

MUNDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2022 AT 7PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

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Website: Mundon.org – Tel: 07789 342747

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

In Attendance: Mrs Jackie Lines – Parish Clerk/RFO

Members of the Public: 3

Meeting Commenced at: 7pm

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

Apologies received from Cllr Mark Bassenger.

113. Declarations of Interest

- a) Members made the usual declaration that members live and/or work in the District and declared a global declaration. No other declarations were made at this point in the meeting.
- b) Members noted their responsibility to make any changes to their register of interests within 28 days and let the Parish Clerk know that it had been done.

114. Minutes of the previous meetings

Minutes of the meetings held on 16 November and 20 December 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record – unanimous decision.

115. Public Forum

- a) A resident confirmed a First Responder had attended today to review the defibrillator at the Victory Hall and stated everything was in working order. The Chairman and Clerk had previously checked the date on the pads and noted the expiry to be December 2022.

Councillor Vacancy by Co-Option

- b) One candidate attended the meeting and confirmed their application form had provided the council with an insight of how they could be of value to the parish.
- c) Nomination was made for Diane Leggett to be elected by Co-Option – Proposer Cllr Wylie, Seconded Cllr Bennett. Vote – unanimous decision.
- d) The Chairman confirmed Diane Leggett to be duly elected.
- e) Cllr Leggett signed A Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and subsequently joined the meeting. Register of Interest to be completed within 28 days and Monitoring Office updated.

116. County/District Councillors Report

No reports available, County and District Councillors not present.

117.Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments

Social Media Policy – reviewed and resolved, to be re-adopted – unanimous decision.

118.Transport

- a) Cllr Bennett had worked through the consultation on Transport Strategy for the East and overall it did not seem to be directly related to a small parish such as Mundon.
No other new issues were raised.
- b) Bus Back Better Strategy virtual meeting 18 Nov 2021 – Cllr Bennett to obtain details of the minutes and update the Council at the next meeting.

119.The Furze

To receive any new quotes for the new boundary fencing has continued to be a problem with companies not responding to the Council's requests. One quote, received last year, will now be out of date. It was proposed for the Clerk to check the position as to whether three quotes are the minimum requirement in these circumstances.

120.Grass Cutting/Verges

It was noted a car had parked on the verge recently which would have churned up the grass and flattened any new daffodil shoots.

Cllr Rowsell proposed the planting of 500 shrub/hedge saplings with guards in that area as previously agreed at the parish council meeting on 16 March 2021 item 10b. Quotes to be obtained – agreed, all happy to help as working party – unanimous decision.

Cllr Attfield to update the grass cutting company about the potential reduction in the size of the grass verge which will arise after the planting is complete and whether their charges may be reviewed.

121.Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wylie attended a meeting on 25th November 2021 via Zoom of the Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches. There were 12 members online in total including Chair Steve Leverett, Mandy Chapman (head of Maldon Area NHW) and Spencer Clarke – Community Safety Partnership.

It was reported that the WhatsApp group of NHW coordinators to the Police is proving very useful and photos being added to Police intelligence.

Spencer Clarke (Community Safety Partnership) has funding available for projects and several areas in Chelmsford now have lighting installed for safer pathways and at the skate park.

There was discussion about the legality of using sprays for personal protection but the only fully legal self-defence tool is an alarm (rape alarm). Others that can be bought online professing to be legal are not as no test cases have occurred and the police cannot endorse them.

With regard to the more rural issues, hare-coursing was discussed as several of the village coordinators (Lt & Gt Totham and Lt & Gt Braxted) raised that they have problems with it.

Neighbourhood Watch celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year so during NHW week which is Monday 30th May – Sunday 5th June 2022. Events with the theme of 40 YEARS – 40 ACTIONS will be planned; details will follow if there is anything that may be of interest to Mundon.

Within Mundon the only crime reported was fly tipping in Blind Lane.

Additional comments received – there had been repeated Broadband copper cable thefts at the same site in Tolleshunt Major.

A new bill, led by the NFU, with regard to hare-coursing is currently going through to increase fines and authority for the Police to seize dogs in relation to hare coursing.

122. Woodside

The proposal from Moat had been received verbally which the Council are considering.

Clerk to liaise with Moat to question:

Potentially reducing their solicitors costs

The previous request to bring the paths and fencing up to an ideal safety standard before passing the land to the parish

To remind Moat of the continued grass cutting costs which have arisen, paid for by the parish, during the time from commencement of the drawn out discussions.

123. Website and Social Media

Cllr Rowsell reported, the website does not receive many visits but continues to be a legislative requirement.

Currently there are 177 followers on Facebook, with around 320 residents in Mundon, this seems to be a good take up. Maximum views on recent posts have been 226 with 56 engagements.

124. Planning

a) **Planning Applications** - No new applications to review.

b) **Planning Decisions**

21/01136/LBC PP-10325388 - St Mary's Church, Vicarage Lane

Internal and external investigative works including trial pits; internal and external underpinning and piling of load-bearing walls; external render and brick repairs; internal plaster repairs; overhaul of rainwater goods and below ground drainage – **Listed Building Consent granted by MDC week 52 ended 31 Dec 2021**

21/00152/HOUSE PP-10337585 - Furze Lodge, Main Road

Single storey rear extension, loft conversion with rear facing dormer – **Approved by MDC week 2 ending 14 Jan 2022**

21/01230/OUT PP-10402912 - Orchards, New Hall Lane

Proposed 1 and a half storey chalet styled bungalow – **Pending consideration by MDC as at 17 Jan 2022**

c) Planning Correspondence

Members to note receipt via email of the following:

List of planning applications weeks 45 to 1 - **Noted**

List of planning decisions and appeals weeks 45 to 1 – **Noted**

125.Parish Council Land – Ownership and Boundaries

Quotes for legal costs had been obtained.

126.Highways

- a) **New Highways Issues** - Cllr Rowsell suggested the Clerk write to the District and County Councillor to confirm the Parish Council's dismay that Highways still do not contact parish councils with prior warning of road closures.
- b) Further information from the Community Protection Team had been received after carrying out random speed checks –
November – two attendances of 30 minutes = 17 offenders
December – two attendances of 30 minutes = 13 offenders
It was noted there is currently a review of unwarranted officers carrying out the patrols.

127.Community

- a) Mundon Information Booklet – Cllr Wylie confirmed, a final review is currently taking place and further information will be reported at the next meeting.
- b) Lighting of beacons in June 2022 to mark the Queen's Jubilee – the position of the Mundon beacon had been reviewed by Cllr Rowsell and the logistics regarding health and safety in lighting the beacon had been a concern.
The Clerk had researched other options, purchase of a gas-fuelled beacon or a bonfire beacon. Agreed gas-fuelled beacons would not have the impact and a bonfire in June was not practical due to danger to crops.
It was proposed to move the top section of the beacon, mount on a pole and place on the Woodside green. Clerk to inform Moat of the intention.
It was agreed a sub-committee be formed to organise and oversee other activities for the Jubilee celebrations within the village. Cllr Leggett and Cllr Attfield were happy to initiate this.

128.Plume Educational Trust

Cllr Wylie had received confirmation that the cheques to the 7 students (all successful in their applications for funding) were despatched before Christmas. The Trustees have not been informed that there were any problems, i.e. a student no longer attending University.

129. Correspondence

MDC had requested feedback from individual residents and councils to the Local Development Plan for a review of the existing plan and policies. Cllr Rowsell had responded to this request as a resident. The council may wish to respond separately.

130. Finance

- a) To resolve to approve, receipts, payments and bank reconciliations for November and December 2021 – List of payments circulated to members at the end of each month prior to the meeting – unanimously agreed and signed off by Cllr Rowsell.

Nov-21

FOLIO	DATE	PAYMENT	PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
32/21-22	05/11/2021	BP	MDC inv MUN20184018	Tru Cam attendance x1 hr October 2021	35.06	7.01	42.07
33/21-22	30/11/2021	BP	Clerk	Salary and expenses - Month 8 - Nov 2021	335.37		335.37

Dec-21

FOLIO	DATE	PAYMENT	PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
34/21-22	01/12/2021	BP	Victory Hall	Booking form for x2 hours 18 Jan 22 mtg	16.00		16.00
35/21-22	07/12/2022	BP	Victory Hall	Booking form for x1 hour 20 Dec 21 mtg	8.00		8.00
36/21/22	18/10/2021	BP	Mow My Lawn	Inv 1084 - 29th Oct/12th Nov/3rd Dec mowing	240.00		240.00
37/21-22	30/12/2021	BP	Clerk	Salary and expenses - Month 9 - Dec 2021	291.00		291.00

- b) The Clerk confirmed the precept value for 2022/23 at £5,500, notified to MDC on 2 December 2021.
- c) Resolved – to re-adopt the Financial and Management Risk Assessment following the annual review – unanimous decision.
- d) Resolved – Asset Register agreed following the annual review – unanimous decision.

131. Training

Councillor training was discussed and offered to the newly elected Cllr Leggett. The Clerk expressed a wish to attend training session within the next financial year on agendas and minutes, EALC cost £90 plus VAT – unanimously agreed.

132. External Meetings

To receive reports on any external meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk – nothing to report.

133. Information Exchange & Items for next Agenda

Cllr Rowsell requested the Queen's Platinum Jubilee be added as an item from the next agenda.

134. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 15th March 2022 @ 7pm.

135. All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.41pm.