



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council

held at St Johns Hall, 14th April 2025 at 7pm

**In attendance – Cllr Slevin, Cllr Cloke, Cllr Hones-Cloke, Cllr Dale, Cllr Hyde, Clerk
– L Fajimolu**

- 25/01** **Welcome, meeting protocols and apologies for absence**
*Apologies were noted from Cllr Wagland and Cllr Barnabas.
Cllr Slevin congratulated Cllrs Cloke & Hones Cloke on their recent
appointment as Alderman and Alderwoman of Brentwood.*
- 25/02** **Declaration of interests**
No declarations were received.
- 25/03** **Approval of minutes from 10th March Ordinary Meeting of Council**
*Unanimously approved by council. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded
by Cllr Hyde.*
- 25/04** **Public Question Time (3 minutes per question)**
*10 members of public in attendance. 3 to observe the meeting, and the
remaining members attended to raise concerns regarding Old Church
Lane. Issues raised included the significant potholes along the entire
stretch of road, broken road signs and speeding cars and lorries.
Residents enquiring as to whom to report and hold accountable for these
issues. Cllr Slevin confirmed that road safety in the entire village was a
cause for concern and MVC were referring all issues to the necessary
agencies. Cllr Gorton confirmed that he would visit the Old Church Lane
and raise the necessary issues with Essex Highways. Clerk confirmed that
she would bring these issues to the attention of Cllr Wagland and arrange
a site visit to talk through the issues with residents.*
- 25/05** **County & Borough Councillor Updates**
*Cllr Gorton – 269 Roman Road planning application referred to BBC
Planning Committee for decision review. Cllr Cloke confirmed he would attend the
meeting.
NATS teams are in Mountnessing w/c 28th April, Clerk to send tasks to Cllr Gorton.
Thoby Lane potholes have been escalated but no date given for repair.*

VAS signs – Unused VAS signs in the Borough cannot be reused/re-sited due to lack of budget from Essex Highways. Cllr Cloke commented that MVC do not have funds to fund installation and maintenance of new VAS signs.

Cllr Sankey – BBC have located s106 monies of £23550 for MVC. Clerk confirmed that if this money could be distributed to MVC then it could fund the redevelopment of Mountney Play area. Cllr Sankey to update at May council meeting.

25/06 Finger Post Updates

No update to report. Still awaiting audit trail details from BBC as to the whereabouts of funds from SEPP to MVC for fingerpost replacements. Cllr Cloke and Sankey persuing.

25/07 Pedestrian pavements between The Elms and school entrance.

Cllr Slevin is liaising with the contractor to have the pavements cleared of built-up debris.

25/08 Mountney Close Play Area

Following council discussions in March, following BBC's offer to gift the play area to MVC, Clerk provided councillors with a design of what the S106 funds could purchase for the park refurb. Cllrs were encouraged by the design, but Cllr Slevin confirmed that until the S106 monies were secured, MVC were not able to fund the refurbishment.

25/09 VE Day Commemorations

Cllr Cloke confirmed that IFPC were kindly loaning MVC a beacon for the 8th May commemoration.

Clerk confirmed that a commemoration would take place on the Village Green on 8th May, 7pm, led by Tim Lee from St Giles. Clerk to advertise locally.

25/10 Clerks update to include –

Finance – Approval of March payments – *Cllr Cloke declared an interest, payments proposed by Cllr Dale and Seconded by Cllr Slevin. Unanimously agreed.*

2024/25 – Risk Assessment agreement (pre-circulated)

Cllr Hyde noted that this was a working document and should be updated as appropriate. Cllrs unanimously agreed the agreement, proposed by Cllr Hyde and Seconded by Cllr Dale.

2024/25 – Asset Register agreement following updates

Proposed by Cllr Dale and seconded by by Cllr Hones Cloke, unanimously agreed by council.

Verge Licenses

Clerk confirmed that all necessary paperwork for the license for the bollards opposite the parade of shops on Roman Road, had been submitted to Highways for approval, however on this occasion Highways had responded with some further questions. Clerk confirmed that this has been raised with Cllr Wagland for referral back to Highways.

Clerk confirmed that several contracts were coming to their completion in 2025/26 – Cricket Hire, Greenscapes Grounds Maintenance, Zurich (council insurance) and EON power supply to the pavilion. Cllrs agreed that the grounds maintenance contract and Cricket Club hire would be put to tender later this year.

Lloyds Bank Accounts and fees

Clerk confirmed that Lloyds were taking admin fees on the Fete Account, even though no funds were currently held in the account. Clerk proposed to close the account until such time another fete account was required. Cllrs unanimously agreed. Cllr Dale proposed, and Cllr Hyde seconded.

Village Litter Pick

Clerk thanked the contractors from BBC for the extensive clearance of rubbish from the village rural roads. Given this clearance it was decided by Cllrs to put a village litter pick back until the summer months.

25/11

Planning Applications

- a) 23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory – Pending**
- b) 24/00831/FUL – Hepburns – Pending**
- c) 25/00178/FUL – Holbrook Stables - pending**
- d) 25/00161/FUL – Holbrooks Cott. - pending**
- e) 24/01263/FUL – Solar Farm, Old Church Road – Pending**
- f) 25/00235/HHA – 1, The Hamlet – Pending**
- g) 25/00349/HHA – 60, Mountney Close – pending**
- h) 24/01104/FUL -Plot 2, Roman Triangle – pending**

Updates on Thoby Priory and Fitzwalters Solar Farm. *Cllr Cloke confirmed that MP Alex Burghart had visited Thoby Priory with Historic England. Awaiting full submission of reapplication for planning.
Solar Farm at Fitzwalters, no official planning application yet.*

25/12

Village Risk Assessments:

- a) Coronation Field/Children's Play area/Village Hall Car Park – to include quote to remove and replace fence around Thoby Lane pond (JC)** *Full quote still awaited from contractor. Defer to May meeting.
ROSPA park inspection scheduled for May 2025*

Weekly safety inspections still be undertaken by BBC inspector. Nothing to report at present.

b) Watermeadows – to include update on tree removal by BBC (KD)

Clerk had circulated an email from BBC offering 50% of costs and replacement of the two trees that were removed by BBC contractors in September. Cllrs agreed to accept the offer as an interim payment, pending the results of a full investigation by BBC. Clerk to arrange acceptance of funds and trees. Cllr Dale, nothing further to report.

c) Bus Shelters – to include quote to refurbish all bus shelters (TB)

Quote from Pemberton Handyman to refurbish all bus shelters on Roman Road was discussed by Cllrs and unanimously agreed. Proposed by Cllr Slevin and Seconded by Cllr Hones Cloke.

d) Village Green (SH)

Over hanging brambles have removed, Clerk to arrange clearance of debris left behind and to ask Greenscapes to fully tidy prior to VE Commemoration.

e) Mountney Close/Burnthouse Lane (NHC)

As discussed under point 25/08

f) St Johns & Village Hall (Clerk)

New secretary has been appointed to St Johns Hall Committee. MVH – review of policies and procedures for the hall is currently underway.

25/13 Items for next month's agenda

Village Cricket Match

Litter Pick

Old Church Lane

Tenders for Contracts

25/14 Date of next meeting – Monday 12th May 2025 – Ordinary, Parish and Annual meetings of council.

Meeting Closed at 20.23pm