

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

Present:

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

1. The Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. He apologised to the members of the public that Sergeant Atherton could not attend the meeting and that it was unfortunate that the Council was unable to advise residents before the meeting as the newsletter had already been distributed. The Chairman then read out a report that Sergeant Atherton had sent in his absence.

2. Apologies of Absence

Cllr Miles has just returned from hospital and gave her apologies. This was accepted by Council.

3. To accept Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th October 2010

Cllr Fox advised that there was a proposal missing from Minute point 8.2. This was discussed and then agreed that this point should be amended to add this. The Minutes will be amended and brought to the next meeting for approval.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Meeting suspended for Public Participation

It was clear from residents that they were disappointed that Sergeant Atherton could not attend the meeting and wanted this reported back to him.

A resident from Swaffham Road disputed what was written in Sergeant Atherton's report and claimed that the issues were far more concerning than the Sergeant detailed. The Chairman asked for Cllr Goad to answer. He advised that all decisions are made by the County Council, and if there were resources and funding then more would be done, however Mundford is not unlike any other village and the perception may be different to the facts.

He added that everything is based on statistics. The safety camera partnership have completed surveys and these came back to report that most vehicles were within acceptable limits. Highways have also been contacted on several occasions and now we have involved Sergeant Atherton. There have been no serious accidents or injury and it is very fortunate that no one has been killed, however these are the statistics.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council have to go through the proper channels, and now a report has been sent in to Norfolk County Council, it is hopeful something can be done.

Another resident from Swaffham Road stressed that she is unhappy about the report, and she is very concerned that she felt that she cannot walk along the footpath safely. Cllr Eyres asked why no residents had sent in letters of support to this cause. The two residents from Swaffham Road advised that they came to the Parish Council to view their concerns and hoped these would be passed on.

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At this stage the Chairman asked if Councillor Monson would like to comment. Cllr Monson stressed that he had great sympathy for residents living along the road and those who lived in Ickburgh that felt they cannot walk to Mundford safely. He carried on to update the public with what had happened so far which included the news that the cabinet member for which the petition was to be passed to, Adrian Gunson, has now left his position and this has caused delay. The good news however, was the new cabinet member for planning & transportation, Graham Plant, has agreed to visit Mundford, and see for himself the concerns that residents along Swaffham Road have. The petition can then be presented to him along with any other letters. He also stressed that it was very important that as many residents as possible turn out as it will show that a great deal of residents support this cause. Cllr Monson will advise the Clerk when Mr Plant can visit.

District Councillor Ann Steward gave her full support and understood the concerns that the residents of Swaffham Road have. She also wanted to add that she understood of the concerns made by those worried about speeding vehicles along the A134.

The Chairman added that even though there are understandable concerns about both the 'A' roads, these issues are being addressed and guidelines have to be adhered to. Mr John Taylor from St Leonards Street spoke of his disappointment that the Sergeant was not present as he had a few issues that he wanted to address to him. The Chairman pointed out that the Community Police Officer was present and any issues could be directed to him.

Mr Taylor stressed that youths are still frequenting the Village Hall Car Park at all hours of the night. He mentioned that registration numbers have been taken and reported to the Police but as yet the problem has not been solved. His solution was to shut the Village Hall Car Park by locking the gate. It had been discussed that the gate to the car park had been closed every night up to a few months ago. The Police Officer advised that there had been an offence committed there a few months ago which resulted in a section of the fence being removed for a vehicle to be removed from the closed car park. The Police did find the culprit after an investigation. He was aware that problems had happened in the past and informed the Council that if the same vehicles are caught again once they have been warned, they can be seized. Councillor Steward advised that Breckland work closely with Police and if the problems continue then a CCTV camera could be placed there to catch the culprits. A resident asked if public participation could also be added to the end of the Agenda to give the public opportunity to comment on what has happened throughout the meeting. The Chairman advised that advice was sought a few months ago on this and the advice given from the National Association of Local Councils was to keep the Agenda as it was and this had been agreed upon at a previous meeting.

A resident asked about the matter of a 20mph limit through the village, and was it possible for a petition to go round the village. The Chairman informed him that any correspondence for support of this project should be directed to the Clerk. There would have to be support from the majority of the village before a feasibility study could even be looked into at this stage.

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6. Matters Arising

Code of Conduct

The Chairman mentioned a recent error that had been made by the Council with relation to a matter from the September meeting. This was raised by a member of the public at the last meeting and advice had been sought. An apology was made to the member of the public and it was advised that the clerk had copied a 'Declarations of Interest' form to each Councillor for their information. It was also discussed that the Clerk had enquired into training for the entire Council so that this error should not happen again. This will cost £150 for Sue Lake from The NALC to attend and give training on this subject and anything else the Council feels will help.

The Chairman pointed out that even though an error had been made and it was unfortunate, it has been taken in a constructive way and positive steps have now been taken to ensure this will not happen again. He asked the Councillors if they were in favour of arranging training. This was unanimous, so the Clerk will inform the Councillors once training has been arranged.

Outstanding Highway

Fir Close – Flooding Problems

This has now been completed. It was mentioned that the dyke is very deep along with the area next to the memorial that serves the roundabout. The clerk advised that she has now received from Highways a short e-mail advising that Mundford Parish Council is not responsible for any accidents at the dyke or for maintaining it. Cllr Fox suggested that Highways be contacted to ask for a warning sign to be placed there due to the depth of the dyke.

Safety concerns with vehicles turning onto St Leonards St from A134

This was placed on the Agenda again as the clerk had spoken to Highways and asked them to look into the possibility of extending the zig-zag lines. The clerk also asked the PSCO Maria Marquiss if she would visit Mundford one day when the children are coming out of school to maybe educate people who are leaving their cars parked near the junction.

A1065 – towards Brandon

Trees and debris have been cleared and cut back slightly so that signs are more visible. Signs here and around the village have been washed.

No entry sign in Fir Close

This is ongoing and has been mentioned in the report given to Norfolk County Council. Await decision.

20mph limit around village

The clerk has received one e-mail response from a resident to support the idea of a 20mph limit. The Chairman advised that if there has not been a significant response to this by the next meeting then this should be taken off the Agenda. The majority of Councillors were in favour of this.

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Speeding on A1065 Swaffham Road

The petition has been picked up and Cllr Monson's comments are stated in public participation. The A1065 road closure was discussed and it was mentioned that residents will be able to enter and exit Mundford as normal.

Mole Hills

The clerk has spoken to Icen Pest Control and he advised that he had dealt with Moles in the Malsters Close area as instructed. The clerk also reported hills near the memorial again and outside the telephone exchange. He will look into these and report back.

Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to lay the wreath this year on behalf of the Parish Council on Sunday 14th November. No-one came forward so the Chairman advised that he will do this again this year.

Standing Orders

The standing orders had been circulated and amended in accordance to councillor's comments. The clerk gave a copy to each councillor with a request to report anything they wished to be looked into to the clerk prior to the next meeting. The orders will be agreed upon at the next meeting.

Community Car Scheme

The medicals are at present being done. Laura-Apps Green, the community officer from Breckland had spoken to the clerk asking for a notification number for the Data Protection Act. The clerk looked into this and it was discovered that the council is not involved with this. Advice was requested from NALC and they suggested that the council should notify the Information Commissioners Office as it was important to be included in this. The clerk has requested the relevant forms which are to be completed and sent back along with a £35 notification fee. The clerk asked if the council was happy for her to ahead with this. Cllr Goodrham proposed that the clerk should go ahead and this was seconded by Cllr Shepherd.

7. Correspondence

A letter was read out from Mrs Elizabeth Truss MP stating what issues she had dealt with in the last 6 months of office. Also she was keen to meet Parish Councillors on an informal basis.

8. Finance

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

Cheque	Description	Total
101199	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 250.00
101200	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 65.00
101201	Mr M Eyles (Gardener)	£ 4.00
101202	Mrs F Brown (Sal/Sundries/Post/Tel/5wks)	£ 801.99

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101203	Denman's Travel (Bus Contract)	£ 150.00
101204	MHB Street Light Contract/new lantern	£ 398.64
101205	Mundford Primary School (donation)	£7000.00
101206	TTSR Ltd (Grass cutting contract)	£ 639.79
101207	British Legion (wreath & donation)	£ 75.00
101208	Mundford Cricket Club (donation)	£5500.00

8.1 Budget 2011/2012

The budget was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and questions were asked regarding various spending for the next financial year. These were answered by the clerk. The clerk gave two suggestions to the council for the amount of precept to be asked for to Breckland Council. Due to a recent Council Tax announcement from the Government outlining plans for referendums to veto excessive Council Tax, instead of using the previous capping mechanisms, it was felt that the council should use spending restraint and apply for a lesser precept next year.

There was a short discussion and a proposal from Cllr Fox for a £5k reduction. There was no seconder. There was a proposal from Cllr Goad for a £3k reduction and a proposal from Cllr Eyres for a £2k reduction. These were both seconded. The Chairman asked for a show of hands for both proposals and it was decided by majority vote that a £3k reduction in precept should be requested.

Donations and grants next year will be discussed and the amounts agreed upon as the matter arises.

8.2 Grass cutting estimate 2011

The estimate for TTSR Ltd was read out by the Chairman and matters clarified on how many cuts were done along the Cricket Club dyke. It was discussed that an extra cut along this stretch would cost £58.70 plus VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Fox that the estimate should be accepted with an extra cut to the Cricket Club dyke and this was seconded by Cllr Goodrham.

8.3 Website

The Chairman expressed his delight that the grant had been accepted by Breckland Council of £250, which is half the cost of the project to develop a website for the village. The clerk is very keen to start moving on the project so will apply for the funds shortly and contact the website designer for an update.

8.4 Notice board

An estimate for £190 plus VAT was given to sand down and re-stain the notice board and install two new locks. The Council voted in favour of the works to be carried out.

The Chairman asked if there were any other financial matters to be discussed. Cllr Goodrham advised that the Cricket Club car park is almost completed and the Cricket Club has asked for their donation. The Chairman asked if the Council were happy with signing the cheque this evening due to the fact the Council had already agreed the donation a few months ago. There were 7 in favour and 1 abstention. The cheque was duly signed. It was decided that the cheque shall be released once an invoice to prove the cost was provided to the clerk.

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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. This has been granted

3PL/2010/1178/F Browns Car Sales – Variation of conditions 2 (alts to external fenestration & include all of building) & 5 re hours from pp **3PL/2010/0591-** currently being circulated.

Bennetts Development

At the previous meeting a resident asked if the old transformer which is situated on poles near the scout hut, would be removed now the new transformer is in place. The clerk was told by Eon that the new transformer is working and the old one cannot be removed at the present time due to its location. It would be very difficult to get the machinery needed to take it down to this area until at some stage in the future further development may take place. The old transformer is now disconnected and is safe.

10. Street Lighting

The clerk advised that there had been a number of reports this month. There had been a major fault detected in a light in Adeane Meadow and the clerk had to arrange for a new lantern to be fitted at a cost of £215 plus VAT as it is not covered in our existing contract.

Cllr Goodrham reported that the light outside the Bowls Club is beginning to lean and may need attention. The clerk will report this immediately.

11. Reports

County Cllr Monson explained the ‘Big Conversation’ which includes proposals in reduction of expenditure. He stated there are proposed cuts in every dept but wherever possible frontline services will be protected. It is likely that 3,000 jobs will be lost over the next 2 to 3 years saving an estimated £155 million, however an efficient and streamline service should be the result. Cllr Monson stated that he was determined to fight for rural services as they have suffered a great deal already.

District Councillor Ann Steward added that both authorities are working through the same issues. They have to find a 25% reduction in costs. She mentioned that everything seemed to be on track. The Chairman asked if the selling of assets was a possibility. Cllr Steward did state that there has been some examination of property, but once it’s sold it’s gone so that is not always the best answer, however she did accept that the Council does have a good asset register. To save costs Breckland is sharing its Chief Executive with South Lincolnshire District Council which is proving to be successful. At present active conversations are taking place with uncertain times ahead. Everyone understands that cuts need to be made and savings found and she urged people to get involved with consultations and write in and advise if they feel

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things should be done differently. The good news is that they have been given the go ahead for the Pride of Breckland Awards as this has been sponsored.

She added that Breckland are aware that there are empty houses in the district , which generally can be brought back into use. She asked that people keep their eyes open for properties and report them to Adrian Cherry at Breckland who is dealing with this issue.

Environmental projects are being discussed at Breckland along with apprenticeship schemes, to move into employment.

She urged the Council to copy her into e-mails with regards to planning applications that they feel strongly about or funding schemes.

Village Hall

Cllr Marston pointed out that in contrary to popular belief the village hall is solvent. The Chairman stated that he had been invited to the next meeting but will be going in a personal capacity rather than the Chairman of the Parish Council.

There was confusion as the public are not allowed to attend but the Chairman stated that he had been specifically invited.

School

Cllr Monson stated that he had been to the last meeting and it was very productive. The Head teacher leaves at the end of the school year and the Governors are going through the selection process. The school fence is still being discussed as there has been some difficulties with the project but it is hopeful that this will be completed soon.

12. Members' Matters

The Chairman advised that the problem with littering on Pig Sty Lane has increased and nothing has deterred the person who is regularly littering here. He has been seen on a few occasions and this has been reported to Mr Fuller at Breckland but the problem is still apparent. The Chairman asked Cllr Steward about the possibility of a CCTV camera being placed there and she will discuss this with Richard Wills at Breckland. The PSCO was also interested in this matter and took down some details. Cllr Steward advised that she will work together with the Police on this if necessary.

The Chairman had been asked to mention that the public footpath in Wissey View has been blocked to pedestrians due to the resident of No 31 Wissey View. It is understood that the path has been taken over by the resident's garden. It was agreed that it should be reported to Breckland.

The Clerk stated that Mrs Edmunds from Swaffham Road has asked the Council's help in clearing the dyke that runs under the Swaffham Road. She has approached the owner but nothing has been done. The Chairman advised that this could be reported to Anglian Water.

Cllr Goodrham reported that the dyke that runs from Pig Sty Lane to the Malsters is blocked. The Chairman agreed to look into this matter.

Cllr Weight stated that there had been break ins in Mundford recently and it would be advisable to place something in the newsletter to inform residents.

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With nothing more to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.02pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____