

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
To be held at St Johns Hall, Monday 13th November 2023 at 7pm

23/168 Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for absence (AS)

Cllr Slevin confirmed apologies received from Cllr McKinney and ECllr Wagland.

23/169 Declaration of interests by councillors (ALL)

Cllr Cloke declared an interest in planning application 23/1132/FUL.

23/170 To agree and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of council held on Monday 9th October (ALL)

Minutes were approved via council motion. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Dale.

23/171 Public Question Time

One member of the public attended the meeting. A resident from Roman Road who highlighted to councillors concerns regarding possible development sites within the Roman Road area/Church Close area. Cllr Cloke confirmed that the council had received no formal planning applications, as is the statutory planning requirement and advised Mr King that he could if he wished to contact Brentwood Borough Council to see if there were any new applications to the LDP.

23/172 Updates from Borough and County Councillors to include – NATS tasks in Mountnessing, Court View car park and garage area behind Prince of Wales.

BBCllr Sankey confirmed that the proposed yellow line scheme for Roman Close had been passed by SEPP and will be established in early 2024.

BBCllr Gorton confirmed that NATS would be in attendance in the area w/c 13th November to complete the requested works in Mountnessing. Clearance of the garages behind the Prince of Wales, rubbish removal and thorough tidy of subway, clearance of weeds and overgrown greenery on the triangle at Old Church Road junction and clearance and tidy of Court View Car park.

23/173 Monthly Clerk update and Finance reports agreement (pre circulated prior to the meeting)

Clerk advised council of the following:

- a) Self Defence hire for Coronation Field has been renewed and annual hire paid.
- b) Community Speedwatch have agreed a set of weekly dates until Christmas. Volunteers will be out weekly in both Mountnessing and Ingatestone. More village volunteers are welcome to join. Contact the clerk for details.
- c) The village handyman has been busy through the village included eradicating the rodent infestation in the pavilion, installing the village remembrance poppies and planting 1000 daffodil bulbs at various sites in the village for springtime.

- d) Power is still out at the lights on the corner of Thoby Lane. Clerk has been liaising with ECCllr Wagland and BBCllr Sankey to get this resolved. UK Power is responsible for rectifying the issue and updates have been requested from UK Power for date of resolution.
- e) Urgent building work has taken place following damage in the recent high winds. On investigation the builder also found there to be an issue with the downpipes and gutters. These have now been fixed and the pavilion is now secure against any further wind and water damage. The invoice for the building work was circulated for payment agreement of £1561.20 to G M Builders. This was proposed by Cllr Slevin and seconded by Cllr Cloke. A unanimous show of hands passed payment motion.
- f) Clerk advised that a national pay review had taken place for clerks and has now been approved by NALC/Local Government. This equates to approximately £1.00 p/h, back dated to April 1st, 2023. Clerk advised this had been budgeted and will be included in the budget for next year.
- g) All accounts are processed up to date and have been passed to Cllr Cloke for review and authorisation. November and December accounts will be presented to council in January 2024.
- h) Clerk confirmed that after several weeks of chasing Lloyd's bank, Cllr Cloke had now been added to the Lloyds bank accounts as a payment authorisation signatory. As a result of this significant delay on Lloyd's bank behalf, we have been issued with £30.00 compensation.
- i) Clerk confirmed meeting dates for the following six months: January 8th, February 12th, March 11th, April 8th, May 13th, and June 10th. These were unanimously agreed by councillors.

23/174 Fingerpost, Gaol and carpark update (JC)

Fingerpost replacements x 4 – Cllr Cloke confirmed we are still awaiting a response from ECC in response to the resubmitted license form to ECC.

Gaol – no update to report. Cllr Cloke outlined the situation to BBCllrs Sankey and Gorton.

Carpark – Cllr Cloke to arrange to meet with Mr Hepburn to discuss the carpark and a residents footpath query.

23/175 Budget for 2024-25

Cllr Cloke, we need to consider a replacement of the play equipment and surface in the play area on coronation field. This needs to be reflected in the budget for 2024/25

23/176 Cricket club including maintenance to Pavilion (Clerk/AS)

As discussed in clerks update report above.

23/177 Locality fund/community garden update (Clerk/AS)

The Community RHS Garden project in conjunction with the school pupils and residents has been initiated. School pupils and members of the village gardening club met with RHS advisor and Cllr Slevin on Friday 10th November at the proposed garden site behind the windmill overlooking the cricket field. Pupils are going to

design a community garden along side assistance from our ground's maintenance team.

The Grounds maintenance team, as per council agreement in October will look to remove the surface area of the potential garden in the coming weeks and reseed the area.

23/178

Social Media Use for MVC

Clerk advised council that there is a need for a new Village Council social media page within Facebook. Council/Clerk are no longer able to access the previous page set up in the early 2000s by the previous clerk. Cllr Cloke confirmed that a social media policy would be needed, clerk advised it would be brought to council for agreement in January. Clerk and Cllr Dale would make enquiries to set up the necessary page which could then link to the village website.

23/179

Planning Applications

- a) **23/00551/FUL – 281a Roman Road – pending (resubmitted for consideration with extra documentation)**
- b) **23/00913/HHA – 6 Burnthouse Lane – Resubmitted – pending.**
- c) **23/00947/HHA – 15 Church Close – approved.**
- d) **23/01132/FUL – 5 Burnthouse Lane – pending.**
- e) **23/01112/HHA – Melchett Place – refused.**
- f) **23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory – Pending**

Cllr Cloke, Chair of Planning and Highways Committee confirmed that a planning committee meeting was taking place on 15th November to discuss the above planning applications.

23/180

Village Risk Assessments

- a) **Coronation Field/Childrens Play Area/Village Hall Car Park (JC)** Cllr Cloke – No major issues to report. 2 new toddler swings are now installed. The roundabout needs to be reviewed in 2024 and we are aware of the issues with the wet pour surface area. CCTV, in agreement with MVH Trustees will be installed in the village hall car park area in early 2024.
- b) **Water Meadows (KD)** Cllr Dale – nothing to update however the area is very overgrown and requires clearance. To be included in budget for 2024
- c) **Bus Stops (PM)** – Weather permitting the bus stop at the end of Roman Close will be painted ASAP. BBCllr Sankey confirmed 2 extra waste bins had been requested from BBC.
- d) **Village Green (SH)** – Cllr Hyde confirmed nothing to report. Cllr Cloke will source battery power for the Christmas tree lights.
- e) **Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close area (Clerk)** Broken pavement surfaces near to the subway have been reported to Essex Highways
- f) **St Johns Hall/Village Hall (Clerk)** – Clerk confirmed that the exterior of St Johns Hall, including the roof is being repaired and repainted and that the kitchen in the village hall is to undergo complete refurbishment between Christmas and New year.
- g) **Mountnessing School (AS)** Cllr Slevin confirmed the work and garden project with the village and school had been started.

23/181 Items for inclusion in next meeting

Social Media Policy

Budget

Cricket Club

23/182 Date of meeting Monday 8th January 2024 7pm St Johns Hall

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

