

MUNDON PARISH COUNCIL

(DRAFT) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 8PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

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Website: Mundon.org – Tel: 07789 342747

Present: Cllr Gavin Rowsell (Chair), Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie (Vice-Chair),
Cllr John Bennett, Cllr Diane Leggett and Cllr Marita Ponting

In Attendance: Mrs Jackie Lines – Parish Clerk/RFO
District Cllr Tony Fittock

Members of Public: 3

Meeting Commenced: 8pm

52. Chairman's welcome and to receive apologies of absence.

No absences or apologies received.

53. Declarations of Interest

- a) To receive declarations of interest for any agenda items – **no declarations of interest received.**
- b) Members noted their responsibility to make any changes to their register of interests within 28 days and to let the Parish Clerk know that it had been done.

54. Public Forum

Traffic Calming Measures

Due to the increased volume of traffic on the Dengie, a resident requested the 40mph zones be extended either side of the 30mph zone within the village.

Current TruCAM attendance was discussed and it was felt by a resident additional measures were required. Ideas such as average speed cameras and single file traffic areas were suggested.

The Clerk confirmed average speed cameras had been reviewed during 2022 and initial steps taken, however the results of independent surveys carried out during Sept and Nov 2022 revealed a good level of speed compliance. Therefore assistance with funding for Mundon could not be provided. VAS and SID devices were suggested at the time as alternatives and details were obtained however, they were felt to be too similar to the existing device located near the Victory Hall.

Members recalled in previous years, single file traffic areas were looking to go ahead however, there had been one objection at the time and the project could not progress.

Clerk to make contact with Adam Pipe, Head of Roads Policing again to see if average speed cameras are still an option and whether they would be viable for a small village. Gather cost information and to check whether the ongoing maintenance and offence processing continue to be challenging.

A survey for residents to complete regarding traffic calming measures was suggested by a resident.

Maldon District Council – Pre-application Advice and Duty Planner Service

A question was raised whether this service continues to be suspended. Cllr Fittock confirmed the service is still unavailable at present, although looking to be reintroduced however, staffing resources continue to be a problem.

55. Minutes of the previous meeting – 16 July 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 July 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record – **unanimous decision**.

56. County/District Councillors Report

District Cllr Fittock confirmed some current subject matters being addressed by Maldon District Council at present are:

- A response tomorrow to the NPPF consultation following the Labour government trying to push forward with proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.
- The consultation on the future transport of Essex.
- The proposal of relocating services from St Peter's hospital. MDC have confirmed their offices are not available to the NHS for this purpose and are currently acting as a contingent to the NHS.

57. Policies, Procedures, Risk Assessments and Contracts

- a) It was resolved to agree the amendment to the Co-Option Policy – **unanimous decision**.
- b) It was resolved to re-adopt the Health and Safety Policy – **unanimous decision**.

58. Public Transport

Cllr Ponting confirmed there were:

- No reported problems.
- Mill Road closure – absolute chaos! Contacted First Bus re: High Street stops and advised to use Cups Corner and St Peter's Hospital, not convenient for elderly and disabled. Due to close again July 2025, hopefully better organised.
- New 99 service between Maldon and Broomfield – limited to 2 there and 3 back.
- Messaged First Bus re: new September 1st timetable to be displayed at bus stops. Awaiting reply.

59. The Furze

The Wood Wardens confirmed the footpaths continue to be kept clear and the bramble growth is now slowing. Cllr Rowsell thanked the Wood Wardens for their continued work in keeping The Furze a cherished woodland for the parish.

The kissing gate repair and the request for an additional gate will take place with the assistance of Stud Farm. Cllr Rowsell to liaise with the Wood Wardens to conclude.

The offer of tree packs from Woodland Trust was reviewed, no requirement at present.

The Furze continues to be free from any damage from electric bikes, therefore no further action.

60. Grass Cutting/Verges

Cllr Leggett reported no issues had been raised and all seems in order at present.

A review of the grass cutting costs and quotes to be obtained in readiness for the 2025/26 financial year.

61. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wylie reported the 'Mundon Village Neighbourhood Watch' Facebook page has 27 members. It is a closed group for only those who live in the village, it can be found by searching on the name or by searching facebook.com/groups/2381394125383537.

There have been a couple of incidents of fly-tipping in Blind Lane in recent weeks. They were reported to MDC and the rubbish removed within a matter of hours. It was reported that some 'evidence' from the rubbish was forwarded to Lee Williams, Environmental Enforcement Officer at MDC to try and find the perpetrators.

On 1st September the Police held a Beat Surgery in the Victory Hall. Items raised were speeding in the village, fly tipping and HGV's using Blind Lane.

Next Chelmsford and Maldon NHW meetings are 24th and 26th September.

62. Woodside

The Clerk reported the parish council's solicitors had confirmed the registration for the parish council's title to the land at Woodside Green had been completed and is held electronically by the Land Registry.

The paths have been highlighted as requiring future maintenance and several avenues of funding are currently being explored and applied for.

A resident suggested possible further help from the Community Payback Team, however it was noted more work than the neatening of edges and the pulling of weeds is required.

63. Website and Social Media

Cllr Rowsell reported there are currently 316 followers on Facebook with numbers increasing slowly. Contact Cllr Rowsell if there is anything else people would like to see on Facebook.

The website is kept up to date and relies on people accessing the links to make sure all is working correctly. If anyone experiences any problems, please contact Cllr Rowsell or the Clerk.

64. Planning

a) Planning Applications For Information Only and for Review

No new applications received.

b) Planning Decisions (and awaiting Decisions)

23/00342/VAR PP-12045353

Wycke View Farm, Main Road, Mundon

Removal of condition 2 (occupation of dwelling) on approved planning MAR/253/67 (Erection of dwelling for agricultural worker, OS field 213, Sparrow Wycke Farm, Mundon)

MDC confirmed on 26 March 2024 the appeal was allowed (remove from future agendas)

23/00440/OUT PP-12118536

Land north of Willow Grove, Maldon Road, Mundon

Outline planning application (with all matters of detail reserved for future determination except for means of access) for the erection of up to two dwellings

MDC refused the application on 17 Nov 2023, appeal start date 20 June 2024 and appeal in progress as at 11 Sept 2024.

24/00468/FUL PP-13122898

Proposed conversion of existing barn to annexe

Land at Sparrow Wycke Farm, Main Road, Mundon

MDC approved the application in week 30 ending 26 July 2024

24/00469/HOUSE PP-13126844

Demolition of single storey extensions to side and rear to facilitate two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Removal of canopy projection to principal elevation to be replaced with new porch. Removal of chimney to rear. Alterations to fenestration.

The Forge, Main Road, Mundon

MDC approved the application week 35 ending 30 Aug 2024

c) National Planning Policy Framework 2024 Reform (NPPF24)

Consider and resolve a Parish Council response – Consultation closes on 24 Sept 2024.

Cllr Fittock confirmed Labour are proposing a reversal of the recent changes made by the Conservative Government which were implemented to protect Local Development Plans from speculative developments. The District council has responded to the full consultation and for the consultation to be responded to directly from all levels in addition would be beneficial.

To assist, Cllr Fittock offered to provide some pointers and encouraged parishes and individuals to respond.

d) Planning Correspondence:

Members noted receipt via email of the following:

List of planning applications, decisions and appeals weeks 29 to 36.

65. Highways

- a) To receive any updates on outstanding or new highways matters – Essex Highways had recently responded to a complaint regarding the tarmac in New Hall Lane subsiding and lifting. Poor workmanship and accountability had been questioned. In summary, it was felt to be due to a mixture of farm traffic and heat. The situation will be monitored until the warmer weather subsides and then assessed for what needs to be done.

The clerk has created a schedule of enquires and defect references logged on the Essex Highways website for Mundon and a copy has been forwarded to Cllr Stamp. Update requests via email against each enquiry reference have been submitted.

- b) To review information received from the Community Engagement Team after carrying out regular speed checks via a TruCAM – the monthly patrols continue and the results reflect:

July 2024 = 3 offenders

August 2024 = 10 offenders

- c) To receive an update on village gateways.
No further updates have been received, the request was lodged with Cllr Stamp for the Local Highways Panel (LHP) and previous advice confirmed the matter could take considerable time whilst the LHP was under review.

66. Community

- a) A Policing Team Beat Surgery was held on Sunday 1st September in the Victory Hall. Further surgeries will be advertised in advance with as much notice as possible.
- b) Cllr Leggett confirmed the summer fete held on Saturday 10th August had been successful and well attended, with a good feel of community spirit. Thanks went to Cllr Fittock for judging and the Committee looks forward to making this an annual event.
- c) To consider and resolve any requests for the use of funds - no requests received. Continue to hold funds and report separately – **unanimous decision.**
- d) To review and approve the Fundraising Statement of Account at 31 August 2024 – agreed – **unanimous decision.**

**Mundon Parish Council
Fundraising Account
1 July to 31 August 2024**

Income

B/Fwd 30 June 2024	286.05
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**Summer Village
Fete (10 Aug 24)**

Bric-a Brac	30.10	
Refreshments	61.70	
Tombola	86.00	
Raffle	121.00	
	<hr/>	298.80

Total Income		<hr/> 584.85
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Less: Expenditure

Cakes and Drinks	54.20
Prizes	43.80
Sweets Game	27.49
Raffle Book	10.00
Table Flowers	10.00
Gift for Judge	18.86
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		164.35
Surplus Income		<hr/> <hr/> 420.50

67. Plume Educational Trust

Cllr Wylie confirmed there was nothing to report at this time as there had not been a meeting. Later this month the amount in the funds will be looked into and a scholarship ‘pot’ will be decided. Applications should have been received by now by the Trust’s clerk.

68. Correspondence

There was no additional correspondence other than already circulated via email or detailed as a separate agenda item.

69. Finance

- a) To review and approve receipts, payments, bank reconciliation and budget - v - actual reports for July and August 2024 - List of payments are circulated to members at the end of each month prior to the meeting – **unanimously agreed** and signed off my Cllr Rowsell.

Jul-24						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
17/24-25	01/07/2024	SLCC	Annual membership from 1 Aug 2024	112.00		112.00
18/24-25	03/07/2024	Mow My Lawn	Inv 1590 grass cutting 14 and 28 June 2024	150.00		150.00
19/24-25	24/07/2024	Maldon District Council	Inv MUN20190973 - April to June 2024 inc. Engagement Team Servs	127.41	25.48	152.89
20/24-25	31/07/2024	Clerk	Salary and home office month 4 - July 2024	438.38		438.38

Aug-24						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
21/24-25	28/07/2024	Mow My Lawn	Inv 1598 grass cutting 12 and 26 July 2024	150.00		150.00
22/21-25	01/08/2024	Victory Hall	Victory Hall hire x2 hrs Sept 2024 meeting	16.00		16.00
23/21-25	30/08/2024	Clerk	Salary and home office month 5 - August 2024	394.50		394.50

- b) Quotations from three internal auditors for the 31 March 2025 year end were reviewed and considered. It was resolved internal auditor Deborah O’Brien would be appointed to carry out an annual remote audit – **unanimous decision**.
- c) It was resolved to use the Capital Reserve funds for a replacement bus shelter roof and a litter bin to be placed on the Victory Hall side of the Main Road if the Locality Funding was unavailable. Quotes to be collated – **unanimous decision**.
- d) It was resolved to submit an application for Locality Funding this year, if it was still available, to help with a replacement roof for the bus shelter and an additional litter bin. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Stamp – **unanimous decision**.

70. Archiving – Essex Records Office (ERO)

Consider and resolve Agreement for the Custody of Records and material which did not merit preservation. It was resolved to request the ERO to destroy any duplicates on the parish council’s behalf. Clerk to sign and return Agreement to ERO – **unanimous decision**.

71. Training

Cllr training days 1 and 2 take place on 12th and 19th September with Cllr Ponting attending. No further requests for training received.

72. External Meetings

Cllr Ponting attended the Maldon & Heybridge Transport and Bus Users Group meeting on the 9th September 2024, topics discussed:

- LCWIP – Local cycling and walking plan and LTP4 – Local Transport Plan consultations.

- Public questions – buses not turning up; which timetable online is current; updating at bus stops; buses servicing new estates. - ECC responsible for hard copies of timetable. Servicing of new estates is dependent on occupancy, then goes out to tender.
- Arrows – running at a loss for 3yrs (since Covid), didn't win enough tenders to continue.
- Labour government committed to Bus travel – Local authority led rather than Bus companies.
- Meeting with MPs and bus companies on Friday 13th September to discuss way forward.

Working group presentation – looked at challenges of bus transport

- Service times designed for bus companies not necessarily users.
- Timetables, routes, stock not Euro 6* compliant.
- Redesign current bus services, better connectivity, access to healthcare, reduce car usage.
- 71% districts residents travel to work by car.
- Proposed new routes - Chelmsford North train station, villages, new estates, access to healthcare and education.
- Better partnership between bus companies, residents, bus user groups and Passenger Transport.

*Euro 6 – standards to reduce emissions and air quality

CLLr Rowsell attended the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils meeting on 17 July 2024. Guest speakers discussed further ideas for the Dengie, around 20-35 large wind turbines, 200m high and 150 megawatts or an alternative being a solar park, units are around 4m high. Options for consideration for the future will likely be nuclear, wind or solar.

73. Information Exchange & Items for next Agenda

No requests were received for information exchange or items to be placed on the next agenda.

74. Date of future meetings, next meeting Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 7pm.

75. All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.42pm.