

Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

Jan/Feb 2026



Items not on the agenda

In the October meeting, councillors agreed to approach local groups to see if there was any interest in designing and painting a mural inside the Cuckoofield Lane bus shelter, opposite the Co-Op. Four local schools have been contacted, Hethersett Academy, Hewett Academy, Long Straton High School and Wymondham High School, along with the local Scouting Group. If this is something that you would be keen to get involved in, contact the clerk.

No progress has been made on the signage for Orchard Park.

The new dog bin for the junction of Birchfield Lane and Gardens has been received. Volunteer councillors will install when the weather improves.

The Meadows allotment gate post has been replaced.

Hopkin Homes have been contacted about the land at Jubilee Gardens but still have not responded.

Information is being collected about possible improvements to the village hall car park. It is hoped this will be discussed again in March.

Councillors and the clerk will be meeting with Norfolk Parish Training and Support in March to discuss parish council strategy. More information on the outcomes of this session will be made available.

Items on the agenda

Item 9: Meadows play area

Planning permission has been approved for the proposed pump track at the Meadows under application 2025/3341. This approval comes with conditions that the council will review, the most significant being the need for biodiversity net gain (BNG) mitigation. At the previous meeting, the council agreed to purchase off-site credits to satisfy this condition, which the appointed land agents can arrange for an additional fee.

Sadly, our grant application to The National Lottery was not approved, so we urgently need additional funding and currently have a shortfall of about £20,000. We are considering other funding applications, which, if successful, could almost cover this gap. We still need your support. If you would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code below.



Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

Jan/Feb 2026



Item 11: Play areas

Repairs have been carried out at Meadows, Common and village hall play areas, as highlighted in the annual inspections.



Item 12: Village Hall Committee update

Dennis Wells was a member of the Village Hall Committee, but his resignation leaves the committee with just 2 members, and with just 2 members the committee cannot meet to make decisions. The council needs to consider if they will appoint new member(s) to the committee or if they disband the committee and the matter is dealt with by full council.

Item 13: Village Hall (maintenance)

The condition and maintenance surveys carried out on the village hall building on 10 December have been received. These have been made available to the councillors, along with the Village Hall Management Committee's maintenance list, ahead of the meeting ready for them to discuss and agree any next steps.

The car park at the village hall is frequently used by visitors to the hall, football club, Scouts, Blakey's Bus, and others. Both the management committee and parish council regularly receive requests regarding alternative uses for the car park, such as hosting food trucks. According to the current agreement, the management committee may approve food trucks under specific conditions; however, any other permissions must be granted by the parish council during an official meeting. This arrangement is unclear for prospective users and can lead to frustration for those booking the village hall who wish to use the car park for other uses. Receiving income from the car park may lead to VAT implications for the parish council. The council will also need to consider how the car park maintenance is funded going forward.

A trial has been running, where the management committee have been permitted to allow a food truck in the car park. The council will consider extending this. If you have any comments on this facility, please let us know, either at the meeting (during the first public session), by talking to one of our councillors or emailing clerk@mulbarton-pc.gov.uk

Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

Jan/Feb 2026



Item 14: Ad hoc tasks

Councillors often carry out the council's ad hoc tasks to improve the facilities for the community and to minimise costs. We currently only have 6 councillors, out of a maximum of 11, which means we do not have many volunteer hours available. This is leading to a back log of tasks which the council will need to consider how to proceed with. The tasks are varied and include installation of bin, hanging swings, removal of play equipment, repairs to village sign, refurbishment of phone (Charlies') box/library, painting bus shelter, etc. If this is something you would like to help with please contact a councillor or email clerk@mulbarton-pc.gov.uk

Item 15: SAM2 data

The latest charts are on our Facebook page, and all charts are on our website <https://www.mulbarton-pc.gov.uk/s-projects-side-by-side>

Item 19: Sir Edwin Rich charity

The Sir Edwin Rich charity manages land within the parish using the proceeds to support those in need within the parish. There are 5 trustees appointed to the charity with the parish council appointing 2 of these for a 4-year term. The trustees appointed by the council do not need to be parish councillors.

Item 20: Meadows entrance



Increased contractor use in the play area and allotments, combined with heavy rainfall this winter, has churned up the entrance and made pedestrian access difficult.

Item 22: Birchfield Lane to Forge Orchard



The Common path was relayed in 2022, and we are receiving feedback from residents that this path is difficult to walk.



Mulbarton Parish Council

Clerk's Report

Jan/Feb 2026



Item 23: Minnow Way

A resident has reported frequent damage to the verge opposite Golden Orfe Close on Minnow Way. They have been in regular contact with Norfolk County Council who replaces broken bollards but declines to repair the verge or add any additional bollards to protect the verge. The parish council is being asked to consider some support.



If you are interested in any of the above activities, or believe the parish council should pursue alternative initiatives, we invite you to consider joining us. Parish Councillors generously volunteer their time to support and enhance our community. If you are able to commit a few hours per month and have a strong interest in improving Mulbarton, please contact us for further information.

Email: clerk@mulbarton-pc.gov.uk
Phone: 01508 578134