

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
An Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
St. John's Hall, Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.00pm

In attendance: Cllr Slevin, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Harries, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Broughton, Cllr King, Cllr Reed, BCllr Sankey, BCllr Hones, and L Fajimolu, Clerk

Before the meeting began, Cllr King (Chairing) opened the meeting declaring and advising that due to the forthcoming borough and local elections the village council is currently restricted on matters to discuss due to PURDAH.

23/60. To receive and agree apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and noted from ECllr Wagland.

23/61. Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors

There were no announcements nor Declaration of Interests.

23/62. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th March 2023

Cllr Sankey reconfirmed that he had also requested NATS assistance on 3 occasions and wished this to be added to the minutes. This has been completed.

Minutes proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Harries.

Cllrs Reed and King didn't vote as they were absent from the 13th of March meeting. Minutes were unanimously agreed and duly signed by the clerk and Chairman.

23/63. Staff Update - Cllr Slevin confirmed that Diane Bull had resigned as clerk and that Liz Fajimolu would now be full time clerk to the council.

23/64. Public Question Time – due to Purdah this was deferred until May meeting.

23/65. To receive update reports by County and Borough Councillors - due to Purdah this was deferred until May meeting.

23/66. Matters arising from previous meeting –

a) Tennis Club Lease – Cllr Harries advised that the solicitors are waiting on Land Registry in relation to the name change of MVC from Parish to Village. Cllr Harries to forward necessary documentation to clerk to ensure continuity on this matter.

b) Roman Road/A12 Approach – deferred until May meeting

c) Legionella Testing – Clerk confirmed that this has been booked for the cricket pavilion and changing rooms on May 3rd

d) Fingerposts – deferred until May Meeting

e) Carpark opposite the school – deferred until May meeting

f) Prince of Wales Community Asset – deferred until May meeting

g) Defibrillator Update – Cllr Cloke confirmed that once the defib has been fitted to the village hall, the battery pack will need to be checked weekly to ensure the charging pack is maintaining the unit at the required temperature. Cllr Reed asked if it the defib was battery charged, why was there a need for wiring to be fitted. Cllr Cloke advised that the wiring maintains the required temperature and ensures the battery pack isn't depleted. Cllr Cloke confirmed that the defib will be fitted in time for the Summer Fayre in June.

h) Training – Cllr Slevin confirmed that he has now completed the chairman's training with Essex Association of Local Councils. Cllr Slevin also advised that following the elections in May all village councillors will be provide with training by EALC.

i) 20's Plenty – Deferred until May meeting

23/67. 2023 Council Insurance Renewal – The clerk advised the meeting that the yearly insurance policy with Zurich was due for renewal in May. Despite the vandalism last year Zurich have agreed to keep our premium at the same amount and offer a 3-year deal for the council.

23/68. Mountnessing In Bloom/Village Garden – Clerk advised council about a potential gardening project run in conjunction with RHS and Greenscapes who provide our grass cutting and grounds maintenance work. The project would bring together various parts of the village i.e., school, council, clubs etc to create a village garden and planters throughout the village area. Clerk will arrange a meeting of the various stakeholders to get the project started.

23/69. Planning

BCllr Hones confirmed that planning application for Wane Edge had been refused.

No other comments were made regarding current planning applications.

BCllr Sankey queried the process of planning applications within MVC. Cllr Cloke confirmed a new planning committee would be installed following the elections in May. The members of this committee would be formed at the May meeting and appropriate training would be provided by BBC. Cllr Cloke confirmed that a projector had been purchased to assist the planning committee in viewing planning applications.

23/70. Coronation Celebrations and Summer Fayre Update – Cllr Slevin confirmed that planning for both events is going well. Coronation information banners have been erected within Mountnessing and Ingatestone and flyers advertising the event will be dropped to all Mountnessing residents. The tea party will be run on a first come first served basis and we will be catering for 220 children. The school are running a crown design competition which will be featured on a "Crown catwalk" at the coronation celebrations. John Pierce has agreed to provide the entertainment for the event, kindly free of charge. There will be fair ground rides for the children on Coronation field. Brentwood Brewery are also attending. Fireworks will begin around 9pm

In respect of the Summer Fayre, various amusements i.e., inflatables etc have been booked and numerous bespoke stallholders have applied to have a pitch at the fayre. The school are running an art competition which will be displayed in the Village Hall, with artwork of the windmill.

Cllr Reed asked whether the events were in conjunction with the school FOMs, Cllr Slevin confirmed that they were. Cllr Reed also asked about parking and referred to the issues last year with the number of cars needing places to park within the village for these events. Cllr Cloke responded and confirmed that the temporary car park opposite the parade of shops will be open and able to be used. SEPP will be putting NO PARKING cones up throughout the village to avoid any unsuitable parking. Cllr Cloke also advised that he was meeting with SEPP to discuss parking arrangements this week for both events. Cllr King noted that the signage for parking needs to be improved this year. Cllrs Slevin and Cloke agreed. Cllr Slevin to confirm Police Cadets involvement for parking stewards etc.

23/71. Risk Assessment Updates

- a) Childrens Play Area – Cllr Cloke confirmed that the contractor was hoping to start work in May on replacing the footpaths to and from the play area. Following this work, we will look to replace a baring that needs to be replaced on the roundabout and the Wet Pore surface will need to be replaced too. Clerk confirmed ROSPA inspection would take place in May.
- b) Village Hall Car Park – Nothing to report.
- c) Recreation Ground – Nothing to report.
- d) Water Meadows – Nothing to report.
- e) Village Hall – Liz Fajimolu has agreed to and been made a trust member following Cllr Harries stepping down.
- f) St Johns Hall – Liz Fajimolu has agreed to and been made a trust member following Cllr Harries stepping down.
- g) Mountnessing School- Cllr Slevin confirmed that we are continuing to work in partnership with the school for village events.

23/72. Retiring Councillors – Cllr Slevin extended his sincere thanks on behalf of the village to Cllr King, Cllr Reed, Cllr Harries, Cllr Broughton who following many years of service to the village as Councillors are stepping down from the village council. Cllr Slevin thanked each councillor for all their hard work and dedication to the village.

23/73 – Any other business

- a) Cllr McKinney advised that on the junction of Thoby Lane there is a temporary yellow cyclist sign that is blocking the view of drivers turning out of the junction into Roman Road. Cllr Cloke advised he thought this was for the A12 diversion and agreed to approach the A12 engineers for assistance.

Date of next meeting confirmed for Monday May 15th at 7pm in St Johns Hall (AGM). The meeting duly closed at 19.41pm.