

MOUNTNESSING PARISH COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

St. John's Hall, Church Road, Mountnessing, Monday, 8 January 2018 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

- 18/001 Apologies for absence** - apologies were received from Cllr Hofert, and BCllr's Bridge and Cloke advised of their expected late arrival.
- In attendance: Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Harries, Cllr Broughton, Cllr King, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Read, CCllr Wagland, BCllr Hones, Laura Brown, Parish Clerk.
Several members of the public attended at the start of the meeting.
Absent: Cllr Santry.
- 18/002 Approval of Minutes of Meeting** – Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13 November 2018 were approved and signed.
- 18/003 Declaration of Interests and Compliance with Ethical Framework** – there were no declarations of interest.
- 18/004 Public Question Time** – A member of the public asked if there was any further update on the Crosby Close development that had recently been discussed. Cllr Stephenson advised that no further communication had been received from the developer or their representatives and that the site is currently not on the LDP (Local Development Plan), although a revised version is due for release on the 17 January 2018. The other members of the public were attending regarding items 18/005 and 18/006
- 18/005 Garden Centre Planning application** – Cllr Stephenson outlined MPC's previous recommendations which were submitted to the developers. It was noted that the planning submission does not make any reference to most of these and that objections have not been addressed. Issues relating to development on a greenbelt site, infrastructure, access, flooding, sewage and gas mains proximity, types of houses, cycle tracks and transport availability were discussed in detail. Concerns were raised by members of the public particularly in regards to educational provision for new residents. CCllr Wagland informed the meeting that the 106 agreement should be in place before planning permission is granted, as it is impermissible to sign this after permission is given. She also stated that ECC had passed a motion that all local plans would have enough infrastructure available to deal with a new development. Cllr Stephenson will draft a formal response to the application from MPC and circulate this to all Parish Councillors for comment.
- 18/006 St. John's Parking** – Cllr Harries informed the meeting that a Transport Consultant had been employed to advise on parking in the area around St. John's Hall. He is awaiting the final report which will be summarised and shared with the community.
- 8:20pm Most members of the public left. Mr Harrison from Mill Cottage remained to enquire about the proposed footpath in Coronation Playing Field. Agenda item 18/009 ii was therefore discussed at this time.
- 18/009 ii. Mr Harrison expressed concern that a footpath through Coronation Field would affect his property's security and privacy. Cllr Stephenson explained that the path is part of the planning permission for a development at Thoby Priory. This was originally planned as a 3m wide cycle path but MPC negotiations resulted in agreement to a 2m wide footpath. The option for this path was agreed with the developer in 2016 but is due to expire in April 2018. Cllr Stephenson has asked Cllrs to consider this arrangement for discussion at next month's ordinary meeting.
- 8:30pm Mr Harrison left. BCllr's Bridge and Cloke joined the meeting.
- 18/007 Finance**
The monthly financial report was accepted and payments noted.
Agreement of precept – the Parish Clerk advised Councillors that BBC were not providing any discretionary grant this year. This means that the income from Borough will be through the precept alone. In order for the Parish to only sustain a small deficit in the 2018/19 budget, the precept will

need to be raised to cover this loss. A proposed necessary 30% increase to the precept was discussed. The Parish Clerk will perform a detailed budget analysis to circulate before an increase is agreed and the request submitted.

Tree Survey – it has been identified that, for insurance purposes, the Parish Council should be conducting an annual tree survey. Writtle Tree Consultancy have been recommended for this role and a quote received. The Parish Councillors all agreed that, subject to approval by Zurich Insurance of this company, the assessment should go ahead. Whilst the cost is high, this is an essential risk assessment tool and a way to monitor any issues. A three-year option was agreed by all as this provides a significant reduction in cost.

18/008

Planning

- i. New Applications:**
 - 5 Hope Close – no objection
 - Meadowside, Swallows Cross no objection
- ii. For Update:**
 - George and Dragon (various) - Approved
 - Swinburne, Lower Road – Refused
 - 283 Roman Road (appeal) – Dismissed
 - 137 Roman Road - Refused

18/009

Projects

- i.** Pavements Church Road – Cllr Wagland is pursuing this concern and will report back at the next meeting regarding Church Road and Burnthouse Lane pavements.
- ii.** Coronation Field footpath – discussed earlier in the meeting

18/010

Borough and County Councillor's reports – BCllr Bridge advised the meeting that recycling orange sacks are being changed to clear sacks, in order for the collectors to identify any items that should not be in there more easily. BCllr Hones requested work tasks for the NATs team as soon as possible. Cllr Stephenson submitted the suggestion of cleaning the graffiti from the underpass.

18/011

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

No areas of concern were identified within the village

18/012

St John's Hall and Village Hall – The Village Hall AGM is being held on 29 January 2018.

18/013

Mountnessing C of E School – Cllr Read reported that the school held a very successful Xmas Bazaar. Unfortunately, financial constraints have resulted in 3 Teaching Assistants being made redundant, and others having their hours reduced.

18/014

Other Matters of Interest – nothing arising.

18/015

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 5 February, 7.30pm Borough Councillors have sent apologies for this meeting but may be able to attend later in the evening.

Andrew Stephenson (Chair)

Laura Brown (Parish Clerk/RFO)