

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mundford Parish Council  
Held at Mundford Primary School  
on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Present:**

Cllr. M Eyles, Chairman, Cllr J Goad, Cllr S Eyres, Cllr A Shepherd, Cllr T Fox, Cllr C Weight, Cllr J Marston, County Councillor Ian Monson, Mrs F Brown (Clerk to the Council) and 3 members of the public.

**1. The Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed those present. The Chairman explained the procedure of the meeting to new members of the public. He declared the meeting open.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors J Miles and D Goodrham and District Councillor A Steward.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2010**

The minutes were duly agreed and signed as a true record.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

None to declare.

**5. Meeting suspended for public participation**

A member of the public asked if this section could be placed at the end of the meeting to give those present a chance to speak after all items on the Agenda had been discussed in case they had any further comment. The Chairman explained the reasons why this section is No 5 on the Agenda and asked County Councillor Ian Monson how it is done at County level, which he fully explained. The Chairman then opened this to discussion. Councillor Eyres suggested the Council could have two sections in the Agenda to give the public opportunity to speak. The Chairman suggested that this should be an Agenda item for next month.

**6. Matters Arising:**

**6.1 Outstanding Highway Matters**

**White Lines on junction of Crown Road and A134, and outside 14/16 Crown Road.**

This is on Highways work schedule from 16/10/09, however this will not be completed until the weather improves as the paint does not stick to the surface when it is wet. It also depends when funds are available.

**Concrete base to be removed from roundabout**

This was reported again along with a broken chevron sign on the roundabout in early February. The Highways engineer visited the Clerks home and explained that he is happy to take the concrete base away at the same time as the sign. However, due to the problems of potholes, signs and other matters are not priority at the moment so this may not be done for a few weeks.

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**31, St Leonards Street – flooding problems**

The owner of No31 has experienced many problems with flooding and it is now coming through her walls. Highways have visited the area and agreed that there needs to be a permanent solution here. Highways have stated that they have to apply for funding for anything costing over £1k so The Clerk has asked the resident to take photos of the area when the flooding is at its worst so that evidence can be given to Highways to help with their funding application. The Clerk has taken some photos of the area and submitted them to Highways showing the problem with drainage in that area.

**Fir Close – Flooding Problems**

Highways have completed some investigations and have partially cleared the outfall area which is opposite the road on the Cricket Club Dyke side. They have agreed to make a more thorough clean up in the coming months and report to the Clerk.

**Swaffham Road calming measures**

A letter was received from Highways which has since been circulated to the Council. However it was read out again for the benefit of the public. It confirmed that if the Council wanted the flashing sign to be moved then they would have to pay for it, as highways believe that it is in the right place. The area is to be inspected to see if countdown markers can be fitted and to be included on the ‘think’ campaign. Mr Chegwiddden who brought the matter to the attention of the Council has been informed by the Clerk.

**Crown Road Pub Sign**

The Clerk has sent a letter to Barry Walker at the pub asking him to erect the sign and if he does not have it to contact the Council. As yet there has been no response so the Clerk informed the Council that she will order a new sign anyway.

**Crown Road 30mph sign**

The sign was bent by a lorry turning into Crown Road. The sign has been lifted back to its original position, however it needs concreting in again. Highways have been informed and it is on their work schedule.

**Street nameplate damaged on St Leonards Street**

This has now been done.

**Bus services**

An article was placed in the recent newsletter encouraging residents to use the Swaffham Bus Service. The Clerk received timetables for all the bus routes that travel through Mundford. A more readable document was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting so that it hopefully gave Councillors more time to formulate comments. The Chairman suggested that the service originating in Northwold which picked up at Mundford shortly after 9am en-route to Thetford could be earlier so that people who worked in Thetford could possibly use the bus. This suggestion will be sent to NCC for their views. It was also suggested by the Chairman that the document the Clerk produced should be placed in the notice board and the forthcoming newsletter for people to read.

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**Litter Pick**

The Chairman started by saying that it would be nice if everyone treated Mundford like it was a garden. He mentioned that the Clerk is looking into prices to buy equipment for litter picking so that we may keep on top of it, however it is understood that the equipment can be borrowed from Breckland Council if needed. It was agreed that it should be mentioned in the newsletter. The Clerk reported that there were four people on the volunteer list so far which is encouraging as the newsletter has only just gone out to residents.

The Clerk pointed out that she had contacted Breckland after the previous meeting to report the bad state of the 'A' roads just outside Mundford. The Clerk stated that the A134 towards Thetford had been done on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and was looking so much better and the A1065 towards Brandon should be done the following week. She commented that she had had a lot of correspondence from Dale at Breckland who was keen to hear from the Council with their comments.

Cllr Goad stated that the litter bin by the bench opposite Malsters Close has been monitored since the previous meeting and it is not being used very much. He suggested that the bin should be moved opposite No7 Malsters Close as this is where the High School students wait for the bus, besides other people walking along this way. The Chairman pointed out that it may be necessary to contact Highways to find out if there are any cables under the suggested section of grass before the litter bin is moved. The Clerk will contact Highways.

The Chairman reported that there was a silencer box and debris outside 28 Swaffham Road that needs to be cleared away. The Clerk will report this.

**Dog Fouling**

The Dog Warden has visited Mundford and the Chairman read out an e-mail from him. The Clerk has received information from a resident in the Brecklands stating that she is aware of an owner who is letting their dog foul on the pavements but she was unwilling to give the name and address. The Chairman suggested it would be a good idea to mention this matter in the newsletter, encouraging residents to report their findings to the dog warden directly, or if they are not comfortable with this, to report them to the Clerk who will report them on their behalf.

Cllr Weight advised that the Dog warden had visited him and left him a notice that he can erect by the footpath near his home at West Hall.

**No Cold calling in Brecklands**

The notice has been erected and the Clerk was informed that resident packs will be sent out shortly. It was discussed that there had been a lot of Jehovahs Witness activity in the area and wondered if that constitutes 'cold calling'. The Clerk will ask Duncan Harris who is in charge of this project.

**Mole Hills on land opp Malsters Close**

Cllr Fox explained that when there is a prolonged spell of better weather the moles will be dealt with.

**Weeting Wind Farm**

The Clerk circulated all the relevant information prior to the meeting for comments. There were no comments given so the Chairman asked if there were any comments

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that the Council would like to pass onto the developers. Cllr Fox stated that he accepted their ideas. He also mentioned that he had been contacted by a Councillor from Hockwold and their village is against the proposal. There was a good positive discussion and it was proposed by Cllr Fox that we should write a letter of support for the Wind farm. This was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and a show of hands proved a majority. The Clerk will send a letter to the developers.

**Support for Croxton**

A letter was received from the Chairman of Croxton Parish Council which was read out by the Chairman. A detailed discussion took place and other sites were discussed that were more suitable for such a development. Councillor Goad proposed that a letter of support should be sent to Croxton and this was seconded by Cllr Fox.

**Open Morning 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The Clerk, Cllr Shepherd, District Councillor Steward and County Councillor Monson will all be attending the open morning at the Village Hall. The Clerk mentioned that she had found the Archive material so she will show this on the laptop. The Chairman added that Cllr Shepherd will be there to offer advice about the Community Car Scheme and both the District and County Councillors will be there to offer their support. It is hopeful that there is a very positive outcome from this.

**Mundford Pride Scheme**

Cllr Shepherd advised that she had two names that had been given to her by residents. Six had proposed Mrs Connie Coombs and three had proposed Mrs Linda Willis, both for helping people in the village. It was decided that they are both worthy of the award and should be invited to the meeting next month. The Clerk to send letters to them both.

**7. Correspondence**

Training for the Chairman and the Clerk. The Chairman advised that the three week course had started this evening so he could not attend tonight's, however he was keen to attend the other two as the course looked very informative. The Clerk's training day is on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

The new Standing Orders for Local Councils had recently been published and the Clerk advised that she will look through the document and liaise with the Chairman before bringing the amended document to the Council at a later meeting. The document is 37 pages long so it will need to be circulated to Councillors first before being agreed at a future meeting.

A letter was received from the Breckland Partnership titled 'Your Partnership Your Decision', informing Council's, organisations, charities etc that they were successful in receiving £25,000 from the Norfolk Strategic Partnership to help projects in Breckland. The Clerk will circulate the document to see if anyone has any ideas for the funding.

**8. Finance**

The following payments were authorised at the meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 by the Parish Council and cheques signed by Cllrs M Eyles and S Eyres

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<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
101105	Mr S Eyles (Grill)	£ 35.25
101106	J Hubble (Litter Warden)	£ 65.00
101107	Mr M Eyles (Gardener)	£ 65.00
101108	F Brown (Sal/Tel)	£ 585.46
101109	E.ON (Electric for Parish Office)	£ 146.63
101110	MHB Street Light Maint	£ 146.01
101111	Denman's Travel (bus contract)	£ 70.00
101112	Mundford Village Hall (open morn)	£ 5.00
101113	Void Cheque	£ 0
101114	NPTP (training for Clerk/Chairman)	£ 85.00

### **8.1 Precept**

The Clerk contacted Breckland District Council and was informed that the precept was approved.

### **8.2 Sponsorship of roundabout**

A sketch drawing was sent to Stuart Hellingsworth at NCC and a copy sent to Adrian Sewell at Highways for consent. At present the Council is still waiting for approval, however four signs will not be approved so the Clerk has asked for two. NCC will advise the Council accordingly. There was a short discussion regarding the plan and the Clerk explained what Wil Smith the Gardener and supplier of the plants was going to do once consent was approved. Councillor Eyres explained that he thought there was to be a dome in the middle of the roundabout and was unsure why the plants were only on the rim of the roundabout. The Clerk advised that she will get the copy of the plan back from NCC as this was a more detailed A3 colour version and circulate it to the Council. However, the Clerk did explain that it is important to get the consent first and due to the fact there are only bedding plants being placed on the roundabout, in theory, it should not be a problem if the plan has to be altered slightly as long as the man hole is not covered in anyway. Clerk to circulate plan.

### **8.3 Future Projects**

The Chairman asked if there were any more ideas for future projects that were different from the previous meeting. There were none. The Chairman did mention that even though the idea of re-surfacing the other half of the Village Hall Car Park was not well received by the Council, it could be used as a basketball court or other multi-surface games area to utilise the space. There were no comments given by the other Councillors on this suggestion so the Chairman motivated the meeting to move on. Councillor Goad asked if there had been any feedback regarding the idea of building a waiting room area for the Doctors Surgery in the Village Hall. Councillor Marston added that he had not attended the last Village Hall meeting to put this idea forward, however, the Chairman said that he had approached a couple of people at the surgery to ask their opinion and their view was that they liked it the way it is so they can see the coming and goings of people etc.

The Clerk advised that she had looked into the website idea and had found a link through the NALC for a free website. She explained that the site was fairly basic, but in her opinion it was worth looking into as it gave Mundford Parish Council an

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opportunity to start a website for free and support is given. The Council agreed for the Clerk to register and the Clerk asked for everyone's consent to place their names and addresses onto the website which she achieved.

There were further discussions on future projects, but nothing was agreed or decided so the Chairman asked everyone to think about this for the next meeting.

**Over 60's lunch club**

Cllr Goad gave a letter to the Chairman that was read out to the full Council. In summary, the Over 60's club are not willing to run the club themselves and suggested that the Council should ask the younger people of the village if they would like to volunteer to run it as the club would be happy to attend. The Clerk advised that she will speak to the two volunteers that had come forward for their opinion before advertising it further.

**9. Planning Applications**

3PL/2010/0091/F Yallops Stores, St Leonards St, Mundford. Conversion of a store to a Hairdressing Salon. No objections were sent to Breckland. Cllr Eyres stated that he was surprised that work had already started on the site before the proposed application was granted. Cllr Fox advised that as soon as an application is registered at the Council then work can commence, however, if the application was refused then the work already done would have to be removed.

**10. New Highway Matters**

Prior to the meeting there was a drain on Crown Road that was reported to be blocked. A pot hole was reported outside No 12, Malsters Close, and flooding on the roundabout which has since been reported with photo evidence.

The following were reported at the meeting:

Overhanging branches on the other side of the road to 42-52 Brecklands.

Pot hole reported outside 11, West Hall Road.

Pivot hedge on the side of No 2 Fir Close needs cutting as it blocks view for vehicles turning onto the A134.

Drain blocked opposite Village Hall on School side.

Cllr Marston reported that there has been an increase of vehicles parking near to the turning from the A134 onto St Leonards St, mainly at school pick up times. This can be hazardous when cars have to brake sharply to turn in as it is so busy at these times. The Clerk will report this to Breckland along with photo evidence to ask for double yellow lines upto the school.

**11. Street Lighting**

NCC Street light No13 was reported damaged on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The column has since been removed and made safe until a new one can be fitted.

It was reported that light No 46 is dim and the street light that is on the bridge near the Lynford Road turning is not working. Cllr Goad read No 30 on the wooden column but was unsure it was the right number. The Clerk will investigate. There have also been reports that a group of people have been seen hanging off a street light column which could not only cause problems to the light, but it is also dangerous. It was suggested that a note be placed in the newsletter about this.

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**12. Reports**

County Councillor Ian Monson firstly apologised for not attending the last meeting and for failing to give his apologies. He stated that there will be a 1.9% increase in Council Tax which is the lowest level for 15 years, despite enormous pressure on budgets. There will be cuts on services and staff reductions which is not good news, but he stated that the public will not notice much of a difference. He explained that he was responsible for waste and the environment and he reported that the NCC is closing one recycling centre and reducing staff hours on certain other sites. The nearest to Mundford that is effected is Crimplesham, which will be closed Tues/Weds and Thurs. NCC is looking to modernise the recycling system.

There will be cuts in children/social services.

He explained the local government re-organisation, including the award to Norwich for Unitary Status which was a surprise to many. This is being challenged at the House of Commons so it is not finalised yet.

With regards to Highway matters, Cllr Monson discussed the huge problem of pot holes, and as fast as they are being fixed they are breaking up again. In a lot of cases repairing the carriageway is the only way to solve the problem. However he encouraged the Council to report any potholes that are seen so NCC can see the extent of the problem.

He advised that he has asked for Mundford to be on the gritting schedule for next winter along with a few more villages in his area. He has also asked if salt can be put on the pavements as well. The list has not been finalised yet as this will be done in the summer. He informed the Council to please ask residents to clear areas outside their homes and shops etc if possible. NCC made the statement earlier this year that people will not be liable if they clear their footpaths and pavements outside their homes.

The Chairman asked invited questions to Cllr Monson.

Councillor Eyres asked why the Council Tax was kept so low when services are being cut so much?

Cllr Monson stated that there has to be a balance, to offer all services and be fair to tax payers.

The Chairman invited a discussion on the Unitary Status and this was explained to the Council more fully by Cllr Monson.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Monson , but asked him again to keep asking for Mundford to be placed on the gritting schedule for next year as it was very important to the village.

District Councillor Steward was not present and did not give a report to the clerk.

The Village Hall Committee Minutes will be circulated shortly.

The next Governors meeting is to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March so a report will be given at the next meeting. There is still no response from Cllr Steward from the school regarding a previous statement that Breckland may be able to help with match funding for the fence.

The Chairman stated that he had been contacted by Methwold Parish Council with regards to our colourful village and they have a committee named 'Methwold in

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Bloom' and they asked him to attend. He pointed out that he gave them some advice, and they were very complimentary of what Mundford had achieved.

**13. Members' Matters**

Cllr Shepherd mentioned that there had been a second meeting with regards to the Youth Project on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This was well attended and a Chairman and Vice Chairman were elected. They are having difficulties finding dates that fit in with the village hall, but hopefully once everything is in place there may be a space that they can have. The next step is to ask the youngsters at the bus stop for their ideas.

The Chairman advised that he along with the Clerk had had a few complaints over the lorry trailer that is being used for storage at the back of the village hall.

The Cricket Club are also unhappy with the site and have suggested that it should be painted at least. There was a short discussion on this and it was decided to send a letter to the village hall committee offering our help with this matter.

The matter of rubbish was discussed down Pig Stye Lane. A local resident, Mr Rolph has seen the culprit who the Council have suspected for some time purposely dropping litter in this area. When Mr Rolph approached him he laughed and walked away. It was decided that this matter should be reported to the Enforcement Officer at Breckland. The Clerk advised that Mr Rolph should be asked for his consent to put his name forward as a witness. The Chairman will speak with him about this and inform the clerk.

Cllr Goad mentioned that he had monitored the litter bin on the grassed area opposite Malsters Close and the level of rubbish is very low. He suggested that the litter bin is moved to the verge on the opposite side. The Chairman suggested that Highways should be approached first as there may be cables underneath the area.

Cllr Weight mentioned that there was a lot of litter left by the bench near Impson Way and suggested that a litter bin be placed there. Cllr Eyres stressed that this is a rare occurrence and it was only due to the Fish Van being there the night before. It was decided that this should be monitored.

Cllrs Eyres and Goad pointed out that the old plants had been taken out of the tubs on the verge opposite Malsters Close and asked if the gardener had done this. The Chairman pointed out that he had not done this as yet, but advised that he will re-plant the tubs shortly. He then added that due to lack of time, he feels that it would be a good idea to resign from the job of Gardener. He will place this in the forthcoming newsletter.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_