

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
An Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
St. John's Hall, Monday 10 October 2022 at 7.00pm
MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr Slevin, Cllr Broughton, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Harries, Cllr King, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Read
CCllr Wagland, BCllr Hones, BCllr Sankey, D Bull, Clerk & RFO

22/117. To receive and agree apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

22/118. Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors

There were no announcements nor Declaration of Interests

22/119. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 July and Extraordinary Meetings held on 27 July and 1 September

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 11 July were approved as being correct with the following amendments: -

22/101. Cllr Sankey provided an update on Mountnessing Recycling Centre (the tip) and advised EEC *have yet* to sign a new contract to ensure the site remains.

22/110. The Cllr's name should be *Cllr Parker* not Cllr Barber.

The minutes of the extraordinary meetings held on 27 July and 1 September were approved as being correct.

22/120. Public Question Time

Cllr Slevin welcomed Lucy Newton to the meeting and thanked her for her interest in becoming a councillor and joining Mountnessing Village Council.

Mr and Mrs Childs were also welcomed to the meeting. They were concerned the hedge between their garden and The Water Meadow had not been cut this year and it was agreed Greenscapes would be asked to undertake this work as soon as practicable.

22/121. To receive reports by Borough and County Councillors

BCllr Hones advised she will be attending a housing meeting tomorrow and Ingleton House will be on the agenda and provided an update on the NATS visit.

BCllr Sankey advised the decision on Ingleton House had been pushed back to December. He also advised he and CCllr Wagland had attended a meeting regarding The Elms and he advised the cost to residents of adopting the pumping station would be £25,000.

CCllr Wagland advised the Elms meeting concerned the title of the estate and the responsibilities of the management company.

She also advised that concerns had been raised about the 351-bus timetable and reliability and asked residents to contact her with comments and concerns.

She also stated that the new junction layout at Thoby Lane seems to work. Cllr Cloke asked about the crossing shown on the original plans and BCllr Wagland will investigate this and revert. She advised a lot of work is being done in respect of safety at crossings, but that Highways spending is discretionary and the required amount for children and adult social care will use the majority of the entire council budget.

We were also advised that the Boundary Review Commission will not impact on Mountnessing but will impact on Hutton and Brentwood.

Cllr Wagland advised that this ward will have the highest number of votes per councillor.

A rent review is being carried out at Market Place car park, Ingatestone.

22/122. Finance

Cllr Slevin advised PK Littlejohn had approved our 2021/22 accounts and a replacement assistant clerk was actively being sought.

22/123. Vandalism at Changing Rooms

Cllr Slevin advised that our statement had now been passed to the Local Policing Group and we are waiting to hear from them. Cllr Cloke stated if no further action was taken, we would seek a private prosecution to reclaim costs.

22/124. Finger Posts (IH)

Cllr Harries advised that approximately £6,000 is required and that it will not be possible to apply for an ECC grant as signage projects are not included. Cllr Wagland and Cllr Cloke to investigate other avenues of funding.

22/125. Operation London Bridge (IH)

Cllr Slevin thanked Claire Mayhew, Cllrs Harries and Cloke for all their hard work.

22/126. Training

Cllr Slevin stated the purpose of his recent email requesting timescales from those who have said they will be stepping down was to plan for training as EALC and BBC have advised that it is mandatory for all councillors to have basic training and to allow time to recruit new councillors to MVC. Due to the increasing headcount in Mountnessing, we may even need more councillors.

22/127. Lower Road Overgrown Weeds

Cllr Cloke to speak to Tracey about cars being cleared to allow NATS/Rangers to carry out the work.

22/128. Defibrillator/First Aid Training

Cllr Slevin thanked Cllr Cloke for his hard work preparing the electrics for the arrival of the defibrillator, which has still not been received although it was expected in September. A new date for the first aid training is yet to be arranged.

22/129. Website

Progress is being made with our new website and we are hoping it will be unveiled soon. Cllr Cloke asked when the new email addresses will be available and DB to find out and revert to chase.

22/130. Pothole repairs around our lines, including quality of repairs

Cllr Wagland advised that many rural parts of Essex are privately owned so repairs cannot be affected. She stated that the method of repair used is still the most efficient and each repair is done by inspection hence the reason why some repairs in a road are carried out whilst others nearby are yet to be repaired. She stated that on occasions repairs may be interim and not final repairs. It was also noted that increased road use by delivery vans was causing increased potholes/road damage.

Potholes should be reported on ECC website and then can be queued for inspection and repair. The website link will be included on MVC website when up and running.

22/131. Tennis Club Leases

Cllr Slevin thanked Cllr Harries for all his hard work and the leases were duly signed and witnessed.

22/132. Mountnessing Village Hall

Cllr Harries reported back from the AGM and advised that there is a £10,000 to £12,000 surplus which should help with ongoing costs and repairs.

He thanked Andrew Stephenson and Dawn Parker for their help and advised that both he and Andrew Stephenson would be standing down from the committee next May.

He added that advantage had been taken of closure due to covid and receipt of grants to effect refurbishments such as new velux windows and wifi installation. He advised that the heating system and parquet flooring need to be replaced over the next few years.

MVC is a leaseholder of MVH and were the charitable trust to be disbanded ownership would revert to MVC. This would allow the hall to become a real community hub/asset.

Council were asked for feedback and it was agreed that it should initially be put to the residents via door to door via leaflets and/or use of surveymonkey and by speaking to other councils such as Navestock for their advice.

22/133. 2023 Summer Fete

Possible dates were discussed and it was agreed to avoid clashes with other local events, June dates should be preferable.

22/134. Debris left at the roadside every time a crashed car is removed from the many junctions around the village

It was noted that this was the responsibility of BBC although insurers can be made to pay for clearance.

22/135. Lowering of speed limits in Mountnessing

Cllr McKinney thanked CClr Wagland and Cllr Cloke for their efforts with the re-working of the Thoby Lane junction. In response to Cllr Cloke's request for a speed check, CClr Wagland advised this may be possible once the new junction layout has settled.

CCllr Wagland suggested Safer Essex Roads Partnership be requested to make a presentation to MVC.

22/136. New and updated applications:

Cllr Slevin went through the pending and approved planning applications and advised that a yearly planning course will form part of the training schedule that is being prepared and a planning committee will be established. It was agreed that an objection be submitted to the application at The Bungalow, Padhams Green, on the grounds that it is green belt land.

22/137. To receive Risk Assessments on Village Assets and discuss any works needed or on-going on the following: -

a. Childrens' play and bus shelters (JC)

Cllr Cloke is now leading in these areas specifically of current concern is the subsidence and wetpour. He has carried out various repairs. The roundabout centre bearing hasn't been maintained and JC will look to repair. He advised there is a long "to do" list but nothing of a serious nature. He has also met with the contractors of the outside gym to discuss repairs. The renovation of the bus shelters is nearly finished.

b. Village Hall car park, Millenium Gardens and old recycling area

Cllr Broughton advised all looked neat and tidy on his recent visit and he offered to remove some of the larger items of rubbish.

c. Recreation ground (KB)

DB to ascertain when Ian Chatters will be able to plant the two oak commemorative trees.

d. Water Meadows (IH)

Nothing to report other than DB to request Ian Chatters to carry out the annual hedge cutting between The Water Meadow and the adjoining property.

e. Village Hall (AS)

In addition to earlier discussion, it was noted that additional signage had been ordered and the existing locks on the changing rooms' doors were re-used which reduced costs.

St John's Hall (IH)

Nothing to report other than some small grants have been received.

f. Mountnessing Primary School

Cllr Slevin apologised that the invitation from Mountnessing Primary School to attend the official opening by Alex Burghart of their recently completed works was only extended the day before. He will arrange an alternative date for MVC to visit.

The school is yet to provide us with details of the equipment they would to purchase with their recently approved MVC grant. A plaque acknowledging MVC's donation will be arranged once the equipment is in situ.

22/138. Any Other Business

Cllr Cloke will represent MVC and lay our wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Broughton proposed and Cllr King seconded a proposal to donate £50.00 to The Ingatestone Museum and this was unanimously agreed.

22/139. Items for inclusion in next Ordinary Meeting agenda

Ongoing items.

22/140. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14 November 2022, St. John's Hall.

Cllr Andy Slevin

Chairman

Diane Bull

Parish Clerk