

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mundford Parish Council
Held at Mundford Primary School
on Thursday 3rd December 2009**

Present:

Cllr. M Eyles, Chairman, Cllr J Goad, Cllr S Eyres, Cllr A Shepherd, Cllr D Goodrham, Cllr J Marston, Cllr T Fox, County Councillor Ian Monson, Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council) and 7 members of the public.

1. The Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present. The Chairman explained the procedure of the meeting to new members of the public. He declared the meeting open.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor C Weight and District Councillor A Steward.

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

Cllr Eyres pointed out that Cllr Marston was not on the present list. This was amended. The minutes were duly agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Eyres expressed interest in the grass cutting contract.

5. Meeting suspended for public participation

A member of the public commented on his pleasure of the completion of the Cricket Club Dyke. The Council thanked him for his comments. The Chairman then introduced Mr Mark Clayton from Brown's Garage. Mr Clayton explained that Browns had occupied the site for two years and that a lot of investment had taken place in that time, but he had recently brought the site himself and wanted to advise the Council that he will be continuing with improvements. To enable him to generate funds and to keep the business succeeding he wanted to discuss a forthcoming idea of a project with the Council. This entailed a monthly Farmers Market to be held on the site maybe once a month to start with and then dependant on popularity then this could be increased to maybe fortnightly. He introduced his colleague Ann to the Council who stated that she had a lot of experience with starting farmers markets and has been a stall holder for 10 years. The market she started at had 6 stalls and now has over 160. She explained reasons for local need, selling local produce, etc and mentioned that if the project was popular then a Farmers Shop could be built on the site. She has spoken to local residents and the owners of the shops in Mundford for their feedback, and she has received a very good response.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Council. Cllr Goad asked if there will be adequate parking for the market. Mr Clayton replied that 75 cars can be parked on the site. Temporary stalls will be placed on the gravel section of the site. He has spoken to Sue Arnold in Planning at Breckland Council and she commented that it would be very good for the village and the project seemed good in principal. Mr Clayton advised the Council that he was keen to stay in the village and therefore was keen to help local businesses and organisations. If the Council are keen in principal then he will look to apply for a change of use to Breckland Council. He finished by saying that his door was always open if anyone had any concerns that they would like to discuss with him. The Chairman thanked Mr Clayton and his colleague Ann for attending and gave him positive feedback from the Council.

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6. Matters Arising:

6.1 Outstanding Highway Matters

White Lines on junction of Crown Road and A134

This is on Highways work schedule from 16/10/09, however this will not be completed until the weather improves as the paint does not stick to the surface when it is wet. It also depends when funds are available.

Missing drain cover outside Bowls Club

The Council have been informed that a local resident has fixed the drain cover as he was very annoyed by how much time Highways was taking to fix it and the area was a safety hazard. The Clerk has informed Highways and asked them to check the site to make sure it was safe. This has been done and it is deemed safe.

22, Fir Close – Tarmac humps on road

The Chairman advised that the humps are still on the road. The Clerk will contact Highways again to see what the situation is.

Concrete base to be removed from roundabout

This was reported to Highways who advised that it is probably a Breckland matter. This has since been reported to Breckland but the base is still there at the present time.

Flooding outside 33, Fir Close

This had been reported to Highways and it the drains in that area have now been flushed out. However, highways have advised that the area needs further investigation and will contact the Council after this has been done.

Reflective Posts requested opp Browns Garage.

Highways had been asked if this was possible but they replied that there didn't seem to be any visibility problems here and could not see a reason for this.

31, St Leonards Street – flooding problems

This was reported to the Council after the last meeting. The owner of No31 has experienced many problems with flooding and it is now coming through her walls. Highways have visited the area and agreed that there needs to be a permanent solution here. Photos will be taken of the site and they will report back to the Council at a later stage.

Refurbishment of the Village Cricket Club Dyke

This has been completed.

Bus services

An e-mail response from Karl Buffin from Norfolk County Council asked for residents views surrounding the bus services in Mundford and asked for a survey to be conducted. This was placed in the Connect for the December issue. Only one

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response had been received so far and was read out by the Chairman. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Bennett Development

Planning permission has been refused for the additional 4 dwellings. At present there is no new application.

Breckland Pride Scheme

Our application for a new bid is still pending. The Breckland pride team will contact the Council after 18th December with a decision. A poster was sent to the Council regarding a tree dressing competition to win £250 of vouchers. The School is taking part.

No Cold calling in Brecklands

The sign has still not been erected. The Clerk will contact them again to find out when this will take place.

Mole Hills on land opp Malsters Close

There has been a significant rise in Mole hills around the two areas mentioned above. A quote was received by a local pest control company but was deemed very high by the Council. Cllr Fox kindly offered to look for further quotes and the Council agreed that he should agree to the cheapest quote he found and then notify the Clerk.

Pigstye Lane Dyke

The Chairman advised that he is looking into the cost of making a grill to cover the end of the dyke that was recently cleared.

Youth Facilities

The Chairman mentioned that there has been no response from anyone; therefore this will be taken off the agenda. Mrs Codd from the Post Office has had an incident with graffiti on her property, so is now, understandably, not keen to help the young people of this village.

7. Correspondence

There were three letters from residents asking for the Parish Council to help with reinstating a Mundford to Swaffham bus on a Saturday. This matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

A letter was received from Breckland regarding an LDF meeting to be held at the village hall on 11th December. The Chairman agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Finance

The following payments were authorised at the meeting 3rd December 2009 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs M Eyles and S Eyres

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Cheque	Description	Total
101079	Community Car Scheme	£ 250.00
101080	Litter Warden	£ 65.00
101081	F Brown (sal/tel/post/shredder)	£ 619.18
101082	S Eyres (Grass cutting)	£ 25.00
101083	MHB services Street Light Maint	£ 142.90
101084	Void Cheque	£ 0
101085	Viking Direct Stationary	£ 29.61
101086	Eon Uk Plc Parish Office	£ 93.23
101087	Anglian Water (Parish Office)	£ 79.00
101088	J Long Landscapes	£ 800.00
101089	M Eyles (Gardener)	£ 135.90

A thank you letter was received from Norfolk Search and Rescue for the Parish Council's donation of £25.00.

8.1 Grass cutting contract for 2010

A new estimate was read out from Wil Smith which included two other areas, the Cricket Club Dyke and the area outside Impson Way. Mr Smith agreed to mow the roundabout for free. He also suggested the sponsorship of the roundabout again, and has offered free bedding plants in exchange for signs to be placed there to advertise his business. The Council will have to maintain the area. The Council was happy with this. It was proposed by Cllr Fox that the Council should agree to the new contract and this was seconded by Cllr Marston.

8.2 Future Projects

i) Swaffham Bus Service

The Clerk explained to the Council that she had obtained quotes for a mini-bus service from Mundford to Swaffham on a Saturday morning to return from Swaffham at lunchtime. A number of residents were asked for their opinion on this by the Clerk and the information given helped to decide the timetable and the pickup points. Originally three quotes were sought but the third mini-bus service did not come back to the Clerk with a price. The two quotes were discussed with the Council and Denmans Coaches of Swaffham were by far the cheapest and agreed to drop residents off at their door. The Chairman advised that at such a fantastic price we may be able to achieve more than one project for the village. Cllr Fox proposed to accept Denmans quote and this was seconded by Cllr Goodrham. The Clerk will agree the details with Denmans and ask for a 6 month contract. The Chairman advised that to advertise the service as soon as possible, flyers should be produced to be sent around the village. The Clerk will produce this as soon as possible.

ii) Village Hall Car Park Extension

The Chairman was expecting a quote from a local company but this had not been received by the meeting. He was hoping for a sum of around £20k.

iii) Over 60's lunch club

Cllr Goad stated that the Over 60's lunch club had been very successful, yet it was very reliant on volunteers. Help the Aged helped to fund the project and after a while

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a cook was employed, but eventually due to the amount of work involved the project collapsed. The Chairman also stated that he had spoken to Catherine Spencer who is the cook at the Nursing Home in Mundford and asked her to quote for hot meals. She would be happy to cook a main meal and provide a dessert for £4 a head including delivery to the Village Hall. The Chairman then advised that previously the Over 60's paid £2 for their meal and it would be unfair to ask them to pay anymore, so a £2 subsidy could come from the Council. With the charge of the Hall to pay as well, the cost to subsidise this project would be approximately £4k a year. The Council agreed that Cllr Goad should approach the over 60's with this idea and see what response was given. A report will be discussed at the next meeting.

iv) Youth Project

Due to the lack of youth response, no quotes have been sought for this project.

9. Planning Applications

- 3PL/2009/0820/F 20 Swaffham Road. Granted 9/11/09
- 3PL/2009/0938/F Replacement of existing Parish Church Notice board. Granted 25/11/09
- 3PL/2009/1017/F 11a The Lammas, Mundford. Sent back no objections
- 3PL/2009/1018/F 19, Fir Close, Mundford. Sent back no objections.
- 3PL/2009/1051/F 8, Cherry Tree Close, Mundford. Sent back no objections.

10. New Highway Matters

The subject of graffiti was mentioned. The Chairman stated that a particular spate of graffiti in the form of red pen started on the gate of the Post Office, then the Post Box and then onto some white gable ends on Rosemary Cottage. It then finished with some more red pen on a bench owned by the Parish Council outside the Bowls club. The Chairman mentioned that himself and others are aware who it is but wanted to ask if the Council were prepared to report this to the police. The Council unanimously agreed to report this incident. Clerk to report.

It was noted that the temporary speed monitoring devices have now gone.

The Chairman reported that he spoke to Highway engineers that were working in Swaffham Road and they advised that the storm drain on Swaffham road is on their work schedule and will be done shortly.

It was reported that the corner outside 14/16 Crown Road is quite dangerous as vehicles are not sure which right of way exists and tend to cut the corner causing problems for drivers coming the other way. It was decided that the Clerk should report this problem to Highways to see if white lines can be placed along this section. The sign at the turning onto Cranwich road had been damaged by an accident and needs removing. Clerk to report to Highways.

11. Street Lighting

It was mentioned again that street light 9048 was leaning over a great deal and should be looked at as a matter of safety as well as the maintenance of the light itself. The Clerk will report this.

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12. Reports

County Cllr Monson gave a brief summary of school matters including the news that they are to come out of special measures since their fifth Ofsted inspection took place last week.

County Cllr Monson then proceeded to give his own report on matters concerning the Council. This included the budget and that the Council will not be cutting back, just not increasing costs. There will be a maximum of a 2% tax rise. He mentioned that there will be changes within the recycling centres and the ones performing badly will be placed on a 4 day week which will reduce costs.

Brandon Bypass is in discussion again because developers are investing money so they can build more houses. Suffolk County Council have stated that Brandon does have problems and has the worst performing school in Suffolk, and they applaud the idea of getting the traffic out of Town and introducing better shops etc to improve the Town. The developers will pay 2/3 of the cost so it is likely that this project could go ahead in the next 2-3 years. There will be funding for the duelling of the A11 and an inquiry is happening at the moment. They are hopeful to start this project at the end of 2010.

County Cllr Monson then advised on the progress of the renewable energy plant that is planned on a Greenfield site on the outskirts of Thetford. He mentioned that he was not against the plant itself but the location.

There was no report from STANTA.

The Chairman then read out a report sent from District Councillor Ann Steward as she was not present at the meeting.

13. Members' Matters

None to report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____