



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council

held at St Johns Hall, Monday 10th March 2025 at 7pm

In attendance – Cllr Slevin, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Hyde, Cllr Barnabas, Cllr Hones-Cloke, BBCllr Gorton, BBCllr Sankey and Clerk – L Fajimolu

25/144 Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies received and noted from Cllr Dale and ECllr Wagland

25/145 Declaration of interests

No declarations received.

25/146 Approval of minutes from 10th February Ordinary Meeting of Council

Minutes were unanimously approved. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Hyde.

25/147 Public Question Time (5 minutes per question)

3 residents in attendance.

1 to observe the meeting.

Resident 2 raised concerns regarding the planning application to 269 Roman Road and highlighted concerns regarding parking, road safety and the loss of the shop to the village, because of this application. Cllr Cloke confirmed the council's concerns for the same issues and that these had been raised with the Planning Department and officer concerned. Cllr Cloke advised that the Village Council are in the process of applying for a license from Highways to install bollards along the damaged grass verges on this section of Roman Road to prevent further damage and prevent hazardous parking in the area.

Resident 3 raised concerns regarding the narrowed pedestrian pathways between The Elms and the school. Cllr Cloke and Slevin confirmed that the paths have narrowed due to silt and debris from the road over the years and need pushing back to the original width. Highways have been requested on numerous occasions to resolve this issue. Cllr Cloke confirmed that MVC would look to action the work and make the pavements wider.

- 25/148 Taylor Wimpey Development – Hillway**
Cllrs noted that the public consultations had taken place and been well attended by residents. As yet, no formal application has been made to the Planning Department at Brentwood.
- 25/149 County & Borough Councillor Updates**
Cllr Gorton confirmed BBC has a balanced budget for 25/26yr.
BBC are proposing to create a Borough Community Assembly for the area. Clerk confirmed that the BBPCA (Brentwood Borough Parish Council Association) already exists and is well attended by Parish Council Reps.
Cllr Sankey advised that the Mountney Play area refurb would need to form part of a capital programme, where there is no guarantee there would be funds to refurb the area. BBC have suggested that the play area be gifted to MVC, on the understanding that we would be responsible for maintaining and refurbishing the play area. Cllrs expressed concern that MVC do not currently have funds to cover this expense. Cllr Sankey advised that an amount of \$106 money has been found by BBC which is due to MVC of approx. £20,000. Cllr Sankey suggested this could be used to refurbish the play area. Clerk was asked by Councillors to investigate costings for equipment and revert to Council at the April meeting.
- 25/150 Thoby Priory Update – Clerk/Cllr Cloke**
Awaiting resubmission to Planning. Alex Burghart MP to visit the site with Historic England at the end of March.
- 25/151 Finger Post Update – Cllr Cloke**
SEPP audit trail is in progress, and they will be providing details in due course.
- 25/152 Pedestrian pavements between The Elms and school entrance.**
See public question time above.
- 25/153 Clerks update to include –**
Finance – Approval of February payments – Precirculated. Unanimously approved by council. Proposed by Cllr Hyde and seconded by Cllr Barnabas.
Hope Close/Watermeadow Trees – No response received from BBC following our response to their offer of 50% of the damage amount caused by contractor. Clerk to send correspondence to Cllrs Gorton and Sankey.
2024/25 Audit – Risk Assessment agreement (pre-circulated)
adjournment agreed to April meeting due to IT issues by Clerk.

2024/25 Audit – Asset Register – Adjourned to April meeting due to IT issues.

Litter update – Clerk advised that several residents have raised concerns over the levels of litter on the rural roads in the village. Clerk confirmed it is BBC responsibility to keep the verges clean. Clerk had received confirmation that BBC had paused their litter picking due to reassessment of risk assessments for their employees. Cllr Gorton confirmed he would pursue this with BBC.

VE Day – Clerk confirmed that the National Day of Remembrance is 8th May. The Village Hall will be replanting the hall flower beds in red, white and blue colours to mark this anniversary. Clerk suggested the possibility of lighting a beacon on the village green and a small service of remembrance in association with St Giles. Cllrs discussed this and asked Clerk to enquire about borrowing a beacon for the occasion.

Council IT Provision – Clerk confirmed that the IT software and hardware had failed during March, and this left MVC exposed due to lack of hardware. Professional advice had been sought by Clerk and a new laptop and software needed to be purchased ASAP. Clerk had received a quote for £650.00. Cllr Slevin proposed this, and Cllr Hyde seconded. Unanimously agreed and to be implemented immediately. Cllr Hyde requested the risk assessment be updated and refined to cover the IT area of the council. Cllr Cloke abstained from vote having declared an interest in the matter raised.

25/154 Planning Applications

- a) 23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory – Pending
- b) 24/00831/FUL – Hepburns – Pending
- c) 25/00178/FUL – Holbrook Stables - pending

- d) 24/01386/FUL – Chelmwood – approved
- e) 24/01263/FUL – Solar Farm – Pending
- f) 25/00235/HHA – 1, The Hamlet – Pending
- g) 25/00161/FUL – Holbrooks Cott. – pending

It was agreed by Councillors, that Clerk would resubmit objection to the application at 269 Roman Road.

- 25/155 Village Risk Assessments: a) Coronation Field/Children's Play area/Village Hall Car Park (JC)** – Painting of the pavilion is required for upkeep and weatherproofing. Quote obtained for £1650 to complete the works. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Slevin, unanimously approved.
- Pond fencing around the pond on Thoby Lane corner, needs replacing. Clerk to obtain quote.

Lottery application submitted for funding of a climbing wall. Awaiting response.

b) Watermeadows (KD) – Nothing to report.

c) Bus Shelters (TB) Cllr Barnabas reported that the wooden shelters need weatherproofing and a general tidy. Cllrs asked Clerk to obtain a quote for the works in time for next meeting.

d) Village Green (SH) – Cllr Hyde reported that the brambles on the edge of the green need removing and tidying. Clerk to ask grounds maintenance to rectify.

e) Mountney Close/Burnthouse Lane (NHC) – Play area discussed as above.

f) St Johns & Village Hall (Clerk) – St Johns Committee meeting scheduled for 31st March.

25/156 Items for next month's agenda

Risk Assessment

Asset Register

Village pond and bus stop quotes

Mountney Play Area

VE Day

Fitzwalters Solar Park

25/157 Date of next meeting – Monday 14th April 2025