



MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
held at St Johns Hall, Monday 13th January 2025 at 7pm

- 25/118 Welcome and apologies for absence**
Chair opened the meeting, no apologies to note.
- 25/119 Declaration of interests**
No declarations received.
- 25/120 Approval of minutes from 11th November Ordinary Meeting of Council**
Approval of minutes from Public Planning Meeting 6th January 2025
Minutes of 11th November were unanimously approved. Proposed by Cllr Slevin and seconded by Cllr Dale.
Minutes of the public planning meeting held 6th January were unanimously approved. Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Hyde.
- 25/121 Public Question Time (5 minutes per question)**
No members of public in attendance.
- 25/122 Co-Option of New Councillor**
Cllr Slevin welcomed Tracy Barnabas to the meeting ahead of co-option to the Village Council. Tracy introduced herself and was proposed to council by Cllr Hyde and seconded by Cllr Hones-Cloke, unanimously voted in favour. Cllr Barnabas signed the Declaration of Office, and this was witnessed by the Clerk.
- 25/123 Council Budget for 2025-2026**
Clerk opened discussion for the forthcoming 25/26-year council budget. Documents had previously been circulated to councillors for their consideration. Cllr Hones Cloke commented that the Greenscapes contract is a high percentage of the current budget. Clerk confirmed that this was entering into the 3rd year of a 3 year contract and that the contract would be put out to tender again in Spring 2026.
The proposed defib to be fitted at St Giles could be potentially funded by the Locality Fund. Clerk to follow this up with the PCC at St Giles.

The budget includes funds for street furniture for the grass verges on Roman Road to prevent further destruction of the verge and prevent antisocial parking. Clerk to submit in the license to Essex Highways a provision for bollards and or planters.

Clerk also advised that office rental and IT licenses would need to be added to this year's budget.

Cllr Cloke noted that by increasing the precept in 25/26 this would bring the reserves back to a positive position in line with Local Government audit request.

Clerk advised Councillors that the pavilion will need to be repainted in the coming year to ensure good maintenance. Clerk also noted that all tree works for council liable areas are now up to date.

Pest control funds need to be made available given the expense on pest control over the last 12 months.

Cllr Slevin proposed the increase in the precept to £78,520.00 and this was seconded by Cllr Cloke. Cllrs voted unanimously in favour of the proposed budget.

Cllr Slevin and the Clerk signed the precept request document for submission to Brentwood Council.

25/124 Thoby Priory Update (JC)

Cllr Cloke confirmed that a site meeting between residents and the new owners of the Thoby Cottage site was scheduled for 24th January. Planning application for the Eurovans site was ongoing.

25/125 Finger Post Update (JC)

Cllr Cloke is continuing to liase with BBC for SEPP grant which has been granted to MVC for the 4 replacement finger posts in the village.

25/126 Clerks update to include –

Finance – Agree November and December payments

Payments listing pre circulated to council for agreement. Cllr Dale Proposed the payments and Cllr Slevin seconded. Councillors were unanimous in agreement.

Village office update – Clerk confirmed all council office functions are now active from the office in 131 Roman Road.

Cricket Club – field damage – Clerk advised council that the cricket wicket area had been significantly damaged over the Christmas period by electric bikes and scooters, despite the area being cordoned off. Cllrs agreed to install signage around the park advising that electric scooters/bikes were not permitted on Coronation Field. Clerk to purchase and have the handyman install the signage.

Hope Close/Watermeadow Trees

Clerk read an email response from BBC in relation to the trees that had been removed from MVC boundaries by a BBC contractor. BBC offered to replace the 2 trees and pay for half of the fencing costs incurred by MVC. Cllrs requested that Clerk go back to BBC and confirm MVC would not accept this offer given the facts surrounding the situation. Cllr Barnabas to assist Clerk in this issue.

25/127 Planning Applications

- a) 23/01052/FUL – Thoby Priory – Pending**
- b) 24/00831/FUL – Hepburns – Pending**
- c) 24/01000/HHA – 11, The Elms – approved**
- d) 24/00978/HHA – Millers – approved**
- e) 24/01386/FUL – Chelmwood – pending**
- f) 24/01263/FUL – Solar Farm – Pending**
- g) 24/01237/HAA – 1, The Hamlet – Pending**

- 25/128 Village Risk Assessments:**
- a) Coronation Field/Children's Play area/Village Hall Car Park (JC)** Cllr Cloke advised that a large pothole is developing in the car park area. Awaiting better weather conditions to get the hole repaired.
 - b) Watermeadows (KD)** Cllr Dale reported that there were no issues of significance to raise.
 - c) Bus Shelters (PM)** Cllr McKinney provided Clerk with a report for each bus shelter. Clerk to review and investigate any works that need to be completed.
 - d) Village Green (SH)** Cllr Hyde reported that all is in good order.
 - e) Mountney Close/Burnthouse Lane (NHC)** Cllr Hones Cloke asked if there had been any update regarding the S106 monies for the subway refurbishment. Cllr Wagland confirmed that the site had been visited by National Highways engineers and that a wish list had been drawn up of what the £60k could be allocated too. Cllr Wagland is pursuing this matter.
 - f) St Johns & Village Hall (Clerk)** Clerk advised that the AGM for the MVH Trust takes place on 24th January.

25/129 Items for next month's agenda

Bollards
Hope Close Trees

25/130 Date of next meeting – Monday 10th February 2025

Meeting closed at 8.28pm

