

MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Meeting
held on 14th November 2017

Present

Councillors P. Miles (Chairman), J. Ray (Vice-Chairman),
M. Hardy, C. Hollamby, S. Rickman-Smith, J. Snuggs
Mrs. I. Marchant (Parish Clerk/RFO)
County Councillor K. Field
District Councillor E. Kirby-Green

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

- Councillor J. Ray declared a personal interest in item 8.1 on the agenda. He is the Treasurer of BACT and will not take part in the voting.
- Councillor C. Hollamby declared a personal interest in item 8.2 on the agenda. She is the Chairman of Mountfield Village Hall Committee and will not take part in the voting.

2. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor O'Sullivan.

4. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - that the draft minutes of the MPC meeting held on 12.09.17 be confirmed as being an accurate record of the meeting. Councillor Hollamby proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1 County Council report (ESCC) - Councillor K. Field

- Adult Social Care will be subject to a cut of around £14M for 2018-19.
- The criteria for social care eligibility is now set nationally.
- There will be a 1% increase for staff salaries for 2018-19.

5.2 District Council report (RDC) - Councillor E. Kirby-Green

- The Parking Enforcement Committee is presently holding meetings.
- A consultation on the 2018-19 budget is going out shortly.

5.3 Public Question Time - no members of the public present.

THE MEETING RECONVENED

6. SOUTHERN WATER NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME (standing item)

- SW intend to decamp from Mountfield by 31.12.17, we think this is highly unlikely.
- MPC think it appalling that there appears to be no scrutiny, policing, accountability from any parties involved in decision making. There are no organisations available with mechanisms for redress. The only scrutiny has been MPC - a small, rural parish council.
- MPC can see no way forward or further actions to resolve this, other than questioning the supposed 60% required connection level.

7. SAFETY SURFACING FOR PLAYGROUND

RESOLVED - to accept the quotation for a wetpour coloured surface from Redlynch, in the sum of £6,895.00. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Rickman-Smith seconded, the voting was unanimous. **(ACTION - CLERK)**

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8. GRANTS AND DONATIONS
RESOLVED - to grant the sum of £2,000.00 to Battle Area Community Transport, being £1,500.00 towards the provision of a further vehicle and £500.00 being towards maintenance of the existing fleet. Councillor Rickman-Smith proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
RESOLVED - to donate the sum of £500.00 to the Mountfield Village Hall Committee towards the Bonfire Event and the Children's Christmas Party. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Snuggs seconded, the voting was unanimous.
9. TRAINING DEBRIEFING
- 9.1 Councillor Awareness Course - attended by Councillor Rickman-Smith, who thought the course content and presentation were very good and most informative. There are a lot of "new issues coming down," see next item.
- 9.2 DPGR Course - attended by the Clerk. These new Data Protection regulations come into force on 25.05.18. MPC are well equipped and informed to comply with this new legislation. They are currently carrying out changes to email addresses, website etc. to fully comply. **(ACTION - ALL)**
10. MEETING DATES TO FOLLOW COUNCIL YEAR
AGREED - that setting and notification of MPC meeting dates will follow the council year format, i.e. April to March. **(ACTION - CLERK)**
11. VILLAGE SIGN
This is now ready for collection, but MPC are unable to put up due to SW works. Collection is to be arranged.
12. RIVERHALL CROSSING LIGHTING ISSUES
Network Rail have visited two residents that were identified by RDC Environmental Services as having light pollution. So far nothing further has happened, this is to be escalated to Richard Parker-Harding at RDC. **(ACTION - CLERK)**.
13. DEFIBRILLATOR AT JOHN'S CROSS AREA
The Clerk is still chasing Bexhill and District First Responders for the purchase of the defibrillator and Highways England for permission to site it next to the bus stop. **(ACTION - CLERK)**
14. MOUNTFIELD AND WHATLINGTON SCHOOL SITE
- 14.1 The Chairman will be speaking to the agent. There have been many viewers and MPC understand that the plan is to convert the old school house to a residence.
- 14.2 Jempson (British Gypsum) lorries are using the car park for overnight parking. The Clerk will contact British Gypsum regarding this. **(ACTION - CLERK)**
15. UPDATE ON BOUNDARY WORKS TO ALL SAINTS CHURCH
The following works have been completed very successfully
- Replacement of field fence and installation of donated gates.
 - Reinstallation fence at the Lynch Gate.
16. PLANNING (standing item)
- 16.1 Planning application for consideration
RR/2017/2256/P Acorn Farm, Mountfield Lane - proposed farmhouse.
AGREED - to object to this application on the following grounds - functional need is not demonstrated and the impact on the AONB. **(ACTION - CLERK)**
- 16.2 MPC responses made under delegated authority
RR/2017/1983/P Serenity Cottage - support.
- 16.3 No other planning matters for discussion.

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17. ENFORCEMENT (standing item)
- 17.1 One Mountfield item on RDC enforcement list.
- 17.2 No other enforcement matters for discussion.
18. ROADS/PATHS/VERGES (standing item)
- 18.1 ESCC will not be planting wildlife verges in Mountfield. Councillor Rickman-Smith has a large quantity of bulbs, which he will put back into stock and hopefully the planting scheme can be “resurrected” for next year.
- 18.2 The fingerpost at the junction of Hoath Hill/Church Lane is danger of collapsing and badly needs general refurbishment. Councillor Snuggs is to let the Clerk have some photos. The Clerk will obtain a quotation from JAAK Signs and then contact ESCC for match-funding.
(ACTION - COUNCILLOR SNUGGS/CLERK)
19. FINANCE (standing item)
- 19.1 Bank balances at 31.10.17
- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| MPC deposit account | £28,615.92 |
| MPC current account | £898.82 |
| KGF custom account | £4,524.79 |
- 19.2 **RESOLVED** - to approve the following payments. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Snuggs seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| MPC ACCOUNT | |
| Clerk, salary/home office (Oct/Nov 2017), expenses | 1,181.60 |
| SSALC, Councillor Awareness Course | 66.00 |
| P. Miles, mileage | 51.30 |
| | TOTAL |
| | £1,298.90 |
- KGF ACCOUNT
- | | |
|---|---------|
| T. Tidmarsh, top-up float for maintenance | £100.00 |
|---|---------|
- 19.2 **RESOLVED** - to approve the second quarter accounts 2017-18 at 30.09.17, as presented by the Clerk. Councillor Hollamby proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 19.3 **RESOLVED** - to approve the budget monitor and bank reconciliations at 31.10.17. Councillor Snuggs proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
9th January 2018 - at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall