

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**18 April 2023**

### **REPORT BY CHAIR OF MENDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Cllr Andy Davey**

Thank you everyone for attending and many thanks to those who have made this meeting happen.

Thank you also to those of you who have voted this evening. For anyone just arriving, the results were:

**A: Mendlesham Community Centre and Mendlesham Memorial Playingfields Charity** - to apply to The Charity Commission to merge the two charities.

Total 51 votes, Yes 47, No 4

**B: Mendlesham Community Centre** – proposal to sell the Community Centre building and pavements to Suffolk County Council.

Total 50 votes, Yes 43, No 7

Verified Cllr Ann Arnold Wetheringsett Cum Brockford Parish Council.

For those organizations that normally provide a report, if you have not already done so, please send an electronic or written report to Sharon the Parish Clerk. We will then make all reports available for viewing on the Mendlesham Parish Council web site.

If there is anything of urgency that anyone wishes to report or ask about, please do so under agenda item 4. We don't wish to

prevent anything of importance to the Parish being raised or discussed, it is just that we do want to allow sufficient time to say our thank yous, and there are also several community awards that need to be presented tonight.

Please also note that the Parish Council generally meets in public at least once a month, and at each meeting there is an opportunity under Public Forum for matters to be raised, either at the meeting or in advance via correspondence sent to the Parish Clerk.

If you would like to know more, please come and see Sharon or me after this meeting or contact any Parish Councillor who's details are available in the parish newsletter.

So what are the “headlines” for the Parish?

### **The Community Centre and Memorial Playing Fields** ( Clerks

note: Further to the Yes votes earlier that evening)

We move on with this project. The Charity intends to use the proceeds of the proposed sale towards funding a new community centre which will be financially and environmentally sustainable and provide modern facilities for the community for the next thirty or so years. Please be assured that the Charities are trying to move this as quickly as possible.

Thank you to all who attended our consultation events and have provided comments at each stage of the process. There will of course be more consultation for you to be involved in as the project progresses.

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### **Mendlesham Revised Neighbourhood Development Plan:**

Thank you to everyone who voted. Out of 363 votes the outcome was 93.4% in favour, and so the Plan was adopted by Mid Suffolk District Council and is now part of the formal, legal planning process to 2037. This means that when MSDC considers Mendlesham Parish planning applications, the NP has to be considered. Other information from statutory consultees will also be considered by MSDC as part of a “basket” of planning considerations, so that may mean at times applications being approved that are not in line with the Parish Council view, but we are certainly in a good position for the local voice to be heard.

### **Mendlesham’s Woodland**

Unfortunately, following a commissioned professional report, we have had to contract remedial works for some of our larger trees to either remove them or reduce their bulk/size. This was due to safety concerns or to maintain the health of the Woodland. Whilst the species of the trees affected varied, the large Turkey Oaks are unfortunately now coming to the end of their lifespans, so this is something that we will continue to keep under regular review. Thank you to John Michell and volunteers for maintaining the woodland for us all to enjoy.

### **New Trees and hedging:**

We have also had a number of new trees and areas of hedging planted by volunteers with donations of plants over the last winter. Thank you again to all involved. Overall we have achieved a net gain and an improvement for our environment for the generations to follow.

**Mess Free Mendlesham:**

This has been an excellent initiative, again supported by local individuals and organisations. Thank you to all of you who organise and volunteer. Having a monthly litter pick will make a huge difference.

**Election:** We have recently had notice from Mid Suffolk that Mendlesham had 10 applications for 11 seats for the role of Mendlesham Parish Councillor, so there will be no vote as part of the May Poll for the Parish Council.

But, assuming everything remains unchanged, there will be a co-option process to fill the vacancy, so please consider if you are able to stand. Full details can be got from Sharon who's details are available in the parish newsletter.

To finish up, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors. We've had a busy time over the last 12 months, but we got through it. Thank you all for the work you do and the hours you put in, whether they be publicly or quietly, and thank you for the support you show me. Thank you also to everyone who has stood for the next term. I look forward to working with you all again.

Thanks also to our Parish clerk Sharon Jones whose dedication and commitment to Mendlesham doesn't go un-noticed. Thank you, Sharon.

And finally, we must say a huge thank you to Cllr Brian Gardiner and Cllr David Nunn, both of whom have been Parish Councillors since I was a boy. Their wise council, insight and company at meetings will be very much missed by us all, although with both of them, we are sure they will continue to support the community in so many other ways.