

**A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH
APRIL 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN THE NEW VICTORY HALL, MUNDON.**

Those present – Councillors S. Livermore (Chair), B. Hollis, L. Clark, I. McDonald, the clerk and five members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from D. Cllr. B. Boyce and Cllr. G. Rowsell.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. Public Comments

A resident was at the meeting to voice his concerns over a blocked drain at the rear of his property that is causing flooding. He had approached Highways who say it is not their drain although it does run into a culvert that belongs to them. Cllr Hollis suggested that if the ownership of the ditch cannot be proven he should contact Cllr Penny Channer, Highways Rep for Essex County Council. The Parish Council would send an email supporting his concern as this also affects other properties.

The same resident also asked about rented units on New Hall Lane. He suspects that some are not complying with their legal conditions for working hours which should include Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Cllrs decided to send a letter to all owners of properties with lettings reminding them of their obligations and ask tenants to comply with planning regulations re working hours.

Two other pairs of residents living on the main road in the centre of the village wanted to comment on speed and the heavy goods traffic that drives through the area, shaking the foundations of their homes especially when going over drain covers. Cllrs agreed that it was a problem and has been for many years. Despite constant discussions with Highways we have not been able to remedy this and it looks unlikely that an answer will be found in the foreseeable future, mainly due to lack of funding. Cllr Hollis suggested the best course of action would be for residents to contact D.Cllr Beverley Acevedo and C.Cllr Penny Channer.

Another area of concern was the dreadful state of the road at West Chase. The potholes are very dangerous and so large as to be unavoidable. Moat had promised some time ago that work would be carried out. *The clerk will email Moat for an update.*

4. The Minutes of the last meeting in February were approved and signed.
5. Matters Arising/Clerks Report – covered by Agenda items.
6. District Councillors Report – none available
7. Items previously agreed for the Agenda
 - a. Transport – Cllr Clark had been to meetings which will now be held every six months. There are no expected changes to bus routes and

will continue until March 2019. The Park and Ride has been very successful. Solar lighting may be considered in some areas.

- b. The furze – Steve Toyes (Wood Warden) was at the meeting and reported that two trees had come down and another that was leaning and cracked so was cut down and has been cleared. Some wood is still be taken out of the top end where wires have been cut. A young ash tree has been damaged by an axe.
- c. Grass cutting – The new contractors have made two cuts on the revised areas. A letter went to residents explaining the need for reducing the costs of grass cutting. The letter was posted on the notice board also but unfortunately it wasn't delivered to the Furze development and the Council apologises for this oversight. The present contractors do not take cuttings away and they have been given permission to put these into the wood to the side of the village hall. This will be monitored to make sure it does not become a problem.
The Wood Warden mentioned that he was disappointed not to have been asked to quote for the work. It was thought that he would not be interested, but he said that if he had known that cuttings could have been disposed of, he would have liked to tender a price.
- d. Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr McDonald reported that there have not been any meetings at the Council Offices for a long time. The present email list of residents who wanted updates will most likely need to be updated to comply with new GDPR regulations.
- e. Woodside – Cllr Rowsell had sent an email to other councillors to report a complaint from a resident who lives in the flats at West Chase. Youngsters have been lighting fires by the flats and damaged a fence at the back. The Quad bike which caused problems last summer seems to be in use again. It is difficult for the Council to remedy of this but residents should contact Moat Housing.
- f. Speed Calming – covered earlier.
- g. GDPR – The clerk reported on the GDPR Toolkit supplied by EALC. MDC have appointed an Officer to oversee those councils who were not going to appoint their own. Cllr Livermore proposed and Cllr McDonald seconded that we use the services of the MDC Officer. This was agreed. There will be a fee as the Officer will visit Councils and advise, keep in contact and help with monitoring the new regulations.

The Clerk also reported that EALC had awarded the Council a sum of £1650.00 to update the website as required. It had been agreed that we apply for the grant, which we were strongly urged to do so by EALC. This was to cover the cost of possibly new equipment if needed, the use of a new Webmaster and the costs of setting it up, the general running and updating regularly.

Cllr Hollis felt that it should not be necessary to spend so much money on this and we should have as simple and basic a website as possible. The clerk was asked to speak to EALC to see what exactly we need to include on the website. It was possible that the GDPR regulations would require us to make some changes also.

The clerk asked if the cheque needed to be put into a separate account but it was decided to just keep a specific column in the Accounts book

A note of all expenditure from this will be monitored.

8. Planning

No new applications.

HOUSE/MAL/18/00200. New dormer window replacing existing two dormers. 1 Stud Hill, Mundon. APPROVED.

MDC Planning Department have, over the last few months, removed the Parish Trigger and now they have decided not to send out paper copies of applications to Parish Councils. The EALC and Maldon Town Council are concerned about this as the Dengie area, and Mundon for that matter, do not have good Broadband cover. Small councils do not have the facilities to download the plans and for those who do not have internet connection and come to meetings to see paper plans, they will be unavailable. The clerk had phoned MDC to ask if she could collect a copy for any meeting but was told that no copies would be printed at all.

EAC will be having discussions with MDC on behalf of Maldon Town Council and Parish Councils.

9. Highways – covered previously.

10. Correspondence (see notes from the April meeting }

11. Finance.

The following cheques were issued.

JM Payroll. Inv 19841/201100/20362	63.00
EALC/NALC subscriptions	118.86
Hall rent	12.00
Clerk Mar/April (less 20.00 PAYE)	160.00
Inland Revenue (PAYE)	60.00

The clerk reported that the Audit Regulations have been changed, Smaller Councils with a low budget can now opt out of submitting the Audit papers to the External Auditor. It will still be necessary to do so with an Internal Auditor and report and display as before.

Cllr McDonald proposed and Cllr Livermore seconded that we opt out. This was agreed.

12. Cllr Hollis had attended the Dengie Hundred meeting. He mentioned that since a councillor had been disciplined for attending a meeting and, without permission of his council, had made comments that expressed his own opinion, not those of the council, it was important that anyone going to other meetings should get permission from the chairman to speak on behalf of the Parish Council. They should then report back.

13. Items for future Agendas.

14. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 15th May 2018. This will start with the AGM which will commence at 7.00pm followed by the Parish Assembly at approximately 7.30pm.

Our usual meeting in will be held in June when we will need to agree and sign the audit.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Signed

dated