

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

In attendance: Cllr Slevin, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Harries, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Broughton, BCllr Sankey
CCllr Wagland, BCllr Hones, and L Smith, Clerk

23/42. To receive and agree apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Read, Cllr King and Assistant Clerk Diane Bull.

23/43. Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors

There were no announcements nor Declaration of Interests.

23/44. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023

The minutes were approved and signed as being correct.

23/45. Finance

The accounts for January 2023 were approved as being correct.

23/46. Public Question Time

The chair welcomed the 3 members of the public to the meeting. Sue Hyde introduced herself to the meeting and confirmed her interest in becoming a councillor within the village. Sue came to observe the meeting and to gauge what being a councillor involved. Sue asked if we had considered how we communicate our agenda etc within the deaf community. Cllr Cloke suggested use of the Brentwood Talking Newspaper. Clerk agreed to investigate this possibility. The chair reiterated that we are a fully inclusive council and keen to promote community cohesion.

Mr and Mrs Ekers attended the meeting by way of update on the speeding and road safety issues discussed at the previous meeting. Cllr Cloke discussed with Mr and Mrs Ekers any future possibilities/enhancements of the junction of St Anne's and Thoby Lane. Cllr McKinney confirmed that both roads remain national speed limited roads.

John McCoy introduced himself as the new Chair of the Village Hall Trustee's (see point 23/50 regarding Village Hall update)

23/47. Reports from County and Borough Councillors:

BCllr Sankey advised the meeting of the future suspension of the waiting bays in Ingatestone High Street over certain weeks during the A12 resurfacing works. He confirmed that on these designated weekends, the car park within the Community Club would be free of parking charges. Cllr Sankey went on to confirm that he had received his requested break down of section 106 monies from Brentwood Borough Council.

BBCllr Hones confirmed that the NATS request to Brentwood Borough Council had been submitted on 27th February for works within the village. Cllr Hones also confirmed her attendance at the Brentwood Planning Meeting on 14th March.

CCClr Wagland updated council regarding the rubbish clearance and excavation of the pavements on Lower Road. National Highways had accepted responsibility for this issue and have litter picked and excavated the pavement area to clear all debris. CClr Wagland went on to update council on the issue surrounding large HGV's parking over the pavements surrounding the new Blossom Park development. Pavements are subsequently being damaged and eroded. Cllr Wagland confirmed that Brentwood Borough Council are aware of the aesthetic damage being caused and will enforce and ensure that the damage is repaired once the development is completed. Cllr Sankey also confirmed that he had reported this issue via the Essex Highways website. Cllr Cloke thanked Cllr Wagland for pursuing clearance of the littered pavements in Lower Road.

23/48.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- a) Fingerpost update – Cllr Harries confirmed that the application for the new posts had gone to Essex Highways for authority to be granted to proceed with the new post installations.
- b) Carpark opposite school – Cllr Cloke confirmed that the school governors had unanimously given their support for the new proposed temporary carpark on Roman Road opposite the school, given by kind permission of Mr Hepburn. Cllr Cloke will confirm this support with Mr Hepburn to enable works to begin.
- c) Prince of Wales Community Asset – Cllr Cloke confirmed that the pub has recently reopened however the paperwork to confirm as a community asset is underway.
- d) Training – Cllr Slevin advised the meeting that he is currently two thirds through the Chairman training course and that the Clerk has also attended 3 training courses since February. Cllr Slevin also confirmed that following discussions with Essex Association of Local Councils, that training will be given to all village councillors in May following the elections.
- e) Defibrillator Update – Cllr Cloke confirmed that the case and fittings for the defib have been received and that the necessary cable changes needed at the hall will be made to enable the fixing of the defibrillator to the wall. This should be completed within the next 2 weeks. Following this, training on how to use the Defib will be arranged.

23/49.

Update on 20's Plenty Scheme and Speeding/Road Safety in the village.

Cllr McKinney advised that a letter had been sent to local MP Alex Burghart requesting his assistance in tackling the excessive speeding and lowering of the speed limits throughout the village. Cllr McKinney awaits a response. (Member of the public Michael White entered the meeting at 19.34pm). Cllr Cloke told the meeting that on 9th March he and the clerk had attended a meeting of Ingatestone and Fryerning Highways and Planning Committee and circulated our minutes of that meeting. Cllr Cloke confirmed that we would work in partnership with IFPC to attempt to resolve the speeding issues on Roman Road and the section of road from Roman Road to the A12 slip road. Cllr Sankey advised that following the speeding

meeting held in January, he had requested details of the speeding surveys for the area which are needed before any change to speed limits can be requested. Cllr Sankey is awaiting a response regarding this request.

23/50.

Village Hall

Cllr Slevin introduced John McCoy to the meeting as the new chairman of the Village Hall Trustees. John confirmed his responsibility is to run the hall as it currently functions to ensure continuity for hirers but confirmed greater engagement with the local community is of high priority and that the trust would welcome new initiatives for uses of the hall from local residents. John confirmed that any bookings by Mountnessing Village Council would receive a 50% booking and that local residents would receive a 25% discount on hall hire.

Cllr Harris referred to a summary of a meeting held between the trustees, the village council and Dannielle Frost from RALC in January (see attachment for full summary). One of Danielle's recommendations was that a survey be conducted of local residents, by the Trustees, to gather opinions on future uses of the hall. John confirmed that this will take place at the village summer fayre on June 24th.

Cllr Slevin also confirmed that a £20k grant application had been applied for from the PFCC grant scheme for a CCTV system to cover the village hall, area around the windmill and the cricket pavilion. Cllr Slevin went on to confirm that he and the clerk are attending the local National Lottery Community Funding scheme meeting in May 2023 to apply for funding which could potentially add further space to the village hall, to include a committee room and village hub. Cllr Cloke confirmed that he would pass the plan drawings from the early 1990's to John McCoy.

Cllr Slevin also confirmed that as Cllr Harries was stepping down from the Village Hall Trust in May 2023 that the council would now be represented by the Clerk following Cllr Harries's departure.

23/51.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

Cllr Cloke advised the meeting that the 3 yearly contract with IDC Greenscapes who provide grounds maintenance to the village is expiring on 31st March 2023. Cllr Cloke distributed handouts to all councillors detailing the proposed new contract with IDC. Cllr Cloke had also approached BBC to tender for this contract, however they declined to do so. Cllr Cloke advised councillors that on review of the contract he believed that this was a very good proposal from IDC which also included at Cllr Clokes request a complete overhaul of the memorial garden adjacent to the windmill. Cllr Cloke proposed this contract and Cllr Harries seconded the motion. On a show of hands, the contract was unanimously agreed by council. Clerk will issue a letter to IDC confirming them of this decision.

23/52.

MVC NS&I Account and Signatories

Cllr Slevin invited the clerk to detail the procedure that was needed to amend the authorised signatories on the council NS&I account. The clerk advised that a document provided by NS&I had to be completed and passed as a motion within an ordinary meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Cloke for Chair – Cllr Slevin and Clerk L Smith to become the new authorised signatories on the account. This was

unanimously agreed and the form was duly signed by Cllr McKinney, Cllr Cloke and Cllr Broughton. Clerk also confirmed that necessary ID and forms had been provided to Lloyds Bank to change the council bank account to Mountnessing Village Council from Mountnessing Parish Council and to remove signatories no longer on the Village Council and to add the clerk as an authorised person on the account. This is now with Lloyd's bank awaiting a response.

It is also noted that Cllr Broughton returned to the clerk his authorisation card and keypad for the Lloyds Bank account.

23/53 Kings Coronation Firework Celebration

Cllr Cloke confirmed that large banners had now been put in place to advertise the celebration event. Cllr Cloke went on to confirm that he and Cllr Slevin had now met with Starburst Firework team to confirm details of the event. The main firework display would take place at 9.30pm on Coronation Field. Cllr Slevin confirmed that fundraising for the fireworks would be taking place at a village Race Night on 24th March in the Village Hall. Cllr Slevin advised that grant funding had been sought to assist with the celebrations. Mountnessing School pupils will be making and decorating crowns for the event to be worn at the children tea party. Cllr Slevin requested volunteers to help. It was confirmed that donation buckets would be stationed at exits on the field after the fireworks have been completed.

23/54. Summer Fayre

Cllr Slevin confirmed that in conjunction with the School FOMS, plans are well underway for the fayre on 24th June. 30 stalls have so far expressed an interest in attending and various vendors and entertainments have been approached.

23/55. May 2023 Elections

Clerk confirmed that she is attending a meeting regarding Elections and nomination forms on March 21st at BBC. She will then confirm details to councillors in order for nomination forms to be completed and returned. Clerk will co ordinate return of the forms.

23/56. Planning

No new applications to discuss.

23/57. Risk Assessments of Village Assets

- a) Cllr Cloke spoke of details regarding the damaged and eroded footpaths that lead to and from the children's play area on Coronation Field. As previously advised by safety inspectors, the paths need to be re dug and resurfaced as a matter of priority. Cllr Cloke distributed 2 quotes for said work, from Andersons and Harringtons. Cllr Cloke recommended the Harringtons contract and proposed this to council, seconded by Cllr Broughton. On a show of hands, the proposal was unanimously agreed. This would be booked in to be completed following receipt of precept in April. Cllrs Cloke also confirmed that the bearing within the Roundabout needs to be replaced as it is not functioning as well as it should. A new bearing would need to be made as spares parts are no longer available.

- b) Village Hall car park, Millennium gardens and old recycling area – Cllr Broughton confirmed litter was still being left behind the pavilion. Clerk to investigate as the litter reported last month had been cleared. Cllr Broughton noted the brackets again outside the cricket pavilion. These will be sprayed so that they are visibly seen by the public to avoid any incidents. Cllr Broughton also confirmed that he has the necessary parts available to the handyman to fix the swan neck on the down pipe of the pavilion. Clerk will speak with Mark the handyman to arrange collection.
- c) Recreation Ground – Clerk confirmed receipt of the awaited Tree Survey and details of works that need to be undertaken. Cllr Cloke agreed to review the report with the clerk. Clerk also confirmed that Legionella's testing for the pavilion would take place in April.
- d) Water Meadows – Cllr Harries confirmed that the rubbish is still present around the garage area at the end of the water meadows. Clerk to investigate and chase BBC.
- e) Village Hall – See above.
- f) St Johns – Nothing to report.
- g) Mountnessing School – see Carpark and fayre planning above.

23/58.

Items for inclusion in next Ordinary Meeting agenda

- a) Speed limits and road safety on Roman Road (approach to A12)

As Michael White was late to the meeting Cllr Slevin made allowances to allow Michael to speak. Michael has been lobbying support from both local councils, BBC, Essex Highways, Essex Police and the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol for changes to be made to the stretch of road between Roman Road in Ingatestone and the stretch of road to the A12 slip road by Blossom Park, and the use of S106 monies from the developments which are adjacent to this stretch of road. Michael attended the meeting by way of update to the village council. He confirmed he has active communications with various parties and specifically thanked those who have responded so far. He confirmed that Redrow haven't committed any monies nor have they been asked to for S106 funds or were they asked to provide speed calming measures to highways. Also see point 23/49 for agreed actions to liaise with Michael. This will be added to next month's agenda.

The meeting closed at 20.32pm