

**Minutes of the Mundford Parish Council Meeting
Held at Mundford Primary School, Mundford
on Thursday 7th October 2010**

Present:

Cllr. M Eyles, Chairman, Cllr S Eyres, Vice-Chairman, Cllr C Weight, Cllr D Goodrham, Cllr J Marston, Cllr A Shepherd, Cllr T Fox and Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council). Five members of the public attended.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies of Absence

Cllr Goad is on holiday and Cllr Miles is still in hospital. Both Apologies were accepted by the Council. County Councillor Monson advised he will be late due to another scheduled meeting he has to attend first.

3. To accept Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd September 2010

These were accepted by the Council as a true record.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Meeting suspended for Public Participation

A resident stated that a lot of what he wanted to talk about was in the Agenda and asked whether he could comment at a later stage. The Chairman advised that public participation is the time to discuss these matters and items on the Agenda can still be discussed now if necessary.

He asked if there had been any response regarding the water and sewer main on the A1065. The Chairman read out a report from Anglian Water stating that the water main works should commence by the end of the year. With regards to the sewer main, this was reported as being flushed every six months by residents, but in fact Anglian Water states that this is not the case and they have no plans to replace or upgrade the sewer at this time, given that the sewer is not failing.

The same resident asked why the footpaths have not been cleared along Swaffham Road. The Council were under the impression that the sweep lorry only cleared the roads and not the footpaths, but the resident stated that the District Council had an obligation to clear all public access areas and that this should be done. The clerk will contact Breckland to check this and will report back at the next meeting.

A resident complained with regards to the previous meeting on Agenda item 8.6 Dandelion Spraying. She considered the fact that Councillor Eyres did not leave the room even though he had declared an interest in this matter was a breach of rules and believed it should not have happened this way.

There was a small discussion and Councillor Eyres asked the resident if she wished for him to reduce the price of his quotation to match the other party if that was appropriate, but this was not suggested.

Mary-Ann Turner gave information regarding the recent preparations to remove and replace the transformer to help serve the new properties at the Bennetts Development. She asked how much of the village that the transformer served. The Clerk was unaware but agreed to find out this information and report this to Ms Turner.

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It was reported that a tree needed cutting back as it was becoming a visibility issue along the Swaffham Road. The clerk advised she would report this.

6. Matters Arising

Outstanding Highway

Fir Close – Flooding Problems

Due to the change of highway departments, this has not been done but it is still programmed to be completed.

Safety concerns with vehicles turning onto St Leonards St from A134

The clerk gave the school the documentation with regards to the zig-zag lines and if they had a case for them to be extended. Mrs Hall had reported to the clerk that concerns had been issued to her about the matter of cars parking along this road. A notice will go out to parents shortly asking for them to park only at the cricket club or the village hall car park. As the Council have done everything in their remit to support and resolve this situation by contacting the Police and the Cricket Club, it was suggested that this item should now be taken off the agenda. Councillor Goodrham was still concerned about this issue and it was decided that the matter should still be monitored and can be reported back at any future meeting.

Pedestrian Crossing signage

The signs have now been erected. This can now be taken off the agenda.

No entry sign in Fir Close

The clerk read out a report from Sergeant Atherton explaining that the arrow bearing left is not very noticeable. In his opinion the whole area needs to be re-thought and it is hopeful that a no-entry sign will be placed there.

20mph limit around village

There has been no response from residents on this matter. Councillor Eyres suggested that this should be placed on the front page of the newsletter so that it is more noticeable. Councillor Goodrham agreed this suggestion and after a short discussion it was decided that this should be placed in the newsletter one last time.

Changes to Highways

Our current Highways Technician has been transferred to Kings Lynn depot so he will continue to be in our area.

Speeding on A1065 Swaffham Road

The clerk has picked up the petition and so far there are 423 signatures. Councillor Monson has been approached to organise this petition to be handed to a cabinet member at County Hall. There were, however no letters received from the public which was felt disappointing, given the comments made to the Council.

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr Chegwiddden and there was a short discussion about his letter. The clerk has already e-mailed him with up to date information and

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also requested that he attends the next meeting when we are hopeful that Sergeant Atherton will attend and can answer lots of questions for the public.

A letter was also read out that was received today advising that the A1065 Swaffham Road from the roundabout to the Lynford Road turning will be re-surfaced from or soon after the 8th November 2010. The clerk suggested that a note should be placed in the newsletter to inform residents.

Sewer main on A1065

The main part of the report from Anglian Water was read out in public participation, however the Chairman read out areas that were not previously covered which included their agreement to look at the hydrant that was leaning over.

Lady Ashburton's Ickburgh Almshouses Trust

There has been no response from the insert placed in the newsletter. The Chairman mentioned that Councillor Shepherd was interested in the position and this was agreed by the Council. Mr Girling from the Almshouses Trust will be notified.

Standing Orders

Councillor Fox had kindly looked through the orders and highlighted a few areas that in his opinion needed amending. The clerk will send a report round to Councillors asking for their comments. This item will be placed on the agenda next month.

Community Car Scheme

Medicals for the drivers have still not been arranged. This was mainly due to the change of manager of Forest Group Practice in Brandon. Now that the clerk has been in touch with the new manager she is hopeful that plans for the medicals will go ahead soon.

Continuation of meetings at the Primary School

The Chairman asked the Council if they were happy to continue meetings at the school after comments were made at the last meeting. The Council wanted to support the school and all councillors were in favour of continuing meetings there.

7. Correspondence

A letter was read out from Mrs Stephenson who owns a property in Fir Close. The Highways engineer was called out to view a tree stump. It was agreed by Highways that it was on their land and they were happy for the stump to rot away as it was not near the footpath and therefore low risk of tripping over it. Mrs Stephenson wanted to know if the Parish Council was happy with this statement. The council had a short discussion and agreed that it was not a matter for them and a letter should be sent back to that effect.

8. Finance

The following payments were authorised at the meeting, 7th October, 2010 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs M Eyles and S Eyres.

Cheque	Description	Total
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101188	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 250.00
101189	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 65.00
101190	Mr M Eyles (Gardener)	£ 65.00
101191	Mrs F Brown (Sal/Sundries/Post/Tel/4wks)	£ 621.11
101192	Denman's Travel (Bus Contract)	£ 120.00
101193	MHB Street Light Contract	£ 146.01
101194	NPTP (Clerks training)	£ 25.00
101195	Mr D Freeman (Bus shelter cleaning)	£ 60.00
101196	Mr S Eyres (Dandelion Spraying)	£ 250.00
101197	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 50.00
101198	Didlington Nurseries (Bulbs)	£ 250.00

Cllr Shepherd asked for a higher amount of £300 instead of the usual £250 for the community car scheme. The scheme has been used a great deal more recently which is encouraging and also shows a great need for the service. The Council agreed that an extra £50 should be given and Cllr Shepherd will report at the next meeting if she needs extra funds.

The Chairman stated that he does not want to be paid over the winter months for the gardener's position as there is very little to be done. He will advise the Council when he wishes to start again. Cllr Shepherd advised that there are little jobs to be done around the village, but the Chairman pointed out that these can be done by Friend's of the Village and therefore it does not cost the Council any money.

8.1 Internal Control

The clerk arranged the internal auditor, Serena Barnes, to look over the accounts as agreed at the last meeting. The clerk devised a form that can be completed each quarter by a representative of the Council and this was completed and signed by Mrs Barnes to indicate that the finances were in good order.

8.2 Budget 2011/12

The clerk will put together the budget over the coming month and will circulate this before the next meeting to give councillors time to report any suggestions to the clerk. It will be placed on the agenda to hopefully agree the precept.

The Chairman suggested to the council that a letter should be sent to village organisations that are benefactors of our grants to warn them that there may have to be cut backs in the near future. The Council had a short discussion about this and it was decided that it was not necessary at this time to send a letter. Cllr Fox proposed that every donation and grant be looked at individually at the relevant time and be decided upon then. This was seconded by Cllr Shepherd.

The clerk mentioned that due to new legislation our business rate relief has increased to 100% for the last quarter so the Council will receive a refund of £67.99.

8.3 Risk Assessment

The risk assessment was carried out in September by the Chairman, the clerk, and Cllrs Shepherd & Weight. This document had been previously circulated to councillors to give them adequate time to read it. The Chairman discussed every point of the document and pointed out areas that have already been dealt with to improve safety to the public. The Health & Safety document was also read out in brief

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and both documents were approved by a show of hands from the Council. These documents were duly signed by the Chairman.

8.4 Bulb Planting

The bulb planting will take place on Sunday 17th October. Councillor Eyres advised that the roundabout needed grass seed placed on it as it was getting quite bare. The clerk agreed to buy the grass seed and place it in the office ready for the bulb planting day.

8.5 Village Green Roses

This matter has been discussed with Mrs Whiting and it was agreed that it is not the right time of year to replace the roses and this will be done at a future date.

8.6 Website

The clerk has been in touch with Breckland Pride Scheme asking if the Council could approach the scheme for a grant towards a website. The response was very positive, but the deadline for applications is 8th October. The clerk had therefore already completed the relevant forms and asked the Council on their thoughts on the matter. The maximum grant the Council can apply for is £250.00 and this is what the clerk suggested they apply for. The clerk has looked into costings to produce a website and this was in the region of £500. The Council members were in favour of going ahead with this. Councillor Fox added that he thought this project should go ahead as soon as possible and questioned if the grant money was not approved then the Council should go ahead anyway. There was a short discussion and the Chairman asked for a proposal. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Shepherd.

9. Planning Applications

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

3PL/2010/0877/F 26, Adeane Meadow. Proposed single storey rear extension, double storey side extension detached garage and front porch. No objections were sent

3PL/2010/0956/F 38, Impson Way. Proposed single storey front extension and rear single storey garden room. No objections sent.

Bennetts Development

The gardens are currently being developed and that has meant that the footpath has been blocked off for approximately two weeks.

Land Adj to Lynford Road turning

Cllr Marston brought this matter to the attention of the Council. A resident that lives in Green Lane had seen Lacy Scott Estate Agents looking at a grassed area behind their property. Cllr Marston had made copies of the area in question and these were distributed to councillors. The clerk had since spoken to someone at Lacy Scott and they had not been given instruction from the owner of the land as yet. They advised that they will keep in touch with the Parish Council as they may need further information about the area. The Chairman stated that the land was marked on the flood area so selling the land for residential was unlikely.

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10. Street Lighting

The clerk advised that there had been a number of reports this month.

11. Reports

County Cllr Monson arrived at the meeting and apologised for his lateness due to another meeting he had to attend.

He began by discussing Swaffham Road. He will make arrangements to have the petition given in to Adrian Gunson, the cabinet member for planning & transportation. He also pointed out that it is not normal policy for a 30mph limit to be placed on an 'A' road, but he has sent requests for this matter to be looked upon favourably due to the concerns raised by residents.

He mentioned that interviews are to take place for leader of the council at County Hall tomorrow. The Chairman asked if Cllr Steward expressed an interest in this position as she was named as a potential candidate in the EDP on Saturday. Cllr Monson said that he did not know at this time. There was a concern that she may not keep her responsibility to the District Council, but Cllr Monson advised that this would not be the case.

Cllr Monson was aware of the situation with highways and had seen the road engineers at the Kings Lynn depot. He pointed out that even though our area was classed as 'West three area' that we expect a first class service. This was understood and it was explained that the road gangs will still come from Watton at the present time.

The new ranger service is starting soon and he encouraged the Council to use this service as much as possible.

The Chairman asked if the Weeting Windfarm is now off the agenda. Cllr Monson explained that the project has probably been sold to another party so a new proposal could come at a later stage.

Cllr Monson was asked about the situation of the A11 and Brandon Bypass. Developers who were contributing the funds are at present holding back due to difficult financial times. Suffolk County Council is offering help and the developers are still keen, it is just a waiting game at this stage.

Cllr Monson was asked about the A134 and what money was available to keep it in good condition. Cllr Fox expressed his concern over the state of the road towards Thetford. Cllr Monson advised that a lot of money was spent in 2009 on this major A road, but there was not as much work done as originally thought. The three de-trunked roads of A10, A134 and A140 were handed back to County Councils. There was money ring fenced to keep them maintained but these funds are diminishing. He advised that he will bring this matter up again at County Hall.

Village Hall

The Chairman stated that himself and the clerk had attended the previous Village Hall committee meeting and it ended well, with the committee able to make decisions.

School

Cllr Monson stated that he was aware that the fence still has some planning issues but the school is working together to resolve it.

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12. Members' Matters

Cllr Weight suggested that the two patrol signs that were used for the previous lollipop lady to warn of a crossing ahead could be used for school signs. The Chairman suggested that this could be reported to Sergeant Atherton.

Cllr Weight also advised that there is one 40mph sign from the pedestrian crossing to the Mundford boundary and this should be looked at.

The willow tree outside the entrance to Malsters Close needs trimming as this can be a risk to the public. The clerk will report this to highways.

Cllr Eyres advised that the mole is still active in the same area. The clerk had left a message for Icen Pest Control and not had a reply. He will be contacted again.

Cllr Eyres believed the grass cutting contract ran to the end of September and suggested that in future this should be extended to the end of October. He also suggested that another cut should be done before the bulb planting on 17th October. The clerk will look at the contract with TTSR Ltd and contact Mr Smith regarding these matters.

It was mentioned that the pothole outside No 5 Swaffham Road was getting worse. The clerk advised that this was reported a couple of months ago but highways explained this will be done when the A1065 was re-surfaced. It was recommended that the clerk contact highways again to make sure the pothole will be filled when the works go ahead.

Cllr Marston mentioned that there had been a lot of litter in the village hall car park, discredited by a minority of youths. He did also report that the situation has improved a great deal under the eye of the Community Police Officer.

Cllr Goodhram mentioned that the Cricket Club car park will be re-surfaced in the half term holidays to make sure there was as less disruption as possible to the school.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____