North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

In my last note I mentioned that the playing field committee were looking at ways to strengthen the defences of the car park and playing field against intruders, to reconcile the problem of keeping out those who should not be there while allowing easy access for legitimate users. You will see that, as a first step, covers have been fitted over the latches to the height barriers to make it more difficult to get at the padlocks, and some additional chains have been fitted to the gates. For the future a number of options are being explored, including strengthening the height barriers still further, and fitting removable locked bollards at the gateways onto the field.

We have received notice of a planning application which is out of the ordinary, to erect a mobile phone mast on the road verge close to the village school. At the moment this is in the form of an initial "Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposal of 20.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wrapround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works." The details are listed as application 21/01481/PA16A. There are a number of potentially conflicting concerns here. The intention of the mast is to improve the future coverage of the 5G mobile phone network. However, there may also be concerns about the visual intrusion of the mast, and its location close to the school and playing field. The parish council has therefore responded saying that we consider that these aspects would best be handled by a planning application, which would give objectors the opportunity to voice their concerns.

For those of you who want to follow this application in more detail, there is a document on the District Council's planning website for this application headed 'Site Specific Supplementary Information' which gives some background information about why the site was selected. At the time I write this note, we do not know whether our suggestion for a full planning application will be followed. If it is, the parish council will have to consider whether and how to respond, balancing the positive and negative aspects of the proposal. I am conscious that our response might not reflect the concerns of every individual, and so it is important that anyone who has an opinion should respond individually to ensure their views are on record.

In my last note, I explained that there is still some uncertainty about how we will hold meetings and what restrictions might apply. This is still the case, but we will explain how we are able to convene each meeting when we publish the agenda, which you can find on the parish council website and on our notice boards. However, we are also aware that we need to arrange for some work on the notice board by the bus shelter opposite the Walnut Tree. If you find it is missing for a while, it is because it is away for repair.

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