

Mendlesham Parish Council

An Ordinary Parish Council meeting was held in the Old School Room, Mendlesham, Wednesday 7 January at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Davey (chair), S Judd, H Orton, E Ward, M Brennan, P Allen, C Orton, S Hyde, D Foster, D Lummis, A Johnson (clerk) and MSDC/SCC Cllr A Stringer

1. Apologies: Apologies: N Foster (personal reasons)

Acceptance of apologies: Confirmed.

Filming speech was not read out.

2. Interests

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

Cllr Brennan declared a pecuniary interest in item 5d due to residential proximity to PC owned land.

Cllr Ward and Cllr D Foster declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 due to being members of the CLT

b) To agree any dispensations regarding any declarations of interest

None required

3. Minutes: To approve minutes of ordinary meeting 03.12.25 as a true and accurate representation

Pages 2237-2240 were approved and signed by the chair as a true and accurate representation.

4. Reports

a) SCC/MSDC Cllr Stringer

See reports as appended to these minutes.

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

None

5. Planning matters:

a) Applications:

None

b) Correspondence:

None

c) Results: DC/25/03655 Land At 3 Mill Terrace, Mendlesham Green, Mendlesham, IP14 5RW - Application for Outline Planning Permission. (All matters reserved) Erection of 1no self-build dwelling – GRANTED

It was unanimously approved for Clerk to contact MSDC/SCC Cllr A Stringer to challenge this decision as it was based on incorrect interpretation of planning policy LP01.

Cllr M Brennan left the meeting at 7.27pm due to pecuniary interest in the following agenda item.

d) Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Call for Sites 2025

i) To review Parish Council land and suitability for any being put forward

All PC owned land was identified and discussed.

ii) To approve any action required

It was resolved to submit 4 pieces of Parish Council owned land in Mendlesham Green for the BMSDC Call for Sites, commonly known as the meadow behind the Chapel, land next to the Cedars and two pieces of allotment land, one rectangular and one triangular, parallel to the road leading towards Mendlesham Village between the road leading towards Mill Terrace and the bottom of the hill.

Voting: 6 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

Note this was proposed on the basis that there is no commitment to pursue further once BMSDC have conducted their surveys for suitability.

Cllr Brennan returned to the meeting at 7.53pm

e) Any other planning matters

None

6. Reports

a) Clerks report & delegated decisions

Finance:

Agricultural Vehicle insurance for the mower renewed as of 1st January 2026 for £112.70

Delegated decisions:

None

Correspondence:

There is a new weekly netball user for the MUGA on a Saturday morning. Volunteers will be needed to put up and take down the netball posts.

Suffolk County Council are holding a meeting on 12th January which will include an agenda item on the Government considering postponing principal authority elections scheduled for May 2026 in areas, including Suffolk. The link has been circulated by email for anyone that wishes to watch this meeting via live-stream.

Suffolk County Council have advised there is an application to upgrade existing footpaths 1 & 47 to bridleways and for a section of the existing footpath 1 which is currently unrecorded to be added to the Definitive Map and Statement as a bridleway. The image has been circulated. They are investigating whether or not there is sufficient evidence to support the claim.

Suggest rubber bungs to be purchased to stop the netball post holes freezing up again and significantly reduce build up of debris in future.

b) Chairs report

None

c) Questions to the Chair

Noted hedges on Mendlesham playingfield have been cut to keep under 1.8m as required.

7. Playingfield matters

a) Any urgent playing field matters

None

MSDC/SCC Cllr A Stringer left the meeting at 8pm

8. Mendlesham Parish Council: Financial matters

a) To confirm payment of invoices

DD	91.56	Nest December 25
OL	194.94	December 25 Street Cleaning
OL	1,214.28	Clerk Salary December 25
OL	26.00	Clerk 1/12 th annual payment for use of home as an office
OL	112.70	NFU Mutual insurance for mower
OL	2,681.72	Vertas Grounds Maintenance Services 01/01/2026 - 31/03/2026
OL	20.00	OSR Hire – Community Centre Charity Meeting 15 th December
DD	1,129.27	PWLB Loan repayment

Noted PC to be reimbursed by Community Centre Charity

b) To confirm bank reconciliation as at 31.12.25

Clerk to circulate bank statements to allow Cllrs to confirm figures are correct.

c) To finalise budget for year 2026/27

Budget discussed with amendments made. Updated version to be circulated to Cllrs for approval at extraordinary meeting. EMR figures to also be circulated.

Chair requested an extension at 8.43pm to allow full discussion of remaining agenda items.

d) To confirm precept for year 2026/2027

This item was postponed until budget is confirmed at extraordinary meeting.

e) Any other urgent financial matters

None

The following item was discussed in camera – note no public were present

9. CLT

Update on CLT plans were discussed following an informal meeting between CLT, some PCllrs and representatives from other relevant parties.

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

None

Meeting closed 9.10pm