

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
To be held at St Johns Hall, Monday 10th July 2023 at 7pm

- 23/121 Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for absence (AS)**
Apologies were received from Cllr Payne, ECCllr Wagland, BBCllr Sankey
- 23/122 Declarations of interests by councillors (All)**
No declarations were received.
- 23/123 To approve and sign the minutes from the ordinary meeting on 12th June 2023 (All)**
The minutes were duly received, confirmed as an accurate account and duly signed and dated by Cllr Cloke (Chair on 12th June meeting and the Clerk)
- 23/124 Public Question Time**
One member of the public attended the meeting – David Churchill, a resident of the Elms. David attended the meeting to raise the issue of road safety and speeding issues within the roads surrounding the Elms development. The key issue is crossing the roads to exit and enter the Elms area. Families are walking to and from Mountnessing School and ideally would like to walk safely to Shenfield High School too. However, do to speeding vehicles and constant traffic, the roads are not safe to cross or allow older children to walk unaided. David has already been in contact with residents and already has a well signed petition underway to campaign for road crossings in the Elms area. David has been in communication with BBCllr Gorton with regards to this matter. Cllr Cloke confirmed that Western Homes originally had indicated that a zebra crossing would potentially feature in the development prior to it being built and that safety regarding the crossing of the A12 roundabout would not be associated with Brentwood or Essex councils, but in fact Highways England. Cllr McKinney questioned why the speed limits were so high on the roads surrounding this new development, especially on approach roads to the Elms.
Cllr Cloke suggested to push the issue through to the local MP and gave his support to any potential resolution. BBCllr Gorton discussed potential locations for a zebra crossing, suggesting that this was the most practical solution on a stretch of road where the speed limit is currently 30mph (although not adhered to by most drivers). Cllr Slevin raised the problem of the stretch of road following a very sharp and blind bend from the Wash Road side. Cllr Slevin suggested a huge amount of road signage would be needed to ensure drivers were aware there was a crossing on the other side of the bend. Cllr Cloke suggested to Cllr Gorton that a speed survey of the road was requested and that there was the required footfall for a zebra

crossing. Cllr Cloke also suggested rumble strips on approach to any form of road crossing and VAS signs for the area.

Cllr McKinney referred to the speed issues on the A12 roundabout and enquired if we could write to Highways England regarding the speed issues and pedestrians trying to cross to access the BP garage and the Chelmsford Road. Cllr Hyde suggested that we must explain the current risk to Highways England, not potential resolutions. Cllr McKinney to draft a letter on behalf of the council to Highways England.

23/125

Clerks monthly update

The Clerk confirmed that all necessary documentation for AGAR had now been submitted to the external auditor and that the VAT return for the past 2 years had been submitted for reimbursement. Updated accounts reports would be distributed prior to the next council meeting in September.

London to Southend bike ride – outstanding invoices from 2021 and 2022 are being pursued for payment. Money owed to St Giles Church and to the village council. Contact has been established with the organisers.

Outstanding biographies for the new website were requested from Cllr Payne, Cllr Hyde, Cllr McKinney and Cllr Slevin.

Community Speedwatch – equipment has been requested from SERP and we await delivery.

Invoice and grounds report issued to the cricket club for 2023 season.

23/126

Update from County and Borough Cllrs to include updates on:

- a) **Roman Road/Slip Road update** – Cllr Gorton confirmed no update this month to report.
- b) **The Elms highway proposal** – Covered above under public question time.
- c) **Brentwood Borough Rewilding Scheme** – A new scheme proposed by BBC to keep certain areas maintained by BBC, to grow wild and cut back on mowing. Clerk confirmed there is very little opportunity for this in Mountnessing given that MVC maintain most areas other than verges and the areas that BBC do maintain are grass areas used by children to play etc
- d) **NATS update** – Cllr Gorton confirmed that the requested areas of work in Mountnessing are yet to be completed. Clerk requested that Cllr Gorton enquire with NATS as to when the urgent work will be completed, especially the clearance and cleaning of the subway.

Cllr Gorton also updated council on the latest full council meeting by BBC. Updates from this meeting included a new Business Improvement District scheme (BID). Though unfortunately this scheme doesn't currently feature Mountnessing.

Cllr Gorton also confirmed that the Clean and Green committee had declared a climate emergency for the borough and that by 2050 the borough would be net zero.

Cllr Gorton went on to confirm that weekly bin collection for all residents would continue.

Councillors were encouraged to write to Greater Anglia regarding the closure of the ticket office at Ingatestone. Cllr Gorton confirmed that the Borough Councillors had issued strong objection to this. A letter of objection would be sent by the clerk on behalf of council members and residents.

Cllr McKinney asked Cllr Gorton if the decision to only accept bookings at the recycling centres would be reverting to previous status (no booking required). Cllr Gorton confirmed that this had been a county led decision and that the borough councillors were currently appealing reversal of this decision.

Clerk raised an issue on behalf of a resident in the Heybridge Road area – the resident is enquiring as to when the fencing will be removed from the area of ground previously occupied by Network Rail for the past 18 months. Cllr Gorton confirmed he would investigate this query and clerk would send the residents email to Cllr Gorton for his response.

23/127

Planning Applications

a) 23/006541/S192 – Hunts Farm

b) 23/00588/HHA – Hollins

c) 23/00551/FUL – 281a Roman Road

d) 23/00550/HHA – 6 Burnthouse Lane

No comments were discussed regarding the planning applications.

23/128

Planning and Highways code of conduct to ratify. (All)

Cllrs had already had sight of the proposed terms of reference for the Planning and Highways committee.

Cllr Slevin proposed the TOR and Cllr Dale seconded the proposal. By a show of hands, the vote was unanimous, and the TOR were ratified.

23/129

Summer Fayre/future village events (AS)

Cllr Slevin reported that it was disappointing that the fayre wasn't as well attended as last year, though it was noted that many other events were taking place on the same day. The events committee will be looking to organise further events later in the year such as a village quiz night. Total amount raised at the fayre still to be confirmed.

23/130

Village Tree Survey (Clerk & JC)

Clerk advised that we had received an invoice for the tree survey, totalling £650. This was proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Dale. Unanimous vote in favour of payment. Clerk to arrange.

Clerk also advised council that our 3-year contract had come to an end with our current supplier and that she would seek quotes from other companies and arrange for the urgent works to be completed.

23/131 Football request to use Coronation Field (Clerk)

Clerk advised that we had received enquiries for a local over 18s football team on the possibility of using Coronation field for their home games, and use of the changing facilities. Currently the proposed pitch area would fall short in required dimensions and so this has been put on hold for 12 months.

23/132 Village Risk Assessments – To receive update on assigned councillor areas:

- a) **Coronation Field/Childrens play area/Village Hall car park (JC)** – Cllr Cloke confirmed that following the latest BBC inspection of the play area and outdoor gym that all required works have been completed or in the process of being completed. The defib has been fitted to the chosen site on the village hall, though this is not yet working fully and needs to be registered with the NHS and training taken by volunteers on how it can be used. Overhanging branches on the entrance to the park were noted. Clerk to arrange for these to be removed.
- b) **Water meadows (KD)** – Cllr Dale confirmed and supplied photos that the area is now hugely overgrown. Clerk to speak with Greenscapes regarding tidying of the area.
- c) **Bus Stops (PM)** – Cllr McKinney submitted a detailed report regarding the current state of each bus stop. The bus stop nearest to the subway requires some structural attention. Clerk to investigate and obtain quotes if necessary.
- d) **Village Green (SH)** – Cllr Hyde reported Litter debris within the area and over hanging branches. Needs to be cut back. Clerk to arrange.
- e) **Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close area (SP)** – Main issues were requested for NATS attention. Cllr Gorton to chase.
- f) **St Johns Hall/Village Hall (Clerk)** Nothing to report.
- g) **Mountnessing School (AS)** Cllr Slevin to meet with the Headteacher before next council meeting.

23/133 Any other urgent business

None raised.

23/134 Any items for inclusion in next month's meeting

None raised.

23/135 Date of next meeting – 11th September 2023, 7pm St Johns Hall

The meeting closed at 20.24pm