

MUNDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19th November 2019 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN THE NEW VICTORY HALL, MALDON ROAD, MUNDON.

Present: Cllr Gavin Rowsell (Chair), Cllr Lynne Attfield Cllr Richard Wilson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie & Cllr Len Clark - District Cllr Mark Bassenger. (arrived at Agenda item 4.)

In attendance: Mrs S Sayer – Parish Clerk

Members of Public: 8

1. Chairman's Welcome & Apologies.

The Chair welcomed all those present and received apologies from Cllr Bob Boyce.

2. Declarations of Interest

- Members made the usual declaration that all members live and/or work in the District and declared a global declaration. No other declarations were made at this point in the meeting.
- Members noted their responsibility to make any changes to their register of interests within 28 days.

3. The Minutes of the last meeting – 17th September 2019

- The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr Wilson and Seconded by: Cllr Wylie.

4. Public Comments

A resident raised the issue of speeding and told the sad story of a Father who visits each year and stands opposite his property to see the rose bush that was planted in the memory of his son who was killed at that spot. He felt that the bridge having been closed was the best thing. He stated that the speed limit of 30mph needs to be extended and to stop confusion the sign showing “end of speed limit” should be removed.

The problem of the car parking on the verge next to the Furze was raised and it was stated that this was a regular agenda item and many things have been done to try and prevent this.

Concerns were raised about the businesses that have suffered since the closure of the bridge and prior to that the closure of the road due to Essex and Suffolk water company carry out work and no compensation was given then. Comments relating to the short length of working days by the contractors which in turn extended the length of the work which was originally due to finish in October and now the expected date was December. The Local Pub was down 30-40% on

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trade and asked who he should speak to about it. Cllr Rowsell informed those present that work had been going on behind the scenes and a letter had been written to Highways and another will be sent. At the time of the meeting the expected finish date was 13th December.

The state of Blind Lane was raised and it was stated that the HGV's using the lane since the closure had trashed the pull-in sections and the verges were non-existent. When will this be made good? Cllr Rowsell also stated that the making good of Blind Lane was included in the letter to Highways.

Hathaway Racing also stated that their trade had suffered by 90% down turn.

Cllr Rowsell assured everyone that the Parish Council were actively liaising with Cllr Kevin Bentley regarding the matters raised.

5. District Councillors report

Cllr Bassenger stated that he was an Independent Councillor and that he had no report as such as Maldon District Council was in a state of "Purdah" in the lead up to the General Election on 12th December which means business can not really be carried out as usual due to various constraints.

Concerns were raised by the 1000 houses being built in Maldon and the need to widen the Fambridge Road. A car had been accidentally hit and cost £1000 and it was said that the possibility of Compulsory Purchase of the land either side of Fambridge Road, should be considered. Cllr Bassenger said that requests go to Highways who write a report for the planning application and as far as Highways were concerned they considered the road to be fit for purpose/usable.

It was stated that MDC do try and stop large housing schemes in the area, but are very much governed by planning policy. It was raised that Fambridge Road was also a HGV route.

The question of contractors exceeding their deadlines and budgets, and who keeps track of this and should there not be penalty clauses in the contracts that can be utilised and the contractor to be held accountable? Cllr Rowsell said he would add this into the response to Cllr Kevin Bentley.

Other planning schemes were mentioned including the Burnham Retirement Village, 1000 houses in Heybridge and planning allocations for Primary Schools.

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6. Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – meeting on 18th September 2019.

Cllr Wylie updated members on the meeting. Police Sergeant Andy Drake was the speaker at this meeting and informed those present that although Maldon Police Station had closed, police staffing did not reduce and that they are now based at Maldon Council offices. There is still a 24 hour response team between Tollesbury, Maldon and Dengie and also a community policing team team serving Chelmsford to Maldon. In March next year there will be an increase from 12 to 18 PC's. Two PC's allocated to Maldon Town Centre. It was reported that the police do have limited resources and therefore resources must be prioritised. The Police are recruiting 20,000 more police officers which will bring the area back up to the numbers in 2010.

A hospital is coming to Maldon and there are two possible sites – St. Peters or WykeHill.

All disputes have been resolved with Southminster Swim School who have been given another contract, so all is back up and running.

Asheldham and Dengie PC have been pushing to get 20mph speed limits and this again created lots of discussion as to whether it is actually achievable, even if signs were put up. It was also mentioned, that it is hoped that 20mph limits will be rolled out to the villages. The budget for the District for the Local Highways Panel is £200,000 per annum, so the panel consider those schemes that are needed most and prioritise accordingly. It is considered that a lot of money goes on the admin before the actual implementation and then things are prioritised and the lesser projects drop off the list.

Comments were made by Councillors about the general dissatisfaction with the Essex County Council Highways Department regarding the road closures at Fambridge Road and Mundon Road and the inconvenience caused to the whole of the Dengie.

7. Transport

Cllr Clark informed everyone that no problems have been reported to him, but will wait and see when the buses start travelling back through the village.

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8. The Furze

All is going well. Nothing to report but a vote of thanks was given for all the hard work carried out throughout the year to keep The Furze looking great. Cllr Rowsell stated that £900.00 has been received from the film company that used The Furze. The production is called "The Third Day"

9. Grass Cutting

Members happy with the grass cutting will continue to monitor.

10. Neighbour Hood Watch

Cllr Wylie informed members that she had been unable to contact the Maldon District, but understood there were quarterly meetings and had asked to attend them. Cllr Wylie reported two successful police responses to Hare Coursing incidents, however it is understood there have been a lot more than this.

Cllr Wylie is now on the Dengie Farm Watch circulation run by Dengie Crops Ltd in Dengie.

On FB (Facebook) trading standards have a list of product recalls and advised to be wary of various scams.

Be Aware and Be Secure.

Report everything to the police so that the crime stats increase and this in turn helps with getting a better police presence in the area.

11. Plume Education Trust

Cllr Wilson stated that Plume Education Trust has a pot of money to help young people to College/University and the Trust is under-subscribed so they discussed ways in which to inform those students about this fund.

12. Woodside

Clerk called the housing association to get an update on the possibility of gifting the green in front of Woodside to the Parish Council as the cost of maintaining this piece of land had been the Parish Council's for some years. The Housing Association are still awaiting a report. Clerk to chase for next meeting.

13. Defibrillator – Outside Victory Hall

The responsibility of the replenishing, monitoring of the defibrillator was determined to be the Parish Councils, although when Cllr Rowsell went to replace the battery and pads, it had already be done by someone. It was assumed to be the First Responder team. Clerk to make a few more enquiries.

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14. Website (Mundon.org)/Parish Facebook Page

- a) Cllr Rowsell said that the website is still not very well used
- b) Cllr Wilson more people are using the FB page.
- c) Members deferred the draft social media policy until the next meeting.

15. Broadband –

Essex Superfast Broadband – a request was made as to whether the Village had it or not? The response was that it should be in the Village by the end of year.

16. Training

- a) No Training was discussed or required at this time.

17. Planning

- **Planning Applications:-**

Cllr Rowsell who had studied the Flood report in great detail in relation to the Planning application 19/01093 – Lime Brook Way, highlighted the various problems that may well affect Mundon. The current Flood Risk Assessment within the application intends to use large diversion ditches with no surge attenuation, a series of very shallow swales that will readily silt up, and currently has no suggestion of a long-term maintenance regime.

This could mean that heavy rainfall events will more easily create increased surges of water that affect the Mundon Wash drainage system. It therefore is essential that the Parish Council keep on top of this planning application as if the water starts backing up The Wash – flooding will result.

The intention to build a Primary School right next to the A414, rather than further inside the development is also a health and risk problem for the children attending.

- **Planning Correspondence**

Members noted receipt via email of the following:-

- i) List of Planning applications – 36-46
- ii) List of Planning Decisions & Appeals – 36-46
- iii) *Revocation of Supplementary Planning Documents*

Members to note that Maldon District Council has revoked five Supplementary Planning Documents, in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Town and Country

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Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), linked to the former Replacement Local Plan (RLP), were revoked on 12 September 2019: Developer Contributions Guide 2005

- *Children's Play Space 2006*
- *Accessibility to Buildings 2006*
- *Sadd's Wharf 2007*
- *Heybridge Basin Timber Yard 2007*
- *As required under Regulation 15, following the revocation of the above Supplementary*
- *Planning Documents, all physical and digital copies of the documents have been removed from the Council offices and the Council's website.*
 - **Planning Decisions: None were evident.**

18. Highways

- a) Members discussed the letter to County Cllr Kevin Bentley in relation to the closure of Mundon Wash Bridge and the many problems that people had ensured throughout, using extra petrol for longer journeys to the diversion, reduction in income for businesses, but also the fact that the road had been so much quieter for the residents who live along the Main Road. The problems with signage, lack of planning, disruption to buses and postal services. Blind Lane was supposed to be left in a good state and was not. Members agreed the draft letter circulated by Cllr Rowsell should be sent adding that lessons should be learned to avoid the incompetence and bad planning which cost tax payers far more than it should have.
- b) The access across Mundon Wash Bridge for pedestrians and cyclists was OK.
- c) Clerk asked if the pallet of salt had arrived. Cllr Rowsell had received the pallet at his farm and would transport some up to the back of the Village Hall when spoken to the Committee.
- d) It was agreed to purchase a green salt bin to be situation at the Village Hall subject to their approval.
- e) All posters and stickers have been distributed.
- f) Cllr Wilson said he was waiting to hear from Thomas Eng regarding whether the Parish Council could contribute to the project listed on the Local Highways Panel list to instigate a traffic calming scheme. Cllr Wilson said he had completed a form. The clerk requested a copy of the form for the Parish file.

19. Happy to Chat Benches

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It was agreed that the clerk inform MDC that Mundon Parish Council would be very interested in a bench for Mundon Furze.

20. Correspondence

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

21. Financial and Management Risk Assessment

- a) Review and agreement of the Financial and Management Risk Assessment was deferred until the next meeting.

22. Finance

- a) Members approved the payments for October and November and signed off the bank reconciliation to the end of October 2019 – **AGREED**
- b) Barclays returned the mandate as needed a Councillor to countersign with the Chair. Members actioned and Clerk to send back for the changes to occur.
- c) The £900 had been paid into the Capital Fund account from the film crew.
- d) Members agreed to keep the Precept/Budget for 2020/2021 the same as for 2019/2020, so a request to be made by the Clerk to Maldon District Council in the amount of £4750.00 which means that a Band D household would pay £32-36 per year or £0.62p per week.

23. External Meetings

Cllr Rowsell attended a meeting on 26th September regarding Mundon Wash and would be attending a meeting on 4th October regarding the Flood Risks in the Area and on 9th October a meeting with Essex Polices Rural Engagement Team.

Cllr Wylie will be attending the DHGPC on 15th January 2020.

24. Information Exchange & Items for Next Agenda

None other than those already discussed

25. Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 21st January 2020 7.30 p.m.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.37 p.m.