

**Minutes of the Mundford Parish Council Meeting  
Held at Mundford Primary School, Mundford  
on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Present:**

Cllr S Eyres Chairman, Cllr J Goad Vice-Chairman, Cllr T Fox, Cllr L Pratt, Cllr A Shepherd, Cllr D Goodrham, Cllr J Burton, Cllr J Marston, Cllr C Weight, County Cllr Ian Monson, District Councillor Ann Steward and Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council) and the new Clerk to the Council Pauline Angus.. There were 4 members of the public present.

**1. The Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies of absence**

None

**3. To accept and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Discussions had taken place prior to the meeting between Cllr Fox and Cllr Burton regarding the query over comments made in the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Unfortunately no agreement on the text to be included in the minutes was made. Cllr Fox read out his version of events, and the Clerk read out Cllr Burton's comments on the matter. The Chairman stated that it was difficult to remember two months on from the original conversation what was said. He did remember that Baroness Howarth was mentioned and that the relevance to the decision was in question. Cllr Burton felt that for any section of the minutes it would be possible to split hairs and ask for specific wording to be recorded, and so to save any further discussion he would be prepared for Cllr Fox's version of events to be placed in the Minutes.

Cllr Shepherd stated that she found the whole issue ridiculous and proposed that Cllr Fox's version should be agreed so that the meeting can move forward. This was seconded by Cllr Burton and all in favour. The Clerk will amend the minutes so they can be agreed at the next meeting.

**4. To accept and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

It was proposed by Cllr Goad to accept the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Marston, 7 were in favour, Cllrs Shepherd & Pratt were not present at the last meeting. The Minutes were duly accepted by the Council as a true record. These were signed by the Chairman.

**5. To receive Declarations of Interest**

None.

**6. Meeting suspended for public participation**

The Chairman reminded the public that they are only allowed 3 minutes to speak on any one given subject.

A resident from the Brecklands stated that he was not happy with the work completed recently by Highways near the roundabout. He also commented that a tree had been taken out from the middle of the area and the stump has remained. He wanted to know whether this would be replaced.

The Chairman understood the resident's concerns and he explained it was unlikely that a tree will be replaced in this area. The Chairman's personal opinion was that he felt that there was clearly a problem not just with capacity to hold water in the area but a blockage between the gully to the outlet. Highways have informed the council that they still have work to do and will be undertaking further works shortly.

Cllr Fox mentioned his concerns over how deep the dyke has become now in this area and the asked whether a barrier will be placed here or at least deep water signs to ensure safety.

The resident also stated that the dyke is deep enough to be below the level of safe working.

The Chairman stated that Highways had been asked whether deep water signs could be placed in the area but this was denied. Highways are fully responsible for this area.

Cllr Fox explained that if the level of water is too high in the dyke it will drain away slower and the resident commented that water will find its own level. Cllr Fox stated that the capacity is not enough at the moment. There were further discussions over capacity, water levels and pipework.

Cllr Steward mentioned that if the council wished for another tree to be placed in this area, then there may be funding available from Breckland to achieve this.

There were no more comments from the public.

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## **7. Matters Arising**

### **New Parish Clerk**

The Chairman welcomed the new Parish Clerk Mrs Pauline Angus to the meeting. Her contract has now been agreed and signed by both Mrs Angus and the Chairman. The current clerk will effectively leave the council on 21<sup>st</sup> January. It was felt that this will be sufficient time for the smooth transition of the role. There was a discussion with the new clerk to discuss working hours and how many days of the week she will be based at the Parish Office, and questions regarding whether residents should make an appointment with the clerk, and if so what times and days of the week will the office be open to them. Cllr Pratt asked whether there should be two people present at the office when the clerk meets with the public. Cllr Fox mentioned that this was up to the clerk whether she feels safe being on her own. Mrs Angus stated that she felt safe and did not feel it was necessary at this stage for two people to be present.

Cllr Goodrham said in his opinion it would be more beneficial if there was a set time open to residents. The new clerk was asked her thoughts on the matter. She advised that she is happy to try the appointment system first but if this didn't work then it can be changed. Cllr Goodrham stated that it should be left up to the clerk to decide.

Cllr Burton mentioned that inevitably people will turn up out of those hours. The Chairman stated that the clerk can lock the door.

It was proposed by Cllr Goodrham that the appointment system should be put into place, this was seconded by Cllr Burton and all were in favour.

Cllr Steward mentioned that she would be happy to visit the clerk in the Parish Office to meet with residents if necessary. The new clerk thanked Cllr Steward.

Meeting dates for the year were given to Cllrs. The only date in question was the November meeting due to the clerk being on holiday the first two weeks of November. After a short discussion it was decided that the November meeting should be brought forward a week to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

It was then proposed by Cllr Goodrham that the meeting dates for the year should be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Pratt, all were in favour.

### **Outstanding Highway**

The Rangers will visit again on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The cleaning of signs in the village is already on the list. The Chairman stated that there were twigs laying on the footpath and road near East Hall. There are also twigs to clear outside No 5 West Hall Road. The Chairman also stated that the village centre sign near the bus stop needs cleaning. All these jobs will be passed onto the rangers by the clerk.

The flooding on the roundabout issue is still clearly a problem. An e-mail was read out from Paul Groom, Highways Engineer explaining the issues involved and the fact that more works will take place shortly. The Chairman was keen to know why, when the ditch is drained, there is still standing water on the roundabout. The clerk agreed to send this question to Mr Groom.

Leaves to be cleared had been reported to Breckland in December. Cllr Goodrham had stated that the area near Billy Emms had been cleared of leaves and looks much better. Other areas had also been cleared as requested. Cllr Goodrham mentioned that it would be beneficial to report that leaves need clearing from outside the Butchers as they will end up blocking the drains. The Chairman asked if it would be possible to find out when the sweeper lorry is due round the village as well.

The footpath outside 23 Fir Close has been reported as a safety issue to Highways due to the roots from a Willow Tree causing the footpath to rise in areas. There has been no further update on this matter.

The Chairman commented that a beech hedge situated outside 50 St Leonards Street needs cutting back. This is not a height issue, but the St Leonards sign has been buried into the hedge which needs rectifying. Cllr Fox has kindly offered to knock on the residents door to discuss this matter.

### **New LED Street lights**

There has been a good response from residents so far on the new lights. There has been one complaint from a resident in Fir Close. This correspondence had been circulated to the council prior to the meeting as the resident had a few issues surrounding the lights and he had stated that he was attending

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the meeting. One issue raised was the fact that the light outside his home went off completely instead of dimming. The clerk had promptly passed this issue on to the contractor and they have since rectified this problem. Cllr Goodrham and Cllr Fox had both been to the area in Fir Close and they did not believe there was a problem. Cllr Fox had completed more investigations by pacing the radius of the light beam. Most of the new LED's have been placed on columns of the same height so Cllr Fox walked 20 paces before the light dispersed. A light in Crown Road which is placed a lot higher up the pole, Cllr Fox walked 37 paces until the light dispersed. This proves that the higher the light is placed, the larger spread the light will give. It is clear that some areas where the lights are spread further apart will be darker than areas where the lights are closer together. The Chairman mentioned that the cost to raise a column, where possible, is between £80-£100. Therefore the cost would be an issue and the council cannot set a precedent for this. St Leonards Street was deemed as having good coverage. The Chairman commented that the resident also contacted a number of councillors prior to contacting the clerk, who should be the first point of call.

An email was read out from a resident in Crown Road who was very pleased with the new lights but suggested that one light that is situated next to a hedge owned by her would benefit from a longer bracket to ensure that the light is not obscured by the hedge if the hedge becomes more overgrown. It was commented that the hedge should be maintained by the resident, however it was suggested that the contractor be contacted to ask how much it would cost for this longer bracket. If there is a charge then this can be passed onto the resident in this instance for their consideration.

The clerk has contacted NCC and chased them for payment. They have now contacted the clerk to inform the council that the payment should be paid by BACS by 15<sup>th</sup> January, therefore the clerk has raised the cheque in anticipation of this. The cheque will be sent to the contractor once the funds have cleared through the account. The contractor will also inform the clerk of the information needed to send to Power Networks to ensure that the energy costs will be reduced. The contractor has informed the clerk that the maintenance contract has reduced from £132 to £98 a month which is a significant saving. This will go down year on year as the new LED lights are installed.

### **Bus Service**

There were 7 passengers for 14<sup>th</sup> December, 3 passengers for 28<sup>th</sup> December with a subsidy of £100 for the Council to pay. The Council was disappointed that there were so few passengers on 28<sup>th</sup> December, however it was commented this date was between Christmas and New Year so many may have thought the service was not running. The Chairman mentioned that the service will be reviewed again in April and was hopeful that the numbers will rise otherwise the service may be in jeopardy. Cllr Fox stated with regret that the percentage of the precept being used for this service may not be justified if being used for 3 people. Cllr Shepherd stated that the Community Car Scheme cannot be used to transport residents shopping. Cllr Pratt mentioned that the passengers that used the Watton service do not now use the Swaffham service and this could have affected passenger numbers. The Chairman asked Mr Harris, a regular bus user, if he knew the reason for the decline in numbers. He stated that he was told that many of the passengers did not want the service on 28<sup>th</sup> December to run, but two passengers came forward to ask for the service so it had to proceed as normal. The Chairman asked whether the names of these two passengers should be sought, but it was decided to monitor the situation instead.

### **Training and Courses**

A meeting has been arranged in Downham Market on 31<sup>st</sup> January with Elizabeth Truss MP and other speakers. Cllr Burton is attending this meeting, and the clerk gave him an agenda. The new clerk expressed an interest in a training day in Norwich to take place in February. This was approved by the Council.

### **Devolving Services**

Cllr Burton attended a meeting on this subject and had asked the clerk prior to the meeting for various facts and figures from Highways. Cllr Burton gave his view on the matter and the clerk also explained that the service given by Breckland at present with regards to grass cutting is an extremely good one. At present NCC pay for 5 cuts when Breckland are actually doing between 12 and 14 a year. While the service has not been cut it would be prudent to stay with this scheme. The Chairman asked Cllr Burton what his thoughts were now after more information had come to light. He decided not to take this matter any further for now.

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#### **Bennetts Development**

The solicitor has informed the clerk that the land has now been transferred to the Parish Council and the land is currently being registered with the Land Registry. It was decided to now take this matter off the Agenda.

#### **Land transferred to the Parish Council from the late Miss Mary-Ann Turner**

A site meeting took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Cllrs marked and measured out the area and came to the conclusion that 6 more allotments can be offered to residents. It was also decided that it would be beneficial for the area to be fenced off at both the Malsters Close and Pig Styne lane ends. There is also some trimming of bushes, overhead branches to be cut and a tree to be felled. Boundary lines need to be marked out. The Chairman asked the council if an agreement could be made on the fencing so that quotes can be sought for the next meeting. He stated that approximately 30m of chain link fence was required on the southern side, the Pig Styne Lane end, at 1200mm in height. The Chairman had contacted a local firm for ideas on cost. They quoted £29 plus VAT per metre for concrete posts and £29.50 plus VAT per metre for galvanised posts. It was proposed by Cllr Fox that concrete posts should be purchased, this was seconded by Cllr Goad, all were in favour.

It was also decided at the site meeting that galvanised chain link would be most appropriate. The prices given to the Chairman for this were based on a 50m roll, so 20m will be left over.

Cllr Goodrham asked how far apart the posts should be, or whether there was a set distance. The Chairman stated that he did not know the answer to this.

The Chairman also mentioned that it was discussed on site that a resident from Malsters Close, who has more of an open garden, may not like a fence being erected at the bottom of his garden. The Chairman asked the council if they were happy with him consulting the resident about the council's plans first. The council agreed to this request but it was made clear that it is the council's decision to still erect a fence. It was also mentioned that the resident may wish to contribute to the cost.

Cllr Pratt asked whether sheds will be allowed on site. Cllr Shepherd stated that she thought sheds on allotments are not usually pretty and not a good idea due to temptation to thieves. There is also the matter of people placing unsightly garden rubbish and tools behind sheds which will be seen by residents from their gardens. Cllr Pratt added that if necessary a rule should be placed in the agreement to advise what size/shape the structure should be. He was also concerned over security to any structure placed on the site. The Chairman added that on reflection he felt there were more negatives than positives to allow sheds or any structures on the site and asked for a proposal on whether there should be structures allowed for allotment holders. Cllr Shepherd proposed that there should not be any structures, and this was seconded by Cllr Goad, all were in favour.

The matter of cutting and trimming bushes and trees was discussed again and whether volunteers should be allowed to participate in this. The Chairman asked the clerk her opinion. The clerk advised that she felt it was one thing asking volunteers to prune a few bushes, but anything involving felling trees etc should definitely be undertaken by a qualified and insured contractor due to the risk factor. It was then proposed by Cllr Weight that a contractor should be sought for the work, this was seconded by Cllr Pratt and all were in favour.

The next matter discussed was how to advertise the allotments to the residents. The Chairman asked whether it would be advantageous to advertise this in the newsletter inviting residents to contact the clerk on an agreed date and time, and this would then be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Cllr Fox stated that there will undoubtedly be more applications than allotments. In his opinion it would be better to place names of applicants into a hat and pick the first 6 out. All applicants can be invited to a meeting and an individual that is not connected to the Parish Council can lead the draw to make sure transparency is achieved.

Cllr Goad suggested that as this is very important and has to be done properly and not rushed, it would be sensible to invite residents to the March meeting. This would allow time to advertise the allotments, receive applications, formulate tenancy agreements and to invite all applicants.

Cllr Fox agreed with Cllr Goad and added that the applicants should contact the clerk in writing whether it be by e-mail or letter, no phone call applications will be valid.

The Chairman asked the council their thoughts on criteria. It was agreed that as long as the applicant is resident in Mundford then this would be all the criteria that is needed.

It was agreed the charge to allotment holders will be £10.00 per year.

Cllr Monson was asked to be the independent person to lead the draw in March, he stated that he would be honoured to do it.

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Cllr Steward stated that there may be funding available at Breckland to help with the fencing costs for the allotments. She advised that she would make enquiries to see whether this would be considered.

#### **Handyman, Litter Warden and Gardener**

The Chairman stated that there is still a problem with the refuse truck not picking up rubbish that has been dropped from the lorry. The Chairman had taken pictures to prove this on two occasions in the last month. He stated that it was from both the green and black bin collections. The Chairman mentioned to Cllr Steward that she advised she would look into this issue, and the clerk had copied her into a letter that was sent to Breckland about this matter. Cllr Steward advised that she had not had a response from Breckland about this issue, and the clerk stated that she had not received a reply either. Cllr Steward agreed that this was unacceptable and will look into this and report back to the clerk. She asked The Chairman for him to pass on the photos he had taken on his phone to her.

The Chairman stated that the Handyman had painted the Parish office.

#### **Anglia in Bloom**

Cllr Goad gave a brief summary of what was involved in this initiative. There are three sections; horticultural, environment & community participation, many that the village is involved with already. However, there are many practical and administrative tasks involved along with the costs. Every group or organisation in the village would need to be involved to make it a success which could prove a difficult task and a burden that may fall onto the clerk. Cllr Goad asked the council for their thoughts. Cllr Fox stated that he thought it was a big undertaking and this was agreed by others. It was proposed by Cllr Goodrham that the Council should not enter into this project at this time, and this was seconded by Cllr Fox. It was agreed to remove this from the Agenda. The Chairman thanked Cllr Goad for looking into this matter.

#### **Community Speedwatch Scheme**

The Co-ordinator of the scheme has informed the clerk that all checks have been done on the volunteers. The Police are now going to undertake site checks and refer back to the co-ordinator.

#### **Christmas Tree on Village Green**

The Chairman commented that he had received a good response from the public on the Christmas tree. He accepted that the tree could have been bigger, but this was donated, so the council was extremely grateful. Next year it was agreed to get a bigger tree if possible, and also to buy whiter lights to improve the look. Cllr Goodrham mentioned that decorations like presents and baubles should also be considered. He added that the children at the school could be asked to help make decorations that can be placed on the tree.

It was discussed that perhaps this Christmas the public are invited to a turning on the lights ceremony along with people singing Christmas Carols. The Chairman added that this was the first year with this project so there was bound to be teething problems, but overall he was very pleased with the result. No change of batteries were needed for the lights which was very positive.

#### **Litter Bin request on Impson Way Open Space**

The licence for the litter bin has now been received. The clerk had to return a copy of the council's insurance to prove public liability for the bin along with signing a copy of the licence. Breckland are now in receipt of this and have assured the clerk that the bin will be emptied along with others in the village.

On a similar subject, there is an old litter bin in the Parish Office that the council would like to donate to the Village Hall. Cllr Burton stated that the Village Hall would be very pleased for the donation. It was proposed by Cllr Goodrham that the bin should be donated to the Village Hall and this was seconded by Cllr Goad, all were in favour.

#### **Trailer on Lynford Road**

Correspondence was received from a resident in Lynford Road over his concerns of the trailer located opposite his house. This letter had been copied to the Parish Council after being sent to Cllr Steward. The clerk had made copies of the letter prior to the meeting so that the councillors had chance to read it. Cllr Steward gave a short update to the council and stated that the Enforcement team at Breckland are aware of the issues. Cllr Steward has been talking with residents along Lynford Road and is aware of all the issues. She will update the council when she has more information.

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#### **Volunteer Winter Gritting Programme**

The Chairman asked the council whether a grit spreader should be purchased for the volunteers. The new clerk advised that she would be very willing to keep the spreader in her garage. It was discussed whether the same spreader should be purchased as last time. Cllr Marston commented that the Bowls Club have never used the spreader that the Parish Council sold to them. It was proposed by Cllr Fox that the Bowls Club should be asked whether they will sell the spreader back to the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Goad, all were in favour. It was also agreed that Highways should be contacted in the first instance to make sure they will give permission for the grit spreader to be used.

#### **Bus Shelters**

The Church and Methwold Primary School have both been contacted to ask them not to place flyers in the Bus Shelters.

#### **Parish Office**

The Chairman asked the cleaner of the bus shelters whether he would quote to clean the frontage of the Parish Office. The cleaner advised the Chairman he would do the work at a very reasonable cost. He undertook the work and later invoiced the council for £20. The Chairman apologised to the Council for not passing a quote to the council first but he did not realise the cleaner would charge as much as this. The Chairman has since spoken to the handyman who is happy to clean the front of the office four times a year and charge his hourly rate. The Chairman asked the council for their thoughts. Cllr Fox proposed for the handyman to undertake the work and this was seconded by Cllr Shepherd, all were in favour. The handyman also advised that he would be happy to undertake minor repairs in the Parish office and paint the toilet area if necessary. The council agreed to ask the handyman to take on this work. Cllr Fox asked whether the handyman could be asked to clean the bus shelters as well. This was approved by the council.

The Chairman asked the new clerk what days of the week she intended to work from the office. She advised Tues/Weds/Thurs from 9am until 2pm. She advised the council that the phone line with the broadband will be set up by 24<sup>th</sup> January by British Telecom. She explained the costs involved but advised that this can be cancelled if the council decided to proceed with an alternative. It was proposed by Cllr Fox to use BT on a 24month term contract, this was seconded by Cllr Goad, all were in favour. The heating in the office seemed to be adequate, and the radiator had been left on for longer to dry out the paint in the office. Cllr Fox asked if there was a 7 day timer on the radiator in the office. The clerk advised that there was a timer on the radiator, but this was only for 24 hours. Cllr Fox added that he had seen a 7 day timer system in Asda that as long as it is adaptable for a radiator then he would be happy to purchase it on behalf of the council. This was approved by the Council.

#### **War Memorial Area**

Cllr Goodrham had witnessed an articulated lorry parked on the layby near the War Memorial that had backed its wheels up onto the verge. He was concerned that others may also do this and this area needs to be protected. The clerk advised that she had already spoken to Highways about this issue and they had reported that they could not place any bollards in the area due to cost. However, the representative from Highways mentioned that the Parish Partnerships Scheme could be used for this purpose. Due to the work being carried out at the memorial area to help with the flooding issue, it was suggested that the area should be left until properly landscaped. However, the clerk mentioned that maybe Breckland could be approached to see whether any funding would be available to protect the War Memorial, especially with the WW1 celebrations later this year. The council discussed the idea and firstly agreed to apply for funding for oak bollards to be placed in the area. However it was also discussed that they didn't want to jeopardise funding for the allotments. Cllr Steward advised that she would speak to Breckland about both issues to see what would be the best way to achieve some funding. Cllr Goodrham stated that the War Memorial should be cleaned this year, and asked what was recommended to clean a memorial. The clerk advised she would contact the War Memorials Trust for their recommendations.

#### **Grass Cutting**

The clerk will speak with the grass contractor Mr Smith to ask him to suspend the cutting of the trees adjacent to the A134 as the spring bulbs are already appearing.

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**8. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**9. Finance**

**9.1 Accept and sign cheques**

The Chairman read the cheque payments out for January, and Cllr Weight proposed that they should be accepted and signed. This was seconded by Cllr Goad, all were in favour.

The following payments were authorised at the meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014, and cheques were signed by Cllr Fox and Cllr Shepherd. The payments sheet was signed by the Chairman.

| <b>Cheque</b> | <b>Description</b>                  | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 101645        | Iceni Pest Control – subscription   | £ 48.00      |
| 101646        | West Norfolk Community Transport    | £ 100.00     |
| 101647        | K & M Lighting Services (contract)  | £ 158.12     |
| 101648        | K & M Lighting Services (LED's)     | £11970.00    |
| 101649        | Mrs A Shepherd (CCS)                | £ 200.00     |
| 101650        | Mr D Freeman (Bus Shelter cleaning) | £ 80.00      |
| 101651        | Mr S Eyres (Parish Office paint)    | £ 45.44      |
| 101652        | The Crown Hotel (hire of venue)     | £ 30.00      |
| 101653        | Mr A Veal (Litter Warden)           | £ 62.10      |
| 101654        | Mr N Balding (Handyman)             | £ 44.72      |
| 101655        | Post Office (HMRC)                  | £ 67.79      |
| 101656        | NPTP (Training)                     | £ 45.00      |
| 101657        | Mrs F Brown (Salary/tel/post)       | £ 794.51     |

The savings account stands at £16,085.45

**9.2 Accounts**

A date is to be agreed to sign over the accounts from the clerk to a member of the council before they can be signed over to the new clerk. Cllr Weight kindly offered to have the accounts signed over to him. The date agreed was 21<sup>st</sup> January as this is the clerk's last date of work. The clerk will contact Barclays to arrange for the online banking to be removed from her accounts. A new mandate will be needed to allow the new clerk to view the accounts online.

**9.3 Website**

A report was read out from Rosemary Godfrey. She has completed a high number of tasks this month that the clerk has given her and encouragingly there have been 156 visitors to the site this month. The Chairman asked whether a title of summer 2013 could be placed on the aerial photos that have been added to the website recently.

At this point the Cllr Shepherd had the leave the meeting and a presentation

**10. Planning Applications**

**3PL/2013/0907/D Vacant land adjacent 60-62 Malsters Close.** Description: Erection of two detached houses with integral garages & parking spaces off a private drive. Objections were sent relating to the previous application. Approval of reserved matters 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

**3PL/2013/0957/F 53 The Lammas, Mundford.** Description: Change of use – domestic garage to dog grooming workshop. Permission granted 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**3PL/2013/1056/LB The Cottage 26a St Leonards Street, Mundford.** Description: Addition of 1<sup>st</sup> floor dormer to rear & replacement of existing windows with double glazed units. No objections sent.

**11. Street Lighting**

The Chairman mentioned that the alleyway through from the garages in Wissey View to Billy Emms Court is quite dim and the pathway is dark. A new LED has been placed next to the garages in Wissey

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View and it has made a big difference, therefore the Chairman proposed that the next LED purchased on the contract should be placed here, all were in favour. Cllr Fox mentioned that a light in the Brecklands is slightly obscured by a tree. The clerk will contact the householder to kindly ask them to cut this back.

#### 12. Reports

##### **District Cllr Ann Steward**

Cllr Steward stated that not a lot had happened over Christmas to report. Breckland are looking at making cuts and are sharing their Chief Executive with another District Council. Breckland are looking at all the services they provide and want local people's input. Breckland supports the Older People's Forum, currently they are keen to raise awareness on Dementia. Cllr Steward discussed the Thetford Improvements, and plans for the Riverside development are progressing at last.

Cllr Steward gave her huge thanks to the clerk which was much appreciated. The clerk thanked Cllr Steward for her help and support over the years.

##### **County Cllr Ian Monson**

Cllr Monson mentioned the big issue of the County Council budget. The consultation has now finished and decisions will be made on the results. £25million more savings are needed which is becoming increasingly difficult to make. Cllr Monson stated that no bus services in our area will be affected, but there will be cuts across all departments.

The Brandon relief road is still under consideration. Cllr Monson mentioned that with the completion of the dualling of the A11 the County Council need to sign either via the Thetford A134 or through Brandon. He asked the council for their opinion. Cllr Fox thought it would be a good idea to direct the traffic through Thetford to avoid Brandon, but the Satellite Navigation needs to be updated so that traffic will follow the route.

The Chairman added that he did not think it was a good idea to direct more traffic down the A134 as there are many safety issues on this road. He mentioned two places which are accident hotspots and increasing traffic will only make this worse.

Cllr Goodrham agreed with the Chairman's point and stated that the road also needed re-surfacing in places. Further discussion took place on this subject and Cllr Monson advised that he would take all the comments on board.

Cllr Goodrham asked Cllr Monson if the newly chipped road would be re-patched in the area that had been previously reported as breaking up. Cllr Monson stated that there is little in the budget to do anything, but it was his understanding that this would be monitored by Highways. Cllr Monson agreed to refer this back to Highways again, but could not promise anything.

##### **Village Hall**

The Village Hall meeting had been postponed to next week due to the Parish Council meeting taking place on the same evening. Cllr Burton will give a report at the next meeting.

##### **School**

There was no report.

##### **STANTA**

Regular training reports are being sent to the council and these are being placed on the website as well as being placed in the notice board.

#### 13. Members' Matters

The Chairman asked for volunteers to help plant some daffodil bulbs that had been left over from the Autumn. One Cllr came forward and one resident to help plant the bulbs on Saturday morning.

The Chairman also stated that he was dismayed to hear that a resident had thought he was making financial gain for some of the activities he has done for the council. He asked if the council would mind if he added a small statement in the next newsletter to advise that councillors are volunteers and he had not financially gained from his time on the council. This was approved.

With nothing more to discuss, the meeting closed at 10pm

**Minutes of the Mundford Parish Council Meeting  
Held at Mundford Primary School, Mundford  
on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_