

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
An Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council,
St John's Church Hall, Monday 11 October 2021, 7.00pm

21/077. To receive and agree apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

In attendance: Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Broughton, Cllr Harries, Cllr King, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Moore, Cllr Pennell-Buck and Cllr Read.

21/078. Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors

There were no declarations of interest.

21/079. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 July 2021

The minutes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 September 2021 were approved by all.

21/080. Public Question Time

No members of the public attended.

21/081. Finance

Reports for July and August have now been finalised and will be circulated in due course.

Cllr Stephenson advised that the accounts were looking healthy despite not having received any income as yet from the tennis and cricket clubs. Grass cutting expenses have been above budget due to additional cuts being required.

21/082. To receive reports by Borough and County Councillors

No Borough or County Councillors were in attendance and therefore no reports were received.

21/083. Security Gate

There has been a slight delay in the security gate being installed but it should be in situ in the next week or two. The grant application has been applied for.

21/084. Update on Finger Posts repair/replacement

A local carpenter/builder may be interested in carrying out the work on the finger posts and this will be followed up.

21/085. Traffic/Speeding in Roman Road from Thoby Lane to the kennels

The issue of speeding was again discussed. Cllrs McKinney and Pennell-Buck are to attend the Safer Essex Meeting with a view to gaining knowledge as to how traffic control can be introduced into villages such as ours and their feedback will be welcomed.

Cllr Stephenson will write to BCllr Wagland with regards whether funding from Section 106 can be utilised for the Redrow development.

21/086. Defibrillator Update

Village Clerk currently investigating and to revert with a formal proposal. A grant of £1,250.00 has been applied for via BCllr Wagland.

21/087. Notice Board Update

Village Clerk has costed and the replacement would be approximately £1,200. Therefore, Gary Poole to cost renovation to include making the current notice board more sturdy, new Locks and new paint.

21/088. Village/Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Fete

A date of Saturday 11 June has provisionally been noted and the village hall tentatively Booked. There is a sum of approximately £3,000.00 budgeted for and it does not need to be a fund raising event. Village Clerk to contact cricket club to ensure no matches are being held on this date. Andy Slevin suggested nominating a theme and whether an outdoor cinema event late afternoon/evening would be worth considering.

21/089. Tennis Club Update

The tennis club has repainted the back tennis court.

Cllr Stephenson is awaiting the Chairman of the tennis club to revert with agreement to our proposal for the increased annual rental to be £1,425.00 plus an additional £100.00 per annum as a buy-out clause for the previously agreed 25% contribution for any necessary road repairs. This will be a 35 year lease indexed at CPI so will rise with inflation.

21/090. Village Hall

Cllr Stephenson advised the freehold of the village hall is owned by the village council. As the village hall is now 40 years old there are various fixtures and fittings requiring repair. Specifically, the wooden and velux windows are in need of repair at a cost of £12,500 and a grant is available. To add value to the grant application, it was RESOLVED with Cllr King proposing and Cllr Moore seconding, that a £500 contribution be made available for this purpose.

21/091. To receive Risk Assessments on Village Assets and discuss any works needed or ongoing to the following:-

a. Childrens' play area, bus shelters and tennis courts

Wetpour in the childrens' play area to be chased as it is still outstanding.

BCllr Wagland had advised that the bus shelters are to be replaced but in the interim Gary Poole to tidy up the look of the bus shelters.

b. Village Hall

Blocked drains have been resolved.

Hedge may need to be trimmed back for safety once the security gate is in situ.

c. Work is taking place to ensure the pavilion is legionella compliant. There will be an ongoing element for future testing to be carried out by VC and Handyman.

d. Cllr Pennell-Buck to revert to Kay with regards the oak tree requiring cutting back. The possibility of suspending rents in lieu of grant for costs was discussed.

e. Cllr Stephenson and the VC are meeting with Greenscapes to discuss a more frequent cutting programme at The Water Meadows.

- f. The windows project is ongoing and normal bookings are reverting to pre-covid levels.
- g. The annual meeting of St. John's Hall is being held next Monday and bookings are buoyant.
- h. Mountnessing Primary School has overcome the badger problem and building work is progressing well. The children participated in the "Hello Yellow" scheme to raise money and awareness for the mental health awareness day.

21/092.

Assistant Clerk

It was agreed that an assistant clerk be employed for five hours a week to cover holidays/sickness and to ensure the village councillors are less tasked. They will be assigned designated duties such as finances, planning. Cllr Stephenson invited councillors to attend interviews should they wish.

21/093.

Items for Inclusion in next Ordinary Meeting Agenda

Follow up of tonight's items.

21/094.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8 November at 7.00pm at St John's Church Hall, Mountnessing ,

Chairman

Parish Clerk