

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council
Via Video Conference, Monday, 11 January 2021, 2:00pm
MINUTES

- 21/001.** In attendance: Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Harries, Cllr Read, Cllr King, Cllr Broughton, Cllr McKinney, CCllr Wagland, BCllr Hones, BCllr Cloke, L Brown, Clerk & RFO, Cllr Pennell-Buck
Apologies: BCllr Bridge, Cllr Santry, one member of the public.
- It was RESOLVED at the start of the meeting to co-opt Mrs Frances Pennell-Buck as a Village Councillor. Proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Read.
- 21/002. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 November 2020**
The minutes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 November 2020 were approved by all.
- 21/003. Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 21/004. Update on recruitment of Caretaker within Mountnessing Village Council**
Cllr Stephenson and the Village Clerk are holding informal interviews with applicants for this post early next week. The role may be split in two depending on people's areas of interest/expertise.
- 21/005. Public Question Time - public to advise in advance of attendance**– no members of the public in attendance wished to ask questions.
- 21/006. Updates from Essex County Council and Brentwood Borough Council**
BCllr Hones asked for feedback on the work of the NATs. This was generally very positive and MVC thanked BCllr Hones for setting this up.
- BCllr Cloke will circulate briefing notes with regards to the appeal process for the Garden Centre development. It was proposed that a coordinated representation approach be taken and if CCllr Wagland does not risk a conflict of interest with ECC, then she is happy to take on this role.
- ECC is keen for people to understand that the logistics of providing the vaccine for Covid-19 is entirely down to the NHS. People will be contacted and should not pursue this with their GP surgeries and should also be very aware of potential scammers.
- CCllr Wagland has a new allocation of money that is part of the central living fund which can be used for food or essentials by organisations that are in need. Any requests to be sent directly to her.
- ECC continues to collect surplus laptops for redistribution to pupils from secondary schools or colleges. These could be for those who cannot afford a laptop or for large families where more are needed.
- Road repairs continue and the hump in Roman Road adjacent to the George and Dragon has been removed. The drains on the section of road that floods in between Mountnessing and Ingatestone have been jetted and the gullies have been cleaned in other areas of the village as well.
- 21/007. Discussion of condition of verges in the village due to parking on grass**
Lots of concerns have been raised by residents and councillors regarding the condition of the verges in the village. Off road parking on the grass is ploughing up the land and making it very unattractive.
- MVC would like to investigate the possibility of planting shrubs in these verges to prevent parking but need to determine whose permission is needed as the land is not owned by MVC. Further discussion is needed to ascertain how this permission is sought.

21/008. New plan by ECC for Bus Shelters in the county - for information.

ECC wants MVC to submit details of the bus shelters in the village so that these can be included in a county wide upgrade. Concern was raised that metal replacements would diminish the rural feel of our village and this will be fed back by Cllr Wagland. The updates however would streamline repair processes and allow for digital information to be displayed along with money making advertisement opportunities. Details of our bus shelters need to be reported to ECC in the near future.

This discussion led to renewed request for litter bins near to The Elms development. BCllr Cloke advised that these should be provide by the developer as promised, although BBC would most likely take on the cost of emptying them. MVC will look in to this further and if a grant was available could look to match fund provision of these in order to reduce littering in the village.

21/009. Finance.

- To approve the Monthly payments and receipts for December 2020 – these were agreed and approved by all
- A precept request for 2021/22 of £40k, approximately a 3.7% increase per household was RESOLVED. Proposed by Cllr Stephenson and seconded by Cllr Harries.

21/010. Planning

MVC has received a preliminary enquiry regarding willingness to sell part of the land in the Water Meadows for a development on land between Roman Road and the A12 that is not in the LDP. This was met with lots of opposition from members of MVC as the village does not have the infrastructure to deal with a large number of additional houses and the school does not have the capacity for more children.

This land is currently Greenbelt and is not identified as a site for development in the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP) which is in its final stages before approval. Reconsideration of the status of this area would not normally be until 2035 although there are occasions when local authorities will consider 'windfall' sites during the life of an LDP. However, any planning application would need to show special circumstances for development approval to be forthcoming.

A reply to the interested developer will reflect opposition to the use of the land for building purposes and indicate no appetite to sell the water Meadows land.

Cllr Stephenson and the Village Clerk have a virtual meeting on Thursday with a developer who wants to install a battery storage site on the edge of Mountnessing. This is a fact- finding meeting and details will be forwarded to all members of MVC afterwards.

For update:

1. Holbrook Stables- **Withdrawn**
2. 19 Burnthouse Lane – Rear veranda - **Approved**
3. 197 Roman Road - Rear extension - **Pending**
4. Ingatestone Garden Centre – **Appeal pending as discussed in Borough Councillors briefing**

21/011. Reports by Village Councillors on any issues with village assets that have arisen during regular risk assessments.

Cllr Read informed the meeting that the development at the Primary School had been delayed until next Autumn as the permit to move the badgers could not be renewed until August 2021.

21/012. To discuss the grant application by Mountnessing Tennis Club for Court 5 (Windmill Court)

It was RESOLVED that MVC would support the application by MTC for a grant to develop the use of Court 5. Proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Harries. Following the meeting a form was completed by the Clerk, authorised by Cllr Stephenson and forwarded to the Club as a photograph to support the application.

21/013. Items for inclusion in next Ordinary Meeting

- Attendance by a member of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership
- Policy for use of Coronation Field
- Update on the grant application for security barrier at Mountnessing Village Hall car park

21/014.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8 March 2021 - time to be determined.