

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
An Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
St. John's Hall, Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.00pm

In attendance: Cllr Slevin, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Harries, Cllr King, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Read, Cllr Broughton, BCllr Sankey
CCllr Wagland, BCllr Hones, D Bull, Clerk and L Smith, Asst Clerk

23/21. To receive and agree apologies for absence.

None received.

23/22. Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors

There were no announcements nor Declaration of Interests.

23/23. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023

The minutes were approved as being correct subject to 2 incorrectly spelt names noted by Cllr Cloke and subsequently corrected.

23/24. Finance

The accounts for November and December were approved as being correct.

23/25. Public Question Time

Cllr Slevin welcomed all members of the public and invited them to address the meeting.

Rosemary James raised concerns surrounding the recently received Liberal Democrat leaflet that she had received, regarding Ingleton House not being taken forward by the NHS as a potential medical centre for the area. Rosemary also raised concerns regarding the larger developments in our community and the impact this will have on local infrastructure. CCllr Wagland responded by confirming frustration over the NHS decision, one which borough and county councillors have no control over. Cllr Wagland confirmed that a meeting had been held at the end of 2022 between the NHS and local representatives from IFPC, borough and county councils, advising that the outcome of this had been a disappointing one in terms of Ingleton House. Cllrs Cloke, Hones and Wagland confirmed that the new developments were part of the Local Development Plan.

Cllr Sankey advised the meeting that the aforementioned leaflet was looking at the longer-term developments and the impacts these will have within local infrastructure.

Mr and Mrs Ekers spoke to the meeting regarding excessive speeding levels within the Thoby Lane and St Anne's Lane area and asked what the process is to obtain a change to the speed limits within the rural roads. Cllr Slevin commented that he felt progress had been made following the community speeding meeting held in January, including new volunteers signing up to become community speedwatch members. Mr Ekers advised that some broken road signage had been outstanding with Essex Highways since 2016 to be fixed and is still showing as pending on the highways website. CCllr Wagland confirmed that she would look into this outstanding matter and further more that the Essex Highway Panel are currently reviewing the issue of speeding and road safety within the village. CCllr Wagland reiterated the need for the public to advise her of any road safety or highways issues via the usual email route. Rosemary James also confirmed that the flashing speed sign on Church Road is again out of order.

23/6. To receive reports by Borough and County Councillors

BCllr Hones confirmed that since our last meeting the Policy Resources Committee had met at Brentwood Borough Council and a 3% Council tax increase had been agreed for the 2023/24 period.

BCllr Hones also confirmed that in the coming weeks she would be attending the Housing and Planning committee meetings at Brentwood Borough Council. Cllr Hones also updated the meeting regarding the East Anglia Green Scheme Pylons following a meeting of residents with local MP Alex Burghart in Ingatestone earlier this month. Cllr Hones confirmed that all MPs within the area of the proposed scheme were in unanimous agreement in opposing this cross-county proposal and that National Grid were now having to undertake a second round of informal consultations. Cllr Harris questioned why Mountnessing residents were seemingly unaware of the Ingatestone meeting, Cllrs Wagland and Hones confirmed they would advise Mountnessing residents of any such future meetings.

CCllr Wagland updated the meeting regarding the new booking scheme at the local Recycling Centres, which she confirmed is being run on a trial basis from mid-March until the end of the year. It is aimed at calming congestion within the roads surrounding the recycling centres. Cllr Wagland also confirmed that it will be possible for same day booking slots and residents will be able to have multiple visits to the centres within the same week. Cllr Wagland confirmed she had sent all of residents' concerns on this matter to ECC. Cllr Slevin reminded the meeting that all fly tipping must be reported so that incident numbers can be monitored. Cllr Wagland also confirmed that booking isn't just confined to online booking, there is also a telephone booking line and local libraries are also able to assist in booking slots for those who are unable to access online.

BCllr Sankey updated the meeting regarding the Section 106 funding, and that he is pursuing the outstanding monies still awaiting allocation by the end of March 2023.

23/27.

20s Plenty for Essex. Lowering of speed limits/road safety in Mountnessing

Cllr McKinney gave an update to the meeting confirming that Mountnessing had successfully become a member of the "20's Plenty" road scheme and that ECllr Lee Scott has acknowledged our membership. Cllr McKinney thanked residents and Councillors for their support and enthusiasm for addressing the road safety issues within our community.

BCllr Sankey confirmed that following the community speed meeting in January that he had written to Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst regarding the use of speed cameras and requesting speed surveys to be established. CCllr Wagland confirmed that she would be able to provide this information if needed.

23/28.

Village Hall

Cllr Slevin confirmed that MVC had met with Mountnessing Hall Trustees and discussed the use of the hall within the community. Cllr Slevin requested an update from Cllr Harries regarding the suggested survey to be carried out by MVH. Cllr Harries confirmed he would refer to the trustees for an update. Cllr Harries also confirmed that he is stepping down from MVH Trustee's next month. Chair, Andrew Stephenson is also stepping down, to be replaced by John McCoy.

23/29.

Prince of Wales Community Asset

Cllr Cloke confirmed that the Prince of Wales remains closed and that he will prepare paperwork to ensure the Community Asset status can be obtained. Cllr Slevin confirmed that Greene King were not looking to change the use from a public house.

23/30.

Finger Posts

Cllr Harries provided an update regarding the funding for the finger posts. Cllr Harries confirmed that good progress had been made with ECC and that only a couple of queries remained to be resolved. Once these queries have been resolved by Cllr Harries, he confirmed he will pass all the necessary information to Cllr Cloke to progress funding with SEPP. Cllr Cloke advised this needs to be done as soon as possible to ensure the March deadline can be met.

23/31.

Proposed Car Park

Cllr Cloke confirmed that MVC and school staff agree for the proposed car park opposite the school by kind permission of Mr Hepburn. However, the proposal is yet to be agreed by the school

Governing Body. Cllr Cloke also confirmed he believed that no dropped kerb would need to be added but we would need to seek some signage for the car park entrance, to be visible from the road. Cllr McKinney expressed his concern regarding the change of use to a temporary car park. Cllr Slevin confirmed that usage and uptake would be monitored, confirming that this would act as a deterrent for the current dangerous parking outside school and shops.

23/32. Training

To be arranged with Pearl at EALC for all councillors following the May 2023 elections and Cllr Cloke confirmed that once new councillors were in place, training about Planning and Development would be held for the new Planning Committee via Phil Drane at Brentwood Borough Council.

23/33 NATS Visit in February

BCllr Hones confirmed that she would be completing the paperwork for the NATS visit and would confirm details at next meeting.

23/34. Budget 2023/24 / Precept Increase

Cllr Slevin advised that the budget and precept request had been sent to all councillors prior to today's meeting. Cllr Slevin proposed the budget and Cllr Cloke seconded the motion. The budget and precept increase were passed unanimously by council.

23/35. King's Coronation Fireworks on Coronation Field

Cllr Slevin confirmed that details of National Lottery Grant Funding were available for local communities to help local celebrations for the coronation. LS to apply for the grant to cover some of the costings for the planned celebrations. Cllr Cloke confirmed he is to arrange a meeting between Cllr Slevin and the Starburst firework team to discuss arrangements. Cllr Cloke also advised that we need to engage in a publicity push to advertise the event, i.e., banners and flyers. Cllr Reed expressed her concerns regarding fireworks surrounding the windmill. Cllr Cloke confirmed that the Chair of the windmill charity had agreed he was happy with the fireworks celebrations to proceed, and Cllr Cloke would be providing him with a copy of the full Risk Assessment for the event.

23/36. Summer Fete – 24 June 2023

Cllr Slevin advised the date has now been confirmed for the summer fete and that planning is progressing very well with huge interest in stall and catering availability from outside parties. Cllr Slevin also confirmed that enquiries have been made with specialist event insurers to ensure appropriate coverage is obtained for this year's event.

23/37. New and Updated Applications

1. Former Ingatestone Garden Centre (various) – pending.
2. Land north of Roman Road – pending
3. 22/01287/HHA The Bungalow Padhams Green - **APPROVED**
4. 22/01491/HHA : 151 Roman Road – **REFUSED**
5. 22/01440/HHA The Spinney, St. Annes Lane – pending.
6. 22/01747/HHA Mount Lodge, Lower Road – pending.
7. 22/01703/HHA 324 Roman Road Mountnessing – **REFUSED**
8. 23/00081/AGR Begrums Farm Church Road Mountnessing Essex – pending (*Agricultural use, no comments from council*)
9. 23/00019/HAA Melchett Place 344 Roman Road Mountnessing Brentwood Essex – pending (**MVC – Comments from MVC Covered within PD**)
10. 23/00003/HHA WANE EDGE Status: Pending Consideration (**MVC –Comments from MVC - Outside of permitted development and within greenbelt**)
11. 22/016141/FUL EUROVANS Thoby Lane Mountnessing Brentwood Essex CM15 0TB – pending.

23/38. To receive Risk Assessments on Village Assets and discuss any works needed or on-going on the following:

- a) **Childrens play area and bus shelters (JC&SK)** – Cllr Cloke advised that the wet pore rubber surface in the play area will potentially require replacement and the paths need to be replaced along with the bearing in the centre of the roundabout. Cllr King confirmed that the bus shelter at the end of Roman Close is awaiting maintenance from our Handyman, SK confirmed maintenance kit provided. DB to advise.
- b) **Village Hall car park, Millennium Gardens, and old recycling area (KB)** – Cllr Broughton confirmed that the sign on the entrance to the Hall appears to be broken and that there are unused pallets in the delivery area to the hall. DB to refer the sign issue to the handyman and Cllr Broughton will offer the pallets to the allotment group. Cllr Broughton also highlighted large items of rubbish within the hall carpark, DB to refer to handyman.
- c) **Recreation Ground (KB)** – Within the recreation ground, Cllr Broughton highlighted the issue of rubbish behind the pavilion and also a missing brick on one of the plinths in front of the changing rooms. DB to refer both issues to the handyman. Cllr Broughton also added there is a concrete slab outside the pavilion with attached brackets. DB/LS to check with Cricket club before asking handyman to remove slab and or brackets. In addition, there is also a swan neck missing off of the pavilion guttering, this will also be referred by DB to the handyman. Cllr King questioned whether there was an update on the vandalism, DB confirmed we are still awaiting an update from the police; however, our insurers have been advised we experienced vandalism in 2022. LS also confirmed that we are seeking a grant from the PFCC for provision of CCTV within the pavilion, windmill and village hall area. This was being endorsed by BBC.
- d) **Water Meadows (IH)** – Nothing to report though Cllr Harries will investigate allegations of rubbish at the back of the houses neighbouring the meadows.
- e) **Village Hall (AS)** – Cllr Slevin confirmed that MVC is paying costs for litter bin collections in MVH car park, which should potentially be covered by MVH. This will be investigated further.
- f) **St Johns Hall (IH)** – Nothing to report.
- g) **Mountnessing Village School (AS)** – Cllr Slevin advised that grant money of £4000 from the 2022 fete has been transferred to the school for play equipment. Cllr Slevin went on to advise that MPS have also made available a room to hire to MVC for Planning Committee meetings. Furthermore, MVC have obtained space in the secure storage facility at MPS for storage of lease documents and other such items. Cllr Slevin confirmed that checks have been made with our insurance company for both options and our coverage will not need to be increased.

23/39. Any Other Business

Cllr Harries confirmed that there is a query with the Tennis Club leases and the name change from Mountnessing Parish Council to Mountnessing Village Council. LS to obtain the confirmation letter from BBC confirming the name change.

23/40. Items for inclusion in next Ordinary Meeting Agenda

- Speeding/Road Safety – (AS)
- NATS Visit – (NH)
- Car park – (JC)
- Recycling Centre – (LW)
- 20's Plenty – (PM)
- Village Hall – (AS)
- Prince Wales – (JC)
- Training – (AS)
- Summer Fete (AS)
- Fireworks (AS)

23/41. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th March 2023

