

MOUNT BURES PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th. March 2025 at 7.30pm in Mount Bures Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs I. Woodman (Chair), F. Willett (Vice-Chair), H. Bufton, M. Graham, CCC Cllr W. Sunnucks and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

018/2025 Apologies for Absence None were received.

019/2025 Declaration of Members interests

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

020/2025 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 14th. January 2025. **All Agreed,**

021/2025 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) No members of the public were present but some questions relating to the proposed introduction of commingled household recycling bins had been submitted in advance of the meeting, noting the opinions being expressed in 'Nextdoor Neighbourhood' the local media platform, which were all negative to their introduction on the grounds that they were too big, houses did not have enough space to store them, there would be cross contamination of materials, and they were a waste of money at a time of austerity. Cllr W. Sunnucks asked the Clerk to forward the questions to him and he would reply direct.

The Chair updated the Council on progress to remove the illegally erected Land Wanted sign outside Hall Farm on which complaints had been received from members of the public. The CCC Enforcement Officer had previously arranged for this sign to be removed by end of February '25. This had not happened and the Enforcement officer had been in touch with the company again to get it removed. The Parish Clerk will keep the Parish Council updated.

022/2025 Training. Councillors have received all training information from EALC.

023/2025 Visitors Report

Cllr W. Sunnucks covered 3 big things going on in Colchester City Council: the Local Plan, Local Government reform and the CCC Budget.

Cllr Sunnucks said that many Cllrs were of the view that Colchester's infrastructure planning had fallen behind the new housing targets which had been imposed by the Government. Consultation on the Local Plan preferred options had therefore been postponed to allow more work on infrastructure plans. However, he was concerned that the proposed 10-month delay was unnecessarily long and would leave the door open to speculative development applications if it was not shortened. He was pushing as hard as possible to get the Council to address the difficult issues rather than postponing them. The Parish of Mount Bures currently had no proposed allocation of development sites but would be affected by more pressure on local roads and services from population growth.

Local Government Reform shouldn't affect Parish Councils directly, but it will be a major upheaval for Colchester and Essex County Councils. It was likely that there would be an election for Mayor in May 2026 and by 2028 the new Unitary Authority should be up and running. Parish Councils would be expected to continue in the same way as previously.

The City Council's finances were under pressure with a deficit of £8.5m. Alternative budget options, including selling land, were under consideration.

Cllr W. Sunnucks then left the meeting.

024/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response.

No planning applications have been received.

025/2025 Planning Decision/s made by CCC affecting Mount Bures.

242223 - Barn north of, Burnt House Farm, Jankes Green Road Wakes Colne Colchester CO6 2AT
 Application for prior approval for the conversion of agricultural steel barn into one five bedroom dwelling.
 Demolition of associated building along the east elevation **Prior Approval Required (Approved)**

026/2025 Colchester Local Plan Review

a) Local Plan Revised Timetable. As discussed under item 023/2025

027/2025 Defibrillator Application update Cllr I. Woodman

To decide, in the light of The British Heart Foundation's rejection of the Parish Council's application for a free defibrillator, whether to purchase a defibrillator for the use of the local community and, if so, how this might be funded.

Cllr I. Woodman gave a brief presentation on purchasing a defibrillator to be located at the village hall. Although cardiac arrests were fortunately rare, a defibrillator could make a difference. However, the window for successful resuscitation (3 to 5 minutes) was very short and a machine would only be of value to those living very close to the village hall with no benefit to those living in other parts of the Parish. The cost of defibrillators had reduced significantly and one could be obtained from the BHF for around £1200 (plus installation and ongoing electricity charges). Councillors agreed to see if any of those living in the vicinity of the village hall would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost of a defibrillator in that location, with the remaining costs being paid by the Parish Council. This item to be placed on a future MBPC agenda following consultation with local residents.

028/2025 VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations update Cllr F. Willett

It was expected that there would be a celebratory BBQ at the Thatcher's on 8th. May

029/2025 Finance

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 28th. February 2025

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 28th. February 2025

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 February & March '25 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish

Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

030/2025 Information Exchange**031/2025 Items for next agenda**

Defibrillator update and to place on AEM agenda

032/2025 To confirm the date of the Annual Electors meeting – 13th. May 2025 at 7.30pm

033/2025 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 13th. May 2025 immediately after the Annual Electors meeting

034/2025 Councillors confirmed the date meetings in 2025. 08.07.25: 09.09.25: 11.11.25

035/2025 Closure of the meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

I Woodman

**Ian Woodman
Chair**

13th. May 2025