**Present:** Cllr Gavin Rowsell (Chair), Cllr Lynne Attfield, Cllr Kerry-Jane Wylie & Cllr Len Clark

**In attendance:** Mrs S Sayer – Parish Clerk

**Members of Public: 2**

1. **Chairman’s Welcome & Apologies.**

The Chair welcomed all those present and received apologies from DCllr Bassenger. & DCllr Boyce The Chair also gave a vote of thanks to Les and Steve for all their hardwork in The Furze.

1. **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.
2. **The Minutes of the last meeting – 19th November 2019**
   * The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr Wylie and Seconded by: Cllr Clarke.
3. **Resignation of Parish Councillors/Vacancy**

a) Richard Wilson resigned being a Parish Councillor effective 21st  December 2019.

b) After the Parish Council had advertised the vacancy and no election

was called the Parish Council is able to co-opt a person onto the

Council. Mr. John Bennett stepped forward to take up the position

and in the absence of anyone else. Members agreed that Mr. Bennett

could join the Parish Council from the March 2020 meeting after

having signed the “Acceptance of Office”

c) Members decided to defer electing a Vice-Chair until the Annual

General Meeting of the Parish Council on 19th May 2020.

1. **Public Comments**

No members of public spoke.

1. **District Councillors report**

No report available as District Councillor unable to attend.

1. **Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – meeting on 15th January 2020.**

Cllr Wylie updated members on the meeting as follows:-

* A guest speaker at the meeting was Matt Leigh – Head of Planning at MDC. He gave a summary of what happens in the Planning Dept. He went onto say that Planning is a legal process and the officers have to follow the policies in the LDP (Local Development Plan). The Planning Officers have to study the applications and make a balance decision e.g. could it cause harm, is the design in keeping with the surroundings, is it beneficial to the community and all of these require evidence to back the application up.

MDC Planning are offering all Parish Councils free of charge, the opportunity to have some training from them. This training would be done to help Parish Council members make informed comments as to what is acceptable and likely to be approved/refused. Matt Leigh asked if there was any specific areas that Parish Councils would like to know about.

As a general comment Matt Leigh stated that residents were encouraged to write in if they had any comments to make regarding a planning application and then the Case Officer will turn the wording from the letter into planning terminology to their comment forward.

* It was mentioned that there is currently a 5 year land supply and it was ensure that Town and Parish Councils will be consulted before the next LDP is produced.
* There was an update about the 20mph speed limits being introduced in that these woud probably only introduced near schools.
* Next John Mardon Quiz is 18th November 2020.
* Also a discussion took place to try and set up a closed group of Dengie PC’s on either Facebook or Teamapp so that each Parish council in the Dengie could put on when they hope to host an event to prevent clashes and so we can promote each others events.
* Next meeting 18th March 2020 – Mundon was asked if they could host.

1. **Transport**

Cllr Clarke informed everyone that no reports locally of any problems with the buses. It was mentioned that sometimes there is slight fluctuation in the timetable and some buses were arriving early and on occasion leaving early but most waited for the right time.

The bus shelter outside the hall was considered to be in a reasonable condition but had grass and weeds growing up, so Cllr Clarke going to speak with “Mow My Lawn” the grass contractor to carry out some ground maintenance. The next Passenger Transport Meeting is on 3rd March at MDC offices.

1. **The Furze**

It is believed that some of the trees in the Furze are at least one hundred years old as some trees and fencing came down in the recent bad weather. A request was made about fixing the fence at the back that borders the farmland. Cllr Rowsell said that could be a capital project and as such come out of the Church Fund, but needed to check if the fence was Parish Council owned or the landowners before doing anything.

It was reported that the problems with the quad bikes seem to have stopped.

A discussion had taken place about planting some more trees but it was decided not to go ahead due to the lack of light.

Again Cllr Rowsell on behalf of the members of the Parish Council gave a vote of thanks for all the hard work that Les and Steve put into keeping The Furze in such good condition.

1. **Grass Cutting**

Members happy with the grass cutting and Cllr Clarke will continue to monitor and will have a word with the grass contractor about not cutting the daffodils too early this year when they are finished and also about cutting a bit shorter each time.

1. **Neighbour Hood Watch**

Cllr Wylie informed members that she had still not been able to meet with the Maldon District NHW Group but hoped to on 4th February.

There was a report of heating oil having been stolen from a property along New Hall Lane whilst the owners were on holiday.

Cllr Wylie informed members of various scams that were doing the rounds:

HMRC – bogus letters/emails advising of a refund due and to make contact via a bogus link.

Amazon Prime scam emails saying “payment cannot be taken” and to make contact with them via a bogus link.

Members advised when signing and dating important documents this year to write the year 2020 in full as if only writing it as ‘20’ leaves it open to being fraudulently altered.

1. **Plume Education Trust**

Mr. Wilson had stated that he wished to continue serving on the Plume

Education Trust and would keep the Parish Council fully informed.

1. **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 repeated that they are still awaiting a report and would chase again.

Clerk to chase for next meeting.

1. **Defibrillator – Outside Victory Hall**

a) Clerk had been in contact with John Cleary the head of the local First

Responders who stated that the Mundon device was supplied by EEAST

under a special program by the then CEO. It was part of AED1000 program

around 2014/15. The defibrillator is owned and maintained by EEAST and they should always restock it and he said it would be worth letting him know when it needed replenishing just in case. Local residents raised the funds for the cabinet and installed it prior to this the defibrillator was kept in the PH. Clerk to search out paperwork and to make sure EEAST are still maintaining the equipment.

1. **Website (Mundon.org)/Parish Facebook Page**

a) Cllr Rowsell said that the website is still not very well used but he is still

updating with all the news, agenda’s and minutes. Mundon.org.

b) To the best of his knowledge Cllr Rowsell stated that the website was fully

compliant with the accessibility regulations.

c) The Facebook page administration has been taken over by Cllr Rowsell and

the Parish Clerk.

d) Members agreed the Social Media Policy subject to the exclusion of the

paragraph headed “Users of Council Social Media” which is not relevant.

Proposed: Cllr Attfield and Seconded: Cllr Clarke.

1. **Broadband –**

Cllr Attfield stated that she had been in touch with Superfast BB and it still was not clear what was happening. It was supposed to be in Mundon by December 2019 but to date this had not happened. A conversation took place that those closest to the junction box were more likely to have a more effective connection.

Cllr Attfield will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone in touch.

1. **Training**

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

1. **Planning**

**Applications for January 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FUL/MAL/19/00930** | **Mundon (P)** | **Althorne (W)** |
| Demolition of existing domestic storage building and erection of replacement domestic storage building  Mapledean Pig Farm Mapledean Chase Latchingdon Essex  (UPRN - 200000915285)  Mr P Schramm  **Parish Council Members supported this application- AGREED** | | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FUL/MAL/19/01075** | **Mundon (P)** | **Althorne (W)** |
| Erection of lean to on existing agricultural building.  Stud Farm Mundon Road Mundon Essex  (UPRN - 100091454757)  Mr C Kruse  **Parish Council Members supported this application- AGREED** | | |

**Planning Correspondence**

Members noted receipt via email of the following:-

* + 1. List of Planning applications – 47-02

1. List of Planning Decisions & Appeals – 47-02

iii. Members made not comments in regard to the Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation document in relation to the Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Draft SPC which Chelmsford City Council (CCC) are publishing for public consultation from 10th January 2020 to 21st February 2020.

iv. Members noted that Maldon District Council adopted the amendment to the Affordable Housing and Viability Supplementary Planning Document on 19th December 2019. (Adoption Statement circulated via email on 9/1/20).

  c) **Planning Decisions:**

FUL/MAL/19/00927- Mundon Section 73A application for the relocation and upgrade of existing agricultural access to hard surfacing with gate. Land Adjacent Westfield Bungalows Main RoadMundon Essex (UPRN - 010014001895) Mr G Rowsell - The Rowell Partnership Ltd – APPROVED. - **Members noted this decision.**

1. **Parking on the Grass Verge – Main Road, Mundon**

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of raising the grass verge in front of The Furze by 8-10 inches or sufficiently high to stop parking on the grass verge, which will in turn minimise the damage caused, especially in wet weather. Clerk to write to ECC highways to obtain their permission to do this as it is considered that the first 1 m of land is owned by Highways and once this is done quotes can be obtained from groundwork contractors to raise the height and plant grass seed. This would mean that the grass contractor would still be able to mow the area easily also.

1. **Highways**

**a)** It was agreed that a chase up letter be sent to Highways regarding their promise to rectify the damage in Blind Lane. It was stated that it is mainly the lane edges and top soil and replanting of grass is needed.

b) Clerk still to purchase a green salt bin to be situated at the Village Hall.

c) It was established that the Local Highways Panel project LMAL172013 was for traffic management improvements and not specifically for a reduction in the speed limit.

d) It was decided not to proceed with an application to the Local Highways Panel requesting an extension of the 30mph speed limit on Main Road, Mundon at the present time and to see what LMAL172013 decides is necessary.

A discussion took place regarding the need for the widening of the Fambridge Road, especially as more houses are being built in the Dengie Peninsula which means more traffic movements through Main Road, Mundon and Fambridge Road. Clerk to write to DHGPC to get the Widening of Fambridge Road as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

Also Clerk to sort out timetable for TruCam monitoring along Main Road, Mundon again after the re-opening of Mundon Wash Bridge.

1. **Correspondence**

There was no additional correspondence other than what had already been

circulated via email or that detailed as a separate agenda item.

1. **Finance/Financial and Management Risk Assessment**

a) The Financial and Management Risk Assessment was approved and signed – Proposed: Cllr Rowsell and Seconded by Cllr Attfield. **AGREED**

**b)** Members approved the payments for January 2020 in the amount of £643.17 and signed off the bank reconciliation to the end of December 2019.**AGREED**

**c)** The mandate was unfortunately not sent off due to a mix up, but as circumstances had changed within the council members signed it a letter to Barclays Bank making clear the options required which included all current members being a signatory on the bank account to avoid problems in the future and for the Clerk to have online banking, telephone banking and the ability to make payments from the current account and a request to automatically top up this account from the business account. **AGREED**.

d) Clerk drew members attention to note Page 7 of the Legal Update Document regarding the Churchcare Document, which effectively states that the Local Government Act 1894 prohibits grants for works on property relating to the affairs of the church or an ecclesiastical charity. It is also stated that a view from Government is not conclusive as only the courts can finally decide what a law means in detail. **Members noted this Legal Update.**

1. **Community Events/Networking/Fund Raising**

Members discussed forming a committee to organise some village events maybe starting with and Old Fashioned Fete. To contact the local organisations like the Village Hall and W.I. etc to bring back some of the fun community activities. Cllr Attfield to take the lead.

1. **External Meetings**

No external meetings were mentioned but it was raised about whether the Police meeting that was cancelled due to purdah during the December election had been rescheduled. Clerk to try and find out.

1. **Information Exchange & Items for Next Agenda**

A discussion about the unsightly motorway barrier at Mundon Wash that was not even finished took place and it was decided to add to the next agenda under highways.

1. **Date of the next meeting** **–** Tuesday 17th March 2020 7.30 p.m.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 9.26 p.m.**