

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
held at St Johns Hall, Monday 9th October 2023 at 7pm

23/151 Welcome by the Chairman and apologies for absence (AS)

Apologies for absence were received from ECClr Wagland and from Cllr McKinney.

23/152 Declaration of interests by councillors (ALL)

Cllr Cloke declared an interest in items 23/154 and 23/152b.

23/153 To agree and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of council held on Monday 11th September (ALL)

The minutes of the ordinary meeting were proposed by Cllr Slevin and seconded by Cllr Cloke – unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

23/154 Co-Option to Council of Mrs Noelle Hones-Cloke (AS/Clerk)

The MO at BBC has agreed that Mrs Noelle Hones can be co-opted, and this was proposed by Cllr Slevin and seconded by Cllr Dale and unanimously agreed by council. Cllr Hones Cloke completed and signed the Councillor Declaration and Acceptance form, witnessed by the Clerk.

23/155 Public Question Time

No members of the public attended.

23/156 Updates from Borough and County Councillors

BBCllr Sankey confirmed that he had responded to a resident's concern raised with him via email regarding the traffic lights outside the school, and the timings of the changing sequencing in the lights. Cllr Cloke advised that its run on national pre calculated software so a change may not possible. Cllr Hyde commented that lessening the time for the lights to change would potentially cause accidents.

Cllr Gorton requested a new speedwatch form. Clerk to provide a new form

Cllr Slevin asked BBCllr Gorton if Mountnessing would receive its scheduled NATS visit in October from Brentwood Borough Council. Cllr Gorton would update the Clerk after speaking with BBC.

BBCllr Sankey left the meeting at 19.33pm

23/157 Monthly Clerk Update & Financial reports

AGAR – External audit by PKF completed on September 27th. All necessary notices have been made public and posted to the website in accordance with protocol.

Audit fees of £378.00 will now be paid to PKF

Audit 2024 – We need an to appoint a new auditor. Clerk has been recommended Heather Healis by other local councils. Fees are: £260.00. Councillors agreed that this recommendation would be used by MVC.

Budget training and overview with Paul Burdick had been completed. Paul has also been booked for 2024-year end reporting and audit completion.

CCTV cameras all been removed from Pavilion through vandalism. New ones have been installed, higher position. Signs installed too. Pest control of pavilion.

Hedges have been cut around the tennis courts and windmill.

Blue and white sack allocation to village – Clerk advised that she had been in contact with BBC and secured an allocation of replacement recycling bags to be held in situ within the village for residents.

Clerk had attended the Village Hall Trustees meeting – it was agreed that MVH would contribute 50% to a cctv camera being installed at the entrance to MVH. Clerk to work it MVH to obtain quotes etc.

Clerk confirmed that she and Cllr Slevin were attending the Village Garden meeting with school on 13th October to discuss initial plans for a community garden in the village on the area behind the windmill.

23/158 Locality Fund Application (Clerk)

Clerk advised councillors that she had submitted following September meeting a grant application for £990.00 through ECllr Wagland and the Locality Fund to cover the cost of the subsoil and new grass seed for the conversation area behind the windmill. We are waiting to hear if the application has been successful.

23/159 Carpark opposite School (JC)

Cllr Cloke is to speak with Malcolm Hepburn for an update re the carpark.

Essex Highways also need to add the correct signage to the highway for the carpark. Cllr Cloke to pursue.

23/160 Village Handyman

Cllr Slevin advised council that he had been in contact with Kevin Sanderson who would be able to assist with some handyman tasks around the village. Cllr Slevin proposed an hourly rate of £14.00 p/h. Cllr Cloke proposed and Cllr Hyde seconded. Council was in unanimous agreement.

23/161 Village Christmas Decorations

It was agreed to utilise last year's Christmas lights with the addition of maybe further addition of trees on the village green. Cllr Cloke to investigate a better power supply for the Christmas lights.

23/162 Planning Applications

- a) 23/00551/FUL – 281a Roman Road - pending.
- 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 – pending.

Cllr Slevin proposed, and Cllr Dale seconded a motion to add Cllr Hones-Cloke to the Planning and Highways Committee. Council voted unanimously in favour.

23/163

Village Risk Assessments

a) Coronation Field/Childrens Play Area/Village Hall Car Park (JC)

Cllr Cloke advised that BBC weekly inspection report had highlighted some defects in the toddler swing seat. A new seat had been in stalled at a cost of £130.00. It was agreed that a second new seat would be purchased to complete the toddler swing area.

b) Water Meadows (KD) – Cllr Dale confirmed that the area remains overgrown but is walkable. An area to investigate possible clearance/tidy in the spring.

c) Bus Stops (PM) – In Cllr McKinney’s absence, clerk confirmed that one of the jobs for the new handyman was to paint and tidy the wooden bus shelters.

d) Village Green (SH) – nothing to report.

e) Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close area (Clerk) Clerk advised that the pavements on Roman Road, near to Blossom Park had been damaged again. BBCllr Gorton to refer these to Essex Highways.

f) St Johns Hall/Village Hall (Clerk) Clerk confirmed that the roof on St Johns was to be repaired and repainted.

g) Mountnessing School (AS) No update

23/164

Mountnessing Gaol – (JC/AS/Clerk)

Cllr Cloke advised that the village gaol, which has been in the village since C19th is currently stored in Drury's Farm in the village, following an agreement in the 1970s/80s between MVC and the farmer Roy Dove. Unfortunately, following Mr Doves passing, MVC are looking to return the gaol to the centre of the village. A local resident has been able to assist Cllr Cloke in confirming some early details from when MVC had the gaol refurbished. Cllr Cloke to continue to investigate and to contact the Heritage Officer at BBC.

23/165

Items for inclusion in next meeting

Budget

Any meetings attended by Councillors.

Tree Survey

BBPCA Meeting

Training

23/166

Date of meeting Monday 13th November 7pm St Johns Hall

The public meeting closed at 8.17pm