



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL

Agenda of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council

To be held at St Johns Hall, Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm

- 24/194** **Welcome by the Chairman and receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wagland
- 24/195** **Declaration of interests by councillors**
No declarations were received.
- 24/196** **To approve minutes of previous meeting.**
Minutes were unanimously agreed by all councillors, proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Dale.
- 24/197** **Public Question Time**
Two members of the public attended the meeting from Roman Road. Initial discussion was around the situation regarding damage to local grass verges from constant vehicle parking, especially as these were more accessible now that the overhanging branches had been removed. Cllr Cloke confirmed that the grass verges were owned and maintained by Essex Highways, however the village council were aware of the damage being caused by constant parking and are seeking resolution with Essex Highways, including the potential use of a temporary car park on Malcom Hepburns field at Bakers Farm
Thomas Bridge arrived at the meeting 19.10pm
Cllr Slevin suggested council request the attendance of Police and Parking Enforcement officers. Clerk to investigate and request attendance.
The second question from the public was around the issue of speeding within the village, specifically Roman Road and queried Community Speedwatch programme. Clerk confirmed that the group of volunteers were now trained and new dates for the volunteers to attend the pre agreed sites (by Essex Police) was in progress. Cllr Hyde asked how the road in Ingatestone was reduced to 20mph, Cllr Cloke confirmed that this was done by central government during the Covid restrictions. Cllr Slevin confirmed to the residents that councillors share the residents concern regarding speeding and road safety, however decisions governing speed limits etc is not down to the village council, but Essex Highways.

24/198

Update from Borough and County Councillors

BBCllr Sankey confirmed that the 2024/25 BBC budget had been agreed and ratified. 2.99 increase was confirmed. Budget included 2 new FTE for flytipping clearance and a new designated vehicle. Cllr Sankey confirmed yellow lining on Roman Close had been completed and that a further request had been made for extra rubbish bins by the bus stops on Roman Road in the village.

BBCllr Gorton confirmed that the crossing request for Widvale Road had been submitted to the LHP for validating, though budget restrictions may impede this. Another solution is using the existing traffic island and creating a zebra crossing. BBCllr Gorton also requested MVC endorsement to support extension of the 40mph limit on Roman Road between the subway and the entrance to Blossom Park and the tip entrance. Support was unanimously given.

Cllr Cloke commented that had the pedestrian crossing been granted at the Thoby Lane junction, this would have given way to the needed 30mph limit. Cllr Gorton to investigate this.

24/199

Thoby Priory Brief Update – Cllr Cloke & Cllr Hones-Cloke

Cllr Cloke confirmed that the residents directly affected by the current planning application had met with BBCllrs Sankey and Gorton and were going to meet with the Planning Officer at BBC who also confirmed that the current proposals indicate that all activity on the site would be away from the heritage site. It also confirms new drainage system for the area.

24/200

Clerk Update – META end of year accounts quote approval, Cricket club, Utilities providers for pavilion, Business Continuity Plan and approval of latest accounts and POW update.

Cricket Club – all invoices paid and up to date.

Utilities provider for electricity at pavilion, our tariff has expired, in the process of confirming a new tariff/provider. Water meter has been read and account settled. BCP for village council. We aren't obligated to have one, however we should have one in place for cover for clerk etc. Cllrs agreed. Clerk to draw up a plan for next council meeting. Cllr Dale to countersign the accounts reports.

Clerk asked for councils' approval to use ACCLC Year End processing and review prior to internal audit. This is a fixed 4-year deal. This was proposed by Cllr Slevin and seconded by Cllr Dale and unanimously approved by councillors. POW update, the request to BBC to grant community asset status on the POW is listed on the agenda at BBC Community Asset Meeting on Monday 11th March, where Cllr Cloke will discuss the importance of the POW to the community. Therefore, a resolution was passed to move MVC meeting to Tuesday 12th March. Cllr Cloke proposed, and Cllr Dale seconded. Resolution passed unanimously.

24/201

Village Litter (Cllr Dale)

Given the significant litter issue in the village at present, Cllr Dale suggested a village litter pick be arranged in to tidy our village. Cllr Cloke confirmed that BBC will supply all the necessary equipment and arrange to collect all rubbish collected by volunteers.

Clerk and Cllr Dale to propose a date at the next ordinary meeting.

- 24/202** **Fingerpost Update – Cllr Cloke**
A new license request for these works was sent to Essex Highways in August and the clerk and Cllr Cloke have been regularly pursuing this. Essex Highways have finally submitted the license details to BBC for approval. This will then enable the replacement of 4 of the finger post signs in the village.
- 24/203** **Grass Verge Parking – Clerk**
Discussed under point 24/197
- 24/204** **Roman Road Speed Issue – Cllr Hyde/Clerk**
BBCllr Horton asked if MVC would consider using VAS signage implementation on Roman Road. Cllr Cloke confirmed that we would welcome the use of these. Cllr Cloke/BBCllr Horton to pursue.
- 24/205** **Planning Applications**
23/01132/FUL – 5 Burnthouse Lane – approved.
23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory – pending.
23/01479/HHA – 31 Church Road – approved.
23/01421/HHA – 8 Roman Close – pending.
24/00078/AGR – Hunts Farm - pending.
- 24/206** **Village Risk Assessments**
- a) Coronation Field/Childrens Play Area/Village Hall Car Park (JC) to include CCTV discussion.** Cllr Cloke confirmed play area is inspected weekly by BBC. CCTV, Cllr Cloke to meet the clerk on site at MVH to discuss camera position for CCTV.
 - b) Water Meadows (KD) to approve quote from IDC for tidy of Watermeadows**
Cllr Dale confirmed that following a recent site visit with the clerk that a quote had been obtained from our ground's maintenance company with a view to clearing the area, planting some wildflowers and approaching the ForgetmeNot club to see if they'd like to make use of the area regularly in the Spring and Summer. Quote was distributed to council for their views. Quote of £540.00 to complete the works was proposed by Cllr Slevin and Seconded by Cllr Hones Cloke and unanimously agreed. Clerk to confirm to Greenscapes and approach ForgetmeNot club.
 - c) Bus Stops (PM) (Damage to shelters, Clerk to update with repair update and approve payment to Pemberton Handyman).** Cllr Mckinney confirmed that there is overgrown greenery at the bus stop by the café, which is obscuring the view from the bus shelter. Clerk will add this to the NATS list for March. Clerk also confirmed the damaged bus shelters at the subway had been repaired and asked for agreement to pay Pemberton Handyman £770.00 for works completed. Cllr Mckinney proposed and Cllr Hones Cloke seconded. Unanimously agreed.
 - d) Village Green (SH) Significant wind damage to village notice board. Quotes to repair and replace from Clerk.** Cllr Hyde reported that the village green looked very tidy and reported that the wooden notice board had been severely damaged during the recent windstorms. Clerk confirmed that a quote for repair of the wooden board was approx. £700.00. Clerk advised that council should look at an alternative, longer lasting board and provided a quote for a new

durable double door board from geviews.co.uk for £864.23. Cllrs agreed to look at replacing the board and clerk to bring a comparable quote to next meeting.

- e) Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close area (NHC) to include discussion on Mountney Close play area.** Cllr Hones Cloke brought to councils' attention the issue regarding the play area at Mountney Close and the out-of-date equipment and unsuitable place the park is currently situated. Cllr Hones Cloke noted that councillors consider this is currently a play area owned and managed by BBC, not MVC. It was agreed to add this as a separate agenda issue for March meeting and BBCllrs would investigate the issues surrounding the play area. Cllr Cloke suggested the park equipment be moved to the green area on Heybridge Road/Mountney Close junction.

- f) St Johns Hall/Village Hall (Clerk)** Nothing to report.

- g) Mountnessing School (AS)** Nothing to report.

24/207 **Items for inclusion in next meeting** – Prince of Wales, Thoby Priory, Mountney Close play area, Village Litter Pick, BCP and new notice board.

24/208 **Date of Next Meeting – 12th March 2024 7pm St Johns Hall**

Meeting closed 8.29pm