

MOUNTNESSING VILLAGE COUNCIL
Ordinary Meeting of the Village Council, Via Video Conference, Monday, 8 March 2021, 4:00pm
MINUTES

- 21/015.** In attendance: Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Harries, Cllr Read, Cllr King, Cllr McKinney, Cllr Pennell-Buck, Cllr Moore, CCllr Wagland, BCllr Hones, BCllr Cloke, L Brown, Clerk & RFO.
Apologies: Cllr Broughton, BCllr Bridge. **Absent:** Cllr Santry.
- 21/016.** It was RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Paul Moore as a Village Councillor. Proposed by Cllr Pennell-Buck and seconded by Cllr Harries.
- 21/017.** **To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 January 2021.**
The minutes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 January 2021 were approved by all.
- 21/018.** **Announcement and Declaration of Interests by Village Councillors**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 21/019.** **Public Question Time - public to advise in advance of attendance**– no members of the public attended.
- 21/020.** **Update on recruitment of Caretaker within Mountnessing Village Council**
A local resident has been appointed as the Village Handyman/Caretaker. This is a self-employed role covering a minimum of 10 hours per week. All works should come through the Village Clerk and Chair unless the Clerk is on annual leave when alternative arrangements will be put in place.
- 21/021.** **Litter and Fly Tipping in Mountnessing**
A working party has been set up to address the issue of litter in the village. This will focus on prevention, encouraging local people to get and take responsibility for litter in their area and clean up days/campaigns. This group will be headed by Cllr Pennell-Buck, and includes Cllr Moore, Cllr Read and Cllr Harries. The Village Clerk will also support as needed.

It was noted that Brentwood Borough Council are responsible for clearing up litter and fly tipping on public land but have difficulty gaining approval from Highways England for clear up operations on the major roads and slip roads.
- 21/022.** **Updates from Essex County Council and Brentwood Borough Council**
CCllr Wagland reported that the ECC have frozen the precept element of council tax for this year.

The programme to plant 375k trees in the county continues and suggestions and requests can be forwarded to CCllr Wagland.

ECC is reporting that 89% of children in the county now attend a 'good' or 'outstanding' school. Several thousand laptops were recycled for use during the lockdown period to enable continued learning by pupils at home. The focus is now moving to employment schemes and getting people back in to work.

BCllr Hones advised that BCC has also frozen the precept element of council tax meaning a 0% increase.

There are rumours circulating regarding the Post Office in Ingatestone but as yet there is no clarification or official report about any changes. BCllr Hones and CCllr Wagland will continue to monitor and feedback as appropriate.

BCllr Cloke reported that the LHP, Local Highways Panel, are looking for small project that need addressing. A few have already been submitted by MVC and will be proposed. The school crossing has full approval and it is anticipated that this will be installed during the summer holidays. A proposal to prevent parking on the corners of Roman Close and Roman Road has been put forward. BCllr Cloke advised that these schemes once approved can take up to a year to be implemented.

21/023. Adoption of the Policy for Coronation Field and the Recreation Areas

It was RESOLVED that the policy, circulated prior to the meeting, be adopted. Proposed by Cllr Stephenson and seconded by Cllr Read.

It was also agreed that new signage is needed in the area advising users of the policy and the rules.

21/024. Update on the Cricket Club and Tennis Clubs.

Cllr Stephenson and the Clerk have a meeting with the cricket club this month to address lease renewal and terms.

A meeting is also being planned with the tennis club to address ongoing lease arrangements with the Village Council. Legal advice is being sought on this to ensure the arrangements are fair for all.

21/025. Report on Pond Works

Cllr Stephenson reported back on the recent work at the pond on Coronation Field. Weeds and brambles have been cleared along the side adjacent to Thoby Lane allowing access to the inlet and outlet routes. Further work is needed to determine whether these are blocked or running smoothly. Once this is ascertained MVC would like to find out who is responsible for the water once it has run out under the road. A blockage somewhere after that could potentially be the cause of repeated flooding at the Thoby Lane junction. Cllr Wagland offered to follow up this request with ECC.

A provisional budget of £1000 was requested to carry out the investigation work. A further budget of £750 was requested to improve the look of the pond from the Coronation Field side – removing overgrown hedges and weeds and making the area more of a feature. Both figures and work were agreed and approved by all MVC Councillors present.

21/026. Finance.

- To approve the Monthly payments and receipts for February 2020 – these were agreed and approved by all.
- It was RESOLVED that the Village Clerk should be enrolled on the Local Government Pension Scheme as of 1st April 2021. Proposed by Cllr Stephenson and seconded by Cllr King.
- It was RESOLVED to accept the Budget for 2021/22. Proposed by Cllr Harries and seconded by Cllr Read.

21/027. Planning

New:

1. The Spinney St Annes Road - Demolition of single storey side extension and construction of single storey side extension and internal reconfiguration – **no objection**

For update:

2. 197 Roman Road - Rear extension – **Approved**
3. 11 Church Close - Construct Part Single, Part Two-Storey Side and Rear Extension and Single-Storey Rear Extension with Steps to Garden (Amended Proposal) - **Approved**
4. Thoby Priory – construct covered working area - **Pending**
5. Land rear of Wash Road - Installation of a 49.9MW battery energy storage system - **Pending**
6. Mountnessing Primary School – Replacement of wooden fencing with metal – **Pending**
7. Hallmark Care Home, Roman Road, Ingatstone – MVC will not comment on this until an application has been submitted, but is mindful of the implications to traffic and the current road layout issues.
8. Ingatstone Garden Centre – **Appeal has taken place - no update as yet.**

21/028. Reports by Village Councillors on any issues with village assets that have arisen during regular risk assessments.

Nothing to report. The Clerk advised that Commemoration Corner would need to be included in risk assessments going forward.

21/029. Dates and location for future meetings.

In the current climate and whilst meetings continue to be virtual, it was agreed to have the next meeting, the AGM in May. At this time a decision on whether to return to monthly meetings (excluding August and December) will be agreed if the necessary information is available.

21/013. Items for inclusion in next Ordinary Meeting

- Safer Essex Road Partnership (SERP) – it was agreed to delay this item until face-to-face meetings can resume.
- Readoption of policies at AGM –
 - o Risk Management Scheme
 - o Code of Conduct
 - o Financial Regulations
 - o Standing Orders

21/014. Date of Next Meeting: **Monday 10 May 2021 - time to be determined.**