

MOUNTNESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

St. John's Hall, Church Road, Mountnessing, Monday, 16 April 2018 at 8.30pm, following the Annual Assembly

MINUTES

- 18/045** **Apologies for absence** – apologies were received from Cllrs King, Broughton, Santry and Hofert and BCllr Bridge.
- In attendance: Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Read, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Harries, BCllr Cloke, BCllr Hones, CCllr Wagland, Laura Brown, Parish Clerk. Eight members of the public were in attendance at the start of the meeting.
- 18/046** **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held 12 March 2018** – Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 12 March were approved.
- 18/047** **Declaration of Interests and Compliance with Ethical Framework** - there were no declarations of interest.
- 18/048** **Public Question Time** – A number of members of the public complained about the condition of the pavements in Burnthouse Lane and Church Road. Residents are being forced to walk in the road as the pavements are in such poor order and in areas, paths on both sides of the road are unusable particularly if you have a pushchair. CCllr Wagland reported that Essex County Councillors are concerned that the funds allocated for footpaths may now be used to repair extra damage caused by extreme winter conditions. CCllr Wagland has highlighted Burnthouse Lane and Church Road in her reports to ECC and will escalate these if no repairs are scheduled.
- A road island on Roman Road was also reported, as this has been damaged since August 2017 and despite reports to ECC no repairs have been made. CCllr Wagland advised that this was the responsibility of Highways England as the road forms part of the A12 slipway.
- A member of the public enquired about the promised repairs to the verges in Church crescent following damage caused by BBC refuse trucks. BCllr Cloke is aware of this issue and has reported it so will follow up and report back. The issue remains though that residents park on the side of the road which can make it difficult for the trucks to get through, meaning they have to resort to mounting the verge.
- The same member of the public enquired whether the plans for the garages in Church Crescent had progressed. BCllr Cloke reported that there was no update. The member of the public advised that in total, 4 of the garages in this area are privately owned and are not council property.
- 18/049** **Finance**
- The monthly financial report was reported and accepted with payments noted. The Clerk presented the year end budget and this was proposed by Cllr Harries and seconded by Cllr McKinney.
- 18/050** **Internal Controls**
- Cllr Harries will assess the effectiveness of MPC's internal controls and report back at the May meeting.
- Cllr Read has completed the assessment of our risk assessment procedures and found these to be satisfactory.
- The Clerk will advise the Council on GDPR at the May meeting.
- At the Annual Meeting in May, re-election of Chair and vice-Chair takes place. Should any Cllr wish to stand for one of these positions they should make this known ahead of the Annual meeting.
- 18/051** **Planning**
- i. New Applications:**
- 24 Burnthouse Lane – No objection
- Ladybird Kennels and Farm Roman Road – No objection

- ii. **For Update:**
 - 3 Roman Close - Pending
 - Hollins, Lower Road - Pending
 - North Barn Master Johns Farm Thoby Lane - Pending
 - Woolards, 358 Roman Road - **Approved**
 - Master John's Farm, Thoby Lane - **Approved**
 - Ingatestone Garden Centre (including Section 106 update) – pending
 - Meadowside Swallows Cross - **Approved**

18/052

Maintenance/development issues

- i. Pavements Church Road and Burnthouse Lane – this issue was discussed during public question time at the start of the meeting. Cllr Wagland advised that she had spoken to Roger Hirst, Police and Crimes Commissioner with regards to the police getting involved when people park on verges. He advised that they will intervene when there is an obstruction, defined as 'not getting a double buggy through'. There need to be 8 recorded incidents before the police will take action.
- ii. Coronation Field footpath – Cllr Stephenson reported that MPC has signed the 106 agreement, but other individuals involved have not. Cllr's Stephenson and Harries signed the supplementary option agreement and also negotiated a £20k contribution towards the drainage in Coronation Field, as well as a £750 signing fee. Cllr Stephenson explained that once everyone involved has signed the 106 agreement, Brian Read can seek outline planning permission.
The signing of these documents was agreed via an email trail shared with all councillors as action was needed urgently by the developer.
- iii. Village Hall refurbishments. It was advised that the toilets need refurbishing and the kitchen is very out of date. Cllr Harries is investigating grant options to support these. The Parish Councillors all agreed that funds needed to be allocated to support these refurbishments.

18/053

Borough and County Councillor's reports

BCllr Cloke advised that BBC are looking to reorganise the parking in Mountney Close and this will include an allocated disabled bay. He advised that residents have been complaining that there is not a zebra crossing in Roman Road. All agreed that a 30mph limit near the school and a zebra crossing would be great additions to the village, but that a wider report covering all concerns regarding traffic and the speed on roads in the area was needed.

18/054

Parish Council Assets including Risk Assessment/Management and on-going repairs

- a. Children's Play area, Bus Shelters and Tennis Court – repairs are needed to the roundabout and Cllr King has been in contact with a contractor regarding this. Should it not be rectified easily, MPC may have to instruct Wickstead to repair.
The moss at the pay and play tennis court continues to be a problem. A site meeting will be arranged to assess in more detail and to plan a course of action.
- b. Village Hall Car Park, Millennium Gardens and Old Recycling Area – Cllr Stephenson removed the fly tipped rubbish from the old recycling area.
- c. Recreation Ground – nothing to report although some concerns about conditions inside the pavilion and changing rooms have been raised. Cllr Stephenson and the Parish Clerk will determine the extent of these issues and report back.
- d. Allotments - no concerns
- e. Water Meadows – no concerns

18/055

Communications – the newsletter has been delivered to all properties in Mountnessing. The Parish Clerk is attending a wordpress training course next week, with the aim of developing a new web site for MPC.

18/056

St John's Hall and Village Hall

- St Johns parking report – Cllr Harries advised that a flyer had been delivered to all residents in the Church Road/Church Crescent/Hope Close area regarding the traffic management survey

findings. This outlined that there is not enough space to make any real changes and the cost of any changes at all is outside Parish capabilities.

It was noted that only one resident from Church Road attended the meeting once residents had been advised that it was not possible to take the proceedings any further.

- Traveller incident and car park – following the traveller encampment in March in the Village Hall car park it was agreed that MPC should investigate an overhead barrier system for the car park. Cllr Wagland advised that ECC may support this with a grant and she would investigate further. MPC can also deposit copies of title deeds with David Carter at BBC and the Parish Clerk will arrange to do this in order to speed up action on any incidents in the future.

18/057 **Mountnessing C of E School** – Cllr Read advised that the English Charity are now in discussion with the school regarding the leasing of the land to them, should they succeed in becoming an academy.

18/058 **Other Matters of Interest**

Hundredth anniversary of cessation of hostilities – a village event to celebrate the end of the first world war 100 years ago was proposed and approved by all. At the May meeting this will be discussed further with the aim of forming a small committee to take the event further.

Tree survey results – the recent tree survey has highlighted that a significant amount of money needs to be spent on pruning and in some cases removing trees that are not safe. Cllrs will need to discuss this in further detail and MPC will look to obtain quotes on doing the work when it is clear exactly what action should be taken.

18/059 **Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 14 May 2018, 7.30pm – Annual Meeting**

Andrew Stephenson
Chairman

Laura Brown
Parish Clerk