

**Minutes of the Mundford Parish Council Meeting
Held at Mundford Primary School, Mundford
on Thursday 3rd February 2011**

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, Cllr L Pratt and Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council). Two PSCO's attended and several members of the public.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies of Absence

A full Council attended.

3. To accept Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2011

They were duly accepted by the Council.

4. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

5. Meeting suspended for Public Participation

A member of the public mentioned that he was quite disappointed with the information given with regards to 'The Big Conversation'. The Chairman explained the situation that was discussed fully at the last Parish Council meeting. The resident added that Norfolk County Council must know how much they pay for services in our area, and wondered if NCC really wants the councils to take this on in the first place. The Chairman agreed it sounded very rushed and advised that the decisions will be made on April 1st. We wait to see what is going to happen. There was further discussion and the Chairman asked Councillor Monson to explain more.

Cllr Monson stated that this initiative was launched in October 2010 and a whole range of proposals were put forward. There have been in excess of 9,000 responses which is encouraging. From this there have been an enormous amount of work listening and understanding opinions. The information has been digested and final decisions on budget proposals will be delivered soon. There will be cuts in background staff, but all the savings cannot be absorbed from this alone, and regrettably front line services will also be affected and this has been well publicised. The resident was under the impression that local communities can look for alternative ideas and save money for the village.

Cllr Monson agreed that more discussion is definitely needed so that everyone understands the concept from NCC.

Cllr Steward advised that Breckland and NCC work closely together. She mentioned that 25% of the budget is being cut and it is tough to absorb this. If anyone wishes to put a case to the District Council or County Council about saving money on grass cutting, projects in the village etc then it will be very welcomed.

There was further discussion on the subject and Cllr Steward asked to be copied into any correspondence.

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The Chairman added that the Parish Council needs more information as well and explained examples of what he would like to know about. It was agreed that this is an ongoing situation that needs further investigation.

The issue of the privatisation of the forests was discussed and it was advised for people to contact their MP's with their views.

Cllr Monson advised that The Brecks Partnership and other local organisations have been campaigning to form some kind of 'National Park' status and to protect our forests. A lot of work is going on with Natural England. Our MP is pushing for heritage status which is good news. Cllr Monson's personal view was that the forests should be retained for public usage. It was discussed that if they are sold off to private owners, rights of access should be free as organisations like the National Trust charge for this privilege. They are trying to get a motion together at County Hall a meeting to debate the whole issue. The Chairman added that European Legislation with regards to wildlife may help the issue.

6. Matters Arising

Outstanding Highway

The clerk mentioned that the rangers had visited Mundford and had done a good job by completing everything that was on the list. The Chairman advised that the vehicles parked on the verge in Impson Way have been reported to the Police along with photographic evidence. He asked the PSCO's present if that had been dealt with. They reported that the owners had been spoken to and they have since removed their vehicles from the verge. The Clerk had subsequently asked Highways if they could possibly recommend a more permanent obstruction so that vehicles are unable to park there in the future. The grassed area has become churned up which is not nice to see, however it is the safety element that is more important. Highways have suggested that oak wooden posts similar to those opposite Malsters Close could solve the problem as well as looking aesthetically pleasing. An order has been placed for these but there is no certainty due to budget restraints.

Anglian Water had been contacted due to a few complaints about their sign on the verge of the A1065 which is next to a busy junction and causing visibility issues. The clerk had asked for this to be removed or placed further back from the road. Anglian Water has apologised and will remove the sign shortly.

There are a few areas in the Brecklands where the footpaths are breaking up and this has been reported by the clerk. It has been reported that this will be looked at shortly. The drains in the Brecklands are also very bad and reports to the clerk over flooding in certain areas have been documented and sent to Highways. They have looked at the area but the problem is too severe to deal with at the present time. They will discuss this further with the clerk shortly.

Safety concerns with vehicles turning onto St Leonards St from A134

The Chairman advised that the zig zag lines should be done in the new financial year. The clerk suggested that if there were any other areas that councillors thought needed refreshing with paint then to contact her and she will ask them to do this while they are in the area.

The Chairman asked the PSCO once again if they would keep an eye on the area near the school due to the congestion problem.

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Missing Name Plates

The Chairman asked if the sign had been replaced yet. Cllr Goad confirmed it had not. The clerk has sent a message to Breckland asking for a time scale on completion but no reply has been received.

A1065 Swaffham Road/A134 Cranwich Road

A letter was read out from Paul Groom, the Highways Engineer responding to a letter the clerk had sent relating to a request for a pedestrian crossing assessment at the Lynford Road junction and a tree outside No 30 Swaffham Road. At the present time Highways cannot assist with an assessment and the tree outside No30 is on private land.

The Council were aware that the verge on the A134 from the Kings Lynn direction had been cut back severely and the area on the A1065 Brandon direction had also been cut back. This is to improve visibility and to allow the road signs to be seen at a greater distance. Even though the Council are very happy the work has been carried out it was mentioned that it has been left in a bad state. The clerk did mention that she had spoken to highways about this and they had informed her that they would try and get a crew to Mundford to make the area look neater, however, with it being so close to nesting season it may be too late and may not be able to be done until October.

Littering and Anti-social behaviour

The Chairman asked the PSCO's what the outcome from their meeting with the perpetrator had been. PCSO James Barrett had spoken with the gentleman 3 weeks ago and tried to educate him on anti-social behaviour as well as the littering issue. The PSCO stated that he spoke to him for nearly an hour and he felt that the man understood the issue and he advised he would not do this again. The Chairman also stated that the gentleman's litter was very identifiable and that he had not seen anything like this for a few weeks, so hopefully the problem has stopped. The clerk advised that she would speak to Jo the litter warden and ask her to report the next time she is aware of him littering again. The clerk also explained that she had had a complaint from a parent that the gentleman scared her 4 year old boy in the street with his behaviour. The PSCO gave the clerk his contact details and suggested the parent contact him directly about this matter.

The council held a litter pick on 25th January and this proved to be very successful with nearly 30 black bags of rubbish being collected.

The clerk also mentioned that she had reported the A134 to Thetford as very bad with rubbish and Breckland have advised that this issue is ongoing, but has recorded the report.

Gritting in Mundford

A letter was read out from Paul Groom our Highways Engineer, in reply to the council's request of a grit lorry travelling through Mundford. The letter went into much detail about the gritting network and how resources and capacity are a big issue. However, Mr Groom indicated that he has placed Mundford on the 'wish list' but it was unlikely that this request will be placed on the schedule for next winter.

Mr Groom mentioned again that grit bins are a good solution to the problem. Cllr Eyres stated that the concrete bases are almost completed. The Chairman added that

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our Highways Technician advised not to call people volunteers as this may mean the council or individuals could be liable, but to say that the bins can be used by the 'village'. The spades will be placed in the grit bins and it will be up to residents to use them responsibly. There has been two volunteers come forward for the area in Wissey view, but the newsletter has only just started to circulate so the clerk will give more information on this at the next meeting.

The clerk stated that she had sought information on insuring the bins with the current provider and this will be £10.85 extra onto the premium until it is reviewed again in June 2011. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Goodrham.

Cllr Monson also suggested reading through the 'snow code' that was distributed by NCC to advise residents of issues surrounding clearing footpaths, driveways etc. It was suggested that something should be mentioned in the newsletter regarding this.

School Fence

The Chairman advised that the school fence had not been replaced yet the funds for this were donated quite some time ago. The council were aware that there had been planning issues with Breckland Council but were concerned over children's safety. It was proposed by Cllr Fox that a letter should be sent to the Chair of Governors asking why the fence had not been replaced and an update on the situation. This was seconded by Cllr Goodrham.

Cllr Shepherd asked why planning permission was needed in the first instance. Cllr Monson discussed the history of the issue and that he believed it was resolved with Breckland.

Community Car Scheme

The CRB forms have now been completed and signed and Mrs Apps-Green from Breckland advised that this should take 3-4 weeks before each driver is informed of the result. Once this has been done the clerk will need to meet with each individual driver and complete the check list that is to be done once a year. The invoice for the medicals and travelling expenses has been sent to Breckland for them to reimburse Mundford Parish Council.

Cllr Shepherd proposed an increase from £250 to £300 a month for the CCS due to an increase of the service. Cllr Marston seconded this and everyone was in favour.

Elections 2011

It was decided that due to the election on the 5th May 2011, the first meeting which will be the AGM will be held on Thursday 19th May 2011. The clerk will confirm this with the school.

Gardener

There has been no interest in the position as yet. Cllr Eyres asked why it had been advertised as a spring/summer position. After a short discussion it was decided that the position should be advertised as a spring/summer and autumn position.

Parish Office

The Chairman stated that it is wise to consider the council's assets periodically, especially due to the fact there has been a lot of work done on the office recently. He asked if the council thought it was cost effective to keep the office or for it to be used

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for other things. He asked for the council to bear this in mind and that it will be on the agenda next month to be discussed properly.

8. Correspondence

A letter was received from a resident in The Lammas, signed from the residents in The Lammas. Usually anonymous letters are not read out but the Chairman wanted to read areas of the letter as the police were present and they could give advice on certain aspects of their complaints. It was suggested that something be placed in the newsletter giving useful numbers to report rubbish, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour etc.

9. Finance

The following payments were authorised at the meeting, 3rd February, 2011 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs M Eyles and S Eyres.

Cheque	Description	Total
101227	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 300.00
101228	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 60.00
101229	Kevin Chapman (notice board locks)	£ 40.00
101230	Mrs F Brown (Sal/Sundries/Post/Tel/5wks)	£ 734.24
101231	Denman's Travel (Bus Contract)	£ 150.00
101232	MHB Street Light Contract	£ 146.01
101233	Iceni Pest Control	£ 40.00
101234	Forest Healthcare Solutions Ltd	£ 320.00
101235	Barry Carter (Roof Specialist)	£ 800.00
101236	Viking Direct (stationary)	£ 40.24
101237	Mr S Eyres (concrete bases)	£ 750.00

9.1 Internal Controls

Cllr Eyres viewed the accounts with the clerk on 20th January 2011 and found them to be satisfactory. Cllr Eyres explained what he had seen and signed the internal controls form.

9.2 Website

ACS who is designing the website has advised the clerk that their staffing problems have now been sorted out and their main focus is to complete the website as soon as possible. The clerk will monitor the situation.

10. Planning Applications

3PL/2010/0643/D 5, Swaffham Road – Erection of a 2 storey dwelling & detached garage. Objection sent to a two-storey dwelling. The clerk has not received anything from Breckland about the status of this application. The Chairman and clerk observed the application online and it was seen as permission granted with reserved matters.

Cllr Fox added some relevant information. The clerk e-mailed the planning dept with help from Cllr Steward and a response clarifying the situation was read out.

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-** Permission was granted on 29th December 2010

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3PL/2010/1245/F 26, Adeane Meadow. Proposed single storey side, rear extension, porch & detached garage. Planning permission was granted 11th January 2011.
3PL/2010/1176/F 22, Swaffham Road. Erection of boundary wall to front of property (retrospective). Awaiting decision.

11. Street Lighting

Cllr Weight reported that No52 on the A134 which was reported previously as it was on all day has been attended to but is now not working at all.

12. Reports

Cllr Monson started with the Big Conversation and the proposed cuts. There is only a few days left for comments.

As Cllr Steward was not present he discussed matters from Breckland that were relevant.

Finally he wanted to discuss the matter of bus services for Mundford. He has been given some proposals that he had to speak to the Parish Council about. He announced that the No25 bus on a Saturday that travels to Norwich is not sustainable and is likely to disappear by April 2011, however it is possible that a bus could travel through Mundford to Norwich on a Wednesday. The Watton bus on a Wednesday is likely to be withdrawn and a Wednesday bus to Norwich may mean a stop in Watton for those who want it. The Saturday bus to Kings Lynn may also be withdrawn, but there will be a bus during the week. Cllr Monson stated that it is due to Mundford's geographical position that we have so many issues with bus services. At the present time he is sounding it out with the council so nothing is definite. There was a short discussion but it was agreed that it was important to keep a Saturday service and it was asked of Cllr Monson to help support this.

Village Hall

Cllr Marston stated that a service agreement had been drawn up for the caretaker but as yet he has not signed it.

School

The clerk advised there is a Governor's meeting on Wednesday to discuss the Headteacher appointment.

13. Members' Matters

A grassed area in Impson Way was a matter of concern as there is a van that often parks on the verge which has created mud tracks and is very unsightly. It was suggested that if the van continues to park there then a note should be sent to their employers asking for them to ask their employer to move their van onto their drive or re-furbish the verge. It was also suggested that Highways could be contacted to ask for their advice on what obstructions could be put in place so that vehicles cannot park there. If the problem persists it may be prudent to contact the Police for them to deal with it as it is also a safety issue. Cllr Weight advised he will retrieve the reg number and give this to the clerk.

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Cllr Eyres asked if the council would prefer to use slabs on top of a smaller concrete base for the grit bin to save money. The Chairman stated that this matter had already been agreed on but thanked Cllr Eyres for the suggestion.

The Chairman asked why the notice board had not been fixed. The clerk explained that due to the cold and wet weather any stain that was put onto the board could potentially peel. It was better to wait until better weather. He has however brought new locks and will replace these shortly along with drilling holes for air flow.

Cllr Goodrham asked the Chairman why he mentioned the council budget and potential shortfalls at the Village Hall meeting when the council agreed that this would be on an individual basis and no benefactors need to be told. The Chairman discussed the situation at the meeting and advised that he took this on board.

With nothing more to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.42pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____