



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
held at St Johns Hall, Monday 8th January 2024 at 7pm

- 24/183** **Welcome by the Chairman and receive apologies for absence.**
No apologies to be noted. Chairman welcomed all councillors and one member of the public who attended the meeting.
- 24/184** **Declaration of interests by councillors**
No declarations were received.
- 24/185** **To approve minutes of previous meeting.**
Minutes from 13th November 2023 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and Seconded by Cllr Dale. Unanimously approved by councillors.
- 24/186** **Public Question Time**
One member of the public attended the meeting, Thomas Bridge. No issues to raise, just to observe.
- 24/187** **Thoby Priory Brief Update – Cllr Cloke & Cllr Hones-Cloke**
Cllrs were given a brief update on planning application 23/01052/FUL by Cllrs Cloke and Hones-Cloke. Cllrs had met with residents prior to Christmas to understand local issues etc.
Cllr Cloke confirmed that as a village council, the planning application had been objected to, citing the fact that the area is on Greenbelt, its historical artifacts are Grade 1 listed, issues surrounding environment, the heavy goods vehicles using Thoby Lane and the impact on surrounding residents.
- 24/188** **Planning Applications**
23/00551/FUL – 281a Roman Road - approved.
23/00913/HHA – 6 Burnthouse Lane - approved.
23/01132/FUL – 5 Burnthouse Lane – pending.
23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory – pending.
23/01479/HHA – 31 Church Road – pending.
23/01421/HHA – 8 Roman Close – pending.

Cllr Cloke confirmed that 5 Burnthouse Lane had been referred to the Brentwood Planning Committee meeting later in January. Cllr Cloke will be attending that meeting.

24/189

2024-2025 Budget to be discussed and agreed.

Clerk opened discussion referring to the pre circulated draft budget based on expenditure from the current year, projects that needed to be attended to in the coming year and any areas of over/underspend.

Cllr Slevin confirmed that given the increase in cost of services, contractors, indeed most areas of expenditure, there would need to be an increase in the precept to cover the areas of the village maintained by the Village Council. Cllr Cloke added that the village needed to increase its precept request to enable projects such as CCTV in the Village Hall carpark, areas of the children's play area to be replaced and maintained (including the surface covering), potential resighting of the Mountney Close play area, the need for extra dog waste bins and signage.

To cover these projects and maintain the services already provided, it was discussed and agreed that the precept request would be £69,045.00 This amount was proposed by Cllr Cloke, seconded by Cllr Hyde, and unanimously agreed by show of hands. Clerk would send forward the relevant documents to BBC.

24/190

Clerks Update to include social media, cricket club, Prince of Wales

- Accounts up to and including January are being updated and will be available for agreement at February meeting. Software licensing issues have prevented these from being completed in time for January meeting.
- The suggested social media Policy for MVC had been circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed as a suitable document for MVC. Cllr Dale proposed the policy and Cllr Cloke seconded the motion. A unanimous show of hands agreed the policy to be used by MVC.
- Cricket Club – Clerk, Cllr Hyde and Cllr Dale held a meeting with Hutton Cricket Club to discuss any outstanding matters and the season ahead. Cllrs Hyde and Dale agreed to be the focal point from MVC for the cricket club and any matters arising.
- Community Speedwatch will be restarted in February.
- Clerk attended the recent BBPCA meeting and discussed local wide issues, such as speeding, road safety and ASB in our villages.
- Prince of Wales update – Community Asset application is still in progress with BBC. Cllr Cloke is dealing with this matter. A petition of residents has also been submitted with this application.

24/191

Village Risk Assessments

- a) **Coronation Field/Childrens Play Area/Village Hall Car Park (JC)** Nothing to report. Continue to monitor the field for wind damage etc with the winter storms.
- b) **Water Meadows (KD)** – Very overgrown and in need of tidying. Clerk to obtain quote from IDC Greenscapes for clearance.
- c) **Bus Stops (PM) (Damage to shelters, Clerk to update with quote for repairs)**
Cllr Mckinney provided a detailed update of all bus shelters/stops in the village. Due to the heavy winds, the shelter opposite the shops had been damaged and

roof felt blown off. The two brick shelters at the subway had also sustained significant graffiti damage. Clerk had sought a quote from Pemberton Handyman in Ingatestone for fixing the 3 shelters. A copy of this quote was circulated to councillors for £770.00 Cllr Cloke proposed the quote for agreement and Cllr Dale seconded. Unanimous show of hands agreed the quote and clerk would make contact to secure a date for the work to take place.

- d) Village Green (SH)** Nothing to report.
- e) Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close area (Clerk)** Clerk noted that the damaged footpaths near to the subway had been fixed by Essex Highways and the over hanging branches around the subway had been removed.
- f) St Johns Hall/Village Hall (Clerk)** Clerk confirmed that the village hall had received a new kitchen refit and kitchen window during the Christmas period. Exterior paint work had also been completed at St Johns.
- g) Mountnessing School (AS)** Work on the community garden behind the windmill will recommence once the better weather returns. The area will be cleared by Greenscapes as previously agreed, once the ground is drier.

24/192 Items for inclusion in next meeting

Grass Verge Parking

CCTV

Speeding – Roman Road Group

Fingerposts

24/193 Date of Next Meeting – 12th February 2024 7pm St Johns

Meeting closed at 8.20pm