

MUNDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

Email: mundonparishcouncil@yahoo.com

Website: Mundon.org – Tel: 07789 342747

Present: Cllr Gavin Rowsell, Cllr Lynne Attfield, Cllr John Bennett,
Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie and Cllr Diane Leggett

In Attendance: Mrs Jackie Lines – Parish Clerk/RFO
Cllr Lee Scott - Portfolio Holder for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable
Transport
Cllr Wendy Stamp - Member for Southminster Division Essex County Council

Members of Public: 10

Meeting commenced: 7pm

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

No absences or apologies received.

83. Declarations of Interest

- a) To receive declarations of interest for any agenda items.
Cllr Leggett declared an interest in agenda item 95.
Cllr Attfield declared an interest in agenda item 94 (b).
- 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.

84. Public Forum

Cllr Scott provided some background information in the lead up to his current position and answered questions raised by the public and councillors.

The main concerns and suggestions being:

- The increase in tonnage and volume of vehicles travelling through the village
- Speed and safety on the roads, notorious hot spot within the 40 zone
- 40mph signs have not been replaced/repared despite several requests via the Essex Highways online system over the last 2 years along with dropped drains. They have been classed as 'not a priority', when do they become a priority?
- If Fambridge Road could be widened it would alleviate some of the heavy traffic coming through the village
- Are other parishes looking into average speed cameras and are there any subsidies/funding available?
- New Hall Lane repairs have been worthless, how will this be resolved?

Cllr Scott confirmed:

- If job numbers for all the outstanding items can be sent to him via Cllr Stamp, they will be chased up
- A bill is currently going through Parliament applying for more powers to change the size of vehicles on certain roads, this will though require ongoing enforcement

- Essex Highways are not in a position to be able to widen Fambridge Road, the funds are not available and there should have been consideration to this matter prior to the building of new houses
- Pot holes are being addressed throughout the County however delamination on a road surface is not a danger and not classed as a pot hole. It is felt flooding will become more of a problem than pot holes
- Dropped drains fall under a different category to pot holes on the Essex Highways website. Currently 50 drain covers are stolen each day. Cast Iron still being used as GRP is not a strong enough alternative
- Parishes are looking into average speed cameras and further help will be available from January 2023
- New Hall Lane repairs will need revisiting, if all information could go through Cllr Stamp for a further inspection to be carried out

Cllr Stamp confirmed 6 more pot holes may be named to fill the current quota, please advise of any. The Public were requested to go through the Parish Clerk with any questions and these can then be filtered through to Cllr Stamp.

Cllr Stamp confirmed the matter raised by a member of the public regarding CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds will be followed up.

Cllr Scott and Cllr Stamp left the meeting at 7.25pm

Planning application 22/01070 FUL PP-11594619 Land at Hook Farm, Mundon was raised by the public who expressed their objections, concerns and comments:

- Highways safety and previous fatality in that area
- Existing habitat for wildlife
- 7 dwellings on the site being too many and garages had now been removed from plans
- Land adjacent to this application previously declined

85. Minutes of the previous meeting – 3 October 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 October 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record – unanimous decision.

86. Policies, Procedures, Risk Assessments and Contracts

To consider and resolve any annual or new drafts:

- a) It was resolved to adopt the update of the Co-Option Policy – unanimous decision.
- b) It was resolved to update the Clerk's Contract of Employment to 7.5 hours per week – unanimous decision.

87. County/District Councillors Reports

Cllr Lee Scott was in attendance (refer to Public Forum for information).

Cllr Wendy Stamp was in attendance (refer to Public Forum for information).

No other reports were received.

88. Transport

Cllr Bennett reported the more simplistic survey from Transport East Rural Community Service has been completed.

The Rural Mobility in Parishes survey will be worked on with Cllr Rowsell to conclude.

89. The Furze

- a) To receive an update on The Furze - the Wood Warden reported following the storms several trees had fallen, these have mostly been cleared now and areas kept tidy.
The company who supplied the wood chipper had recently closed down, there are dealers in Wickford and Chelmsford with regard to the 2 year warranty. The Wood Wardens felt they could carry out most of the maintenance.
A letter had been sent to Moat with regard to residents taking wood for their own use, a response is awaited.
- b) Dog fouling, bins and signs.
The Wood Wardens confirmed there is a refuse bin located near the village hall which is emptied by a contractor on a regular basis. The cost of dog bins, installation and emptying was considered too expensive as a regular ongoing cost for the Parish. It was felt some signs would help to discourage dog fouling. Cllr Wylie to review muck muncher systems and signs.

90. Grass Cutting/Verges

- a) Cllr Attfield confirmed now the weather has changed the grass cutting will stop and recommence in the spring.
- b) The Clerk confirmed the Tree Initiative had not been used at present due to the success with funding from the Locality Fund for further saplings. If additional trees, shrubs or hedging are required, the Tree Initiative could be a possibility for future funding.

91. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wylie reported following the last parish meeting where it was reported that there had been an upsurge of anti-social activities within the Furze, Cllr Wylie contacted the Community Policing Team. They attended the site promptly and the wood warden spotted them and discussed the issues with them. As the activities take place more often at the weekend, the Furze has been added to the list of patrol areas which with added police presence may hopefully discourage any further issues. The police also noted on their Facebook page that they have patrolled the Furze and local area.

Cllr Wylie contacted MDC regarding fly-tipping in Blind Lane – it still remains there as of time of meeting.

The next NHW meeting will take place next week Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th November.
Home security advice: Packaging/boxes – do not advertise your high value purchases to thieves by leaving empty boxes (i.e. from TV's, large electrical goods, gaming products) on the roadside with your rubbish.

92. Woodside

To receive an update on the progress of negotiations with Moat Housing and the passing of the Woodside green to the Parish.

Solicitors had been appointed by the Parish Council and their Terms of Business signed.

Disbursement costs for reports and searches are required in advance by the Parish Council's Solicitor, Clerk to arrange.

The Parish Council's and Moat's solicitors had exchanged emails and a copy of Moat's existing Land Registry Title had been provided for review just prior to this evening's meeting.

Cllr Rowsell had reviewed the lengthy Title and it was felt there were currently too many concerns and questions which need to be raised via the solicitors before the matter could progress.

93. Website and Social Media

Cllr Rowsell reported there were 6 more followers on Facebook since the last meeting in October taking the total to 236. Any feedback on posts would be welcome.
The website rarely receives any views, will continue to use as it is a legal requirement.
No advertisements are permitted on either Facebook or the website.

94. Planning

a) Planning Applications to Review

22/01070/FUL PP-11594619

Land at Hook Farm, Mundon Road, Mundon

Proposed demolition of existing commercial structures and construction of 7no. new dwellings with associated landscaping

The application was reviewed in detail by the Parish Council and an objection would be raised – unanimous decision.

22/00314/OUTM PP-11430366

Proposal: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access, for a phased residential-led mixed use development

including: Up to 750 dwellings (Class C3) including affordable housing.....

Land South Of Fambridge Road Burnham Road and East West

Of Station Road Althorne Essex

No representation to be made from the Parish Council – unanimous decision.

b) Planning Decisions (and awaiting Decisions)

22/00409/FUL PP-11111598

Land North of Willow Grove, Maldon Road, Mundon

Erection of two detached dwellings with integral garages, new access driveway and garden outbuildings

Application refused by MDC week 41 ending 14 Oct 2022

22/00938/HOUSE PP-11488825

Whitehaven 3 Garlands Bungalow Mundon Road Mundon

Single storey rear extension - rebuild with a pitched roof the existing extension to side. Front extension below existing roof structure.

Application approved by MDC week 42 ending 21 Oct 2022

22/00970/LDE PP-11527460

Wycke View Farm, Main Road, Mundon

Claim for lawful development certificate for an existing erection of a dwelling with no agricultural occupancy condition.

Application pending consideration as at 14 Nov 2022

22/00991/LDE PP-11544996

Little Wycke Farm, Blind Lane, Mundon

Occupation of Little Wycke Farm in breach of Condition 3 of MAL/191/77 and condition 4 of 00/00353/FUL (Agricultural occupancy) for a continuous period of time in excess of ten years

Application pending consideration as at 14 Nov 2022

22/00742/HOUSE PP-11341790

Holmfield Bungalow, Main Road, Mundon

Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage into habitable room

Application pending consideration as at 14 Nov 2022

c) Planning Correspondence:

UDC – to consider and resolve contribution request of £250 – no contribution to be made from Mundon Parish Council due to insufficient funds – unanimous decision

Members to note receipt via email of the following:

List of planning applications weeks 40 to 45 - **Noted**

List of planning decisions and appeals weeks 40 to 45 – **Noted**

CLlr Rowsell to query why there were only 7 applications in week 45.

95. Parish Council Land – Ownership and Boundaries

All outstanding queries had been responded to by the Parish Council and awaiting buyers' solicitor to confirm the same then a prospective time-frame for completion can be discussed.

96. Highways

- a) To receive any updates on outstanding or new highways matters – concerns had been raised regarding new and existing highway problems with CLlr Scott within item 84 Public Forum at the start of the meeting.

Safer Essex Roads Policing (SERP) had provided some details on speed systems ranging from homemade projects through to Community Speedwatch. Average speed systems require Highways to adopt the equipment and the Police issue the offences. Ongoing maintenance and offence processing can be challenging. Clerk to look into whether any funding would be available to assist with this project.

- b) 20's Plenty for Us, consider and resolve.

Supported for areas of towns but not felt to be relevant for Mundon in rural area – unanimous decision.

- c) Information from the Community Protection Team had been received after carrying out regular ad hoc speed checks via a TRUCAM –

Sept = 7 offenders

Oct = 12 offenders

97. Community

- a) Fundraising Committee – CLlr Leggett reported the beacon had been placed outside Woodside Green today by the Wood Warden and will be filled with plants using the remaining funds from the Jubilee event.

An idea for another village event to be held next year on or following the coronation of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as King and Queen, being on 6 May 2023.

CLlr Leggett to set up a sub-committee for this event.

- b) Defibrillator

The device had now been upgraded with new software following receipt of a safety notice recall. The status of the device is checked by the Clerk each month and information regarding its status updated on 'The Circuit' website. New pads are due in December 22 and the current battery status is half charged.

98. Plume Educational Trust

Cllr Wylie attended a meeting of the Trustees for the Plume Educational Trust on 15th November 2022. There was a maximum of £9,900 available for distribution for scholarships. The Trustees considered the applications for which there were 9 applicants. 5 applying for the first time, 1 applying for their second year and 3 applying for their 3rd year. 8 students have been awarded £1,100 each and another £900 (higher family income bracket) which used most of the available funds.

Applications were approved and payments will now be arranged to be sent to the students. Head Teacher of the Plume Academy Mr Carl Wakefield commented that the students were very worthy of the contribution towards their Higher Education and was very impressed with them wanting to continue studies with great aspirations for the future.

Students applying for the funding are attending universities including Essex, London, Loughborough, Lancashire, Brighton and studying subjects including languages, marketing, maths and psychology.

The next meeting will be in May 2023.

99. Correspondence

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

100. Finance

- a) To review and approve receipts, payments and bank reconciliation for September and October 2022 - List of payments circulated to members at the end of each month prior to the meeting – unanimous decision, approved and signed by Cllr Rowsell.

Sep-22						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
28/22-23	15/09/2022	Maldon District Council	Community Engagement Team Services - July 2022	35.94	7.19	43.13
29/22-23	15/09/2022	Maldon District Council	Community Engagement Team Services - August 2022	35.94	7.19	43.13
30/22-23	30/09/2022	Clerk	Salary and expenses month 6 - September 2022	336.64		336.64

Oct-22						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
31/22-23	10/10/2022	Mow My Lawn	Grass cutting services for Sept 22 - invoice 1270	140.00		140.00
32/22-23	11/10/2022	Victory Hall	Victory Hall hire x2 hrs re 15 Nov 22 mtg	16.00		16.00
33/22-23	17/10/2022	Maldon District Council	Community Engagement Team Services - September 2022	35.94	7.19	43.13
34/22-23	31/10/2022	Clerk	Salary and expenses month 7 - October 2022	472.00		472.00

- b) The budget and precept for 2023/2024 was considered in detail, accepted and resolved – unanimous decision.
- c) The quotations from three internal auditors to be appointed for the year ending 31 March 2023 were reviewed and considered. It was resolved April Skies Accounting would be appointed – unanimous decision.
- d) The 2022/23 National Salary Award for the Clerk, backdated to 1 April 2022 and Clerk's salary 2022/23 budget were considered and resolved to be processed in November 2022 – unanimous decision.
- e) Funding – the Locality Fund had been approved for new saplings to the value of £495, receipts to be provided prior to 31 March 2023. The replanting project will take place in the spring.
- f) The funding for Councillors to attend the DHGPC Quiz event in November 2022 was considered and agreed that Councillors will fund entry costs themselves – unanimous decision.

101. Training

`No requests for training received.

102. External Meetings

Clerk attended the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils meeting on 19 October 22 and feedback notes were circulated to all Councillors as an update prior to awaiting the final draft minutes from the DHGPC Clerk.

CLlr Rowsell attended the Environment Agency meeting on 6 October 22 and funding will be provided for the small works project near the Mundon Hall No.1 sluice on the seawall.

CLlr Leggett was due to attend the Village Hall Committee meeting on 18 October 22 but the meeting was cancelled and a new date is awaited.

103. Information Exchange & Items for next Agenda

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

104. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 17 January 2023 @ 7pm

105. All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.