

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mundford Parish Council
Thursday 2nd April, 2009.**

Present:

Cllr. Eyles, Chairman, Cllr. Fox, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Eyres, Shepherd, Goodrham, Marston, Miles, Weight, County Councillor Monson and 14 members of the public.

1. The Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present and said it was pleasant to see so many people. He then declared the meeting open.

2. Apologies for Absence

Maryanne Turner

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

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Meeting suspended for Public participation

Concern was raised at the withdrawal of the use of the Wellbeing Centre in Thetford by Suffolk PCT for Suffolk GP surgeries. Cllr Monson suggested that parishioners may wish to organise their own petition and Cllr Shepherd suggested that patients write to the surgery and Primary Care Trust. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Feltwell surgery is taking patients. The public thanked Cllr Shepherd for bringing the matter to their attention.

Concern was also expressed at the non delivery of the newsletter to parts of the village. The editor who was present at the meeting said that there had been a slight problem but this was being rectified. The editor said 1100 copies were presently being printed but more would be available if required and she also said more people were involved with the newsletter. Copies are also left in the village newsagents if others required them. Cllr Eyles asked if copies were delivered to West Tofts and Lynford.

A request to sweep Lynford Hall Road was received and to ask if the drains could also be cleaned.

6. Matters Arising

- **Outstanding Highway Matters**

- **Pigstye Lane Dyke**

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- Councillors met with Adrian Sewell and Colin Gibbard about the problem of flooding in St Leonard's Street. As they arrived it rained and they quickly became aware of the problem. An inspection of the area was made. It is thought that a storm drain may have collapsed underground. Mr Sewell is to look at the plans and inform the council of the action that is to be taken and how it will be prioritised. The clerk is to send the names and addresses of those residents whose properties adjoin the dyke to Adrian and Colin.

- **Benches**

Cllr Eyres reported that the benches had been installed but that there had been some vandalism during the installation which had cost both time and money to put right. The meeting thanked Cllr Eyres for all the effort he made to carry out the work and deal with the vandalism.

Cllr Fox proposed and Cllr Goodrham seconded that a bid should be made to Pride in Breckland for £5000 to clear the dyke adjacent to A134, to refurbish the verge and replant it with shrubs and bulbs.

- **Vacancies on the Council**

Interest in the vacancy had been received from a Mr Burton.

- **Newsletter**

The editor of the magazine offered the use of the photocopier should it be needed.

- **Parish office**

The Council agreed between £500 - £800 for the purchase a laptop for the Office.

The office needs to be spring cleaned and the windows at the back are to be surveyed to see if they need replacing.

- **Litter Competition**

Each class submitted a number of posters and the councillors chose one winner per class. Cllr Shepherd is to contact the school with the results and present the prizes.

Correspondence

A letter was read out from the Forest group Practice about surgeries in the village hall. Posters for the Easter Bank Holiday Collections and Clean up Norfolk are to be displayed on the notice board,

A letter nominating Paul Lynch to receive the Mundford Pride Scheme Award was read out and the Council approved the nomination. The clerk is to write to Mr Lynch informing him of his award. Cllr Marston is to prepare a trophy and the clerk a certificate and cheque for £50.00

A letter from the Police Authority was read out.

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7. Finance

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

| Cheque | Description | Total |
|--------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 100985 | Community Car Scheme | £ 250.00 |
| 100986 | S.L.Symonds Litter Warden | £ 65.00 |
| 100987 | J Illsley Clerk,Travel | £ 480.76 |
| 100988 | Breckland Council Rates PO | £ 139.49 |
| 100989 | NALC subscription | £ 217.89 |
| 100990 | Anglian Water Rates | £ 35.96 |
| 100991 | S. Eyres Groundworks | £ 75.00 |
| 100992 | S Eyres repairs after vandalism | £ 85.84 |

The Litter Warden's salary was reviewed and it was decided to increase her salary when the minimum wage is increased.

The Council agreed to set up a direct debit for the payment of the maintenance for the street lights.

The end of year accounts will be presented at the next meeting when all the information has been received from the bank.

8. Planning Applications

- 3PL/2008/0102/O 17 Adeane Meadow
3PL/2009/0126/F 1 Adeane meadow
3PL/2009/060/F Bueno Vista Cranwich
Nothing further has been received about the above applications

9. New Highway Matters

Concern was raised about the number of boards placed on the highway verge by the garage and the vehicles parking on it. The clerk is to contact the garage to ask for donations for the replanting of the bulbs.

The clerk is to contact Highways to ask them to remove the concrete and fill in the hole on the roundabout caused after the broken sign was removed.

The bulbs this year have provided a wonderful display and notes are to be taken for the planting of further bulbs later this year. It was suggested they be planted randomly and not in rows to provide a better display. The areas most appreciated were West Hall Drive and Malsters Close. It was noted that the bulbs near the bottom of Lynford Hall Road had not been so good because the grass was cut too early last year.

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10. Street Lighting

- Two street lights were reported but there is still some problem with the one outside 12 Malsters Close.
- **MRG&VHT.**

Alterations are to be made to the kitchen area of the village hall and concern was expressed at the concrete left in the grounds of the village hall.

- **STANTA**

A telephone call had been received asking why the Council had not responded to an invitation to visit the training ground this evening. Neither the clerk nor Cllr Fox had received any such invitation. Cllr Fox is to contact Stanta to arrange a further viewing of the new development in the training area.

- **School Governors**

Nothing received

District Councillor

Nothing received

County Councillor

Cllr Monson informed the meeting of the success of Norfolk County Council in its recent Audit. It is deemed to be a 4* authority. Everyone was very pleased and many improvements have been made in recent years.

There is to be further consultation by the Boundary Committee and there could be further judicial changes. A decision is due on 15.07.09.

Efficiency savings of £14,000,000 are needed to be made but every effort has been made to keep increases in Council Tax as low as possible. Cllr Monson said there would be no reduction in services and that the Children's Services were busier because of the recent down turn in the economy. He also said there was a greater demand on the services for the elderly.

Cllr Monson informed the meeting that the cost of gritting the roads had been costly this year. He also asked if there was a small area of the village which the council thought should be included in the gritting schedule next year. The Council nominated the area past the school, Crown Road and St Leonard's Street. Cllr Monson is to ask for it to be done.

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Cllr Monson had attended a meeting on Climate change. He said it was well attended and enabled implications and priorities for Norfolk to be heard. There is to be a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from all public buildings by 2030.

Cllr Eyres asked about the slippery surface signs which were still up from when the road was resurfaced last year. Cllr Monson is to ask for them to be removed.

Concern was expressed about the poor state of the A134 between the roundabout and Thetford. Cllr Monson was asked that the white lines either side of the dip be repainted as a matter of urgency. Cllr Monson is to talk to Highways.

Cllr Monson said £125,000 had been given to CAB because of the extra work they have had to deal with because of the recession.

Waste recycling had improved. It was up 4% to 43%. The target is 48%. Cllr Monson also stated the market had not collapsed for Waste Recycling in Norfolk.

Cllr Eyles asked if the County has a view of what will happen in the area if global warming continues. Cllr Monson said information gained with the help of UEA suggests quite optimistic outlook. Monies had been allocated to protect the broads for the next 50 years.

Questions were asked about NCC involvement in the Icelandic Bank. Cllr Monson said the Council had taken a big hit. It had received no interest but the money was still in the bank. Money had been taken from the County Council's reserves and no services had been affected.

Cllr Monson said he had no knowledge of any plans for the Lynford Hall Area and A1065 junction with it but restated there was a commitment to making the junction safe. Any planning application would have 106 agreement to resolve the junction and no planning application had been received at the moment.

Cllr Monson stated that Mundford was on the edge of the Stone Curlew buffer zone and if approved for inclusion there would be no further development in the village... All settlements of over 1000 may have infill. The public would have opportunities to be consulted further.

There had been a mistake in the charges for the park and ride advertised in the Chapelfield magazine. Cllr Monson is to point it out to the editor.

- **Members' Matters**

The Health and Safety Review is fixed for 21st April, 2009. Councillors are to meet at the Office at 6.30pm

Cllr Goodrham was concerned at the number of vehicles parking on grassed areas particularly where bulbs had been planted and asked that the Community Police look

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at parking in the village. The clerk is to contact the Community Police to ask them to attend the next meeting.

Cllr Fox raised the issue of dogs fouling the footpaths. The clerk is contact the dog warden about the matter.

Cllr Eyles stated that there was £1500 available to start a Youth Club. This is to be advertised in the newsletter.

Cllr Fox saw someone picking the daffodils when he drove into the village. A notice is to be placed in the newsletter saying that the daffodils are there for all to enjoy not for picking.

There was concerned about the litter which may accrue around the benches and a discussion about whether to install litter bins close to them took place. No decision was made.

Cllr Eyres reminded the meeting about hedges which were encroaching onto the pavement and said that even though letters had been sent, two houses still had not complied with the request to cut them back. The clerk is to write again.

The clerk is to ask for the footpath to be repaired after the cutting back of the hedge outside 13 West Hall Road. The surface is uneven and therefore a danger to the public.

The clerk is on holiday from Saturday 4th April until Monday 20th April, The Chairman is to collect the post.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.56pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____