

MUNDON PARISH COUNCIL

(DRAFT) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025 AT 7PM IN THE VICTORY HALL

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Present: Cllr Gavin Rowsell (Chair), Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie and
Cllr Marita Ponting

In Attendance: Mrs Jackie Lines – Parish Clerk/RFO
Adam Pipe (Head of Roads Policing)

Members of Public: 4

Meeting Commenced: 7pm

100. Chairman’s welcome and to receive apologies of absence – apologies were received from Cllr Bennett, Cllr Leggett and District Cllr Fittock.

101. Declarations of Interest

- a) To receive declarations of interest for any agenda items – no declarations of interest received.
- b) Members noted their responsibility to update any changes to their Register of interests within 28 days on the MDC website and to let the Parish Clerk know updates had been made.

102. Public Forum

No new items raised.

103. Minutes of the previous meeting – 27 November 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record – **unanimous decision.**

104. County/District Councillors Report

To receive reports from County and/or District Councillors – no County or District Councillors present.

105. Policies, Procedures, Risk Assessments and Contracts

- a) It was resolved to agree and adopt the updated Financial and Management Risk Assessment – **unanimous decision.**
- b) It was resolved to agree and adopt the updated Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy – **unanimous decision.**

106. Public Transport

Cllr Ponting reported the 31, 31X and 331 buses are still on diversion in both directions due to Maldon Road being closed from 22 Jan 2025 until 22 Feb from 19:00 to 05:00.
Buses from Chelmsford continue to be unreliable at times with some not arriving at all despite being able to track them on live apps.

107. The Furze

The Wood Wardens and the Parish Council members welcomed a new Wood Warden volunteer and expressed their thanks to them for becoming a member of the valued team. The clearing of storm damage has continued along with addressing other fallen trees.

It was noted that many more people use the woodland now.

Cllr Ponting confirmed some new signs are being sourced (via the Victory Hall Committee) for the car park at the rear of the Victory Hall regarding its closure, as there have been a few occasions of recent when people using The Furze have been locked in once hall users depart.

The person in a Ford Transit visiting The Furze had continued to return during January causing concern with intimidating and antisocial behaviour towards individuals. This had been reported to the Parish Council at the time of an incident occurring. The person was spoken to by a member of the Parish Council with the situation being addressed promptly and is now hopefully resolved.

The Parish Council wish to express their huge thanks to Farm & Country Fencing for the 'free of charge' installation, at the rear of the Victory Hall, of a new kissing gate, fencing and a new gateway to make access easier for the Wood Wardens. Thanks will also be expressed via Facebook.

108. Grass Cutting/Verges

Cllr Leggett had provided a report for the meeting to confirm Mow My Lawn had been contacted to confirm the continuation of their services from 1 April 2025. It is anticipated that the first cut of the season will be around the middle to end of March.

109. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wylie reported that there are now 35 members of the Mundon Village NHW FB page.

The Red van driver seen by the Victory Hall and in the Furze on occasions acting suspiciously has been spoken to. Matter closed.

The Lions Club 'Message in a Bottle' has been a great success as they are currently out of stock and more are having to be produced. It is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their basic personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge. Cllr Wylie has obtained some for residents.

No new date has been set by the Community Policing Team for the 'Let's Talk' initiative to be held in the village yet.

Following the Chelmsford and Maldon NHW meeting (held 21st January 2025):

There was a talk given regarding Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and how to spot the signs. If you see anything suspicious please contact the police using the usual channels as necessary for intelligence purposes. You can also contact the Modern Slavery 24 hour helpline 08000 121 700.

The TruCAM team (Essex Police initiative) gave a talk. They have been going since 2017 and currently operate for 20 Parishes in the area and have taken on 5 new staff. They work closely with the Road Safety Team in Billericay. Mundon was mentioned and congratulated because

of their signs saying ‘Over **300** Speeding Prosecutions in Mundon so far’ – it has been very much a good talking point within local parishes and NHW groups.
Next Chelmsford and Maldon NHW meetings are in March 2025.

110. Woodside

The Clerk provided an update on the funding applications in relation to help towards the cost of resurfacing/upgrading the Woodside paths.

National Lottery, Awards for All – applied 14 Oct 2024 for maximum, being £20K – application not successful due to it not addressing the National Lottery’s funding priorities as strongly as other applications.

Community Initiative Fund (CIF) – applied 18 Oct 2024 via the EALC for maximum, being £10K – the application was supported by EC Cllr Stamp at the time. Awaiting a response.

111. Website and Social Media

- a) Cllr Rowsell reported the website continues to receive a slow trickle of visitors and the Mundon Village Facebook currently has 332 followers. Please liaise with Cllr Rowsell if a post is required or if anyone wishes to make any comments on content.
- b) To consider and resolve .GOV.UK domains for email addresses – Cllr Rowsell provided researched information confirming there are 31 parishes within Maldon, 11 have the .GOV.UK email addresses with only 7 using this domain for their websites. There would be an additional cost to the parish to change and ongoing annual fees. Funding to help parishes make the change had already been fully allocated. Clerk currently uses a separate email address for Mundon Parish Council which is felt to be perfectly professional. FOI requests would apply to all email addresses.

It had been previously noted that the EALC, during Councillor training days, had highlighted as good practice to move to .GOV.UK email addresses.

A vote was taken with ‘No’ to changing Councillor’s email addresses, Clerk’s email address and the website domain. Await legal requirement to action further – **unanimous decision**

112. Planning

- a) **Planning Applications for Information Only**
No new applications received.

Planning Applications for Review
No new applications received.

- b) **Planning Decisions (and awaiting Decisions)**

23/00440/OUT PP-12118536

Land north of Willow Grove, Maldon Road, Mundon

Outline planning application (with all matters of detail reserved for future determination except for means of access) for the erection of up to two dwellings

MDC refused the application on 17 Nov 2023, appeal start date 20 June 2024 and appeal in progress as at 20 Jan 2025.

24/00788/HOUSE PP- 13458678

Orchards, New Hall Lane, Mundon

Single storey rear extension. Additional front door with canopy. Detached garage/outbuilding.

Clerk used delegation of power to respond to MDC on 30 Oct 2024 – Mundon Parish Council have reviewed the above mentioned planning application, have no objections and support this application. The application is pending consideration as at 20 Jan 2025.

24/00767/FUL PP-13373902

Limbourne Park Farm, Main Road, Mundon

Single storey outbuilding for use as a home office.

Clerk used delegation of power to respond to MDC on 30 Oct 2024 – Mundon Parish Council have reviewed the above mentioned planning application, have no objections and support this application. The application is pending consideration as at 20 Jan 2025.

c) Planning Correspondence:

Members noted receipt via email of the following:

List of planning applications, decisions and appeals weeks 48 to 52 for 2024 and 1 to 3 for 2025.

113. Highways

a) To receive any updates on new highways matters.

Cllr Rowsell requested some accountability for clear information from Essex Highways for roadworks taking place. The information is not kept up to date and can change without notice causing disruption. Clerk to liaise with EC Cllr Stamp for a response from Essex Highways.

Adam Pipe provided a report:

The Roads Policing Team within the district currently consists of 83 officers, having been reduced from over 300, covering a wide area up to the Suffolk border and as far as Ongar all within 5 shifts. Round the clock traffic collisions are also covered by the Team.

In 2016 Adam Pipe introduced the TruCAM system, has since allocated direct funding of £12K for the Maldon district and hopes to do the same for 2025/26 to achieve more across the district. There is a massive demand on this system which has worked exceptionally well maximising legislation and is unique to the Maldon district. 20 parishes within the district currently subscribe to TruCAM.

At present 10.5K excess speed drivers are prosecuted each month and the back office team play an important support role in this process.

Community Speed Watch is another scheme to highlight offenders and letters to individuals are generated. Police are able to attend a site and prosecute.

Attendees were invited to ask Adam Pipe questions and the Clerk brought everyone up to date regarding an email sent to EC Cllr Stamp, District Cllr Fittock and Adam Pipe on 12 December 2024 requesting a further review of traffic calming measures within Mundon.

A resident raised the matter of the Main Road being a 60mph speed limit heading towards Latchingdon and questioned whether this could be reduced to 40mph.

Adam Pipe confirmed the speed limits are set by ECC under their Management Strategy which is currently being worked on and is required before Adam Pipe can act on his own strategy. It

requires a safe system approach, enforcing speed limits for all road users and consideration for the rural community. Priority is also given to vulnerable road users and there may be an area within the Management Strategy documents for local people to voice their preferences. Route hierarchy is also an important area to be reviewed in line with the Management Strategy. The Local Highways Panel currently fund traffic calming measures and there are other average speed systems available, rather than the yellow poles, which blend in to the environment.

New developments are adding to the Team's workload and are a hindrance to enforce. Developers need to contribute and consider their roads. More contributions from developers and a change to County Council planning are required.

Adam Pipe to feedback information to the Clerk following an Essex County Council Speed Management Strategy meeting due to be held w/c 27 January 2025.

- b) To review information received from the Community Engagement Team after carrying out regular speed checks via a TruCAM – the monthly patrols continue and results reflect:

November = 9 offenders
December = 5 offenders

- c) Update on traffic calming measures through the village – the Clerk reported, following the requests from the last meeting in November 2024 to revisit all traffic calming measures, an email, listing these measures along with further comments and questions, had been sent to EC Cllr Stamp, District Cllr Fittock and Adam Pipe (Head of Roads Policing) on 12 December 2024.

EC Cllr Stamp had responded and a speed survey had been suggested as the initial step and location details had been provided. Await further updates.

Also refer to item 113 (a) for Adam Pipe's report.

- d) Community Speed Watch in partnership with other parishes across the Dengie – a resident, who had carried out a recent road safety survey within the village will liaise with responders providing them with further information on this scheme, details of which may also be located on Facebook.
- e) To receive an update on village gateways – the Clerk reported no change in the position, the matter still lies with the LHP and an application was made via EC Cllr Stamp in November 2023.

114. Community

- a) Fundraising Committee update - Cllr Leggett had provided a report to confirm last year's Committee will be contacted shortly and a meeting date set to discuss this year's Fete.

To consider and resolve any requests for the use of funds – Cllr Wylie requested a replacement A-Frame board for notices, agreed and Clerk to research costs – **unanimous decision.**

- b) Consider and resolve VE 80th Anniversary celebrations on 8th May 2025 – A simple event was agreed. Cllr Rowsell to source a flag. Clerk to contact The White Horse Pub regarding food. Cllr Rowsell and Wood Warden to liaise regarding the lighting of the beacon at 9.30pm – **unanimous decision.**

115. Plume Educational Trust

Cllr Wylie reported payments would have been made to the 12 students who applied for the funding for this academic year. The next meeting will be in May 2025.

116. Correspondence

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

117. Finance

- a) To review and approve receipts, payments, bank reconciliation and budget - v - actual reports for November and December 2024 - List of payments are circulated to members at the end of each month prior to the meeting – **unanimously agreed** and signed off by Cllr Rowsell.

Nov-24						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
30/24-25	24/11/2024	Mow My Law n	Inv 1667 grass cutting 11 Oct and 8 Nov 2024	150.00		150.00
31/24-25	29/11/2024	Clerk	Salary and home office month 8 - November 2024	422.11		422.11

Dec24						
FOLIO	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET AMT	VAT	GROSS
32/24-25	27/11/2024	Wood Warden	Expense Claim - petrol for woodchipper	16.67	3.33	20.00
33/24-25	04/12/2024	Victory Hall	Victory Hall hire x2 hrs Jan 2025 meeting	16.00		16.00
34/24-25	31/12/2024	Clerk	Salary and home office month 9 - December 2024	542.39		542.39
35/24-25	08/12/2024	Mow My Law n	Invoice 1681 grasscutting 25 Nov 2024	75.00		75.00

- b) It was resolved to agree the content of the Asset Register to 31 December 2024 – **unanimous decision**.
- c) Locality Fund update – the Clerk reported a successful application, for just over £300, had been submitted to Cllr Stamp for an additional litter bin, paint, postcrete, fuel and painting utensils. Thanks go to EC Cllr Stamp and ECC for allocating these funds to Mundon.

Cllr Rowsell to liaise with the Wood Wardens regarding the location of the new litter bin. It was noted the bin emptying costs for the new litter bin via MDC would amount to £55.10 plus VAT for one year, after which MDC include within their normal emptying rota at their cost.

- d) To consider and resolve any capital expenditure requests from Capital Reserves.
- i) Dog fouling signs for West Chase farm entrance – Clerk had discussed the matter with the farmer. It was agreed to purchase 4 signs, total cost around £20 – **unanimous decision**.

118. Training

No new training requests were received.

119. External Meetings

To receive reports on any external meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk – Cllr Ponting reported:

MHTBUG Meeting re: Love your Bus Grant Fund. 17 January 2025

Present were a number of representatives from local Parish and Town Councils – Purleigh, Stow Marie's, Cold Norton, Maldon, Heybridge, and Mundon. Also present were members of Banyards Taxi who had a proposal for re-instating the 99 link to Broomfield.

10 routes presented to Bus companies back in September had been dismissed by the bus companies. MHTBUG had narrowed this to 3 routes to be considered for the Grant.

- Broomfield 99 service
- Saltmarsh link (Hatfield Peverel – North Fambridge)
- Maldon – South Woodham Ferrers

None of these came through Mundon.

Significant discussions focused on Heybridge, in the light of extensive house building and no bus route. They were considering the Grant could be used to extend the 288 service.

The suggestion from the MHTBUG was to encourage each of the 8 separate councils to apply for the £50,000 grant with a view to combining the money into one or more of the suggested routes.

A number of concerns were raised:

- Who would manage/administer?
- Would there be ongoing support/costs?
- Liabilities if routes not sustainable
- Timescale too small
- Is the money for new routes or extension/promotion?
- Accountability across 8 PCs
- Expectation of PCs to manage transport without having skills & knowledge
- Precept implications/match funding
- Should have been addressed to County/District level.

MHTBUG went on to suggest that PCs act as a conduit for the funding with ‘someone’ centrally managing. Cllr Fleming to explore this and extending the deadline.

Touched on village car schemes/community transport/using empty school buses.

Cllr Ponting pointed out that her initial reaction to the proposed grant was that it was absurd to spend money on extras/new routes when the current service was so unreliable (gave examples of trying to leave Chelmsford!), and that none of the proposals included Mundon, although Cllr Ponting appreciated that Mundon were perhaps privileged to have a bus service already!

Since the meeting there has been some email exchange.

- Cllr Fleming confirmed that the deadline of 21st February 2025 was set by the DfT and could not be changed.
- Cllr Fleming having further discussion with Banyards about their Bus transport.
- Purleigh PC are concerned about lack of specialised knowledge, ongoing costs, and liabilities. Prepared to act as a conduit. They support better connectivity and suggested urgently meeting with neighbouring PCs to discuss further.

Clerk to respond to Purleigh PC to confirm it had been agreed Mundon would not be considering further involvement in the grant application at this time.

120. Information Exchange and Items for next Agenda

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

121. Date of future meetings - next meeting Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 7pm.

122. All business having been transacted, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.