

**Minutes of the Mundford Parish Council Meeting
Held at Mundford Primary School, Mundford
on Thursday 3rd March 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, County Councillor Monson and Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council). Four members of the public attended.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks

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

2. Apologies of Absence

A full Council attended.

3. To accept Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd February 2011

They were duly accepted by the Council.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Marston declared an interest in a letter from the football club in correspondence.

5. Meeting suspended for Public Participation

A resident asked whether the council had heard about rumours that a lot of the bus services that travel through Mundford are being withdrawn. The Chairman understood the concerns but read out an e-mail that had only been received today. This highlighted some changes and services that have been withdrawn from the end of the month. Cllr Monson stated that the e-mail sounds as if there will still be a Mon-Fri shopping bus to Kings Lynn. The college bus is funded elsewhere so this will not be affected. The Chairman stated that we need clarification on what services are being preserved, and Cllr Monson extended his help with this matter. He will report his findings to the clerk.

Cllr Monson was sorry that services are being withdrawn as he had made a lot of representation to Norfolk County Council prior to the decisions. However, this is happening all over the county. Cllr Monson then explained the procedure to the public regarding NCC's grant system and policy.

The Chairman stated that rural areas like ours need to have more consideration for bus services.

Cllr Monson promoted the Dial a Bus scheme which will soon be extended to our area.

A resident asked whether the timetables could be placed around the village as soon as possible after they become available. The clerk agreed to do this and place the information in the next newsletter.

Mr Evans from Impson Way stated that he thought the Council had done a great job in beautifying the village but was very unhappy with the decision that a grit bin was to be installed on the pathway outside the entrance of Impson Way. He stated that he had gauged opinion from a few residents in the Estate and the general opinion was that it was not wanted. However one lady did state that she would like a bin on the corner where she lived.

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The Chairman thanked Mr Evans for his correspondence about this matter prior to the meeting and explained the procedure fully and how the council had come to the decision to install the grit bins. He also took on board his concern over the look of the bin, and the council had agreed to order dark green bins instead of bright yellow ones. It was discussed that the bins could have flowers or plants placed next to them or the idea of a wooden structure being placed around them. There was mixed opinion from the council. Cllr Goodrham stated that he knew of residents in Impson Way that were very happy about the grit bin, especially after the cold weather experienced just before Christmas. Cllr Goodrham also gave a good explanation on how the decision of grit bins to be placed around the village was decided upon.

The Chairman stated that it is always difficult in situations like these to please everyone, and he understood and appreciated Mr Evans concerns, however, there has only been one complaint and the decision has now been made to install the bins. Mr Evans did ask if there was any negotiating on this matter and the Chairman reiterated again the situation behind the decision. Mr Evans asked if he could take the matter further and the clerk agreed to contact him soon after the meeting with NCC Highways contact details so he could discuss the matter further with them.

Cllr Eyres mentioned that when he installed the bins there was only one complaint about the bins themselves and that was from Mr Evan's wife, and there was one resident who was concerned about the cost but not the bins themselves.

There were no further comments from the public.

6. Matters Arising

Outstanding Highway

There have been further reports on the footpath breaking up in the Brecklands. Highways are to survey the area soon for a possible new footpath around Brecklands and Fir Close in the near future. Patching has already taken place but it is very unsafe in places.

Safety concerns with vehicles turning onto St Leonards St from A134

The zig zag lines should be extended in the next few months. The clerk asked the committee if there were any other areas that needed refreshing with paint. Cllr Eyres mentioned a couple of junctions to the clerk. This will be reported to Highways.

Missing Name Plate

The name plate has been ordered and will be in place shortly.

A1065 Swaffham Road/A134 Cranwich Road

Highways have not given a timescale on when they can re-visit the area along the A134 to clear up the debris after the verges were cut back. The clerk asked Highways if the Parish Council could do the work and they declined as proper contractors with the right equipment should complete the work. In their opinion it is too dangerous for the Parish Council to take on themselves. Cllr Marston disagreed with this and asked for the contact details of Highways. The clerk will look into this further with Cllr Marston.

Littering and Anti-social behaviour

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The clerk had spoken to the litter warden and asked her to monitor the situation. A small report was read out from Jo detailing that the same person is littering again and the problem has not got any better. The Chairman suggested that the Police be informed again about the situation.

Gritting in Mundford

Volunteers from Wissey View and the Malsters have come forward to help spread the grit from the bins when necessary. The clerk advised that the bins will be installed on Thursday 17th March. The bins have now been insured. The Chairman mentioned that the chains on the Village Green need to be moved due to the location of the grit bin. This information was circulated prior to the meeting and it was proposed that they are moved to the side of the bin. The Chairman stated that he had spoken to Dave Coote from Ickburgh who originally welded the chains and he would be very happy to do the job for a nominal fee. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Goodrham.

School Fence

The clerk wrote to Mr Rolph asking for an update on the school fence. Mr Rolph rang the clerk this evening to explain that he was dealing with the situation and will have an update for the council before the next meeting.

The Big Conversation

A letter was read out from NCC thanking those who had responded to the consultation. The Chairman explained the matter further. Cllr Monson explained that he could not give specifics yet. Grass cutting on public rights of way is likely to be stopped but the Rangers will still visit and complete the basic tasks the council want done. The Chairman advised that the friends of the village already do a lot of tasks. Cllr Monson mentioned that grass cutting would have to be done by professional contractors, but certain jobs will be passed down to the Parish Council. The Chairman stated that until the council receives further information it should be left in abeyance. The council agreed.

Community Car Scheme

The CRB checks have now been completed and the forms sent to the individual drivers. The clerk will now contact each driver to check their records.

Elections 2011

The clerk has cancelled the 5th May 2011 with the school and rebooked the Annual Parish Council Meeting for the 19th May 2011. The nomination forms were given to each councillor by the clerk for them to complete and return to Breckland. The Chairman explained that the Annual Parish Meeting which is for the Electors is usually held in May with the APCM, but due to the Elections it may be simpler to have this in April so they are separate. There was a short discussion on this and the difference between the two meetings, but it was decided by the committee that the APM should be held on 7th April 2011 at 7pm and the parish council meeting should then commence after this. The clerk will advertise this in the newsletter as well as notifying the school.

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Gardener

There have been three applicants for the position. Due to the nature of this matter it was discussed that a sub-committee should be formulated and decisions can therefore be made within that committee. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Eyres would be a suitable Chair for this committee due to his background in gardening services. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Goad. The sub-committee members are Cllrs Fox, Eyles, Eyres, Pratt and Marston.

Parish Office

The Chairman asked if anyone had any ideas on what the Parish Office could be used for apart from its current use. He also asked if everyone was happy to keep the office as an asset to the village. There was a short discussion mainly with the point that the office is not good value for money at the present time. Cllr Goodrham asked if the suggestion sometime ago about the Ambulance Service using the office was still current. The Chairman clarified the situation with the committee. It was decided that a note should be placed in the newsletter advertising the potential use for village organisations.

8. Correspondence

A letter was read out from Age UK asking for a donation to their cause. It was proposed that this should be looked at when we discuss the donations later in the year. A letter was read out from Trevor Mouncer the Chairman of the Football Club. They are raising funds for floodlights on the main pitch and have already secured £7500 in grants for the project. They are short of £3500 and have asked the help of the council to support the cause. There was a short discussion and it was decided that a letter should be sent back asking what the football club have done to fundraise themselves.

9. Finance

9.1 Clerks salary review & litter warden salary review

The clerks salary should be reviewed annually and any pay increase implemented from April. The clerk left the room while this was discussed.

On her return, the council had agreed to raise the clerk from her current scale of SCP20 to SCP21. Cllr Fox asked if the clerk's wages could be broken down for all councillors to read. The clerk mentioned that this is already done on her invoice but this can be given out to each councillor at the beginning of every meeting if necessary. Cllr Fox asked for this to be done and the clerk agreed.

The litter warden's salary had not been reviewed since the start of her employment and it was thought necessary to do this. The Chairman stated that the litter warden is doing a fantastic job, especially with the extra burden of our persistent litterer. There was a short discussion and it was proposed by Cllr Eyres that her current salary of £6.50 per hour should be increased to £6.75 and this was seconded by Cllr Fox. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to her.

9.2 Sign Cheques

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

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Cheque	Description	Total
101237	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 300.00
101238	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 60.00
101239	Anglian Water	£ 38.62
101240	Mrs F Brown (Sal/Sundries/Post/Tel)	£ 615.86
101241	Denman's Travel (Bus Contract)	£ 120.00
101242	MHB Street Light Contract	£ 149.11
101243	Iceni Pest Control	£ 56.00
101244	E.On – Parish Office	£ 59.16
101245	Mrs A Shepherd – mileage to bank	£ 6.40
101246	Aon Ltd (Grit Bin insurance)	£ 10.85

9.3 Website

The clerk has worked with ACS and they have finally produced the first draft. The website address is www.mundfordparishcouncil.co.uk The Parish Archive, Councillors and Clerk's details and the home page are all there, but local information and other links are still to be completed. The clerk will be working with them over the next month to bring this together. The Chairman stated that once the councillors have seen the website, if they have any further ideas to improve it, then to bring them to the clerk.

The Chairman asked if there were any further financial matters. Cllr Eyres asked why Icen Pest Control was paid more than last month. The clerk apologised that she did not mention that earlier, but advised that they did not issue her with the correct invoice last month so the VAT had been added onto this month's statement. The VAT will be claimed back on the next return.

10. Planning Applications

3PL/2010/1176/F 22, Swaffham Road. Erection of boundary wall to front of property (retrospective). Permission has been refused. There was a short discussion over what is expected of the owner.

3PL/2011/0153/F 6, Crown Road, Mundford. Front, side & rear single storey extensions to Bungalow & erection of detached garage. The application had just been circulated and given back at the meeting. It was discussed that there were no objections to the proposal. These will be noted by the clerk.

Croxton Biomass Plant

After the previous meetings discussions, it was agreed that a letter of support should be sent to Croxton Parish Council advising that we are opposed to the location and not the plant itself. The Clerk had sent a letter and Croxton Parish Council were very appreciative, however they asked the clerk to send a letter to NCC as well highlighting these issues. The clerk also sent a letter to NCC and copied Cllr Monson into this correspondence. Cllr Monson stated that he was very impressed with the letter sent and this will go towards the support Croxton need. He advised that this application should go before the committee in April, but at the present time there are a lot of objections mainly on environmental grounds. He also stated that Natural England have not said anything which is unusual. The vast majority of the correspondence is opposed to the location. This is mainly due to the fact that there is

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little Biomass around this area to burn and it is the wrong location. The Chairman asked if our MP was against the site. Cllr Monson confirmed that she was, and if she is able to intervene then she would.

11. Street Lighting

The Lights owned by Norfolk County Council on the major 'A' roads through Mundford will gradually be replaced over the next few weeks for more energy efficient ones. They will also help with light pollution. This is being funded by a Government grant and will not be taken from District level.

12. Reports

Cllr Monson stated that NCC are finalising the budget, and the good news is that there will be no rise in Council Tax. However this is the only good news as the reductions in expenditure will incur major cuts in services. Libraries, lollipop ladies and subsidised transport for 16-18 year olds will be staying, but there will be major cuts in youth services like 'connexions' which is a Government sponsored scheme. He mentioned the bus services again and said that he would put the Parish Council's recommendations forward.

Village Hall

Cllr Marston stated that the Village Hall is running well and has a new booking line. There is a new Secretary and Treasurer.

School

The new Headteacher has been recruited after a rigorous 2 day interview process. The school is currently advertising for a new year 3/4 Teacher.

13. Members' Matters

The clerk advised she will be on holiday w/c 14th March.

Cllr Weight explained that himself, Cllr Pratt and the clerk had visited the Recycling Plant in Costessey. Both Cllr Pratt and Weight reported what they had seen and gave their personal opinions on the visit.

Cllr Eyres stated that a gulley outside No 6 Billy Emms Court is not on the rota to be flushed out. The clerk will report this to Breckland.

He also stated that the salary reviews for both the Clerk and litter warden should be on the Agenda every March.

Cllr Eyres wanted to discuss the matter of the rosebed on the Village Green. The roses to replace the ones there at present are £8.95 each and extra soil is needed at approximately £10. This will bring the amount over the £50 a month spend for gardening purposes and he needed the council's agreement to spend over this. The Chairman asked for a vote and it was unanimous that Cllr Eyres should spend what he needed to complete the project. He will bring an invoice to the council next month.

It was discussed that the new posts have now been installed in Impson Way.

With nothing more to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

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Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____