



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council

held at St Johns Hall, Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm

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

- 24/56** **Welcome and apologies for absence** -Apologies were noted from Chair, Cllr Slevin. Cllrs voted to allow Cllr Cloke to chair the meeting.
- 24/57** **Declaration of interests** - No declarations received.
- 24/58** **Approval of minutes from 10th June 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council**
Minutes were unanimously approved by show of hands and signed by Clerk and Chair.
- 24/59** **Public Question Time (5 minutes per question)**
Alan Marsh introduced himself to the meeting – Council Tree Officer for Brentwood Borough Council. Alan explained at BBC have been approached by the Forestry Commission with regards to Carbon Offset Planting in the area and Hutton Country Park North is one area being used for the project. This area is within the Mountnessing boundary and the proposal includes renaming this part of the park to Mountnessing Country Park. (19.05 2 residents entered the meeting).
Access paths to this part of the park will be re-established by BBC and the area is being considered to grow as a wildlife haven, ideal for birdwatching and country walks along the river. Over 1000 new trees have been planted already. Discussion then ensued with questions from Councillors – Cllr Cloke – will there be access from Mountnessing side of the park? Alan confirmed not at this stage and too dangerous to use UKPN access route. Cllr Cloke – asked what BBC wanted from MVC, are you expecting resources and money? Alan confirmed that Mountnessing would not be responsible for ongoing maintenance, but BBC may use MVC to apply for grants etc for the park. There would be no income from this initiative for Mountnessing as such.
Cllr Hyde asked for some photos/maps to be circulated to councillors, Alan confirmed he would send these to the Clerk for circulation.
It was agreed that MVC would support the initiative, subject to a site visit in September. BBCllr Will Russell introduced himself to the meeting, he was attending to purely observe.
Residents from St Anne’s Lane attending the meeting confirmed they had attended to discuss the traffic issues on St Anne’s Lane (previously initially discussed in June meeting). Residents confirmed the situation with HGV’s and high sided vehicles continued along with speeding motorists. Cllr Cloke agreed to take the issue to HMO Manager at Essex Highways and Cllr Wagland agreed to look at the safety of the road and refer to the road safety officers at Essex Highways.

- 24/60 Borough and County Councillor Updates – to include update on request for extra waste bins, LHP applications and Mountney Close playarea.**
 Cllr Gorton confirmed that the LHP Scheme for the southern section of Roman Road had been submitted.
 Cllrs Gorton and Wagland confirmed that the whole section of Roman Road has been requested to be reduced to 30mph for the entire section through the village.
 Cllr Sankey confirmed that the extra waste bins which have been requested for specific sites in the village are still subject to a Bin Audit at BBC and we await a further update.
 Cllr Wagland confirmed that bins had been requested for Burnthouse Lane near to the railway bridge. Furthermore, the deep potholes had been re-repaired on the junction of Church Road/Roman Road.
 Cllrs Gorton and Sankey confirmed that BBC are continuing to address the issue of the playarea at Mountney Close.
 NATS team are due to visit the village w/c 12th August – clerk to send over to Cllr Gorton the outstanding tasks to be completed.
- 24/61 Thoby Priory Update – Cllr Cloke/Cllr Hones-Cloke**
 Cllr Cloke confirmed that a meeting was being held at BBC for village and Borough councillors on 10th July to discuss this planning application.
- 24/62 Fingerposts Update – Cllr Cloke –**
 BBC are unable to currently locate the grant from SEPP to Mountnessing of £10k. Cllr Cloke to pursue with an update for September meeting.
- 24/63 Clerks Update – AGAR, Council payments, Tree works, NS&I, Tennis Club, Council garages, Environmental Health, update on Risk Assessment, Church Crescent garages.**
 AGAR submitted – awaiting PKF response.
 Tree works are nearly completed following the annual tree survey
 NS&I complaint update – now raised with ombudsman. 6-8 weeks for response.
 Tennis Club rent invoices issued for annual rent fees
 Issue with rodent infestation around the council garage areas – referred to Cllr Sankey to liaise with BBC for resolution.
 Risk Assessment – Clerk continues to work with Cllr Hyde to ensure the council is covering all potential risks – financial and asset based. Update in September meeting.
- 24/64 Agreement of pre circulated Finance Regs**
 Documents pre circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr McKinney abstained from vote.
 Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Hyde. Unanimously agreed by councillors.
- 24/65 Update on St Annes Lane – Cllr Cloke**
 See public question time.
- 24/66 Planning Applications:**
Planning Applications – a) 23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory (see 24/33)
b) 24/00475/HHA – The Farmhouse, Thoby Priory (no connection to 23/01052/FUL)
c)24/00619/HHA – Swinbourne Lower Road
- 24/67 Village Risk Assessments**
a) Coronation Field, Childrens Playarea, Village Hall Carpark – Cllr Cloke (to include Wet Pour surface discussion, play area clean up) – Cllr Cloke confirmed

that the play area had now been pressure washed and that he was assessing the wet pour surface condition after cleaning.

- b) **Watermeadows – Cllr Dale** – Fly tip at the Hope Close entrance to the area is still in situ despite regular chasing from the Clerk. Cllr Gorton agreed to pursue BBC to have the rubbish removed.
- c) **Bus Shelters – Cllr McKinney** – nothing further to add from June. The utility cover continues to be a risk on the traffic island outside the Plough.
- d) **Village Green – Cllr Hyde** – The new notice board is in place on the green.
- e) **Burnthouse Lane/Mountney Close – Cllr Hones Cloke** – Survey to be issued to residents to complete and return with their views on moving the play equipment/new play furniture etc
Clerk confirmed that the notice board had been severely vandalised and that a new board would need to be sourced ASAP due to the shards of glass etc. Clerk to investigate and circulate to councillors.
- f) **St Johns Hall/Village Hall – Clerk Hedges** at St Johns will be cut in the coming days
- g) **Mountnessing School – Cllr Slevin**

24/68

Items for inclusion at next meeting

Cricket match

Hutton Country Park

½ yearly budget update

24/69

Date of next meeting – 9th September 7pm St Johns Hall