



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council

held at St Johns Hall, Monday 10th June 2024 at 7pm

**In attendance – Cllr Slevin(Chair), Cllr Cloke, Cllr Hyde, Cllr Dale, Cllr Mckinney,
Cllr Hones-Cloke, L Fajimolu (Clerk)**

24/40 Welcome and apologies for absence

No absences to note.

24/41 Declaration of interests

No declarations received.

24/42 Approval of minutes from 13th May 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council

Minutes unanimously approved by councillors. Proposed Cllr Cloke, seconded by Cllr Slevin.

24/43 Public Question Time (5 minutes per question)

Two residents from St Anne's Lane attended the meeting to bring to council attention the speeding and traffic issue on St Anne's Lane. Residents noted that there are no pavements to ensure pedestrian safety, national speed limit in existence, the abuse received by residents from drivers using the road, HGV's damaging the road and hedgerows and noting the many vehicle accidents/crashes on the road due to speed. Cllr Cloke responded by confirming that although we can make Borough and County Councillors aware of the issues and report them to Essex Highways, as a village council we are limited as to what we can implement. Cllr Cloke agreed to contact Essex Highways and bring the issue to their attention. Cllr McKinney noted that it is continually frustrating given the lack of response from Essex Highways with regards to the roads in the village. Clerk to also request Essex Police to complete a speed check of the area.

24/44 Thoby Priory Update – Cllr Cloke/Cllr Hones-Cloke

MP visit to the Priory has been deferred due to the pending General Election. Cllrs continue to work with residents to overcome continuing issues.

- 24/45 Fingerpost Update – Cllr Cloke**
No update to report. Cllr Cloke to update at July meeting of council.
- 24/46 Tree Survey and appointment of Tree Surgeon for priority works.**
Following the recent tree survey, extensive priority work has been recommended to take place immediately to ensure safety on Coronation Field following the unprecedented weather over winter. A quote from Ingatestone Tree Surgery had been sought by the Clerk and was proposed to council. Cllr Slevin proposed the quote and Cllr Dale seconded. The quote was unanimously approved by council. Clerk to arrange for the works to begin as soon as possible.
- 24/47 ROSPA Inspection and priority works agreement.**
Following the receipt of the yearly ROSPA safety report for the play area on Coronation Field, it was identified that the surface of the play area and the equipment needed a deep clean. Clerk has sought a quote from a recommended contractor. Cllr Cloke proposed the quote and Cllr Hyde seconded. The quote was unanimously approved by council. Clerk to arrange for the works to being as soon as possible.
- 24/48 AGAR/Internal Audit agreement and viewing rights agreement.**
Clerk initially confirmed that a complaint had been raised on Councils' behalf to NS&I over the handling of the village account. This has also been referred to the Financial Ombudsman.
Discussion ensued in relation to the pre circulated Internal Audit report for 23/24 year. Cllr Cloke noted that the Fidelity Cover needs to be increased, Clerk confirmed that contact had been made with Zurich. The internal audit report was noted and unanimously agreed by council. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Slevin.
Cllr Slevin noted that the village need to maximise income on any potential hiring.
Cllr Hyde noted that the risk assessment for the village needs enhancing and suggested meetings with the Clerk to discuss.
AGAR forms were duly agreed by unanimous show of hands. Proposed by Cllr Slevin and Seconded by Cllr Dale. Signed by Chair and Clerk and Notice of Rights were agreed by council and confirmed by Clerk.
- 24/49 To Note and agree new Financial Regulations for Village Council**
Cllrs noted some minor changes which are required to be made to make the Regulations applicable to Mountnessing. Cllrs Cloke and Hyde to meet with Clerk to discuss. Vote to defer until next meeting unanimously agreed.
- 24/50 Village Gaol – No update**

- 24/51 Planning Applications:**
- a) 23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory (see 24/33)**
Planning continues to be deferred until all documents received.
 - b) 24/00339/FUL – The Delves, Lower Road – refused**
 - c) 24/00475/HHA – The Farmhouse, Thoby Priory (no connection to 23/01052/FUL) – Pending**
- 24/52 Village Risk Assessments**
- a) Coronation Field, Childrens Playarea, Village Hall Carpark – Cllr Cloke**
Covered in previous discussions regarding Rospa, Tree Works
 - b) Watermeadows – Cllr Dale** – Cllr Dale reported that the fly tipped rubbish and continued rubbish issue surrounding the entrance at Hope Close remains. Clerk confirmed that this has been reported and is awaiting clearance by Brentwood Council. Cllr Dale also advised that there is a significant issue with vermin in the Church Crescent/Hope Close area. Clerk to report to Environmental Health. Cllr Dale went on to advise that the Water meadows is overgrown and in need of further clearance. Clerk to contact grounds maintenance team.
 - c) Bus Shelters – Cllr Mckinney** – NATs team are still outstanding to clear obstructing greenery around bus shelters in the village. Waste bins are also outstanding to be received.
 - d) Village Green – Cllr Hyde** – New notice board being installed early June. Upkeep of the green is good.
 - e) Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close and play area – Cllr Hones Cloke** – Cllr Hones Cloke is producing a survey for residents of the area to determine residents' views on the current Brentwood Council owned play area.
 - f) St Johns Hall/Village Hall – Clerk** – Wifi now available in St Johns Hall
 - g) Mountnessing School – Cllr Slevin** – Community Garden plans deferred until September.
- 24/53 Agree response to National Grid regarding Tilbury to Norwich Pylon Scheme**
Pre circulated response discussed by councillors. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Slevin. Unanimously approved by Cllrs.
- 24/54 Cover for Clerk holiday and family fun day 2nd August 2024**
Cover required to cover incoming emails etc. Cllr Cloke agreed to monitor any urgent correspondence and to be available for the Brentwood Borough Council Fun Day on August 2nd in Mountnessing.
- 24/55 Items for inclusion at next meeting**
Finance Regulations
Wet Pour Surface
- 24/56 Date of next meeting – Monday 8th July 2024**

