

# Mulbarton Parish Council

## Clerk's Report

### July/August 2025



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## Items not on the agenda

The website has moved to <https://www.mulbarton-pc.gov.uk/> inline with best practice. The old web address <https://www.mulbartonpcinfo.com/> will continue until October.

Councillors continue to work to find a solution over the village hall ownership dispute. We are currently waiting for the Village Hall Trustees to let us know when they will be able to meet to continue the discussions.

We continue to work towards funding for the Meadows play area, but we were unsuccessful in gaining the Community Action Fund Grant. If you would like to donate, please visit our Go Fund Me page. Thank you to all those who have already kindly donated.



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## Items on the agenda

### Item 8: Biodiversity Net Gain assessment at the Meadows play area

As part of the planning application for the proposed pump track at the Meadows play area, we need to submit a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment. This has been carried out and council are being asked to consider the report.

### Item 10: Allotments

At the last meeting, the council asked when the allotment rent was last increased. The records show that the allotment rent was last increased in 2015/16, in agreement with MALGA

The allotment policy states "Rents are reviewed from time to time by the Council. Any decision to increase the rents will comply with the requirements of the Allotments Act 1950 and will be notified to tenants 12 months before the increase will be implemented." "The income derived from allotment rents goes to Mulbarton Parish Council and is to be set against the costs of running the site."

Some plots on Long Lane and Oakley Park South are not being cultivated despite being leased. All plot holders have been contacted with some responses received.

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MALGA have contacted us and would like to propose some action to taken at the Meadows to eradicate the horsetail. The details are yet to be shared.

#### Item 11: Mulberry Park

The council's solicitor requested planning and environmental consent details, as well as detailed plans. This has been forwarded to Mulbarton Wanderers CIC and their response is expected shortly.

#### Item 12: Grass verge cutting on Oakley Park

Hopkin Homes have transferred the verges over to Norfolk County Council, but NCC have not cut the verges on been in contact with the parish council to advise of the transfer. Some of the verges are cut by residents, other areas are not cut. The parish council will consider the cost of cutting the verges.

#### Item 14: Cutting of the path on western side of Meadows allotment

It is believed this path has previously been cut by a volunteer but at the time of the last meeting this had not been done. The current contractor has advised the cost to cut the path for the remainder of the season. Since the last meeting the path has been cut but it is not known by whom.

#### Item 15: Feasibility study around the Common

Ben Goldsborough MP has been helping to progress the feasibility study around the Common. Norfolk County Council have answered the outstanding questions. It is possible to apply to the Parish Partnership Scheme to help with the funding of the feasibility study.

#### Item 16: Parish Partnership funding scheme

Each year local councils are invited to submit bids for highway improvement schemes. For 2025/26 the fund is £848,702 with Norfolk County Council funding 50% of the cost of successful bids. Town and parish councils contribute the balance. The deadline for submissions is 1 December 2025.

#### Item 17: Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly. South Norfolk Council have already signed the covenant and the parish council will consider signing too.

#### Item 19 Trees

Due to the urgent work required on the ash tree at Long Lane allotment, the contractor has already been appointed. The work is due to be carried out on 28 August. The Rich's Trust and all plot holders have been informed.

#### Item 20: South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility

South Norfolk Council are seeking views on their draft South Norfolk Landscape Susceptibility in relation to energy generation, storage and transmission Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The draft SPD provides guidance and information for people wanting to submit energy related planning applications, including detail regarding the interpretation and implementation of national policy and local policies in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP, 2024) and the South Norfolk Development Management Policies Document. The consultation closes on 18 August

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#### Item 23: Neighbourhood Plan Review

Our neighbourhood plan was completed in 2015 and may be considered for review. South Norfolk Council are now offering grants for reviewing neighbourhood plans.

#### Item 24: Martyn's Law

Martyn's Law, officially the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, aims to keep people safe from terrorism in public places. A tiered system will be introduced, and this may impact on facilities owned by the parish council. Guidance and resources are being published with the expected legal duties to start in spring 2027.

#### Item 25: Land ownership of Jubilee Gardens

Part of Jubilee Gardens is unregistered land, and part is registered to Hopkin Homes. The gardens were created in 2012 and have been maintained by the council ever since. Initial advice suggests the council may be able to claim adverse permission but legal advice will be required to proceed.

#### Item 26: Cuckoofield Lane bus shelter, opposite Co-Op

The vegetation growing over the bus shelter opposite the Co-Op has been removed and we are seeking quotes for the necessary repairs. If this is something you can help with, please contact the clerk. It may be possible to receive a grant towards the cost from Norfolk County Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

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