MOUNT BURES PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Kevin B. Money
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th. September 2026 at 7.30pm in Mount Bures Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs I. Woodman (Chair), F. Willett (Vice-Chair), M. Graham and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was 3 members of the public present.

067/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr S. Naylor, CCC Cllr W. Sunnucks and Cllr H. Bufton

068/2026 Declaration of Members interests
To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda
None declared

069/2026 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. July 2026 **All Agreed**

070/2026 Essex County Councillor report – Cllr S. Naylor No report was supplied

071/2026 County Councillors report – Cllr W. Sunnucks
Cllr Sunnucks sent his apologies for not being able to attend due to a conflict with a Colchester Governance and Audit committee meeting which he needed to attend in his new role as portfolio holder for resources and estates. His written report noted that the second and final public consultation on the Colchester draft Local Plan was now open. Mount Bures was the only parish with no allocations at all, but the overall Plan was shaped by the government requirement to plan for 1300 dwellings per annum with no guarantee of infrastructure funding. Cllr Sunnucks will be participating in a working group of officers and councillors to focus on closing the yawning infrastructure budget gap.

072/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) No questions were asked

073/2026 Footpaths - update from Cllr Woodman on footpath maintenance.
Cllr I. Woodman gave an update on the footpath clearance and the paths that had now been cleared by the Council's new contractor. Some further footpaths might require clearing over the autumn. The fallen tree over FP 21 by Cambridge Brook had not yet been removed. Cllr M. Graham agreed to contact the landowner again. [Post meeting note: the landowner has confirmed that the tree will be removed.]

074/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

261606 - Bluebell Farm Peartree Hill Mount Bures CO8 5BA
3no. agricultural buildings for the keeping of livestock and storage of agricultural equipment and produce.
RESOLVED: Mount Bures Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

075/2026 Colchester Local Plan – No further update

076/2026 Complaint to Braintree District re site BURE2070
The Council noted that it had submitted a complaint to BDC over the way in which this site appeared to have been treated differently from other sites in the Braintree Local Plan process by being brought back for further consideration without valid reason. No response had been received to the compliant. The draft Local Plan was expected to be published for the final stage of public consultation soon after 17th. September '26. Were the site to be remain in the plan the Council could continue to reflect the strong opposition within the Parish to this development, as identified through public consultation earlier in the year, by continuing to object both to the failure of proper planning process and on the unsuitability of the site for development. The Council's position on these issues would be strengthened through professional legal advice on the process failures identified and the possibility of challenge, and also by commissioning a landscape assessment covering the site. A quote for a budget for the provision of legal advice of £1500 to £2500 had been received from expert lawyers. A group of local residents had agreed to cover the cost of this initial legal advice.

Cllr I. Woodman proposed that the Council should commission legal advice on the Council's position from Birketts Solicitors. Cllr F. Willett seconded. **All agreed.**

The Council also agreed that a quote should be obtained for a landscape assessment for this site.

077/2026 Finance

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 31st. August 2026

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31st. August 2026

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2026/2027

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2026/2027

c) To approve payments for August & September '26 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

078/2026 Budget 2027-2028. Councillors to put forward any items to be included in the 2027/2028 budget. The Clerk asked Councillors to provide him any projects with costings for the 2027-2028 year. The 2027-2028 to be discussed at the 10th. November '26 meeting

079/2026 Information Exchange

080/2026 Items for next agenda

081/2026 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 10th. November 2026 at 7.30pm

082/2026 Councillors confirmed the date meetings in 2027. 12.01: 09.03: 11.05: 13.07: 14.09: 09.11:

083/2026 Closure of the meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.25pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed *IWoodman* 10th. November 2026

Ian Woodman - Chair