

MUNDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

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Present:	Councillors: 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 Adam Pipe – Head of Roads Policing
Members of the Public:	4
Meeting commenced at:	7pm

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

No absences or apologies received.

59. Declarations of Interest

- a) To receive declarations of interest for any agenda items.
Cllr Leggett declared an interest in agenda item 71.
Cllr Attfield declared an interest in agenda item 70 (a).
- 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.

60. Public Forum

Roads, Speeding and Safety

Concerns were raised by residents regarding recent incidents of cars speeding through the village and causing damage to resident's properties and cars.

There was a request for a speed restriction of some nature to be put in the village.

Residents and Councillors were aware there had previously been data gathered and suggestions for schemes to be put in place over a number of years but these schemes had then been taken off the table by the higher level authorities prior to the Parish Council's involvement.

Adam Pipe (AP) reported.....

Plans are currently in the pipeline, ECC will be undertaking a review of route hierarchies in relation to type of vehicles starting December 2022 and AP suggested the Parish Council voice their concerns to ECC at that time.

A new Speed Management Strategy is required as the current Strategy does not reflect the current usage for all road user types.

Urban and rural speed limits will be reduced for example, urban 30 to 20 and rural 60 to 50.

Big changes are due to come in regarding vulnerable road users.

AP has been working with ECC to highlight the need for developers to leave a legacy and initially fund road safety systems.

AP feels the average speed systems are the only devices that work effectively and are now available on a wider scale to blend in with the environment and can work over 75 meters, these also monitor 24/7 for 365 days per year. The equipment (brands such as Physionics and Siemens) can be bought or leased and they are available for B roads as well as A roads and motorways. If leased, continued revenue is required to fund the equipment. A suggestion was

that these could be funded by developers and the Parish Council will need to liaise with MDC and ECC/Highways to obtain information on the average speed developer funded schemes. To install these systems permission is required from ECC and Essex Safer Roads, as ECC own the land where the device is placed.

AP has been working closely with MDC as the whole area is in dire need for these measures to be put in place.

AP confirmed his team now consists of only 86 officers which is down from 300 previously. An extra 3 are currently being recruited to start after Christmas and these new officers will deal with speeding alone.

A resident confirmed it is the Main Road which is the concern with the volume and the weight load of the traffic coming through, 3.30pm to 6pm being the worse period.

Adam Pipe left at this point in the meeting – everyone offered their thanks and appreciation for Adam attending the meeting and for the updates he provided.

Grass Cutting

A resident raised a question about grass cutting on the verges outside residents' properties within the village, to keep the village neat, as they had recently arranged a cut themselves, as a goodwill gesture, to a neighbour's property and requested whether these may be added to the Parish Council's rota of grass cutting.

The Councillors felt this would not be a request the Parish Council could honour as these are strips of private land or are required to be maintained by ECC Highways and therefore it is the responsibility of each resident and/or ECC Highways to address these areas. The Parish Council currently pays for grass cutting on Parish owned land and to be fair to all residents, could not take on individual strips of land in addition to this.

61. Minutes of the previous meeting – 19 July 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 July 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record – unanimous decision.

62. Policies, Procedures and Risk Assessments

To consider and resolve any annual or new drafts – no annual or new drafts to consider.

63. County/District Councillors Report

No reports available, County and District Councillors not present.

64. Transport

Cllr Bennett confirmed there was currently nothing new to report.

65. The Furze

The Wood Warden reported x10 smoking devices (bongs) had been found recently and reports have been received of people using mountain bikes through The Furze which are causing deep tracks in the footpaths. Wood being taken from The Furze has also been reported.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem with 104 piles of dog excrement being removed on one day.

West Chase was also recognised as an area where dog fouling is a problem.

Parish Council to review current signs and the area to address the issues raised.

66. Grass Cutting/Verges

Cllr Attfield confirmed it had been felt best to leave the strimming of the verge around the saplings for the time being as it would be quite an expensive and there could be the possibility of catching the young saplings in the process.

The Clerk had been liaising with MDC regarding a tree planting initiative which is free to Parish Councils, runs until 2026 and understands it includes hedging. Carry item forward to next meeting and perhaps explore requesting larger saplings.

67. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wylie reported that she had not been made aware of any crimes recently in the village. Since the last Parish meeting Cllr Wylie has attended 2 NHW watch meetings of area coordinators (July & September). The meetings covered both urban and rural issues – with concerns and discussions regarding drug dealing, thefts and burglaries, itinerant rogue traders and road racing in more rural areas.

The police were very pleased to report that the information/intelligence they have received via the WhatsApp phone (direct link between NHW coordinators and the Police) have led to a number of arrests being made –mainly relating to drug supplying/taking.

There were concerns raised over thefts/burglaries, car and bike theft and shed break-ins. The advice is to keep your property safe and secure with bikes locked in sheds, CCTV and PIR security lighting is recommended.

There is a Community Safety Event with bike marking on 26th October from 10am to 3pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge where you can meet local emergency services and community groups.

The main scam at the moment is relating to fake emails purporting to be from Ofgem, the independent energy regulator for Great Britain. The emails claim that the recipient is due a rebate payment as part of a government scheme and provides links for the recipient to follow in order to apply for the rebate. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

All the emails display the email subject header “Claim your bill rebate now”. Offenders are using the Ofgem brand logo and colours to make the emails look as authentic as possible.

However, the emails ask recipients to “apply for an energy bill rebate before September 2020”, which is what prompted many recipients to realise the emails weren’t genuine.

If you have received an email which you’re not quite sure about, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Send emails that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam – they are always checked.

Same advice around reporting crime applies, 999 if it’s an emergency, 101 or online if it is not. www.essex.police.uk

Next meeting 22/24 November.

A short discussion was had on how to get NHW information to Parishioners. It was decided that any urgently flagged matters should be put on Facebook and NHW newsletters available on the website.

68. Woodside

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

The matter is progressing with an agreement for Moat to pass the Woodside Green land to the parish together with a donation of £1,000 towards maintenance costs.

The Parish Council are required to appoint a solicitor to act on their behalf. The Clerk had obtained quotes. The quotes had been reviewed and it was resolved to appoint Mitchell Plampin Partnership – unanimous decision.

Clerk to update Moat Housing and Mitchell Plampin Partnership.

69. Website and Social Media

Cllr Rowsell reported the website is occasionally viewed by others before meetings for agendas.

Facebook currently has 230 followers and the number of engagements are dependent upon the interest in the topics posted.

70. Planning

a) Planning Applications to Review

22/00736/HOUSE PP-11318578

The Ponds, Maldon Road

Proposed 1st floor over with pitch roof and triangle dormers which is currently 5.93m and will be 8.38m

Clerk used delegation of power to respond to MDC on 30 Aug 22 – no objections

MDC refused this application in week 39 ending 30 Sept 22

22/00813/VAR PP-11284428

Suffolk Life Annuities Unit 3 Mapledean Works Maldon Road

Variation of condition 4 on approved planning permission 22/00103/FUL (Removal of palisade fencing and storage container and erection of single storey E(g)(iii) (light industrial) and B8 (storage) industrial building. Variation: To allow extend working times to include Saturdays 8am-2pm.

Clerk used delegation of power to respond to MDC on 11 Aug 22 – no objections

MDC approved this application in week 36 ending 9 Sept 22

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.

Clerk used delegation of power to respond to MDC on 20 Sept 22 – no objections and support the application.

Application with MDC pending consideration as at 3 Oct 22

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.

Cllr Attfield had previously declared an interest in this application and left the room.

The application was reviewed by the Parish Council – no objections and support application – unanimous decision

b) Planning Decisions (and awaiting Decisions)

21/01230/OUT PP-10402912

Proposed 1 and a half storey chalet styled bungalow

Orchards, New Hall Lane

MDC Head of Planning confirmed via email 23 Sept 22 application has now been refused.

22/00409/FUL PP-11111598

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

Land North of Willow Grove, Maldon Road, Mundon

Application with MDC pending consideration as at 3 Oct 2022

22/00491/FUL PP-11144693

Construction of a two storey detached dwelling

Glenlene, Main Road, Mundon

MDC refused this application week 37 ending 16 Sept 22

PDE/MAL/22/00229 (prior approval required and granted w/e 5 Aug 2022)

The Ponds Maldon Road Mundon

Proposed 1st floor over with pitch roof and triangle dormers which is currently 5.93m and will be 8.38m

c) **Planning Correspondence:**

Members to note receipt via email of the following:

List of planning applications weeks 28 to 39 - **Noted**

List of planning decisions and appeals weeks 28 to 39 - **Noted**

71. Parish Council Land – Ownership and Boundaries

a) Clerk reported, matter progressing. Undertaking of costs had been received from buyers' solicitors. Draft Transfer Deed is being drawn up and an Epitome of Title being collated. The Parish Council have responded to and provided all information requested so far.

Clerk had obtained legal advice and guidance from the NALC regarding tax on Parish Council gains and restrictions on funds received.

b) Ditch clearing – Cllr Rowsell reported this is outstanding and will be addressed nearer the time of sale. Cllr Rowsell to review the area with the Wood Warden, there is a possibility that a third party may need to carry out the work.

72. Highways

a) The poor standard of crack repairs in New Hall Lane had been reported to Highways via their 'Report It' tool.

Cllr Rowsell confirmed the damaged 40 limit sign in Mundon Road will be reported to Highways again.

Cllr Rowsell, on behalf of the Parish Council, expressed thanks to Adam Pipe, Head of Roads Policing, for attending the meeting this evening.

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

July = 15 offenders

Aug = 19 offenders

From September 22 the enforcement team will include attending their sessions at weekends and outside of the normal 9am to 5pm slots.

It was felt, any additional funded attendances, if available, would be of benefit to the Parish. Clerk to follow this up.

73. Community

a) Fundraising Committee – Cllr Leggett reported the siting and planting of the beacon adjacent to the Woodside Green is underway and will take place once the ground softens.

Cllr Leggett suggested the idea of a traditional village fayre to be held within the village next year.

- b) Defibrillator – the Clerk reported a Safety Notice had been received during August with regard to a required software upgrade to address battery status details when the Defib is in use. The unit was scheduled, via an online booking system, to be collected on 13 Sept by DPD, a loan device provided and then the Mundon Defib returned two days later following the completion of the upgrade. DPD did not collect the device as arranged and despite requests for updates, this is still to take place. Clerk to follow up on a regular basis.
- The Defib continues to be checked each month and updates logged with ‘The Circuit’. On 29 Sept an email from ‘The Circuit’ notified of the Defib being used or taken from its cabinet and it had therefore been registered as unavailable. The Defib has since been checked, all has been untampered and the device has therefore been updated as available on ‘The Circuit’. A new battery was kindly provided by East of England Ambulance Scheme and was replaced on 3 Oct 2022.

74. Plume Educational Trust

Cllr Wylie attended a meeting of the Trustees for the Plume Educational Trust on 20th July 2022. The Trustees approved the Annual Reports and Finances and confirmed that Scholarships will be offered for the next academic year.

The Chair gave a back ground to the Trust:

Students can apply for 3 years of grants (in exceptional circumstances a 4th year grant may be approved) to aid their higher education which can be either

University/Apprenticeship/Technical College. The first application has to be made within 2 years of leaving the school (so it can be applied for if a student changed educational establishments to do their A levels/Further Education). A letter regarding the grants available are sent to students with their A Level results and the application is very simple and has a closing date for the beginning of November. Once applications are received there is a meeting (next one is 15th November) to discuss the allocation of the funds, amount given is subject to parental earning brackets. The amount of money available is taken from what is in the account at the end of September. The amount available is purely interest on the capital invested. The money is only invested in Charity Official Investment Funds (COIF's). Trustees then agree amounts. Once approval is given for the allocation of grants cheques are then issued to the students. Checks are made to make sure the students are at the University and are on the course that they stated on their application from. In rare occasions, if the student doesn't go the stated Uni/Course then the grant is asked to be returned. If there are only a few students applying then some of the money available may be held back for another year. Of course, as students can apply for 2nd and 3rd year study then the numbers applying should increase.

Next meeting 15th November 6.15pm at the Plume School where applicants and allocation of funds will be discussed.

75. Correspondence

For information only - Clerk reported on correspondence received after the agenda had been advertised.

Planning – Little Wycke Farm 22/00991/LDE PP-11544996

Planning – Holmfield Bungalow 22/00742/HOUSE PP-11341790

ECC Sustainable Warmth Programme is now available to help households make improvements to secure energy efficiency, people can apply for funds from October.

76. Finance

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

Jul-22						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
19/22-23	01/08/2022	SLCC	Clerk annual membership renewal from 1/8/22	112.00		112.00
20/22-23	11/07/2022	Maldon District Council	Community Engagement Team Services - June 2022	35.94	7.19	43.13
21/22-23	19/07/2022	Clerk	Expenses - Stationery, Black HP Toner Cartridge @ 50%	32.00		32.00
22/22-23	19/07/2022	Wood Warden	Expenses - Fuel for wood chipper	16.92		16.92
23/22-23	29/07/2022	Clerk	Salary and expenses month 4 - July 2022	372.55		372.55

Aug-22						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTON	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
24/22-23	26/07/2022	Victory Hall	Victory hall hire x2 hrs 20 Sept 22 mtg	16.00		16.00
25/22-23	27/07/2022	Mow My Lawn	Grass cutting services x2 July 2022	140.00		140.00
26/22-23	23/08/2022	Clerk	Expenses - mileage claim for taking archives to ERO	16.56		16.56
27/22-23	31/08/2022	Clerk	Salary and expenses month 5 - August 2022	400.18		400.18

- b) Clerk's update

The VAT reclaim was submitted to HMRC on 31 Aug 22 in the value of £503.34 covering the year from 1 Sept 21 to 31 Aug 22. The funds were received from HMRC during Sept 22 into the Community bank account.

The budget is currently on track with one small shortfall, for the cost of insurance this year which came in at £15.27 more than the budget. However, other budget headings should achieve a slight surplus during the year which will cover this shortfall.

- c) Locality Fund

Clerk reported that this fund is available again this year. It was felt help with the expense of further hedge saplings for the village verge project would be of benefit. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Stamp and prepare an application according to hedging quotes recently received.

77. Training

No requests for training were received at this time.

78. External Meetings

Clerk attended the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils meeting on 20 July 2022. A copy of the minutes will be circulated to Councillors once received. The next meeting will be held on 19 October 2022 at 7pm, venue TBA.

Cllr Rowsell is due to attend an Environment Agency meeting on 6 October.

Cllr Leggett is due to attend the Village Hall Committee meeting on 18 October.

79. Information Exchange & Items for next Agenda

Requests for the following to be included on the next agenda:

Review of Clerk's current employment contract.

Dog fouling – bins and signs

DHGPC Quiz – funding of places

80. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 15 November 2022 @ 7pm**81. All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.38pm.**