

# MINUTES OF THE MUNDON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 16 MAY 2023 AT 8.30PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

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**Present:** Cllr Gavin Rowsell (Chair), Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie (Vice-Chair),  
Cllr Diane Leggett

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

**Members of Public:** 3

**Meeting commenced:** 8.30pm

## 1. Chairman's Welcome and introduction

Thank you to everyone who has come along today.

It is difficult to express to those not involved directly, just how much work councillors have to do nowadays to ensure Mundon Parish Council not only upholds all the legal requirements and commitments of an accountable authority, but also to ensure it remains efficient and fully representative of Mundon residents.

Of course, as with most organisations, there are also those who work less publicly, but are no less essential in keeping Mundon the special village it is. Notable names are Steve Wells, Les Potts, Lynda Townend, Marita Ponting, Diane Leggett, Barbara Roe, Marge Orris, Christine McDonald and Mr Paton. They all have self-driven voluntary roles such as maintaining access in the Furze, village hall duties, litter-picking village wide, maintaining flower displays and keeping the Church in order... so on behalf of everyone in the village, a massive thank you for so much that is done by so few.

A name the Parish Council wish to permanently recognise this year, for their continued efforts in keeping Mundon litter free and a tidier village to live in Lynda Townend, a brass plaque will be mounted below the village sign-post and beacon in recognition of thanks.

## 2. Apologies

Received from Cllr Bennett.

## 3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 17 May 2022

Approved by all and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

## 4. Maldon District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

County Cllr Wendy Stamp provided an ECC annual report for the Southminster Division dated 21 April 2023 (Appendix A on the website).

District Cllr Fittock wished to thank everyone for their votes at the 4<sup>th</sup> May election and confirmed a new structure is currently being worked on within Maldon District Council.

The 5 year land supply is being reviewed and expected to be agreed by Council as being 6.35 years previously recorded as 3.66 thus restoring the integrity of the 'Local Development Plan' policy weight as protection against unplanned development.

In the near future there will be a reduction in the number of 'Strategic options' listed in the New LDP 'Issues and options consultation' from seven to three. Cllr Fittock is very interested in residents having their input and urged people to take part in any consultations that arise.

There is not much else happening to report at present as Council had not formed but Cllr Fittock will try to attend as many parish meetings as possible and is happy to hold some surgeries in addition if required to help residents with any council related issues.

If residents have any concerns they may contact Cllr Fittock ([Cllr.tony.fittock@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.tony.fittock@maldon.gov.uk)) directly or they may make initial contact via the Mundon Parish Council Clerk ([mundonparishcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:mundonparishcouncil@yahoo.com)).

Cllr Rowsell asked that the parish be kept up to date with Cllr Fittock's roles once a structure is in place.

Cllr Fittock confirmed it is likely the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils and United Dengie Councils will become one group again for villages to join forces and work together on matters such as community speed watch as an example.

#### **5. Mundon Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report – Gavin Rowsell**

It is worth expressing the colossal amount of work also done by the Parish councillors behind the scenes;

Over 300 emails a month, plus phone-calls, face-to-face meetings, messages and texts from residents.

Councillors also can attend a multitude of other external meetings depending on their representative roles.

The Council deals with a myriad of consultations and questionnaires throughout the year – often taking many hours of effort before a Parish response can be returned.

All councillors do all their work for free because we are passionate about the village and want everyone to be proud of it... so any help, of any kind will generally be gratefully accepted.

The Parish Council now deals with an ever growing number of unique and complex district and parish items, but thankfully our Clerk, Jackie Lines, is very good at keeping on top of the regulatory bureaucracy, and remains an asset to the Parish Council and the village alike. One of our councillors has recently taken a step back, so we shall shortly be advertising for a new councillor wishing to work hard for the good of the village as a whole.

#### **6. Representatives Reports – All Councillors and Clerk Finance - Clerk**

The parish council kept within the overall small budget for 2022/23 with some movement between budget headings during the year and the contingency budget being used. Total grants of £1,279 were gratefully received from the ECC Locality Fund towards saplings and the wood chipper. An annual reclaim of VAT was received during the year of £503.34. Capital items purchased were, further saplings re-planted on the main road verge, which in turn has slightly reduced the mowing costs for this year and a beacon for the Queen's Jubilee event.



The internal audit for the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 took place on 6 April 2023 with two minor recommendations, use of the Cloud for future data backups and obtaining more detailed VAT invoices when dealing with Solicitors. Statutory reporting in relation to the audit will follow and information will shortly be displayed on the website.

The parish precept for the 2023/24 year is £7,000. Reserves at the end of the year were £1,000 for elections and £11,416.11 relating to the Church Room fund (allowed for capital projects only).

The budget for 2023/24 has already been set and will be closely monitored throughout the year with monthly reviews and reporting to councillors.

### **Wood Wardens**

With the aid of the wood chipper, footpaths had been maintained throughout the year along with the clearing of fallen trees and debris.

Dog fouling seems to have improved following the installation of new signs.

### **Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr Wylie**

In order to provide the information in the NHW reports, Cllr Wylie is on circulation lists from NHW and Essex Police, in both email and social media form.

The information received informs Cllr Wylie of crimes that have been reported in the area, scams that are doing the rounds and any campaigns that the 'services' i.e. Police, Fire are pushing for community awareness.

Over the last year Mundon has had more incidents of fly tipping in Blind Lane and on one occasion the culprits were spotted by a passer-by who noted the vehicle's business name. The details were forwarded to Maldon DC who referred the matter to their Enforcement Team for further action as they had received numerous reports with details of the same alleged perpetrators fly tipping at other sites around the Dengie area. Thank you to Maldon District Council who clear the debris very quickly after it has been reported.

There had also 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 was added to the list of patrol areas which with added police presence may hopefully discourage any further issues.

There continue to be reports of hare coursing in the village, in January the police attended and the perpetrators – 4 young men were given verbal warnings.

It was also noted that earlier this year a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked by the village hall and a Range Rover stolen from Main Road.

The Chelmsford and Maldon Group of Neighbourhood Watches Meetings are held every other month and can be attended in person or via Zoom. Coordinators from both Chelmsford and Maldon areas discuss various topics both rural and urban to help with crime prevention and crime reporting. Topics cover both rural and urban issues. Also usually in attendance is PC Rosie Smith (Maldon) and Scott Smith (Chelmsford) who update the 'Watch' of current initiatives and operations and give advice.

**Plume Educational Trust - Cllr Wylie**

The Plume Education Trust is a charitable organisation which encompasses the Wills and Testaments of several benefactors – Ralph Breeder, Thomas Plume, Henrietta Sadd, Arnold Keeble and George Courtault. The Objectives of the Charity are to apply the income generated by the Trust Fund as scholarships to deserving Boys and Girls educated at the Plume School, Maldon in aid of their Further Education beyond compulsory school leaving age. The performance of the various funds is kept under regular review.

During 2022 scholarships totaling £9,700 were awarded to 9 Students.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Cllr Wylie was voted to be a Trustee on the Plume Educational Trust and remains on the trust until 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 although at the last parish meeting on 21 March 2023, Cllr Wylie was re-appointed for a further 4 years.

**Village/Parish Council Website - Cllr Rowsell**

The website remains little used, but as a legal requirement is continually updated with agendas and minutes, as well as any other important messages or Highways projects.

Monthly usage reports show most visits tend to be via direct access (rather than from a search engine) and correlate with our Facebook posts.

Our Facebook page currently has 256 dedicated followers (up from 194 last year), with some posts reaching over 700 users, which for a Parish of just over 300 is very impressive. We often struggle with knowing what is acceptable to post, as the Parish Council Page cannot become a local social-chat site or be seen to effectively advertise for local businesses, so the emphasis is to share relevant local information that may affect residents. Whilst we are always open to suggestions on how to improve the service, far more information is usually already available on the website.

**Sea Defences/Airports - Cllr Rowsell**

The Environment Agency has made some minor policy changes, whereby we are seeing a very slight increase in using their own staff for smaller maintenance projects, although sadly there is still a serious lack of political will to undertake any genuine improvement works.

Essex Coast Organisation (ECO), who are the collective of most Essex landowners with sea defences, continue to increase funding and support for landowners maintaining, and in places improving, old sea defences and drainage systems under growing pressure from new housing developments.

The maintenance project on Mundon Creek seawall embankment and drainage system to protect South Mundon, Latchingdon and the sewage works is due to start later this year.

As a director of ECO, I remain in regular contact with EA staff, and can be contacted for specific local issues.

**Inland Flooding & Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) - Cllr Rowsell**

Meetings with Essex County Council, Maldon District Council, Anglian Water and the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee are still difficult to achieve, but Essex Coast Organisation (ECO) keeps the pressure on for better engagement.



Essex County Council (as our Lead Local Flood Authority) and Essex Highways both appear to have virtually no constructive input into water related issues on most planning applications... but again, ECO hold them to account where possible.

Concerns regarding drainage and flood issues within the Dengie were raised with the need for major new developments to be assessed correctly, Cllr Fittock has already been reviewing these matters to support the villages.

### **Planning - Cllr Rowsell**

Mundon has seen about 20 very different and often complex planning applications this last year, with some planning application running to 20 or more pages of information and plans. All points are considered in depth by councillors before decisions are made, but councillors encourage feedback from affected residents as swiftly as possible.

If decision deadlines come between meetings, then the clerk invites private voting from councillors via email. If all councillors concur, the clerk has delegated powers to respond directly to Maldon Planning Department. However, a single opposing view triggers an immediate interim meeting to publicly discuss and vote for a majority decision.

MPC's general position has always been, and shall continue to be, to support long term residents and businesses in the village, whilst equally being open to supporting new residents or businesses, but always whilst attempting to ensure common sense prevails over any potentially strong individual view.

It is often the case that just a single aspect of an application is problematic, but as applications have to be viewed and responded to in their entirety, we often struggle to express our general support within an overall refusal.

On this point, we strongly encourage applicants to engage with us at the earliest opportunity.

### **Highways & PROW (Public Rights of Way) - Cllr Rowsell**

Essex Highways complete failure to maintain local roads and signage is becoming ever more concerning, but multiple representations always meet the same response of 'lack of funding'.

Essex Highways seemingly flippant handling of road closures in the Maldon area continues, with no constructive communication, just an ever changing schedule on their website, which are re-posted on our Parish Facebook page when relevant.

We continue to explore ways of controlling fast and large traffic through Mundon, but with all villages suffering the same issues, there is no obvious answer.

Mundon Parish Council pays for TruCam speed traps at two separate locations and at random times throughout each month. Each session acts as a visual deterrent and with over 120 speeding notices being issued (and 97 prosecutions) in the last 12 months, the message should slowly get out.

### **7. Victory Hall Management Committee Report**

The Mundon Victory Hall Committee provided an annual report (Appendix B on the website)

**8. To notify those present who the various representatives are as per previous Annual Parish Council meeting:**

- a) Finance (Cllr Rowsell to cover in the absence of a new member or existing member taking on the role)
- b) Risk Assessment – (All Councillors and Clerk)
- c) Health & Safety – (All Councillors and Clerk)
- d) Wood Wardens – (Les Potts and Steve Wells)
- e) Neighbourhood Watch/Police/Village Information – (Cllr Wylie)
- f) Local Transport – (Cllr Bennett – confirmation deferred to next meeting)
- g) Plume Educational Trust – (Cllr Wylie)
- h) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – (Cllr Rowsell, Cllr Wylie and Clerk)
- i) Village Hall – (Marita Ponting)
- j) Community Events – (All Councillors)
- k) Village/Parish Council Website – (Cllr Rowsell)
- l) Sea Defences/Airports – (Cllr Rowsell)
- m) Planning – (All Councillors)
- n) Highways & PROW (Public Rights of Way) – (All Councillors)

**9. Report in relation to the land at Woodside**

Negotiations with Moat Housing and the passing of the Woodside green to the Parish – The Clerk reported matters have been concluded and the solicitors will now complete the deed of transfer which will include an additional contribution of £1,000 from Moat Housing.

**10. St Marys Church – report from the Friends of Friendless Churches**

The Friends of Friendless Churches provided an annual report (Appendix C on the website).

**11. Fundraising Committee Report - Cllr Leggett**

The Queen's Jubilee event was successful with a day of celebrations for the village on 2 June 2022 to include an afternoon party and picnic on the green. This was followed by a BBQ and disco in the evening and the lighting of the beacon. A total of £290 funds were initially raised from the Quiz night held on 9 April 2022 and used for the event. The small surplus being used for re-stocking the plant displays within the village.

A date has been set for the village fete for 2023 being Saturday 12 August from 2-5pm. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 25 May, further updates to be provided at the next parish council meeting.

Any funds raised via fundraising events throughout each year will continue to be held separately by the Parish Council and reported on at the parish council meetings.

**12. Public Participation and any matters raised that require a decision or further investigation to be placed on the next Parish Council Agenda for action.**

No matters were raised at this time.

Cllr Rowsell thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.21pm.



**ECC Annual report Southminster Division by Cllr Wendy Stamp 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.**

Hopefully your Councillors and residents have been kept up to date throughout the year on the decisions being made as well as being considered in the future with my regular updates via your excellent Clerks.

I don't want to bore you with repeating anything so I will give you a brief report.

Starting with the positive and not highways this year, I must thank the clerks who have worked hard in supporting me this last year, especially by suggesting important community projects for the £5K locality fund allocation.

Sadly, due to a "mix up" not all my allocation was spent, despite having projects still wishing to be funded. I can only apologise but ask that when the next allowance is released you apply early as I won't allow this to happen again. I will not be holding any applications over to the next year – as no one knows how long this funding option will be available.

All Parish and Town Councils have received their funding now. I am sure the residents are enjoying what you applied for whether it be hedging, signage or building repairs.

Last year's terms of spending part of the allowance changed. The total allowance of £10k only allowed us to provide £5K on local projects and the remaining £5K on joint Maldon District projects, totalling £15K (three divisional ward councillors). I wish to thank my fellow Councillors Fleming and Durham, because I am over the moon to say the Southminster division received the lions share.

The projects awarded for funding within the Maldon District Division in the Southminster division are as follows: -

- Denige wide -£3500, SEND Music provision - new instruments, music man etc.
- St. Marys School – Burnham on Crouch, £325 breakfast and teatime clubs for children on free school meals. - to purchase dolls house, toy cars/garage, art & craft supplies, board games.
- St. Cedds – Bradwell £2200 to purchase six tablet computers (kept on site) for disadvantaged children for lunchtime and after school computing clubs.
- Southminster C of E School - £3728, this school has a growing number of SEND, PPG and vulnerable pupils. The lunch time club will benefit from the purchase of 10 chrome books and a contribution towards a Doodle Maths programme. It will also benefit after school clubs.

This totals the funding received for our division of £9523.00 EXCELLENT!

Thank you to everyone who helped put the proposals together and for ECC approving them – I am sure the equipment will help our richly deserved children and families immensely.

## **Budget Headlines.**

I sent a copy of the agreed budget figures previously but a quick recap total annual increase £49.05 equivalent to 49p per week. It is made up of £27.99 adult social care, £9.08 infrastructure projects and £11.98 service increase due to inflationary pressures.

Since being elected Cllr Fleming and I, have constantly been raising residents' concerns regarding the lack of infrastructure and future capital projects planned for the Maldon District including the Southminster division. Following a number of other District Councillors also raising concerns, Cllr Pond and I moved a motion to Council regarding infrastructure obligations and delivery. Cllrs Wagland and Sheldon proposed an amendment which we gratefully received. Sadly, not all elected members supported the spirit of the motion. Cllr Mark Durham and Cllr Stephen Robinson was disingenuous in my opinion. Recording of meeting 11 October 2022.

The approved motion read:

'This Council considers that there is a continuous need to ensure that the county's infrastructure, which is under constant pressure from new development, keeps pace with this development in a way that balances the need to promote economic growth and provides housing for residents, whilst also recognising the vital role of the Greenbelt in protecting their quality of life and the environment.

The Council therefore:

- 1) Instructs officers to be diligent in seeking to secure as many infrastructure improvements as possible via the planning system and in particular via infrastructure levies and planning obligation agreements.
- 2) Calls upon local planning authorities to assist the County Council by ensuring as much is delivered as possible.
- 3) Calls upon Government to support ECC in enabling the country's infrastructure to keep pace with new development as set out above.'

It is important that we all focus on ensuring delivery and soon.

Expansion of St Marys in Burnham has been completed as has the additional places at Ormiston Rivers Academy. Funding and additional places for SEND children has been given and delivered through section 106 agreements to Althorne pre-school but still no early learning pre school or additional nursery development in Burnham on Crouch – yet.

## **LIBRARIES**

The Essex year of reading delivered the following outcomes: -

- A library card for every child (150,000 cards delivered)
- A large range of author visits including Michael Rosen (1000 children attended Michael Rosen event).



- Parent ambassadors (supporting parental engagement for schools and communities) in conjunction with ACL – 2 Ambassadors, 60 volunteers, 600 parents onto courses.
- Dementia/memory cafes alongside library children's events (under the leadership of adult services).
- A literature corner in 74 libraries.
- Year of reading app including stories, teaching materials and signposts to other sources.
- Intergenerational poetry publication.
- Keeping it REAL/phonological awareness in early years.
- Using the libraries for warm spaces – committed to keeping the libraries open. Over 50,000 new members to the service and a new library in Harlow – we can but hope we will receive funding in the Dengie.

### **Everyones Essex.**

Cllr Bentley has a clear strategy, it is an intergenerational change, focusing on net zero, levelling up and devolution. He is aspiring to building a pathway to a better future. Whilst I absolutely agree with this aspiration and strategy, I am finding this is not inclusive of ALL resident's needs.

Sadly, we are all aware, despite raising genuine problems ranging from lack of local school places to local passenger transport for SEND children Essex County Council is unwilling to compromise even with special circumstances, the only option left is the appeal process.

Cllr Chris Whitbread, the "Chancellor" said they couldn't cater for the minority only the majority – hmm how is that levelling up on all levels – it is not in my opinion. Sadly, I feel the Southminster division has not been on the radar of ECC. Importantly when it comes to addressing rural challenges and lack of adequate services and investment. Substantial increase in traffic movements resulting in serious damage to the road network, reduced bus transport services, poor connectivity for walking and cycling, timely infrastructure delivery, planned digital investment to promote vital growth for local economy and tourism. Focus on the delivery of a local SEND school hence reducing the need for 75-minute travel times. It is important that we all, collectively continue working for change and deliver the projects that has been in the pipeline for years. Cabinet Members, Cllrs Scott, Ball and Egan have visited our division and several team meetings regarding lack of SEND provision and highway issues – not only potholes but flooding especially in Latchingdon and Creeksea.

Devolution is at the early stages, but I personally think it will rocket at a pace over the next few years depending on if Councils want to join.

The five arguments from Cllr Bentley are Economic – strengthening the community, powers around skills, transport, business support and housing would be devolved. The proceeds of economic growth would not all go back to the treasury but shared -

it will be worth more than £1 billion over 30 years (not much when you work it out) coming into the county. We would be responsible for economic and social well-being of our communities. Efficiency would help over stretched councils; collaboration is viewed as less burden to the taxpayers – you will have your own views and you should voice them when it comes to public consultation. The final point is the competition argument – more and more funding streams are being devolved to directly to Mayors and Combined Authorities. His full Council executive statement can be found here [Document.ashx \(essex.gov.uk\)](Document.ashx (essex.gov.uk)).

### **Essex Education Task Force**

'Everyone's Essex' aims to make Essex a good place for children and families to grow. The money originally granted to the Task Force by Essex CC has supported outcomes for vulnerable children, education outcomes, levelling up outcomes for families, and family resilience and stability. And we have so far invested **£1.5 million** in the **Essex Year of Reading** which has brought the fun and fundamentals of reading to all corners of the county: schools, libraries, adult education, memory cafes.

The very good news now is that the Task Force has been awarded - from the 'Everyone's Essex' reserves - a further **£1.5 million**.

Remarkably, this will mean that by the end of 2025, we shall have allocated a total of **£3.5 million** on improving outcomes for children and young people. The new grant makes explicit the continuation of the Task Force's work with the Year of Reading, young people's wellbeing and the launch of an exciting **Year of Numbers** recently announced in front of the Queen Consort. This is an innovative model that has been designed to complement, enhance, and build on the momentum from the *Multiply* work.

It is worth noting here that the Essex 2030 vision has five key aims:

- enjoy life into old age
- provide an equal foundation for every child
- strengthen communities through participation
- connect us to each other and the world
- share prosperity with everyone.

So many of the Year of Reading projects have contributed positively to these aims.

### **Safety Advisory Group (SAG).**

I am a member of this excellent group working and striving to deliver positive change. I have happy to have positively contributed due to having first-hand experience of challenging situations. I have helped by raising early suggestions and advice. This is headed up by Cllr Louise McKinley Deputy Leader and is a cross party group.



This is the latest initiative that has been launched..

### Bystander Intervention initiative launches in Essex

#### *Safety Advisory Group initiative aims to address sexual harassment in the county*

As part of Essex County Council's (ECC) commitment to making the county safer for residents, a new initiative has launched that aims to address sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour towards women and girls.

ECC's Safety Advisory Group's (SAG) 'Bystander Intervention' initiative launches today, Monday 13 March, on National Bystander Awareness day. The initiative aims to provide residents with information and guidance on what they could do if they saw inappropriate or threatening behaviour and gives advice on how they could address it in a safe way.

The online module has a particular focus on women's safety and sexual harassment.

Research conducted by the SAG in late 2021 found that 81% of women who responded were not confident that passers-by would help them if someone was acting inappropriately towards them. The same research showed that 60% of male respondents and 70% of women respondents didn't feel confident that they would be able to safely intervene if they saw someone behaving inappropriately towards a woman.

The module will help participants learn more what sexual harassment looks like, the myths and stereotypes that continue to enable and facilitate sexual harassment in our communities, and the importance of people not colluding with these myths or minimising unacceptable behaviour.

It will also give guidance on what actions they could take to safely intervene or to refer or signpost victims to suitable support services.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Louise McKinlay said: "Everyone in Essex has the right to live their life free of fear and free of harassment.

"Whilst much work is being done with us by schools, the police and communities across the county to eradicate sexual harassment, we know many women in the county still feel afraid when out at night, and this is not acceptable.

"Our new Bystander Intervention initiative is an opportunity for anyone in the county to learn about what they could do and how they could help when witnessing sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour. It is about equipping residents with the information and guidance to help them feel more confident to help in these situations.

"This initiative signals a real turning point in our efforts to make the county safer, particularly for women."

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex said "No woman should feel unsafe in their community, but the sad truth is that many do. It is up to all of us

to improve how women and girls are treated.

"This initiative by Essex County Council is a positive way to build awareness of what sexual harassment is and the actions that lead to women not feeling safe. By understanding the causes we can each contribute to improving women's safety."

The Bystander Intervention Information module is open to anyone in the county and only takes 45 minutes, visit [www.essex.gov.uk/bystander](http://www.essex.gov.uk/bystander)

to sign up.

### **Adult Social Care and Health.**

Everyone Matters – replaced with Meaningful Lives Matter plan for more inclusive Essex

Its aim is to enable people with disabilities to live the best life they can. Cabinet Member Cllr Spence is one of the best if not the best councillor for the subject knowledge and a genuine well-respected person.

Papers and surveys on this link :-

<https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/5073/Committee/36/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Cabinet decisions

[Document.ashx \(essex.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Highways**

I am loathed to even talk about potholes except that flooding will no doubt supersede the number of complaints reported to ECC in the near future.

The 38 priority pothole scheme was appreciated but with an area of this division it needs to be substantially more. I am pressing for the "temporary repairs" to be permanent. It should be rolled out again this year.

Cllr Scott has the most challenging portfolio and often tells us the following facts:

Network 4000 miles of footways,  
Over 5000 miles of roads,  
4000 miles of public rights of way,  
1500 highway structures,  
128,000 street lighting columns.

I know you all will have received the standard response from County "Please be assured that all publicly maintained roads throughout Essex are inspected in their entirety on a routine basis. The frequency of these inspections is dependent on the



classification of the road in question, for example, local roads are inspected annually, and priority routes are inspected more frequently on a monthly or quarterly basis due to the important function they perform within the highway network. Station Road is inspected on a quarterly basis.

The Highway Inspectors will also perform separate inspections of particular issues in response to reports made by members of the public.

During these inspections the Highway Inspectors risk assesses issues which are then prioritised for repair based on their severity and risk to public safety. The timescale for the repair depends on the risk assessment and which type of road the pothole is on. To view the different response times Essex Highways must adhere to, please visit the 'Potholes' page of the Essex County Council website:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/potholes>

If there is a particular pothole you are concerned about, you can report this to Essex Highways via their dedicated online Report it Tool:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>. You will be given a unique reference number which you can use to track the progress of the inspection and the action taken."

Highways a handy quick guide:-

Useful links

Essex website [Essex Highways | Essex County Council](#)

Report an issue you have seen [Tell us - Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

Track an issue you reported [Track it - Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

Find out what road works are happening in your area [one.network](#)

Find out what works Essex highways are responsible for and planned programmes of capital works [Highways Information Map | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

Find out about road works happening two weeks up to 12 months into the future [Future Roadworks Map | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

Track gritters [Track the gritting lorries | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

Essex highways latest news [News, Press Releases and Highway Highlights \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

Further reading road strategies including annual maintenance plans [Road strategies | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

The Local Highways Panel has taken a lot of criticism from myself and another Councillor as it certainly has NOT delivered anything for years in this division. It is

changing but I can't see any imminent improvements yet, I will keep you all informed and up to date.

A letter has gone to Cllr Scott explaining all concerns and lack of progress. He is going to address them.

There is a couple of highway safety schemes under discussion now but again its early stages even after years of collecting data and evidence – a slow process is an understatement.

### **Primary School Offers 2023**

This year, Essex County Council received a total of 15,923 applications. Of these, 14,455 pupils who are due to start in Reception Year in September 2023 have been offered their parent or carer's first preference of primary school.

This is 90.78 per cent of the total eligible cohort and is an increase on the 89.51 per cent who obtained their first preference last year. Another 5.52 per cent of children were offered their parents' second preference of school.

Those who applied received confirmation by email on Monday 17th April.

These are the figures for 2023:

- \* First preference school – 90.78 per cent
- \* Second preference school – 5.52 per cent
- \* Third preference school – 1.75 per cent
- \* Fourth preference school – 0.45 per cent
- \* 1.5 per cent of pupils could not be offered one of their parent's preferred schools and have been offered a place at the nearest school with a place available.

Click below for information on school-based planning via ECC.

School organisation and place planning (<https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation-and-place-planning/school-organisation-and-place-planning-service>)

A meeting has been scheduled for June for an update on school places, SEND provision and future schemes.

Essex County Council Climate Czar Cllr Peter Schwier, shares the first Annual Essex Climate Action Report, 12 months after we announced our £200 million Essex Climate Action Plan.

This report provides an update on the hard work that has been going on across the length and breadth of the county of Essex as we continue our journey to becoming a net zero county.

Essex has been rated as one of the best places in the world when it comes to tackling climate change. CDP, formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project



(CDP) has awarded Essex with an A rating for its climate action. We are the only county council in the UK to be given such a rating and only one of 122 places across the globe.

I think I have sent this link of how you can help previously but just for information.

[What Can I Do? | Essex Climate Commission](#)

## **Recycling Centre.**

[Vello | Essex County Council](#)

Can I ask everyone or anyone who wishes me to ask any questions daily or at Full Council to send me an email – with evidence and facts and I will do everything I can.

The booking scheme is still in operation being monitored and the facts reported back to Council.

I haven't covered everything in the report, but I hope I have kept you informed throughout the year.

As soon as the latest infrastructure report is published I will send to you but we are still working hard to press for the agreed delivery thus far.

Please continue to email me with any problems and thank you all for all your hard work and working together with me – trying to improve the place we live, love and work.

Wendy

Cllr Stamp

Southminster Division

## **Mundon Victory Hall report for Mundon Parish Assembly**

### **Hire**

The hall continues to be well used by many regular groups; quilting, flower arranging, art, bowls, Tai Chi and a dance school. It also receives one-off bookings for parties and other events.

Hall fees remain at £8 per hour for regular users and locals, and £15 per hour for all others.

### **Finance**

Treasurer reported at AGM, parish council members present were given the financial breakdown.

Balance at 30 April 2022 - £18710.28

### **Projects completed this year:**

A large sign was erected on front of the hall along with directions to the rear car park on the fence. Internal and some external lights have been replaced by low energy LED lighting, new fans installed, and a new kettle and urn have also been purchased. The large ash tree at the front left of the hall has been removed following concerns of ground movement.

### **Projects going forward:**

Currently obtaining quotes for reconditioning the wooden floor, and improving the rear car park with chippings. Repairs required to external pathway to left of hall and cracks on corner of building – in negotiations with insurance company.

### **Other**

The hall bin is used by dog walkers to dispose of poo bags, the car park is used by walkers and residents but neither are currently causing too much disruption to hall bookings.

## **MUNDON VICTORY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

REGISTERED CHARITY COMMISSION NO : 301369

Received by MPC 4 May 2023



### St Mary's, Mundon

Since our last report, we have completed the extensive, complicated, and expensive piling and underpinning works needed to stop the severe structural movement at St Mary's. The repairs completed in late June, and comprised the design and installation of reinforced concrete underpinning with piled foundations and concrete ground beams.

In addition to structural repairs, we completed internal plaster repairs, conserving the wall-paintings where needed, re-rendering external walls where old render has failed, installing new rainwater goods, and other minor repairs like brick replacement, repointing and window repairs.

In total, the works cost £336,638.47. This is an enormous sum. We would not have been able to undertake these repairs without a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund. This grant covered 80% of the costs. We needed to raise the remaining 20% (just over £67,000) from other sources. A considerable task. The Culture Recovery Fund was established during the pandemic, as a means of rebooting the construction sector and protecting jobs.

If you go to the church now, you might think not much has changed, but all the below ground works are what are keeping the church standing! We are continuing to monitor the walls to make sure that the movement, which was severe and dramatic, is under control.

If you go into the church, you might notice that there is area of floor in the chancel which is still excavated. This is where the project archaeologist uncovered a grave slab with indents for brasses. The brasses are long lost, but the indents show a vertical figure with a horizontal band below it which would have had an inscription. This is likely to date from the 15th-century. The Brass Monuments Society have offered to pay a small grant towards the lifting and conservation of this slab, so that it can be embedded level with the floor.

Recent events at the church include a tour of the church for Burnham U3A Archaeology Group and Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group, and a map-making workshop. Our thanks to Christine MacDonald, who co-ordinated these events.

Our annual Evensong will be held at 5pm on 10 September 2023.

FoFC and St Mary's

St Mary's is one of our best loved churches, and holds an important place in our charity's history. It is the second most visited English church we own. FoFC is a tiny charity of just one full-time and one part-time member of staff. We currently own 60 redundant churches, and take on more closed and threatened places of worship every year. Whilst we have had success with the short-lived Culture Recovery Fund, we do not receive any regular funding, and we run our charity on membership subscriptions (£30pa), donations, legacies and minor grants from trusts and foundations. We rely on people visiting the places we've rescued and feeling inspired to become a member.