

## **Mendlesham Parish Council**

An Ordinary Parish Council meeting was held in the Old School Room, Mendlesham, Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 7.00pm.

**1. Present:** Cllrs H Orton (Chair), C Orton, D Foster, N Foster, E Ward, S Hyde, A Johnson (Clerk), A Davey, P Allen, S Judd, D Lummis  
MSDC/SCC Cllr A Stringer

Plus 7 members of the public

**Apologies:** None

**Acceptance of apologies:** Confirmed.

Filming speech was read out.

### **2. Interests**

#### **a) To note Councillor's declarations of interest in any of the following agenda items.**

Cllr S Judd: results of planning for their own property. Cllr D Lummis: appeal to The Sidings Oak Farm lane as family owns the neighbouring land.

#### **b) To agree any dispensations regarding any declarations of interest**

None required

### **3. Minutes:**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 04.10.24, pages 2167-2170 (inclusive), were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting, signed and dated by the Chairperson.

### **4. Reports**

#### **a) SCC/MSDC Cllr Stringer**

See report as appended to these minutes

#### **b) Public forum - to receive written questions and matters of concern**

There are 2 bridges in the woodland that are now dangerous due to rotting wood. Aluminium poles in the PC container to be used for hand rails and ball park figure of £50 unanimously agreed for other materials required to fix and make the bridges safe.

Volunteers have arranged for the flagpoles to be taken from the container to the churchyard for the Remembrance Service.

The windows in the football store are damaged and need repair.

Unanimously agreed. Concerns over Vertas raised again as pitches marked but not cut and now too long due to clover growth.

Issued with the changing rooms and lack of cleaning equipment.

Unanimously agreed for the PC to purchase broom, brush and dustpan and bin for use by hirers. It was raised previously, approximately a year ago, that there was a leak in the ceiling of the changing rooms, with water coming through the smoke detector. This has not been resolved. Liaison meeting with SCC/the new trust to be arranged.

A ditch along Old Station Road has been cut by landowners with large debris left and metal pole knocked down, used for the PC speed indicator device. Cllr to complete form for SCC to get it reinstated.

### **5. Reports**

**a) Clerks report & delegated decisions**

See report as appended to these minutes.

Actions to follow: Cllr to approach electrician to look at MUGA lights.  
 Approved to present historic items to the Exhibition for USAAF at RAF Mendlesham situated at MSLR in Brockford. Some items such as emails will need to be redacted and copies provided with Chair to keep the original versions safe.

To circulate information that fines for dog fouling has increased to a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 with it increasing to £1000 if taken to court.  
 The speed indicator device will be going up on Church Road. Cllr to send request to Cllr Stringer to be put on the ANPR programme for SCC to cover Brockford Road.

**b) Chairs report**

A number of items in the Emergency Boxes need replacing for cost of £146. Emergency Plan group to ask SCC department if they offer any funding or if Locality Grant would be available. A detailed list of items and costs to be presented to the PC for consideration.

**c) Questions to the Chair**

None

**6. Mendlesham Parish Council: Financial matters**

**a) To confirm payment of invoices**

DD	85.17	Nest September 24
OL	179.31	September 24 Street Cleaning
OL	1151.63	Admin September 24
OL	0.57	Interest accrued for late payment of PAYE Q1 24/25 <i>Note possible interest advised 7.8.24</i>
DD	9.20	Google workspace fee
OL	26.00	A Johnson 1/12 <sup>th</sup> annual payment for use of home as an office
OL	120.00	Suffolk Cloud Hosting and Support for website from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025
OL	35.81	Mower Fuel
OL	3360.00	Stowmarket Minibus & Coach Hire 2ND SEP - 30TH SEP
OL	3680.00	Stowmarket Minibus & Coach Hire 1ST OCT - 31ST OCT
OL	131.49	Clerk holiday accrued 9.2.24-31.3.24**

**\*\*Note: payment of 131.49 to be paid for holiday accrued 9.2.24-31.3.24 approved on invoice list at meeting 2.10.24**

**b) To note the pc bank reconciliation and management report as at 30.09.24**

Noted

**c) To commence budget for year 2025/26**

First draft of the budget considered. Cllr to send suggested new column headers for second draft budget to show previous years actual income/expenses for comparison.

**d) Any other urgent financial matters**

None

**7. Planning matters:**

**a) Applications:**

**DC/24/04469 - 8 Old Market Street, Mendlesham, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5SA** Application for Listed Building Consent - Re-roofing work, including associated timber repairs together with additional insulation.

*No objection regarding this but agree with comments by the ecology consultant regarding the works to protect bats. There are no comments from the heritage consultant on the website but if any are made the PC would agree with them as the house is in our conservation area*

**b) Results:**

**DC/24/03935 4 Church Road, Mendlesham, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5SF** Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce crown of 1 No. Birch (T1) by up to 3m. Reduce crown of 1 No. Willow (T2) to 8m above ground level and reduce the remaining crown by up to 5m. – *MSDC Does not wish to object*

**DC/24/03872 Woodfield, Mendlesham Green, Mendlesham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5RJ** Householder Application - Erection of a single storey rear and side extensions (following demolition of conservatory). – *GRANTED*

**DC/24/03934 Land Adjacent To, 17 Brockford Road, Mendlesham, Suffolk** Application under S73a for the Variation or Removal of a Condition following grant of DC/23/00300 dated 04/04/2023 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)- Erection of 2No dwellings. To vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans and Documents) as per revised drawings. - *PLANNING PERMISSION WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF CONDITION(S) HAS BEEN GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS*

**All results read out and noted**

**c) Appeal response:**

**Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/24/3337938 Land adjacent to 17 Brockford Road, Mendlesham, Suffolk, IP14 5SG - DC/23/00305**

The application Ref is DC/23/00305. • The development proposed is described as 'Change of use of land for grazing of horses, and erection of stables with new vehicular access'. **Appeal dismissed**

**d) Appeals:**

**Appeal References: APP/W3520/C/24/3353244 (& linked cases: APP/W3520/C/24/3353245, APP/W3520/C/24/3353246, APP/W3520/C/24/3353247 & related Planning Appeal: APP/W3520/W/24/3353417) The Siding, Oak Farm Lane, Mendlesham, IP14 5TE and Oak Farm Lane, Mendlesham, IP14 5TE** Appeal against Enforcement Notice served on 16 September 2024 & related Planning Appeal for Change of use of land to a single pitch gypsy

and traveller residential site for the siting of up to 3no static caravans and 3no touring caravans on previously developed land, refurbishment and relocation of existing building to act as day room and ancillary works.

**e) Correspondence:**

**EN0110003 – White Elm Solar Farm – EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification - The Planning**

Inspectorate would be grateful if you would:

- Inform the Planning Inspectorate of the information you consider should be provided in the ES; or
- Confirm that you do not have any comments.

The deadline for consultation responses is 27 November 2024

Agreed for Cllr to construct response based on points raised as follows:

Heritage impact – listed buildings and medieval deer park; impact on and proximity to residential properties and surrounding areas; drainage and flooding; detailed design and construction management plan for haulage routes/vehicle movement; detailed fire risk and emergency protocol; impact on food security.

**f) Any other planning matters**

None

**8. Mendlesham WI 100 Year Celebration project**

**a) Report**

As part of the WI 100 Year Celebration in 2026 they would like to plant trees in the woodland. Currently fruit trees would be preferred with no amount specified, suggested approx. 20, but open to discussion.

A group to be organised with volunteers and WI members to take discussion further.

**b) Any other matters**

None

**9. Mendlesham Playingfield**

**a) To note repairs to toddler play equipment ongoing and consider further works**

Both platforms on the toddler play equipment are now at imminent risk of becoming dangerous. Quote for works to be received following the company's inspection of the equipment on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Noting that quote received for single platform replacement was £725 plus VAT. Further repair works will be required to other areas but not an immediate concern.

SCC has approached the Clerk following a meeting with the Baby & Toddler group and has given feedback that the parents would like to see some sort of fencing around the toddler play equipment and that grants are available for such a project. Chair to arrange a meeting with SCC to discuss funding available and potential works.

Positioning of the bin by the playingfield gate would be better suited to the other side of the gate where the pedestrian access is. The bin is often full to overflowing over the weekend and suggest that another bin could be located there being moved from the teen shelter.

**b) To approve any action required**

One Cllr abstained from voting, however remaining votes approved both platforms to be replaced as a matter of health and safety. Noted that previous quote could only be obtained by one of the three companies approached as the other two companies would not replace parts on

equipment that didn't come from themselves. While the PC has a duty to undertake works that are cost effective, this repair is considered an emergency with knowledge of limited options for works to be completed. *Clerks note: HDPE recommended, however old wooden board still available. Cost difference minimal especially considering the relatively short life expectancy of the wooden board and the longevity expected of the HDPE boards.*

**c) To note Memorial Playingfields bank reconciliation report as at 30.09.24**

Noted

**10. Parish Councillor Recruitment**

Suggestions for encouraging new Councillors including holding surgeries to find out what the Parish Council and Councillors do. Arrange talks with other village organisations and to invite people to join rather than wait for them to come to the PC. Drip feed information and posts throughout the year using e-news and facebook page.

Include support for new councillors and a 'buddy up' scheme for minimum of 6 months. A working group meeting consisting of councillors to discuss this going forward.

**11. Any other business: matters of report and future agenda items**

Update on bus services to come at a future meeting.

Conifers on the footpath between Glebe Way and Old Station Road are overgrown and impeding the footpath. Action Clerk: make contact with property to arrange having them cut back.

Hedgerow and footpath over grown between Glebe Way and Brockford Road/Oak Farm Lane corner. Action Clerk: contact landowner, Denbury Homes, to maintain the footpath and clear overgrowth.

Meetings for 2025 to be confirmed at next meeting. First meeting of 2025 confirmed as 8<sup>th</sup> January to be published in the newsletter.

Meeting closed 21.05pm.