dog and owner moved on.

The need for individuals at the time of an incident/concern, to call 101 for and not wait until something else had happened enforced by Police call 30.5.17. Also advised Police were unable to provide details of outcome but were definitely fully aware of background/concerns and dealing with the matter.

Mendlesham Green area:

Call from resident re bee orchids on site. Permission given for him to fence the area. Grasscutting volunteers also advised. Permission given for use of area as a car park 8.7.17.

Mendlesham Green Playingfields: Mole control instigated.

Correspondence:

Details of Merchant Navy Day 3.9.17 (wanting us to fly the Red Ensign)
Correspondence regarding the Mendlesham Community Council picnic at Mendlesham Green.

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Delegated Decisions by Clerk :

Mendlesham Green fencing re orchids and car parking permission granted.
Community Centre: requested an additional floor clean over May half term holidays.

The meeting was then opened to allow members of the public to talk about their concerns about Police action further to the dog incident in the Clerk's report plus another dog incident. Concerns included that as of 7th June, the Police had not interviewed or obtained a statement from the victim of the recent attack, so how could they have dealt with this matter properly? Also the owner and dog were still thought to be living in the village and there was a need to prevent further risk of injury.

It was agreed that Cllr Stringer and the Parish Council would ask further questions about the process followed by the Police, specifically relating to the recent incident, but also other dog related incidents. **Action: Clerk**
Cllr Stringer and three members of the public left.

Cllr Exley reported that some 18 bee orchid plants were along the Mendlesham Road side on the grassed area at Mendlesham Green. He would fence the area off the following day and a future management plan would be needed.

b) Report from Village Organisation Representatives.

Nothing reported.

c) Police Liaison Meeting. See Cllr Fosters report as appended to these minutes.

9.15pm an extension to standing orders to 10pm was agreed.

d) Chairs report: The Chair had nothing to report that was not an agenda item.

e) Questions to the Chair: no questions asked.

7. Financial matters: Mendlesham Parish Council

a) To approve invoices for payment

The following invoices and bank transfer were unanimously approved for payment.

Main account

000632	16.74	S Lyons Parish Meeting refreshments. Page 1495
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000633	68.43	Business Services at Community Action Suffolk -increase insurance premium further to index linking.
000634	45.59	S Jones reimbursement re stationary.
000635	154.71	K Hales May salary plus tax rebate
000636	767.24	S Jones May salary plus tax rebate
dd	13.57	NEST contribution
dd	5.50	Google monthly subscription
000637	761.16	Mendlesham Community Centre reimbursement further to insurance funds £761.16 re break in 3.9.16.
dd	1129.27	PWLB repayment re street lighting loan

Bank Transfer from War Memorial Deposit account £99.99 re insurance for Memorial from 1.6.17.

b) Any other financial matters: none

8. Playingfield Matters:

a) Mendlesham Playingfields: any reports, items requiring discussion and required actions.

A report prepared by Cllr N Foster further to the consultation for Mendlesham Playingfields future plans had been circulated. A provisional date for the next working party meeting was agreed, subject to other members of group being able to attend for 20th June.

The use of anti climb paint to prevent access to the community centre roof and damage to the 50 50 shop was unanimously agreed.

b) Mendlesham Green playingfields: any reports, items requiring discussion and required actions. Cllr Ward and Cllr Orton reported that a consultation questionnaire had been prepared and would be delivered to Mendlesham Green residents 12/13 June.

It was agreed the agenda item re Mendlesham Emergency Plan would be moved to the next Parish Council meeting. **Action Clerk.**

9. Complaint: To note details of complaint received and confirm actions taken by Cllr Exley as Parish Council chairperson with regard to the Mendlesham Complaint policy.

Unanimously confirmed with no case to answer.

10. Any other business: none.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm