

# MOUNTFIELD PARISH ASSEMBLY 2017

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Meeting held on 11th April 2017

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## Present

Councillors P. Miles (Chairman), J. Ray (Vice-Chairman),  
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  
Representatives of Clubs and Societies  
Members of the Public

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## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor M. Hardy (MPC), Mr. C. Harmer (BACT), Mrs. J. Everard (Mountfield Stoolball Club), Mr. N. McDonagh (Mountfield Football Club), Mrs. L. Fraser (Mountfield PCC), Mrs. A. Ely (The Children's Club), Mrs. R. Craddock (Mountfield Horticultural Society), Mrs. B. Valentine (Mountfield Community Arts)

### 1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all to the Assembly and emphasised that this is not a Parish Council Meeting, but a meeting of Mountfield residents, clubs and societies.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MOUNTFIELD PARISH ASSEMBLY (2016)

The minutes of the Mountfield Parish Assembly 2016 were signed by the Chairman.

### 3. MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Councillor P. Miles

The last twelve months have not been without their frustrations.

- MPC had been looking at the possibility of rural affordable housing. The decision not to go ahead with this is due to the Government's introducing a right to buy option after only five years, this means we would simply be using up finite land resources to create properties for the open market.
  - We have also been keeping a close eye of the whole issue of broadband. It has become apparent that any answer lies with Central Government and our hopes rested with our MP, Huw Merriman, but at a conference on rural broadband, he said that rural living was a life-style choice and we must accept poorer services.
  - We are enthusiastic about investing in ideas for a programme of planting schemes to enhance Mountfield. No progress has been made so far in appeals for ideas, support and help. We need to restart this project and maybe rethink the initiative.
  - On a more positive note, we have finally managed to plot a path through the legal niceties and have mounted a fight back against fly-posting, particularly at the John's Cross roundabout. Councillor Rickman-Smith has led in this area.
  - Councillor Sullivan first raised the question of Baldwins Farmhouse in 2011. Since then this Council has continued to battle for it. We can be proud of the part we have played in seeing off several proposals to vandalise the farmhouse and we are likely to see a resolution which may turn a simple 16thC yeoman's house turned into something else, but at least the fabric of the old house will be protected and it will be part of its landscape as it has been for centuries.
  - One particular issue that took a disproportionate amount of time, albeit only one person's, was the shocking saga of the school bus at the start of the Southern Water construction works. I was extremely disappointed with the total lack of interest and performance of ESCC in this matter and I am afraid the whole problem is about to recur.
  - This brings us to the main course - the Southern Water construction works. I can say without qualification that MPC can be proud of the role it has played since work started. Most of the liaison legwork has been done by me and Jim (Councillor Ray) and in practical terms it has worked well. I must also give honourable mention to the contractors, mainly in the persons of Kaye Hargan, Glen Oaten, Tony Devine and their team. Indeed there were times when they and MPC did a good job of papering over cracks left by inadequate SW management.
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# MOUNTFIELD PARISH ASSEMBLY 2017

- After all the hard work and commitment put in, it is sickening that SW should turn round and “kick us in the teeth.” Again, MPC responded with an extraordinary meeting which gave residents an opportunity to speak and which produced two clear needs - information and a survey. Both are in hand and we can discuss further strategies at the next council meeting.
  - Many thanks to Kathryn Field and Eleanor Kirby-Green, our county and district councillors, they have supported Mountfield with great vigour and have been very good friends to Mountfield. Kathryn has supported and fought for Mountfield for twenty-five years.
  - I must also thank my fellow councillors, Jim, Caroline, Mark, Susan, Steve and John for all their support and work. Particularly I must thank Jim for his support with the SW issue and for being such a stalwart vice-chairman. Thanks also to Irene for her work as parish clerk/RFO.
4. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT - Councillor K. Field (report attached)
5. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNTY REPORT - Councillor E. Kirby-Green (report attached)
6. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNITY
- 6.1 Battle Area Community Transport (report attached)
- 6.2 Mountfield Cricket Club (report attached)
- 6.3 Mountfield Stoolball Club (no report)
- 6.4 Hastings and St. Leonards Bowmen (no report)
- 6.5 Mountfield Football Club (report attached)
- 6.6 Mountfield Parochial Church Council (report attached)
- 6.7 The Mountfield Club (report attached)
- 6.8 Mountfield Village Hall Committee (report attached)
- 6.9 The Children’s Club (report attached)
- 6.10 Mountfield Horticultural Society (report attached)
- 6.11 Darwell Conservation Society (report attached)
- 6.12 Mountfield Community Arts (report attached)
- 6.13 The Happy Club
- The club has been running since 1990 and in Mountfield since 1999.
  - We are affiliated with the Hastings and Rother Association for the Blind.
  - We meet on Thursday, have tea and coffee, we knit, make baskets and have a good chat - then lunch and quizzes in the afternoon.
  - Several times a year we have an outing.
  - We are getting a bit short on numbers and always welcome new members.
  - As with all organisations, we are looking for volunteers.
7. ANY QUESTIONS
- Mr. R. Harris mentioned that he was pleased to see the number of fingerposts on our footpaths increasing.
8. CLOSING REMARKS
- The Chairman thanked all for coming and wished a safe journey home. It is a pleasure to see the community all together.
- Councillor Ray thanked the Chairman for the work he does for Mountfield - 365 days a year.