

MOUNT BURES PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th. January 2025 at 7.30pm in Mount Bures Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs I. Woodman (Chair), F. Willett (Vice-Chair), H. Bufton, M. Graham and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also 1 member of the public present.

001/2025 Apologies for Absence No apologies were received

002/2025 Declaration of Members interests

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda
None Declared

003/2025 To approve the minutes of the last meeting of Mount Bures Parish Council

To receive and agree the minutes of the last MBPC meeting held on 12th. November 2024. **All Agreed**

004/2025 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)

Hildegard Hill had arranged for a collection of scrap metal (pots and pans, cutlery, wiring etc.) and electrical items from around the Parish, items being collected from outside resident's houses and the funds raised going to a Children's Charity called "SNAP". The collection had been a success and a repeat was proposed. Hildegard will arrange a date with the collectors, to be promulgated through The Mount and the What's App group. It would be important to encourage people from across the Parish to leave items out for collection.

The Council thanked Hildegard for taking forward this very useful initiative.

005/2025 Training. Councillors have received the training calendar and courses from EALC

006/2025 Visitors Report A report had been sent by the District Councillor covering:

The proposed Local Government Reorganisation, where Essex County Council's functions may be split among 3-5 new "unitary" authorities with some also going to a directly elected Mayor. Colchester is most likely to be merged with Braintree and Tendring. This would not directly affect Parish Councils

The Local Plan Review, where proposed land allocations resulting from the "call for sites" were expected to be announced soon. Mount Bures had no sites put forward for development within the Parish, but the wider growth in the area and the pressure on roads and public services certainly will affect all Parishes

007/2025 Planning Applications

242361 - Orchard Lodge Dowling Road Mount Bures CO8 5AY

First floor extension over existing single.

RESOLVED: This application has been Approved by CCC

242298 Rowneys Farm, Crepping Hall Road - update Cllr I. Woodman. The Parish Council had received some representations relating to this proposed development of existing farm buildings, particularly relating to the possible detrimental impact of exterior lighting on the operation of the adjacent observatory. This had been reflected in the Council's comments on the application. No decision had yet been made by CCC on this application

008/2025 Planning Decisions made by CCC affecting Mount Bures

241959 - Bluebell Farm Peartree Hill Mount Bures CO8 5BA

Proposed Farm Track. **Approve Conditional**

241600 - Land adjacent Dowling Road Mount Bures Colchester

Erection of New Self Build Dwelling (following demolition/replacement of existing barn with prior approval for conversion to a dwelling under application reference: 240080. **Approve Conditional**

009/2025 Colchester Local Plan Review

a) Local Plan Revised Timetable

Cllr I. Woodman attended a Colchester City Council briefing on progress on the Local Plan Review. Planning changes being introduced by the new government, particularly the imposition of increased housing targets, had led to some delay in the Review process. A number of key documents, including the Local Housing Needs

Assessment, the Landscape Character Assessment and the Infrastructure Audit and Delivery Plan had already been, or were about to be, published on the CCC website. The key Stage 1 Strategic Land Availability Assessment and the Preferred Options Consultation document, including the assessment of the 'call for sites' should be published for consultation this spring.

010/2025 Defibrillator Application – update Cllr I. Woodman

An application had been made by the Parish Council to the British Heart Foundation for a free defibrillator to be located at the Village Hall. The cost to the Council would be about £50 pa for the electricity together with installation costs. The defibrillator would be unlocked and accessible to anyone but in practical terms would only be useful if someone could get to it and back to the patient within no more than 10 minutes.

Post-meeting note. The application for a free defibrillator was not successful against the British Heart Foundation's criteria which prioritised areas with fewer already registered defibrillators and those communities where local health needs indicated a higher risk of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The Council will consider at its next meeting whether it should nevertheless proceed with acquiring a defibrillator and how this might be funded.

011/2025 Finance

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 31st. December 2024

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31st. December 2024

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/25

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/25

c) To approve payments for December '24 and January '25 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

012/2025 Budget 2025-2026 Councillors to discuss draft budget

Cllr I. Woodman proposed an expenditure of £4134 for 2025-2026 resulting in a Precept demand from CCC of £3482. Using the tax base figure from CCC of 110.58 houses, this resulted in a Band D property figure of £31.48p pa, an increase of £0.20p pa or 0.64%. Cllr F. Willetts seconded. **All Agreed**

013/2025 Information Exchange

VE Day 80-year celebrations. The church and The Thatcher's are organising an event on the 8th. May. Love Essex Fund email from Cllr L. Barber offering grants of up to £500 for recycling projects has been forwarded to Councillors for consideration

014/2025 Items for next agenda

VE Day 80-year celebrations

Defibrillator

015/2025 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 11th. March 2025 at 7.30pm

016/2025 Councillors confirmed the date meetings in 2025. 13.05.25: 08.07.25: 09.09.25: 11.11.25

017/2025 Closure of the meeting

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

I Woodman
Ian Woodman
Chair

11th. March 2025