

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mundford Parish Council
Held at Mundford Primary School
on Thursday 4th February 2010**

Present:

Cllr. M Eyles, Chairman, Cllr J Goad, Cllr S Eyres, Cllr A Shepherd, Cllr J Miles, Cllr T Fox, Cllr C Weight, District Councillor Ann Steward, Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council) and 5 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

Councillors J Marston & D Goodrham.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, 7th January, 2010

The minutes were duly agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest

None to declare.

5. Meeting suspended for public participation

There were no comments from the public.

6. Matters Arising:

6.1 Outstanding Highway Matters

White Lines on junction of Crown Road and A134, and outside 14/16 Crown Road.

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. The area outside 14/16 Crown will not be considered by Highways.

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. There has been a chevron sign damaged on the roundabout and the Clerk has reported this so that both matters will be dealt with at the same time.

31, St Leonards Street – flooding problems

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. Highways have stated that they have to apply for funding for anything costing over £1k so The Clerk has asked the resident to take photos of the area when the flooding is at its worst so that evidence can be given to Highways to help with their funding application. This problem is unlikely to be dealt with for some time and the resident is aware of this.

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Swaffham Road calming measures

A covering letter from the Parish Council was sent to Highways along with a letter from Mr Chegwiddden asking for the 40mph flashing sign to be moved along with other issues relating to speed along this area of road. The Clerk did speak with Highways as no response was received and was informed a response will be sent in writing. The only information given was that the flashing sign, in their opinion after a previous detailed investigation, is in the right place, and if it were to be moved on the Council's request then the Parish Council will have to pay for it. The Chairman asked the Council if they felt they would like to look into this further and a small discussion took place. However after a show of hands all Councillors agreed to leave the sign where it is. The Clerk will circulate the letter when it arrives.

Bus services

The responses from residents were sent to Karl Buffin at NCC and a letter was received detailing their views on the matter. This was read out by the Chairman. The Clerk commented that she has asked NCC for timetables on all the services operating through Mundford so that she can inform the Council more fully on which areas and services could be improved on for the future.

The Chairman expressed to the Council that the Swaffham Bus Service is going well and on average 6-7 passengers are using it per week. Hopefully this will rise when the weather improves. Cllr Fox asked if a note could be placed in the newsletter informing residents that we currently have a 6 month contract and if the service is not as popular as hoped then this will be stopped. Clerk to organise.

Litter Pick

The Chairman advised that he had spent two and a half hours picking up rubbish on the Cricket Club Dyke and along the A1065 on the Brecklands side. and he was nowhere near finishing it. He suggested to the Council that a litter pick 'Hit Squad' was needed so that areas around the village were kept clean. The Chairman will add this to his report in the newsletter asking people to come forward so the Council may create a list of willing volunteers.

Cllr Steward stressed that Breckland still have a contract with Serco and encouraged people to report litter and they are contracted to come and clear this within 24 hours. The Clerk took this onboard and will endeavour to report litter in the future; however, the Chairman was still keen to start a litter pick squad to combat bad litter areas.

The Chairman then read out a letter from the litter warden, who commented that bags of dog excrement had been placed on hedges around the Lammas and she had counted 5 bags in December and 9 in January. The Chairman suggested that the Dog Warden should be contacted and asked to look round the area, firstly to see the problems of dog fouling and secondly, to see if the Warden believes another dog bin should be installed in the area around the Lammas. The Clerk will contact the Dog Warden. The Chairman also stated from the letter from the Litter Warden that there is still a problem of litter on Pig Sty Lane. The Chairman had mentioned in the past that it was felt one resident in particular had been placing litter on branches and on the floor in this area for sometime, but there has been no primary evidence. The Chairman asked Cllr Steward if the scheme still exists where a camera can be placed on a 'hot spot' area for litter so that evidence can be sought. She mentioned that if the Council wanted this action to be taken then she can put this request forward. Cllr Goad also

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suggested that there should be a camera placed on or near to the roundabout as this is also a real problem for litter. He also expressed his concerns over the amount of litter on the A134 and there was a short discussion over the regulations that Breckland adhere to with regards to picking up litter. Cllr Steward advised that she will keep in touch with the Clerk on this matter. The Chairman ended this discussion advising that he was still keen to collate a list of people that will help with litter picks in the future so that the Council can keep on top of the problem.

No Cold calling in Brecklands

There has been no response this month.

Mole Hills on land opp Malsters Close

Cllr Fox explained that when there is a prolonged spell of better weather the moles will be dealt with.

7. Correspondence

The Chairman read out a letter from Breckland regarding a new 'scamnesty campaign'.

The Chairman read out an e-mail response from PC Parrott regarding a question the Clerk had asked about the regular removal of the no-smoking signs in the bus shelters. The response was not what the Clerk had asked for, so a reply has been sent back to PC Parrott and the Clerk awaits a second response. Cllr Goad suggested that signs could be made with the sticky surface on the front side so it is less likely to be picked off. Cllr Shepherd said she will look into this.

A letter was received from the Village Hall Committee asking if the Council would be interested in having a stall on Sat 27th March to promote all the groups in the village. The Clerk confirmed that she would be very happy to have a stall but may need help for one hour between 12pm-1pm. Cllr Shepherd said that she would be happy to help. A letter regarding training for Clerk's and Councillor's was discussed. The Clerk was keen to attend training on Thursday 25th March in Dereham and she informed the Council that she will circulate the information in case anyone else would like to attend.

The Chairman advised that an information pack on a proposed Wind Farm near Weeting had just been received and this will be duly circulated. However, the deadline for comments is not until June which gives the Council adequate time to look through the documents. The Clerk will circulate these documents as soon as possible.

8. Finance

The following payments were authorised at the meeting 4th February 2010 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs M Eyles and S Eyres

Cheque	Description	Total
101098	Void Cheque	£ 0
101099	Community Car Scheme	£ 250.00
101100	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 65.00
101101	F Brown (Sal/Tel/Post/Mileage)	£ 752.69
101102	Mr M Eyles (Gardener)	£ 65.00

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101103	MHB Street Light Maint	£ 146.88
101104	Denman's Travel	£ 78.00

8.1 Sponsorship of roundabout

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Mr Smith two weeks ago stating that he will pass a sketch of the roundabout onto the Council as soon as possible, but as yet nothing has been received.

8.2 Grit Bins

The Clerk had received a quote for a grit bin to be made at a cost of £299.00 inc VAT. The Chairman read through the quote and asked the Council for their comments. Cllr Fox stated that the Parish Council should put more pressure on getting the grit lorry to pass through Mundford than spending money on grit bins. The Chairman asked for a show of hands on this. Everyone agreed that the idea of grit bins should be declined.

8.3 Future Projects

A letter was circulated to all Councillors from the Chairman prior to the meeting asking for them to consider future projects for the village.

The Chairman invited Councillors to share their thoughts. Cllr Goad mentioned the idea of approaching the Village Hall for their views on extending the Doctors waiting room area so that it is more private for patients. Cllr Eyres mentioned that the school is in desperate need for funds to complete new fencing along the A134. They are also getting quotes on replacing the playground tarmac as it is proving to be a safety hazard. The current playground has not been replaced since 1989. Cllr Fox suggested an idea of garden allotments. As the village does not have any at the present time, it would in his opinion benefit all ages. The issue is identifying land and advice from the local authority.

The Chairman welcomed all the ideas and suggested that they should be thought about and then discussed again at the next meeting.

Over 60's lunch club

Cllr Goad wrote a letter to the over 60's club before Christmas with the Council's offer of helping financially. As yet no reply has been received from the over 60's. The Clerk has since received two phone calls from local residents offering their help with the club, but was unaware this was presented as an idea to the over 60's club. The Chairman advised that Catherine Spencer from the care home had regularly asked him if there had been any news on the project. Two people from the public were interested in helping also, so the Chairman asked them for their views on the subject. They were both happy to be kept informed one the over 60's club had come back to the Council with their decision. Cllr Shepherd stated that she would be happy to speak to a friend of hers that was a member of the over 60's so that the Council was aware that the subject is being discussed.

The Chairman also suggested an idea of a website for the Parish Council. The Clerk had initially come forward with the idea prior to the meeting and asked a local company for an idea of price on this. The cost for 5-6 pages was approximately £300-£400 plus a hosting fee of £80 a year. Cllr Steward stated that Breckland can help

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with this and will be able to help with setting up a website and offering PC support. Cllr Steward advised that she will find a contact for this and inform the Clerk.

9. Planning Applications

There are none at present.

10. New Highway Matters

The Chairman stated that there are works due to commence in March for a water main to be replaced down the A1065. He found this information by approaching some contractors from Balfour Beatty. They had asked him if the grassed area opposite the opening to Malsters Close was owned by the Council. The Chairman immediately contacted the Clerk to inform her of this as it was a consideration that they could place all their plant material etc on this area and destroy all the bulbs, tress etc that the Council had spent time and money introducing. The Clerk has since contacted Highways and even though they have not been contacted by Anglian Water or any of their contractors, have their confirmation that they will not allow them to park on this area.

It was reported that the 30mph sign on the corner of Malsters Close had previously fell down. It has since been pushed up but it does need attending to.

The 'St Leonards St' sign on the corner of the Cricket Club has been broken.

It was reported that gravel on the land of 1, Impson Way is regularly being sprayed across the footpath which could be a health and safety issue. The Chairman asked Cllr Weight if he was happy to knock on the door of the property and notify them of the Council's thoughts on this. He kindly accepted.

The Chairman pointed out that a few years ago when The Crown Pub had its corner wall fixed, its Crown Road sign had been taken off. This was never placed back. The Clerk to contact Mr Walker to ask him to replace the sign.

The matter of the problems with pot holes was discussed.

11. Street Lighting

Two Norfolk County Council lights were reported as on all day (no's 53 and opp No16.) The Clerk will report these.

12. Reports

District Councillor Steward started her report by advising the Council on a few areas that had been discussed previously in the meeting. Firstly, she suggested that there may be some match funding available for the school fence. Secondly, with regards to allotments, Cllr Steward suggested contacting Neil Featherstone from the Brecks Partnership as they are always looking for 'green' projects and different initiatives. Cllr Monson is the Chairman for the Brecks Partnership so the Clerk agreed to contact him first for his advice.

She moved onto her report which started by announcing that Council Tax for our area is being frozen. Services will not be reduced, however funding will be difficult.

There is no news on the unitary bid as yet and she advised that this will be announced any day. There was a short discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of this, and she agreed to contact the Chairman as soon as a decision from the secretary of state is received.

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There was a short discussion between the Chairman and Cllr Steward on our current MP Christopher Fraser being replaced with a new lady MP.

The Village Hall Committee Minutes will be circulated shortly.

The Clerk advised that the last school Governor meeting was postponed due to a lack of a quorum so there was nothing to report the Council.

13. Members' Matters

The Chairman mentioned Linda Willis as a suggestion for a Mundford Pride Award due to her help and support for people in the village across many years. He asked the Council to consider this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Weight asked if a no dog fouling notice could be placed on the entrance to a public footpath adjacent to his home. The Clerk had already asked the dog warden about this previously and the dog warden at that stage was happy to have a look at the site but nothing had happened as yet. The Clerk confirmed that she will contact him again to discuss this along with the reports of dog fouling in the Lammas.

The Chairman asked Cllr Shepherd for a report on the meeting she attended about the Youth project that was discussed at the previous meeting. She said it was well attended with 12 people wanting to help with the project. There was a gentleman who was invited to the meeting who had 47 years of experience with youth clubs. He knew a great deal of information about insurance, committees, bank accounts, CRB checks etc which will be very helpful to the project. Cllr Shepherd asked the Council if a Village Appraisal had been done in the past. The Chairman stated that he was unaware of one taking place for many years. There is another meeting scheduled for March and Cllr Shepherd will attend this and update the Council.

Cllr Steward advised that it is a good idea to do a village appraisal as funding is easier to apply for on certain projects.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____