

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
AGM and Ordinary Meetings of the Village Council
St. John's Hall, Monday 12th June 2023 at 7pm
Present – Cllr Cloke, Cllr Hyde, Cllr Dale, Cllr McKinney, BBcllr Sankey, BBcllr Gorton and
ECcllr Wagland. Clerk – L Fajimolu

AGM

- 23/101 Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for any absence**
Apologies were noted from Cllr Slevin and Cllr Payne. In Cllr Slevin's absence Cllr Cloke as Vice Chair, chaired both meetings.
- 23/102 Agree and sign minutes of last council AGM.**
Minutes were agreed and signed by Cllr Cloke and Cllr McKinney.
- 23/103 Feedback/Summaries from any local groups/organisations**
Nothing to report.
- 23/104 Chairmans 2023 Statement**
In Cllr Slevin's absence, Clerk agreed to circulate the Chairmans Statement to councillors after the meeting.
- 23/105 Any other business**
No other business.

ORDINARY MEETING

- 23/106 Declarations of interest from councillors (All)**
No declarations were received.
- 23/107 To approve and sign minutes of ordinary meeting held on 15th May 2023**
Clerk to add Cllr McKinney to the Planning and Highways committee.
Minutes signed and dated by Cllr Cloke and the clerk.
- 23/108 Public question time**
Michael White attended the meeting, and in agreement with Cllr Cloke deferred his input until later discussion in the meeting regarding the southern stretch of Roman Road on approach to A12 slip road.
- 23/109 Clerks monthly update (including website, AGAR, training)**
Clerk updated the meeting on current issues –
a) Accounts for 2022-23 have been submitted to the internal auditor for review and audit.

- b) Items within the village that required NATS attention have been submitted to the NATS request for July 2023. These include tidying the areas at both entrances to the subway and clearing the overgrown greenery. Clearing and tidying the childrens play area in Mountney Close area and tidying and cutting back the garage area behind the back of Prince of Wales pub.
- c) Clerk has received training on how to administer the new village website – www.mountnessingvillagecouncil.org.uk This website is now live but will have further details and information added to it over the coming months. Cllrs were asked to submit a short biography paragraph to be added to the website. Please forward this to the clerk for uploading to the website.

23/110

To receive reports by Borough and County Councillors, including Roman Road slip road approach. (CCllr Wagland, BBCllr's Sankey and Gorton)

ECllr Wagland provided an update on the following:

- Essex County Council are winning awards for their continued work on climate change and recently held a Green Skills Summit at Essex Cricket Club.
- The LHP has a list of priorities to address with regards to road and highways issues. Priorities being a pothole and pavement initiative. Cllr Wagland encouraged residents to continue to report damage to roads and pavements to ensure that resources are distributed where needed.
- Working is ongoing throughout the borough with regards to grass and hedge cutting, taking into account the new regulations in relation to the cutting of hedges etc.
- The community speedwatch group has been established and Cllr Wagland is pushing for more sites to be added to the initiative within our area.
- Assessment of Thoby Lane by site engineers and safety officers is that the new lay out is working well, this will continue to be monitored.

BBCllr Sankey provided the meeting with the following update:

- Following the Borough elections, various committees and working parties have been established at Brentwood Borough Council and BBCllrs Sankey and Gorton are members of many of these committees along with ECllr Wagland. Mountnessing has a good representation on these committees.
- This month Cllr Sankey will attend Planning, Licensing and Green & Clean meetings at Brentwood.
- NATS request submissions had been received from the Clerk and passed to the NATS team at Brentwood for completion w/c 3rd July.

BBCllr Gorton provided the meeting with the following update regarding the stretch of Roman Road from B1002 to the A12 slip road at Blossom Park

which is of a concern to all residents with regards to excessive speeding and road safety. BBCllr Gorton informed the meeting that a request is in the process of being submitted to the Brentwood LHP to lower the speed limit along the aforementioned stretch of road and the installation of 2 mini roundabouts to calm traffic and reduce excessive speeding. Cllr Cloke agreed it would be good to see a solution proposed to resolve residents concern on this stretch of road. Cllr Cloke also raised the point of would a roundabout be required at the Blossom Park entrance too. Resident Michael White asked if there was budget to enable this project to be implemented. Cllr Cloke responded with the way highway enhancements are implemented and that this project if successful could take up to 3 years to be completed. Michael White asked where residents could see what the LHP was and where budgets have been assigned too. Cllr Wagland responded and informed Michael that all the information could be found on the Brentwood LHP website. Cllr Wagland also confirmed that before any enhancements could be made, a speed survey would need to be conducted on this stretch of road to provide the required evidence to back up the proposal. The budget for 23/24 would probably allow for this speed sampling to take place. Cllr Wagland also referred Cllr Gorton to the road proposals that developers of the new housing developments have put forward, including traffic islands. Cllr McKinney asked whether it would be more cost effective to lower the entire stretch of road speed limit and increase the level of speed limit signs within the carriageway. Cllr Wagland encouraged Cllr Gorton to use the guidance within the LHP website and consider all the costs, especially around construction, engineering, and utilities. Cllr Wagland also commented that all committed road improvements are listed on the LHP website. Cllr Sankey asked ECllr Wagland if there would be support for this proposed scheme at LHP level and she confirmed that she would be reviewing the facts and presentation and would await the evidence from the speed sampling. Cllr Cloke confirmed that there were now two spare traffic VAS signs available within the borough and asked if these could be re-sited to the stretch of road concerned. ECllr Wagland confirmed she would investigate this possibility.

23/111 To approve finance reports for March and year end 2023.
 Figures were approved by council

23/112 Summer Fayre update (AS)
 In Cllr Slevin's absence, Cllr Cloke confirmed that all the banners had now been put up and posters were also in circulation. TENS license has also been applied for and granted. Cllrs were advised there is a meeting on Wednesday 14th June at 5pm in the Windmill Café to discuss the fayre and outstanding things to be completed.

23/113 Planning Update –
a) 23/00364/HHA – 324 Roman Road – Approved
b) 23/00588/HHA – Hollins, Lower Road – Pending

- c) **23/00551/FUL – 281a Roman Road – Pending**
- d) **23/00550/HHA – 6 Burnthouse Lane – Pending**

Cllr Cloke, confirmed that comments on behalf of MVC had been submitted on all current planning applications

23/114

To receive Risk Assessments on Village Assets and areas and discuss any works needed or on going on the following:

a) Childrens play area, village hall car park and Coronation field – JC

Cllr Cloke confirmed that the paths were being relaid this week to the childrens play area. The toddler swings had also required new parts, which have been sourced and replaced. The roundabout requires a new bearing, which will be looked into as new part will need to be made. The defibrillator is due to be installed in the coming weeks.

b) Water Meadows – KD

Cllr Dale advised that the grass is extremely high, and that grass cuttings and rubbish have been left at the bottom of the water meadows near to the garages. Clerk and Cllr Cloke to speak with grounds maintenance.

c) Bus Stops – PM

Cllr McKinney confirmed that he had conducted a thorough review of the village bus stops. Most are in good working order. The seat at the Lower Road bus stop requires some maintenance to the seat. Clerk will investigate. The stop at the George and Dragon requires painting. The stop opposite the Plough could do with a litter bin as too could the one opposite the subway. Cllr Sankey advised that he will look into the possibility of Brentwood Borough Council providing a bin at these stops. The stop near to the subway has some brick damage. Clerk will investigate.

d) Village Green – SH

Cllr Hyde reported some overhanging branches over the public way through the village green. Clerk will investigate and deal with appropriately.

e) Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close – SP

Nothing Reported

f) Mountnessing School – AS

Nothing reported.

23/115

Any other business and items for inclusion in next meeting

23/116

Date of Next Meeting Monday 11th July 2023

“Pink” Non-Public Items for Discussion following the Ordinary Meeting – 12th June 2023

Present – Cllr Cloke (Chair), Cllr Dale, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Hyde and Clerk – L Fajimolu

a) – Payment Authorisation for replacement paths on Coronation Field.

Cllr Cloke advised council that the paths had had to be replaced as they were a health and safety hazard which had been reported in the parks weekly inspections conducted by Brentwood Borough Council. Over the years, provision had not been made to anticipate repair or replacement of these access routes. Contractors were currently on site. Payment will therefore be needed which as per the quote is £10,056.00 incl VAT. Payment will need to be funded via the NSandi postal account and so a withdrawal request form needs to be submitted to withdraw funds. Clerk confirmed the balance of the account is approx. £49k.

A proposal to withdraw £10k from the account was raised by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Dale. The vote was by show of hands and unanimously passed.

b) The Cricket Club hire of ground on Coronation Field.

Clerk explained to council that currently Hutton and Shenfield Cricket Club currently hire the ground at the top of Coronation field for cricket between April and September each year. They agreed with the previous chair and clerk via a contract to contribute to the ground maintenance of the area (not including the wicket), to the utilities bill and also the hire of the ground. Our grass cutting fees have risen since the new agreement with Greenscapes in March 2023 and it is now costing approx. £420 each month, just to maintain the cricket outfield. However, HSCC have advised that the grass is no longer being rolled (IDC no longer have a roller) or being cut to cricket grass specification and are not looking to contribute fully to this year's maintenance. Clerk advised that given this situation, we will potentially be making a loss on this facility and asked if council are willing to continue this situation. Cllrs agreed that this was a misuse of public money and not in the village interest to pursue. Cllr Cloke proposed that HSCC be asked to maintain the grounds themselves between April and September. If they weren't willing to do this, then we would look to terminate the contract at the end of the season. This was proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Dale. By show of hands it was a unanimous vote by council. Clerk will revert to Jim Lynch, Chairman of HSCC.