



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council

held at St Johns Hall, Monday 9th September 2024 at 7pm

Present – Cllr Slevin, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Hyde, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Dale, ECllr Wagland, BBCllr Gorton, L Fajimolu (Clerk)

- 24/70 Welcome and apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Hones-Cloke and BBCllr Sankey.
- 24/71 Declaration of interests**
No declarations were received.
- 24/72 Approval of minutes from 8th July 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council**
Minutes were approved unanimously by show of hands and duly signed by the Clerk and Cllr Cloke (who chaired 8th Meeting)
- 24/73 Public Question Time (5 minutes per question)**
No members of the public were in attendance.
- 24/74 Borough and County Councillor Updates – to include update on request for extra waste bins, LHP applications, Mountney Close play area and outstanding fly tipped waste.**
ECllr Wagland advised Council that the pylon scheme consultation had ended and that we now await the findings.
Update regarding the bin request for the footpath entrance on Burnthouse Lane – this request has been submitted to Highways for approval.
BBCllr Gorton advised that the findings of the residential survey are still to be presented by BBC.
Flytip in Marsh Farm Lane, Cllr Gorton to contact Marcus Hotten at BBC regarding the outstanding collection of waste.
- 24/75 Thoby Priory Update – Cllr Cloke/Cllr Hones-Cloke**
Environmental surveys and reports are awaiting by BBC, findings will be shared with MVC once received.

Cllr Hyde raised concerns regarding the large HGV's that are entering Thoby Lane and in doing so setting off resident's car alarms due to the weight of the vehicles etc and clearly not complying with the weight restriction on Thoby Lane. Cllr Wagland gave details of where this can be reported to. Clerk to follow up.

24/76 Fingerposts Update – Cllr Cloke

Cllr Cloke liaising with BBC to obtain the grant that was given to MVC and held in trust by BBC for the funding of the new fingerpost signs.

24/77 Clerks Update – AGAR, approval of Council payments, Risk Assessment update, internal audit update.

AGAR – queries received from auditor and answered by Clerk, now await final certification from PKF

Risk Assessment – The need for a central base for the Council/Clerk was discussed and with the availability of a local office in the village, this has become a possibility. Councillors discussed and agreed that the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair would visit the premises to view the facilities and suitability. Clerk to arrange.

Fidelity Cover – Has been increased to £100k as per audit requirements, at no extra cost from our current providers, Zurich.

Clerk to attend BBPCA meeting on 19th September

24/78 Finance - monthly reports, budget update – Clerk

All monthly financial reports up to August for 2024/25 have been reviewed and signed by Cllr Hyde.

Budget update report was circulated prior to the meeting and all councillors agreed that the budget looked positive for the first half of the year. Clerk reminded Council that the 2nd instalment of the precept was due in October 2024 and that the VAT return would be completed following September's accounts.

Cllr Dale is in the process of being added to the Lloyds bank account as an authorised signatory.

24/79 Tennis Club - Lease agreement and over hanging trees – Clerk

In October 2022 new leases were agreed and signed between MVC and Mountnessing Tennis Club. However, a query on these were raised by the Land Registry. This query has now been resolved and the leases potentially need to be reissued. Ellisons Solicitors have asked for confirmation of how we would like to sign the lease, either via the Borough Council or signed by MVC Clerk and Chair. Cllr Cloke proposed the option of Clerk and Chair and Cllr Dale seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favour.

The Tennis Club have also contacted Clerk regarding the trees over hanging the courts and enquired to whether the trees can be cut back. Cllr Cloke proposed to allow Clerk to obtain quotes and have the branches removed. Cllr Hyde seconded. Council voted unanimously. Clerk to deal.

24/80 Village Cricket Match

Hutton Cricket Club have arranged for a friendly match against a Mountnessing Village team on Saturday 14th September. Clerk has sought local volunteers for the team. Hutton are to provide a cricket tea and Clerk has organised a buffet and refreshments for both teams in the Prince of Wales after the match. Clerk sought approval for the reimbursement to the Prince of Wales. Cllr Dale proposed, and Cllr Hyde seconded. Council unanimously approved.

24/81 Planning Applications:

Planning Applications – a) 23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory (see 24/75)

b) 24/00827/HHA – Howletts - pending

c) 24/00831/FUL – Hepburns, 269 Roman Road – pending – Discussion ensued between Councillors regarding the consequences of adding more vehicles to an already busy area for parking. Residents have opposed the planning application via the planning portal.

d) 24/00696/FUL – Roman Triangle – pending

e) 24/00679/HHA – Thoby Priory Farmhouse – pending

24/82 Planning Committee Update – a) approve minutes from 7th August meeting

b) Discuss option of regular planned meetings for Highway discussions and issues.

Minutes were approved by Planning Committee – Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Hyde.

Discussion ensued between Cllrs regarding the need for regular Highways meetings, which Cllr Wagland and Cllr Gorton agreed to be part of. Clerk/Cllr Cloke to arrange a suitable date for November.

24/83 Village Risk Assessments

a) Coronation Field, Childrens Playarea, Village Hall Carpark – Cllr Cloke (to include Coronation Field hedges, pot holes in Village Hall Carpark and disabled parking) Cllr Cloke confirmed that the defib is all wired and connected to power supply. The children's play area surface requires some attention in places due to damage by the wet weather. All weekly safety inspections by BBC remain clear of any safety issues with the equipment. A large pothole is forming in the village hall car park. Cllr Cloke to investigate. Clerk advised Council that there is a lack of disabled parking within the village hall car park. Ideally given the size of the hall, there should

be at least 2 spaces available. Clerk/Cllr Cloke to investigate contractors who could arrange this for MVC.

Residents have advised Clerk that quad bikes have been seen on Coronation Field late at night. Access believed to be via the footpath entrance at the top of the field. Clerk to investigate and arrange wooden bollards if necessary.

b) Watermeadows – Cllr Dale

Cllr Dale advised that the trees and over hanging branches really need to be looked at. Council agreed and Clerk to obtain a quote from the tree surgeon to complete the works. Clerk also advised that MVC have applied for a free tree pack from Woodland Tree Trust, which could be utilised at the Watermeadows.

c) Bus Shelters – Cllr Mckinney

Noted that greenery cut back by café bus stop.

Raised utility cap continues to be a hazard on the traffic island opposite the Plough bus stop. Clerk to send Highways report reference number to Cllr Wagland.

Countywide survey of bus shelters by Essex has raised ownership concerns over the Mountnessing bus stops. Cllr Wagland to raise query with Essex Legal Team. Clerk to investigate historical information.

d) Village Green – Cllr Hyde – nothing to report

e) Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close – Cllr Hones Cloke

BBC residential survey completed, and results awaited.

f) St Johns Hall/Village Hall – Clerk Nothing to report

g) Mountnessing School – Cllr Slevin Nothing to report

24/84 Christmas – Cllr Dale

Discussion took place between councillors regarding a possible Christmas market hosted by the Prince of Wales. Cllrs advised that licences must be obtained, legalities with the public footpath etc. Cllr Dale to advise.

24/85 Site visit for Councillors to Hutton Country Park with Alan Marsh

Clerk to obtain date for October.

24/85 Items for inclusion at next meeting

Bus Stops

Watermeadow & Tennis Club Trees

Office update

AGAR Report

24/86 Date of next meeting – 14th October 7pm St Johns Hall