

# MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held on 07.03.17

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Present

Councillors P. Miles (Chairman), J. Ray (Vice-Chairman),  
M. Hardy, C. Hollamby, S. O'Sullivan, S. Rickman-Smith, J. Snuggs  
Mrs. I. Marchant (Parish Clerk/RFO)  
County Councillor K. Field  
District Councillor E. Kirby-Green  
Southern Water - Mr. S. Simmons, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. N. Jones  
MGjv - Ms. K. Hargen, Mr. G. Oaten  
Members of the Public

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1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

None declared.

2. DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations were granted by the Clerk, as Proper Officer, to all Members at the Council Meeting on 14.01.14.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

4. ADJOURNMENT

4.1 *Presentation by Southern Water on their proposed planning application*

- *They are building a first-time public sewerage system in Mountfield.*
  - *They wish to build the treatments works at a later date, when they know exactly how many properties will be connecting. For any treatment works to operate effectively - to guarantee a continuity of bacterial treatment - a certain volume of wastewater must flow through it.*
  - *A connection uptake of 60% is required to make the above work.*
  - *They are continuing with their current programme, which includes all the sewer pipes and, in Solomon's Lane, a collection tank and the fencing and landscaping of the treatment works site and car park. This means all the necessary infrastructure will be in place for the treatment works when they come to build it.*
  - *Until this happens, the new collection tank will store the flows from the new sewers and they will use tankers to transport the waste to a nearby treatment works (Hastings) where it will be fully treated. They do not know how frequently tankers will be needed until they know how many customers connect.*
  - *They understand this situation is not ideal for residents, but environmentally it is a much better situation than the current one. They assured residents that they are committed to completing the entire scheme, including a new treatment works.*
  - *It is possible that there will be a 5 year halt until the treatment plant is built.*
  - *The Southern Water Project Manager, Peter Simmons, said he would like to thank residents for their understanding and Southern Water will keep everyone up to date.*
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4.2 *Public Question Time - there were over 40 members of the public present.*

- *There was considerable anger and outrage from MPC, County and District Councillors and members of the public at Southern Water's proposal to build a "giant cesspit" instead of a waste water treatment plant.*
- *Two issues came up over and over again -*
  - *Why did Southern Water not mention this issue (necessary 60% connection) in their original planning application and raise it now 9 months into the work. To many in the room it appears dishonest.*
  - *Why did Southern Water not undertake a survey of residents likely to connect before designing the scheme.*
- *Costs of connection were mentioned in the region of £2/3K.*
- *Comments by residents*
  - *My cesspit is emptied yearly at a cost of £95.00, so how is Southern Water's proposed scheme beneficial in any way.*
  - *A cesspit tank is a disincentive to join the scheme.*
  - *I would have been happy to connect up to a wastewater treatment plant, but not a giant cesspit.*
  - *Southern Water are substituting one tank for another.*
  - *Southern Water are substituting one form of pollution with additional forms.*
  - *Southern Water are adopting the pipe run along the front of Eatenden Lane and those residents want assurance from Southern Water that Southern Water will be responsible for any issues.*
  - *Are residents entitled to any compensation now Southern Water are proposing to just build a giant cesspit? Unfortunately, Southern Water say no.*
  - *There are real concerns about the damaged state of Solomon's Lane and residents want assurance that this will be repaired.*
  - *A Southern Water structure has created a "french drain" at the back of Solomon's Lane and this has caused flooding and damage to gardens.*

## THE MEETING RECONVENED

### 5. PLANNING

The Members were all in complete agreement with the residents. Additionally, the Chairman was able to tell the Councillors and the public of the adamant opposition to the proposed planning application by the relevant Environmental Health Authority, Rother District Council.

**RESOLVED** - that Mountfield Parish Council formally request Southern Water to abandon the proposed second planning application and to honour both their responsibilities under the Act as invoked by Rother District Council as the local Environmental Health Authority, and under the terms of Planning Permission RR/728/CM granted by ESCC, which permission is now extant and active. The Chairman proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.

### 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th March 2017, at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall.