

**Minutes of the Mundford Parish Council Meeting
Held at The Old Coach House, Mundford
on Thursday 5th August 2010**

Present:

Cllr. M Eyles, Chairman, Cllr S Eyres, Vice-Chairman, Cllr J Goad, Cllr C Weight, Cllr D Goodrham, Cllr T Fox, Cllr J Marston, County Councillor Ian Monson, Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council) Dick Girling from Lady Ashburton's Ickburgh Almshouses Trust and PC Maria Marquiss the PSCO for Mundford. The meeting was well attended by the public.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present and explained the procedure of the meeting.

2. Apologies of Absence

Cllr Ann Shepherd who had family commitments. This was accepted by the Council.

3. To accept Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st July 2010

The Minutes were duly accepted and signed as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Eyres declared an interest on Agenda item: Dandelion Spraying.

5. Dick Girling – Lady Ashburton's Ickburgh Almshouses Trust

Mr Girling explained the issues surrounding the Trust, including amendments that the trustees are at present undertaking. Mr Girling felt that it was appropriate to include Mundford in the list of parishes and to add a Trustee to be nominated by the Parish Council. The Charity Commission has no objection to this. The Council was advised that the Trustee does not have to be a member of the Council, there are no interviews and no vetting process. Firstly the Chairman asked the Council whether they were happy for Mundford to be included in their catchment area. This was proposed by Councillor Fox and seconded by Councillor Marston and the other members agreed unanimously. Secondly, the Chairman asked if any of the committee would like to put themselves forward for the position of Trustee. There were no volunteers, but the Chairman expressed an interest in the position. There was a short discussion and it was decided that the position be advertised in the newsletter and on the public notice board. The Chairman thanked Mr Girling for attending and asked for him to go ahead with the charity commission to update their records to include Mundford.

6. Meeting suspended for Public Participation

The Chairman expressed his pleasure in seeing so many public at the meeting, but was aware that many of them were in attendance to discuss the speeding issues in Swaffham Road. With this in mind, the Chairman asked for anyone else that wished to speak first before this before this subject was discussed.

Mary-Ann Turner asked why branches were cut on a Walnut Tree near her home which has a tree preservation order placed on it. The Clerk mentioned that some weeks ago Eon energy had taken some branches off some trees in Mundford as they were overhanging power lines. The Walnut tree was one of those affected, and the clerk confirmed that there is no intention of cutting the tree down. The trimming was carried out purely for safety measures. The Chairman suggested that this matter be monitored and Cllr Marston agreed to keep an eye on the Walnut Tree.

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As there were no other public issues except Swaffham Road, the Chairman invited the public to speak. Mrs Wall expressed her concern over the sewer main in Swaffham Road stating that it was not big enough to cope with the amount of waste. She understood that the water main along Swaffham Road was to have improvements soon and wondered if the Council could ask if the sewer could be dealt with at the same time. She also advised that Anglian Water have to flush the sewer main every 6 months to ensure there are no blockages, which Mrs Wall felt is not acceptable. The Chairman did advise that the Council have no power over this but did agree to send a letter with the resident's concerns.

A resident asked if the speed limit could be lowered to 30mph along the Swaffham Road. He went on to explain his concerns over the state of the road in general, and advised that manholes, gulleys and kerbs were breaking up too easily. He stated the vibration of the Lorries has also caused much distress. He also reported that a GPO manhole cover near the Lynford Road turning was breaking up, as well as parts of Lynford Road itself. The clerk will report this.

The Chairman reassured the public that the Council had been battling with various authorities over the last 40 years to reduce speed limits, to increase safety measures and over general maintenance issues. Further, he outlined an issue that was reported recently by a local resident there that nearly resulted in serious injury to a lady and small child while trying to cross the Swaffham Road. The clerk duly reported this to Swaffham policing and sent a letter to Sergeant Atherton at Wymondham. This resulted in the Sergeant apologising for not realising that Mundford was one of their areas of responsibility. The Chairman read his e-mail response to the public. He also stated that only yesterday the clerk had a meeting with Sergeant Atherton and a colleague while they were using a speed gun on the A1065. In the short time the clerk was there 2 penalty tickets were given and 2 warnings, plus a white van's registration details were noted as he was travelling too fast to be stopped. Sergeant Atherton was very positive about the possibility of helping the situation and has informed the clerk that a stronger police presence will be in Mundford to monitor the speeding issues over the coming weeks. The clerk also informed him of the Council's concerns over near misses at the pedestrian crossing on the A134 and he was keen to look at the situation of speeding here too. The Council await results. Overall this was very positive and a relief that the Council's concerns are at last being listened to. The Chairman used this opportunity to state that new signage was on order for the pedestrian crossing to warn motorists of the crossing.

A resident asked if a 20mph limit could be placed outside the school. The Chairman asked the County Councillor if he would like to offer some information on this. Councillor Monson stated that it is very difficult to install a 20mph limit, but did understand that outside the school it can be very busy and has been there himself when children are being picked up from school and realises the problems. He also went on to discuss that the Swaffham Road did have a speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph but he appreciated people's concerns and would certainly help in any way he can. He went on to explain a similar situation in Cromer, where a recent campaign to reduce the speed limit had been unsuccessful, but he commented that in his opinion Mundford had a better case, and especially Ickburgh. The idea of a petition was suggested, and residents offered their help with this. The clerk also re-enforced the idea that residents should contact Sergeant Atherton with their concerns and suggestions for speed reduction measures, by phoning him or by e-mail or letter. The

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Chairman advised that updates will be mentioned in future editions of the connect. Mrs Edmunds from Swaffham Road kindly offered to knock door to door along this road to gauge support and get signatures for the petition, and the clerk will place some petitions in the Post Office and newsagents, along with information in the connect. The Chairman thanked the public for attending. With so many members of the public at the meeting, PC Maria Marquiss advised that she is at present tackling the problem of teenagers in cars causing a disturbance in the Village Hall Car Park. She wanted to reassure residents that the matter is being dealt with and at the present time they have been verbally warned and details of the vehicles taken. If they are caught again a section 59 will be issued and if they break these conditions within one year, their vehicles will be seized and crushed. Mary-Ann Turner asked the PSCO if she could possibly keep an eye on the Yallops car park as there seems to be concerns there too.

7. Matters Arising

Outstanding Highway

Fir Close – Flooding Problems

The area opposite Fir Close will be cleared when the ground is softer and problems can be identified. This is now likely to be completed in the Autumn, depending on budgets. The Chairman recommended taking this off the agenda for the time being and the clerk will monitor the situation.

Safety concerns with vehicles turning onto St Leonards St from A134

There had been no response from the Police, however the PSCO gave the clerk a template letter to be given to the school for distribution to parents highlighting the news that the Cricket Club will be kept open to park there. Highways are hopefully replacing a number of kerbs stones along this stretch in the summer holidays. Councillor Goodrham asked if the zig zag lines could be extended further past the school. He advised that prior to resurfacing some years ago the zig zags extended further along this road. The clerk will ask Highways.

Pedestrian Crossing signage

Two signs have been ordered by Highways to warn of a pedestrian crossing ahead. There was a short discussion with regards to a recent incident on the crossing.

Request for lowered kerbs in Fir Close

The kerbs are now done and patching work completed. The clerk had received two complaints from residents in Fir Close that there were unhappy they were not informed of the works. The highways engineer advised that a slot had unexpectedly become available in which to complete the work, which is why it was done so quickly.

No entry sign in Fir Close

After the discussion at the last meeting the clerk contacted highways to ask for their help to install a sign. Highways responded by saying that there has never been a sign there, and they do not feel it is necessary to have one placed there. To have one placed there, it would have to be changed by a by-law, and they are not willing to take

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any action at the present time. It was pointed out to Council members that a Policeman was seen using the wrong exit recently, so this should be investigated further. The clerk will contact Sergeant Atherton and state this point to see if he can help or offer support to our cause.

Outside Cricket Club

The area was recently patched and the drainage banks were dug out further at the same time. Councillor Marston asked if the cricket club could place some pipe work in these holes and fill over as vehicles could possibly be damaged if they got close to the verge. Highways were approached with this and they are not keen for the Cricket Club to do this due to future maintenance being the responsibility of Highways. They are happy for these verges to be a deterrent to drivers to stay away from the verge.

20mph limit around village

This was placed on the Agenda from a request made from Councillor Goodrham at the last meeting. The Chairman stressed that this was not a committee decision at this stage but wanted to gauge opinion. The clerk did ask Highways for advice on the matter and they explained that if the Council wanted to go ahead with this idea then it would need to be a village decision not just the Parish Council. A feasibility study would then be likely and a decision based upon results of this. If the 20mph limit was agreed to then signs will be placed at the entrance to St Leonards and Crown Road but estates running off from these roads would also have to be signed too. This would result in a 20mph sign placed every 50 – 100 yards on new or existing posts and there is also a likelihood of problems with enforcement issues. The Chairman proposed that this should be placed in the newsletter to ask residents opinion on this and the matter be placed on the Agenda again next month. The committee unanimously agreed.

Speeding on A1065 Swaffham Road

Although this matter was discussed at public participation it was noted that a letter had been received from a local resident asking for the Council's support with this matter.

Changes to Highways

Our current Highways Engineer, Harvey is being moved to another area from 1st September and Mundford will now be under the responsibility of Kings Lynn. Harvey has been a real asset to the village and has helped the clerk a great deal. The clerk awaits information from Norfolk County Council on the changes.

Dandelion Spraying

A quote was received yesterday from Councillor Eyres, along with a map that was shaded in areas that the dandelions were at their worst. As this was only received yesterday the clerk has been unable to ask for further quotes and will do so before the next meeting.

Mole Hills on Swaffham Road

There has been no response from Icen Pest Control.

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Standing Orders

Model Standing Orders were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Fox requested that amendments should be made, especially to items that we don't adhere to now, and in this case remove them. The Chairman suggested that a separate meeting should be organised so that it can be discussed fully. The clerk will arrange shortly.

Community Car Scheme

The Chairman explained changes that Breckland plan to undertake with regards to the scheme. A new contract was circulated to Council along with an explanation of events. The Council all agreed that it was essential that the Parish Council take the Scheme on, even if that meant reducing donations to other causes. The Chairman asked for a proposal and this was proposed by Councillor Fox and seconded by Councillor Goad. The clerk will arrange a meeting with the representative from Breckland along with the Chairman and Councillor Shepherd.

Parish Office

The clerk has cleared out the office, inside and out, shredded many old documents that were no longer needed to be kept by the Council and will arrange for a number of minute books to be archived at County Hall. The Chairman mentioned that there are two old computers that can either be thrown away or donated. It was suggested that this be advertised in the connect to donate to a local cause. The clerk will contact a local computer shop to inquire about wiping the hard drives.

8. Correspondence

The next Town and Parish Council Forum is to be held at the Eco Centre in Swaffham on 21st October. If anyone wishes to attend to contact the Clerk.

A letter was received from Sue Marsh, the practice manager of Forest Group Practice which was a reply from an original letter the Clerk sent in June asking for more GP appointments in Mundford as well as a more frequent prescription pick-up service. It explained that the surgery has been restricted in the past by a lack of computer connection, but it has now been agreed that a secure N3 connection is to be installed on the 2nd August 2010, which will mean the practice will be able to offer GP appointments 3 mornings a week and a nurse lead clinic 2 mornings a week. This will also mean that patients will be able to pick up any medication 5 mornings a week. Information was received by NALC that is to be circulated shortly.

9. Finance

The following payments were authorised at the meeting, 5th August, 2010 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs M Eyles and S Eyres.

Cheque	Description	Total
101172	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 300.00
101173	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 65.00
101174	Mr M Eyles (Gardener)	£ 114.38
101175	Mrs F Brown (Sal/sundries/Post/Tel)	£ 627.38
101176	Denman's Travel (Bus Contract 5wk)	£ 150.00

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101177	MHB Street Light Contract	£ 146.01
101178	The Crown Hotel	£ 60.00
101179	Mundford Primary School (hall hire)	£ 75.00

9.1 Audit 2009/10

Mazars asked for more documentation to prove the rise in staff costs. The information was sent by the clerk. Awaiting approval of the accounts.

9.2 Thank you letters

Received a thank you letter from Victim Support

9.3 Sponsorship of Roundabout

The Chairman explained that the plants on the roundabout were not the right ones as the area is too dry. It has been suggested to Wil Smith that next year we should consider placing planters on the each corner so that this will aid water retention. For the time being four potted plants have been placed there to add some colour. Mr Smith has also apologised for not cutting the Lynford Road section twice in April and May and will take this from the final invoice. The Chairman also stated that the bulb planting season will soon be upon us and to consider for the next meeting what should be ordered.

10. Planning Applications

3PL/2010/0591/F Brown's Garage – C/U of car salesroom to Farm Shop and retention of decking. No objections sent.

3PL/2010/0592/F Brown's Garage – 3 Fascia signs to be erected. No objections sent.

3PL/2010/0593/F Brown's Garage – Catering Trailer and decking/raised seating area. No objections sent.

3PL/2010/0594/CU Brown's Garage – Change of use of part of Brown's Car Sales to monthly farmers market. No objections sent. Councillor Fox advised that this application had now been withdrawn.

3PL/2010/0643/D 5, Swaffham Road – Erection of a 2 storey dwelling & detached garage. Objection sent

3PL/2010/0634/F 70, Malsters Close – Demolish porch and erection of rear single storey extension. No objections sent.

11. Street Lighting

The clerk advised that street light 9048 was reported as not working.

12. Reports

Councillor Monson stated that £10 million had been chopped from the NCC budget and reductions in current spending will have to be made. This included the connections service that helps children which has had their budget cut dramatically. He added that all departments will suffer and at present is not sure how things will develop but will keep the Council informed accordingly.

The Chairman asked the progress of the Power Station application. Councillor Monson advised that the application was thrown out 3 months ago as there was not enough evidence. The application maybe represented again but it is up to the applicant. The Chairman also asked if there had been any developments regarding the

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comments made by Rt Hon Eric Pickles, as reported previously. Councillor Monson stated that this was a Breckland Council matter, however he was aware that Breckland had not as yet decided to change its core strategy and site specifics plan. The consultation has just finished.

There were no further reports, but it was noted that the village hall have now painted half of the container white on the cricket club side.
The school is currently having the playground re-surfaced and Councillor Monson mentioned that the school fence was progressing.

13. Members' Matters

Two benches have been vandalised which will be reported in the newsletter. One has been fixed but the other one needs attention.

The Clerk mentioned that a Risk Assessment for the Council will be due in September and this will be placed on the Agenda to agree a date.

The Chairman stated that the Clerk was informed with very late notice of a training evening at Weeting on Weds 11th August to be attended by Sue Lake of the NALC. The training will be on general governance and there will be an opportunity to ask questions as well as networking opportunities. It was suggested that anyone who wanted to attend to contact the clerk as soon as possible so arrangements could be made.

Councillor Goodrham reported a fire hydrant number SB4T20 is leaning over.

Councillor Monson was asked if there was an update on the A11 duelling. He stated that due to the budget cuts this has been postponed for 6 months.

There have been comments about the Village Green roses that they are looking unhealthy and need to be renewed. Councillor Eyres advised that new roses will need to be planted in new compost and not the current soil. It was suggested that he contact Margaret Whiting who currently looks after them to discuss the matter further. This can be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Weight mentioned that the fence from No 17 Adeane Meadow had been brought forward to near the bench. The Chairman was aware of this and discussed that the bench is still there which is positive. It was noted that two of the shrubs have died next to the bench and it may be a good idea to move the third before it goes the same way.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____