

Ordinary Meeting of Mountnessing Parish Council
St. John's Hall, Church Road, Mountnessing, Monday, 14 January 2019

MINUTES

- 19/001 To receive and agree apologies for absence:**
Apologies received from Cllr King.
- In attendance: Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Harries, Cllr Santry, Cllr Read, Cllr Broughton, Cllr McKinney, BCLlr Cloke, BCLlr Hones, BCLlr Bridge, CCllr Wagland, Parish Clerk – L Brown, 10 members of the public.
- 19/002 To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018**
It was RESOLVED that the minutes from 12 November 2018 were a true record.
- 19/003 Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Parish Councillors**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 19/004 Public Question Time**
Residents from Crossby Close requested an update on the potential build affecting their road. BCLlr Cloke advised that the Local Development Plan is at the point where no new developments can be added. The Crossby Close development is not in the LDP and as this land is also in the greenbelt the likelihood of it proceeding any further is low. 7 members of the public left.
- Residents from Burnthouse Lane advised that they still had issues with the council property next door not being properly maintained. BCLlr Bridge will follow this up with the Housing Department again. CCllr Wagland advised the residents to consider pursuing a nuisance issue legally, with the Borough Council, not with individual temporary residents. 2 members of the public left.
- 19/005 To receive reports by Borough and County Councillors**
BCLlr Bridge advised a huge increase in fly tipping in Brentwood since the beginning of 2019. It is recommended that any instances are reported on the Brentwood website first so that a case is opened. The cases, with associated number can then be reported to BCLlr Bridge for follow up. Brentwood has a zero tolerance of fly tipping and any confirmed offenders will now receive the maximum fixed penalty fine of £400.
- BCLlr Bridge and CCllr Wagland reported on the Essex Library Consultation. Shenfield and Ingatestone libraries have been categorised as tier 3, which means that they are at risk of closure. People should be encouraged to complete the online consultation survey to express their opinions. CCllr Wagland explained that an annual running cost of £52k would be needed to keep Ingatestone open and at the same venue. There is also an option for tier 3 libraries potentially to be taken over by the community/volunteers and this is being investigated further by BCLlr Bridge. So far, from survey results, opinion on whether these two libraries should remain open or closed are mixed.
- There is currently a bus service consultation underway to consider amending the 351 Sunday service. Those who use this service are encouraged to complete the survey online.
- BCLlr Cloke advised that he is meeting with the enforcement team later this week and will follow up concerns regarding properties in Mountnessing that appear on the current enforcement list.
- BCLlr Cloke reported that there is now a roving parking enforcement officer. Concerns should be reported to the parking enforcement team in Chelmsford. Vehicles parked fully on the pavement, forcing pedestrians in to the road, should be reported directly to the police as an obstruction. At The Elms, Essex Highways should have painted in lines for the cycle lane and CCllr Wagland will investigate why this was not done.
- Concern regarding the continued damage to the kerb in Church Close, where the refuse lorries have to cut across the roundabout to get around, were raised again. CCllr Wagland will investigate the possibility of having the roundabout made smaller to eradicate this problem.
- BCLlr Cloke reported that he had sent a report to the planning department expressing his concern regarding the potential development of a power station at the edge of Mountnessing. BCLlr Bridge

reported that this proposed development is on greenbelt so is unlikely to gain approval. An indication on the decision should be circulated by BBC this week.

Cllr Wagland is hopeful that the pavements in Church Road will soon be repaired. The recent speed survey of this road indicated that 75.6% of vehicles exceed the speed limit. This is something ECC will look to address further.

MPC were also advised that casualty reduction schemes have been approved by the local highway panel for the junction of Thoby Lane and St. Anne's Road and the junction of Widvale Road and Old Church Lane. Vegetation clearance and improved signage will be used to address driving issues identified in these areas.

The meeting was advised of the poor safety and access issues for the resident remaining on the Ingatestone Garden Centre site. The current residents have been burgled, have issues with rats and were advised by Redrow Homes that a purchase would go through and to make plans to vacate, but the current owner has had no contact since. Cllr Wagland advised they should get legal assistance and pursue the matter with Redrow Homes.

MPC were advised that the Neighbourhood Action Team (NATs) would be in the area week commencing 18 February. Parish Clerk to compile a list of requested action and submit to BCllrs.

19/006

To discuss the condition of the car park and play area in Mountney Close

BCllr Cloke will raise the possibility of the play area being moved to a more prominent and safer grassed area where it would be more visible and therefore used more.

19/007

Anti-social parking at the Elms

Cars/vans parking on the pavement/cycle way on Wydvale Road – this was discussed earlier as part of the Borough/County Councillors reports.

19/008

Finance.

The Monthly Financial Statement and Bank reconciliation for December 2018 were approved by all.

The Parish Clerk outlined the third quarter budget report along with anticipated year end results. These showed that the Council were on track with the anticipated spend.

An 8% increase to the precept for 2019/2020 was proposed. This is significantly less than the 30% that had to be imposed last year due to cuts in grants from the Borough Council. This figure would allow the parish council to achieve a £0 deficit/surplus, as determined by initial budget calculations. MPC RESOLVED to apply for this figure. This was proposed by Cllr Harries and seconded by Cllr McKinney.

19/009

Planning

To agree Council responses for submission with regards to new planning applications and discuss ongoing planning applications.

- I. **Ingatestone Garden Centre** – discussed in item 19/005
- II. **Enforcement issues** - discussed in item 19/005
- III. **Power station** - 18/01721/FUL - discussed in item 19/005
- IV. **Thoby Priory** – Cllr Stephenson advised that the option document regarding for planning that was registered with the Land Registry has been deleted from their records. MPC does not need to proceed any further with this as it appears the development is not progressing at this time.
- V. **For update**
18/01944/FUL and 18/01920/FUL - Hunts Farm Old Church Lane - Pending
18/01782/FUL - Howletts Church Road - APPROVED
18/01522/FUL - Meadowside Swallows Cross Road – **Approved**
18/01200/FUL Swinburn – **Appeal dismissed.**

19/010

Councillor Training

It was RESOLVED that the EALC training days for new Councillors would be stipulated in the MPC training policy and a budget allocation made for this. This should be completed after Councillors have been on the Parish Council for an agreed period of time (to be determined), in order to ensure that they

are happy to continue in the position once they realise what it involves. For longer standing Councillors training requirements will be identified as they arise and appropriate courses sought.

19/011 Road and Traffic management in Mountnessing

Prior to the meeting, Cllr McKinney circulated a document suggesting recommendations regarding speeding and traffic management concerns in the village. This report included government recommendations and ways in which other bodies have approached issues. This will be updated and circulated to the Borough Councillors for information.

CCllr Wagland reported that SERP, the Safer Essex Roads Partnership, would be able to attend a separate meeting with members of the Parish Council to discuss our concerns and advise on how things are being managed across the county.

BCllr Cloke reported that finances had been made available for a zebra crossing to be put in near to the shops and it was agreed by all that signage for the school needs to be improved greatly, as those driving through do not realise that a school is there and, potentially, don't drive as cautiously as they would if they were aware children and families might be crossing.

It was agreed that all Parish Councillors would read through Cllr McKinneys' report in detail and submit any comments by the end of next week (25 Jan 2019).

19/012 Litter

The Parish Clerk has investigated the cost of privately contracting someone to litter pick the village. This is a considerable cost and therefore alternative measures need to be taken. The interest in a volunteering/community involvement day will be determined which could include other tasks as well as clearing rubbish.

The clerk is also trying to determine from Brentwood BC which routes their operatives litter pick in the village and how often this is scheduled.

It was highlighted that there are no public litter bins at the end of the village near to the new Elms development. BCllr Cloke will raise this with Brentwood BC to determine whether bins could be placed adjacent to the bus shelters.

19/013 Village Hall Car park

In principle all attending agreed to the installation of a moveable height restriction barrier in the car park which would prevent entry by campervans and members of the travelling community. This needs to be discussed in more detail, along with the idea of installing a gate at the entrance to the village hall car park which would be opened and closed manually using a combination lock.

Considerations for this include the use of the Village Hall late at night by those hiring it for events and use by the general public during the summer time. It was agreed however that something needs to be put in place to eliminate the current drugs dealing which seems to be happening on a regular basis at the in the car park.

19/014 To receive Risk Assessments on Parish Assets and discuss any works needed or on-going on the following

- a. Children's Play area, Bus Shelters and Tennis Court – no issues
- b. Village Hall Car Park, Millennium Gardens and Old Recycling Area - no issues
- c. Recreation Ground - no issues
- d. Allotments - no issues
- e. Water Meadows - Brentwood BC have the key and will clear the fly tipped waste imminently.
- f. Village Hall - recent improvements include a full resurface of the floor, new lights and in the next two weeks, installation of new heaters and improvements within the ladies' toilets
- g. St. John's Hall – no issues
- h. Mountnessing Primary School - no issues

19/015 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 11 February 2019, 7.30pm