

**Minutes of the Mundford Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held at Mundford Primary School, Mundford
on Thursday 19th May 2011**

Present:

Cllr S Eyres, Chairman, Cllr J Goad, Vice-Chairman, Cllr C Weight, Cllr D Goodrham, Cllr J Marston, Cllr A Shepherd, Cllr T Fox, Cllr L Pratt, Cllr J Burton, Mr M Eyles, District Councillor Steward, County Councillor Monson, Graham Plant, Cabinet member of Planning & Transport at Norfolk County Council and Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council). Ten members of the public attended.

Acceptance of Office forms were signed by all Councillors prior to the start of the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman & to sign acceptance of office forms

Mr Martyn Eyles opened the meeting as current Chairman and stated that he had stood down as Chairman as well as from the committee altogether. He asked for nominations from the committee to elect a new Chairman. Cllr Fox nominated Cllr Eyres and this was seconded by Cllr Goad. Cllr Eyres agreed to stand as Chairman. Mr Eyles stood down to the public gallery. Cllr Eyres signed a separate acceptance form.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman & to sign acceptance of office forms

Cllr Goad nominated Cllr Fox for the position but he declined. After a short time and no other nominations, Cllr Goad advised that he would stand if no other wanted to take on the position. This was seconded by Cllr Marston. The Vice-Chair does not need to sign a separate acceptance form.

3. The new Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman thanked Mr Eyles for being Chairman for the last 4 years as well as his lengthy term in office. He also welcomed Cllr John Burton to the Council.

4. Apologies of Absence

None.

5. To accept Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2011

They were duly accepted by the council.

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Graham Plant – Cabinet member for Planning & Transport for NCC

Mr Plant began by thanking the Council for inviting him to the meeting. He advised that the petition that was received last year has been put through the system and is currently still being looked at. He also mentioned that he had looked at the A1065 Swaffham Road today and understood resident's concerns over the speed of vehicles and amount of traffic. He stated that there was no reason in policy to change the speed limit, however there was in his opinion a reason in practicality to change the policy. He gave his assurance that he would do what he could to change policy but

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this is not a quick process. This includes re-alignment of orders and a consultation process to ensure that people are invited to put comments forward.

He mentioned the safety of vehicles turning from the A134 into St Leonards St and explained his views on this. He agreed to look into this matter.

The public was invited to ask questions. A resident from Swaffham Road asked if the road structure will be upgraded as he believed the weight of heavy vehicles has put an enormous amount of pressure on the storm gulley's and drains as well as breaking up the road. Mr Plant advised that it was unlikely that anything could be done but he will look at this issue.

Another resident from Swaffham Road stated that she welcomed the comments made so far but wondered if there was anything that could be done in the mean time. This included rumble strips or white markings on the road. She gave comparison to the nearby village of Wormegay that has markings on the road and large signs to help to reduce speed. Mr Plant advised that rumble strips especially would not be looked into and finances take a big part in these decisions as there is simply not enough in the budget. The resident went on to give information on how many properties and driveways there were along this stretch of road as well as junctions, and the fact that it is very difficult and dangerous to pull in and out of their own driveways. She also made the point that being a pedestrian is also very dangerous walking along this road and gave her view that the matter is getting very desperate. Mr Plant understood her concerns and will look into the issue.

Mr Eyles mentioned the fact that the Lynford Road turning is also a matter of concern and explained this to the committee. If the speed limit was reduced this would help the threat of an accident at this turning, and this should be considered along with the information that the other residents have portrayed.

Cllr Weight asked whether there could be more 40 mph signs on the A134 Cranwich Road. At present there is only one small sign which is not adequate. Mr Plant advised this should be reported to Highways and they will look into the matter.

Cllr Steward congratulated Cllr Eyres for his new role and began to explain what Mr Plant and she had seen today. She understood the issues, and how dangerous the A1065 is seeing as they have both seen it firsthand today. She did make it clear that there are constraints over funding and NCC are constantly trying to get more funding from the Government to help with situations like these. She announced that Mr Plant does not visit many Parishes on issues like these so she was thankful he has given his time today.

Mr Plant finished by advising that he can influence certain things and he has taken everything that has been said today as well as visiting the areas in question and has taken these things on board and will report back to the committee at a future date.

The Chairman thanked Mr Plant and Cllr Steward for attending. They then left the meeting.

8. Meeting suspended for public participation

Mr Eyles explained that it is now apparent that cultivation licences are now needed for areas that the council wish to plant bulbs or flowers on. This doesn't include planters but they still need to be licensed. The committee may wish to bear this in mind before bulb planting in September or October. The committee decided to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

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The matter of the soil outside No 6 Swaffham Road needs to be reported to Highways. The clerk advised she will report this matter.

9. Matters Arising

Outstanding Highway

The Chairman explained that the Rangers had successfully completed all the jobs the clerk gave them to complete. The clerk will send them a note of thanks.

Safety concerns with vehicles turning onto St Leonards St from A134

Highways informed the clerk that the refreshing of white paint on some junctions will be done shortly as well as the extension of zig zag lines outside the school.

A1065 Swaffham Road/A134 Cranwich Road

This has already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Speedwatch

Since the last meeting, a resident spoke to Sgt Atherton regarding the speeding issues along the A1065. Sgt Atherton agreed to do more enforcement in this area and also mentioned the speedwatch scheme. The clerk asked for more information and this was circulated to the council for their thoughts prior to the meeting. The Chairman stated that most councillors were happy to support the scheme, but let residents run it. Cllr Goad stated that it is not legally binding but if people wish to do it then they should be allowed to. It was decided that this should be mentioned in the connect and report back at the next meeting.

Littering and Anti-social behaviour

Disappointingly the PSCO who informed the clerk she was to attend the meeting did not, so the committee were unable to voice their concerns. The clerk explained that she had spoken to Jo the litter warden yesterday and the problem of litter has got worse. It's believed the same person is still not only littering, but is allegedly leaving shards of glass around the village. Glass has been found in the play area as well as footpaths outside the school where children frequent. This matter is now not only a nuisance but is getting dangerous. After a short discussion it was decided that as the PSCO is not taking the matter seriously, that the clerk should go to Thetford Police Station and speak to the Sergeant about the matter.

Bowls Club Parking

After a resident complaint over the parking outside the Bowls Club on match days, the clerk wrote a letter to the club asking if they have any future plans to help alleviate the problem of parking. No reply has been received to date. It was explained that shortly there will be an open day which will attract many more bowlers and make the congestion a bigger issue. It was decided to keep this matter on the agenda until a reply has been received.

Bus Services

The clerk advised that she had received notification from a resident who is helping Denman's Travel that the new bus service to Kings Lynn and Watton is very under used. It is very probable that the service will have to cease due to low numbers. The

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committee discussed that after the public outcry that the buses were being cut it was very disappointing that residents have not used these new services. It was decided that this should be mentioned in the newsletter. The clerk will also contact Denman's Travel for an update of the situation.

School Fence

A letter was read out by the Chairman stating that the fence will be replaced late July when the children are on summer holidays.

Community Car Scheme

The clerk has now seen all the drivers and completed all the necessary forms. Two drivers have since returned with new information (new MOT certificate and insurance forms) so the system is working very well. Cllr Shepherd attended a meeting at Breckland Council yesterday where unfortunately little was decided. She mentioned that the meeting was an hour and a half and this was to discuss the new 5p per mile increase and how this was to be paid. Alternatives were explained, but Cllr Shepherd felt that the procedure should stay the same and she has written to them to this effect. A letter will be sent to the Parish Council with all the information.

Gardener

The Chairman stated that the new gardener was in the public gallery and thanked him for the work he had completed so far. The Chairman also stated that Mr Peate had written an introduction about himself for the connect which the clerk had submitted. The gardener's job description has now been signed by both the Chairman and the gardener and a copy given. The gardener has now cleared the planters out ready for planting and stained the benches. The gardener suggested to the clerk before the meeting that he would like to cut around the entrance signs to Mundford. The council may decide in the future to place plants there too or planters. The Chairman asked the council for their thoughts on the matter. After a short discussion it was decided to cut around the signs for now but leave any planting due to all the rules and regulations. The gardener had also written a detailed list of plants that he needed for the planters which will bring the cost to over nearly £90 instead of the agreed £50 a month spend. However this spend is a one off as once the plants are brought then no others will be needed. This was proposed by Cllr Goad and seconded by Cllr Shepherd. All were in favour of Mr Peate buying the plants. They will be invoiced to the Council so Mr Peate does not have to claim this money back.

Parish Office

There has been no response as yet from the newsletter item asking for suggested uses for the office. There was a discussion that a final decision should be made on what to do with the office. Cllr Fox stated that at present it is not being used as it should and is costing the council a lot of money. The windows at the back of the property need to be looked at as they may need replacing and there is a lot of ivy at the back of the office. Cllr Fox agreed to look at the windows. The Chairman asked how much it was purchased for. He asked Mr Eyles from the gallery to answer this question. He advised it was purchased for £10k and shortly afterwards it was valued at £20k, however this was many years ago and the value of property has gone down since then. It was proposed that before a decision could be made that a valuation of the property

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should be sought. This was proposed by Cllr Goad and seconded by Cllr Fox, all were in favour. The clerk will endeavour to get this information before the next meeting.

Mundford Pride Scheme

Three people have nominated Mrs Nancy Gross from the Lammas for an award. She has knitted many items for the local playgroup, the primary school and local organisations for no charge. She has been doing this generous act for many years and should be recognised for this. The Chairman asked for a proposal. Cllr Shepherd proposed and Cllr Fox seconded the motion. A letter will be sent to Mrs Gross accordingly. It was decided if Mrs Gross could not attend the meeting that Cllr Shepherd should take the award to her.

10. Correspondence

A letter was read out by the Chairman that was sent by Mr Eyles. The Bennetts Development has opened the site to residents so that they can walk between the Malsters and the village but the opening to the Lammas is still shut. He asked if a letter could be sent to the Director asking for this to happen. He also stated that they should also be commended for the way they have dealt with the development so far. Mr Eyles also stated in his letter that he would be very happy to draft a letter for the clerk to send on behalf of the council, but the council decided the clerk should write this.

11. Finance

The clerk has now received the documentation needed to proceed with PAYE. New forms have been received to change the mandate so that Cllr Fox can sign cheques instead of the previous Chairman Mr Eyles. Copies were given to Cllr Fox, Cllr Eyres and Cllr Shepherd to sign and return to the clerk so that she may send these to Barclays Bank.

11.1 Sign Cheques

The following payments were authorised at the meeting, 19th May, 2011 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs S Eyres and A Shepherd.

Cheque	Description	Total
101264	Mrs A Shepherd (Community Car Scheme)	£ 350.00
101265	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 67.50
101266	Eon (Parish Office)	£ 79.58
101267	Mrs F Brown (Sal/Sundries/Post/Tel)	£ 656.51
101268	Denman's Travel (Bus Contract)	£ 150.00
101269	MHB Street Light Contract	£ 149.11
101270	Iceni Pest Control	£ 48.00
101271	TTSR Ltd (grass cutting contract)	£ 702.11
101272	Bookkeeping Solutions (internal Audit)	£ 75.00
101273	M S Peate (gardener)	£ 57.05
101274	Mr M Thorogood (plumber)	£ 96.00
101275	Mr S Eyres (furniture stain)	£ 37.96

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11.2 Accounts for financial year 2010/2011

The Internal Auditor has signed the annual return and was very happy with the accounts. The clerk will now prepare the accounts for the Audit Commission.

11.3 Website

No more pictures or information had been received for the website. The clerk will move on with this when she has more time.

12. Planning Applications

3PL/2011/0153/F 6, Crown Road, Mundford. Front, side & rear single storey extensions to Bungalow & erection of detached garage. Planning permission granted.
3PL/2011/0270/F Mundford Piggeries. Erection of two 27m wind turbines. No objections have been sent to Breckland.

13. Street Lighting

There were a couple of reports of street lights this month. There was an issue of a complaint from a resident in Swaffham Road that was directed to the clerk in the month and this has now been resolved for the time being.

14. Reports

Councillor Monson

Cllr Monson apologised for being late to the meeting. He commented on Mr Plant's attendance this evening and hoped it had gone well.

He stated that he was half way through his term of office and mentioned that the current leader of NCC has re-shuffled the cabinet and explained this further. He discussed essential care services, and plans to integrate services in a much more transparent way. One example, for instance, would be that this would make the transition from hospital to care home much smoother and ensure that everyone is kept informed.

He mentioned the roads, stating that £8million has been allocated for road repairs from the damage caused last winter, to protect surfaces. This is a great step forward as NCC were concerned roads were not be in good repair this winter.

The new super recycling plant that is planned for Thetford was mentioned. This would mean that a wider variety of items can be taken for disposal by residents. Cllr Eyres mentioned that the road that was re-surfaced last summer by the Lynford Stag is quite bumpy and was not re-surfaced to a good standard. He asked if it was done by a sub-contractor but this was not the case. Highways at NCC would be responsible and Cllr Monson, even though he did not think it was a problem, advised he will mention this to them.

Cllr Monson was more concerned over the road surface on the dips on the way to Thetford. He commented that the surface was very rough and he has asked for this to be placed on the schedule. He stated that funding isn't easily available so this may be on the list for 2 to 3 years, but he will keep the pressure up.

Village Hall

Cllr Marston did not attend the AGM but was told that there were only 4 trustees left as others had resigned their posts. The Charity Commissioners were now involved

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and an extraordinary meeting has been asked for. He stated that the situation is getting desperate and more volunteers are needed or they may be forced to close. A notice will be placed in the newsletter informing residents of the situation.

School

The clerk stated that there is a Governors meeting planned for Wednesday 25th May and she will report at the next meeting.

15. Members' Matters

The Chairman stated that BT have now contacted the clerk and apologised for the delay. They will get their local team to look at the phone boxes in Ickburgh and Mundford and fix them accordingly.

Cllr Goodrham advised that there is a Silver Birch tree situated outside No 1 Laurence Close that needs trimming. The clerk was asked to contact the owner to trim the tree or arrange someone to do it.

Cllr Goodrham also mentioned that there is an increasing number of vehicles parking on the footpaths around the Lammas Estate. It was decided that a note should be placed in the newsletter about this matter.

Cllr Weight stated that a blue cycle sign that was situated on a streetlight pole has been vandalised and thrown in a bush. The clerk will report this to Highways.

Cllr Goad mentioned that the verge outside Malsters Close has been churned up by the vans that park there from Anglian Water. It was suggested that a letter should be written to them asking for a small donation to help bring this verge back to a good standard. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Goodrham.

The Chairman stated that the bench outside the Bowls Club is not in good condition and may only have a year's life left. He asked the council if it should be replaced now or to leave it for the time being. There was a short discussion and Mr Eyles from the gallery was asked to provide some relevant information. It was then decided to leave the bench for now.

With nothing more to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____