

Minutes of the Meeting of Mundford Parish Council
Thursday 5th March, 2009.

Present:

Cllr. Eyles, Chairman, Cllr. Fox, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Eyres, Shepherd, Goodrham, Marston, Miles, Weight, District Councillor Steward and 4 members of the public.

1. The Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present and declared the meeting open.

2. Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Monson.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, 5th February, 2009.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Meeting suspended for Public participation

There was a heated discussion about the Connect newsletter. The editor reassured the meeting of her intention to continue to produce the newsletter. She explained that there had been several problems which had been sorted out and that there would be no further problems in the production of the newsletter. The Council accepted her account but said that because of what had happened that they would take a vote of no confidence if the magazine was not published in the future and said that in the interests of the village the Council felt it its duty to support any group which may, in the future, wish to publish an alternative magazine. There was discussion following a question by Cllr Eyres about costs to advertisers and possible compensation for loss of income due to the none publication of the newsletter. Mr B. Griggs stated very clearly the history of the magazine and said in its 40 year history there had never been any problem until this last 5 months. He stated the importance of the magazine to village organisations who relied upon it to publish and advertise their activities and of the many people in the village for whom it was an essential means of communication and information.

The clerk is to report the drains on Brecklands which are causing flooding on the main road and the drains around the roundabout.

The signs which are preventing a clear view of the main road for cars and pedestrians have already been reported by the clerk.

There was a suggestion that the backs of the new benches need drilling to allow drainage.

6. Matters Arising

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- **Outstanding Highway Matters**

The clerk informed the meeting that all outstanding work had been completed except for the tree at the junction of Crown Road and the Grove. Highways are again to survey the tree and check again whether it is on Highway land.

- **Pigstye Lane Dyke**

A meeting has been arranged between the Parish Council, Norfolk County Council Highways Department and Breckland District Council on the 25th March, 2009 at 3.30 pm to see if a satisfactory conclusion can be reached regarding the flooding in St Leonard's Street. County Councillor Monson is to attend if he can. The Chairman asked that photographs be taken of the flooding if possible.

- **Benches**

The benches are a work in progress. The Chairman asked if there were any other sites where benches would be needed. Cllr Fox said that there had been many positive comments about the benches and just one negative one. The Chairman discussed planters to be placed near the benches and the scheme whereby parishioners would take on responsibility for their care. The Council would provide money for the planting up of the containers. He also said that should no offers be forthcoming then the Council may need to reconsider the type of planting used and may need to consider shrubs.

- **Vacancies on the Council**

Information is to be placed on the Parish Council Noticeboard about the vacancy which exists on the Council.

- **Newsletter**

Cllr Fox proposed and Cllr Goodrham seconded a motion that should the newsletter fail to be published regularly, ie every month, then the Council should pass a vote of no confidence in the editor.

- **Parish office**

The clerk informed the meeting that the purchase of a fan heater for the office was being deferred until the Autumn. The purchase of a laptop was to be discussed again at the next meeting. Cllr Eyles reminded the meeting that the office would need a spring clean on the outside. Cllr Eyres is to collect the grass seed from the office to repair used areas around the benches..

Correspondence

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- The clerk had written to several parishioners asking them to cut back their hedges. The clerk had written to 28 Brecklands to ask them not to park on the footpath. The clerk had received a phone call from the occupiers stating the difficulties which existed in trying to park two large vehicles outside their home. The Council did not accept this and the clerk is to write again telling them not to park on the footpath and that by doing so they were breaking the law. The clerk is to contact the Community Police about parking in the village in general.

The Chairman is to accept an Invitation to attend a presentation of Pride in Breckland Award.

Information had been received from Enertag about a proposed wind farm at Weeting.

The Council agreed to display a poster from the Spinal Injuries Association which they had received.

7. Finance

- The following payments were authorised by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs Eyles and Eyres.

Cheque	Description	Total
100978	Community Car Scheme	£ 250.00
100979	S.L.Symonds Litter Warden	£ 65.00
100980	J Illsley Clerk,Travel and post	£ 470.26
100981	Eon Energy Office account	£ 286.14
100982	S. Eyres Groundworks	£ 560.00
100983	O Rueker reissue MPS	£ 50.00
100984	MHB Services streetlight Maintenance	£146.89

Interest had been received from NSI Bank and Vat return received.

8. Planning Applications

- 3PL/2008/0102/O 17 Adeane Meadow received and circulated
3PL/2009/0126/F 1 Adeane meadow received and circulated
3PL/2009/060/F Bueno Vista Cranwich Road received and circulated

9. New Highway Matters

Cllr Goodrham raised the issue of speeding on the Cranwich Road from the Mundford Roundabout. The clerk is to report the matter to the Community Police.

10. Street Lighting

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The clerk is to contact Breckland District Council to see who is responsible for the street lighting in the close. The clerk is to report 9015 outside 12 Malsters close and 9008 outside Middle Cottage St Leonard's Street.

- **Reports**
- **MRG&VHT.**

The last meeting of the MRG & VHT was cancelled because there was no quorum. The Council was concerned about the number of Doctors' surgeries normally held at the village hall which had been cancelled. The clerk is to write and ask for an explanation. There had been several complaints from parishioners. The Chairman stated that the Feltwell surgery was willing to hold surgeries in Mundford but they would need to consult with all the practices within the area before applying to do so.

- **STANTA**

There had been no news from Stanta about the proposed visit and Cllr Fox was to chase it up. The Annual Report had again been sent to the wrong address.

- **School Governors**

A letter had been sent to the Chairman of Governors asking the governing body to support the Council's campaign to lower the speed limit to 20 mph outside the school. The school is to hold the Litter Competition in the week beginning 23rd March and the entries would be on display for the 2nd April for the Council to make its choice of winners. There is to be one winner from each class.

District Councillor

District Councillor Steward outlined the possibilities of a partnership with Capita to run the planning and building services of Breckland Council. There were concerns about this and the Council asked to be kept informed of the situation.

She informed the meeting that fuel lorries for Stanta had been diverted to Ashburton Road.

She also spoke of Pride in Breckland monies being available to enhance villages. The Council is to put forward a plan at the next meeting.

The meeting was told that LDF is to be put forward for public consultation in May.

District Councillor Steward said that any concerns about planning applications should be passed onto the District Councillor so that she might ask it to go to committee.

There was no further information available on the Local Government Review.

The Thetford expansion is now out to consultation with the public.

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Cllr Steward said that Breckland Pride recognises people putting something back into the community. Candidates are nominated and a panel of 15 people make the final selection.

She informed the meeting that Breckland Council had set the lowest Council Tax in the country.

County Councillor

None

- **Members' Matters**

The Health and Safety Risk Assessment is to take place one evening in April. The date is to be fixed at the next meeting.

Cllr Fox raised the issue of food being sold at the garage and said that people were now sitting inside to consume it. The clerk is to contact Breckland Council to clarify whether this is breaking planning permission.

The clerk is to report fly tipping on the A134 on the right hand side of the road 40 yards from the 40 mph sign and on the Thetford Road on the left hand side between the Stag picnic area and the West Tofts turn off.

Cllr Weight reported the litter on the sports field and village hall grounds. The clerk is to report this to the Community Police.

Cllr Eyles told the meeting of the request from the Manager of Lynford Hall to sponsor the roundabout. The Council decided to remain with the present sponsor. The clerk is to write to the Manager of Lynford Hall declining his offer.

The clerk is to write to Mr B. Walker thanking him on behalf of the Council for the work he has carried out in keeping his verges tidy but to remind him not to cut back the bulbs until 6 weeks had elapsed to allow them to produce food for the next year.

Cllr Goodrham was concerned about parking around the Crown. He informed the meeting that Mr Walker appeared to be buying properties to expand his business but at the moment there was no parking to cope with the expansion. The clerk is to ask the Community Police to look into the situation.

Cllr Eyles asked the District Councillor that if the Council was successful in bidding for monies from Pride in Breckland could the monies be banked until the Autumn for a bulb project. Cllr Eyles asked Cllr Eyres to produce a plan for the bid.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.57pm

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Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____