

MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the First Parish Council Meeting
held on 14th May 2019

Present

Councillors S. Rickman-Smith (Chairman), C. Hollamby (Vice-Chairman),
M. Hardy, J. Ray, S. Taylor, N. Whines
Mrs. I. Marchant (Parish Clerk/RFO)
Members of the public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2019-20
RESOLVED – that Councillor Rickman-Smith be elected Chairman for the council year 2019-20. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous. The Chairman signed the Declaration of Office.
The Chairman welcomed Councillor Whines as a new Member of MPC.
 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2019-20
Councillor Ray had previously said he did not wish to be Vice-Chairman again, he has served nearly twenty-five years on this Council, the Chairman, the Members and the Clerk thanked him and acknowledged his dedication and hard work for Mountfield.
RESOLVED – that Councillor Hollamby be elected Vice-Chairman for the council year 2019-20. Councillor Ray proposed and the Chairman seconded, the voting was unanimous.
 3. DISPENSATIONS
The Clerk has received dispensation requests from all Members for King George's Field and Southern Water New Sewerage Scheme matters. The Clerk, as Proper Officer, granted these, for the term of this council, on the following grounds
 - King George's Field – MPC is the sole trustee of the KGF and the dispensation is granted to enable KGF matters to be discussed at MPC meetings and the avoidance of any conflict of interest.
 - SW New Sewerage Scheme – this matter is of vital importance to Mountfield as per the Code of Conduct 2012, item 15.1 and at least three Members are directly affected (a quorate issue).
 4. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS
None declared.
 5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor Snuggs.
 6. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS
RESOLVED – that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12.03.19 be confirmed as being an accurate record of the proceedings. Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
 7. OPEN FORUM
 - 7.1 County Council report (ESCC) – not available, Councillor Field sent apologies.
 - 7.2 District Council report (RDC) – Councillor Kirby-Green sent apologies and a brief note via email – no business to report due to elections, the RDC Council now consists of 14 Conservatives, 13 Association of Independents, 7 Liberal Democrats, 3 Labour and 1 Green – it is thought that the Independents, Lib Dems and the Green will form a coalition and control RDC.
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- 7.3 Public Question Time – the Little Ducklings Baby Group (see item 12.2 below).
8. RESOLUTION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)
- 8.1 **RESOLVED** – to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 (section 1). Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.2 **RESOLVED** – to approve the Accounting Statements 2018-19 (section 2). The Chairman proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.3 **RESOLVED** – to approve the Internal Audit report 2018-19, Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.4 MPC would like to thank Mr. Grainger for the professional way he carried out the Internal Audit Report. He has kindly declined to accept a fee for his services and has asked that a donation of £100.00 be sent to a charity of MPC's choice.
Councillor Hollamby suggested that the donation be given to Surviving Christmas – a charity who help the homeless and vulnerable in Rother throughout the year, not just at Christmas. MPC agreed and a cheque will be raised at the next MPC meeting. A link to the Surviving Christmas website is [here](#).
9. RE-ADOPTION/AMENDMENTS TO MPC'S COUNCIL DOCUMENTS
- 9.1 **RESOLVED** – to approve the amendments to MPC's Financial Regulations and Grant Awarding Policy as presented by the Clerk. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 9.2 **RESOLVED** – to re-adopt all other MPC council documents. Councillor Taylor proposed and the Chairman seconded, the voting was unanimous.
10. MPC APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
It was agreed that the following appointments be made
- SALC/RALC – Chairman
 - Mountfield Village Hall Committee – Councillors Hollamby and Whines
 - Mountfield PCC – Councillor Snuggs
 - Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) – Councillor Ray
 - The Mountfield Residents Group – Councillor Whines
11. SOUTHERN WATER NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME
- A scan of Mountfield Residents Group report is attached [here](#). There appears to be light at the end of the tunnel, but there are still many problems. The MRG have been assured that Christmas 2019 is the final deadline for SW to leave.
 - MPC would like to thank and acknowledge the work of Peter Miles and the Mountfield Residents Group in achieving this outcome – a “proper” sewage treatment works.
 - Village Sign re-installation – our sign has been refurbished and is in a secure location. SW removed the post and MPC believe they have full liability for its re-erection. The Clerk will write to SW confirming this and liaise with a date for re-erection.
- ACTION – CLERK**
12. GRANTS AND DONATIONS
- 12.1. **RESOLVED** – to grant the sum of £500.00 to Mountfield PCC for churchyard maintenance. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 12.2 **RESOLVED** – to donate the sum of £192.00 (hall hire for 12 meetings) to the Mountfield VHC, this is in lieu of hall hire for the Little Ducklings Baby Group, Councillor Hardy proposed, and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous. Further such donations will be considered if the Little Ducklings continue to be successful. The first sessions have been well attended, with people coming from Hastings and Bexhill, the group is definitely getting off the ground.

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13. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP
RDC have given £748.00 to MPC for clean-up materials. A working party has been arranged to consider the best way forward and what to buy. Councillor Hollamby is keen to head this up with Councillor Taylor and to involve as many members of the Mountfield community as possible. It is hoped that a village clean-up can be linked in with some autumn planting and will become an annual event (or maybe twice a year).
14. GOOSE HOUSE UPDATE
The goose house was installed on Wednesday 15.05.19 – see our website for more information and photos – www.mountfield.org.uk. Many thanks to our intrepid launching crew!
Post meeting note – the goose house looks very good and our geese seem happy, but we find we need another landing platform, our geese have big feet! This has now been ordered by MPC.
15. PLANNING
15.1 No planning applications for consideration.
15.2 No other planning matters for discussion.
16. ENFORCEMENT
16.1 Two Mountfield items on RDC's weekly enforcement list
 - John's Cross Inn, unauthorised advertisement.
 - Land adjoining Park Pale Meadow, new access road, stable block, cabin and feed store, application requested.
16.2 No other enforcement matters for discussion.
17. ROADS/PATHS/VERGES
ESCC Highways have declined to do anything about the parlous state of the road outside the KGF, apparently the holes are not deep enough to warrant repair. The road continues to get more and more damaged with drivers crossing to avoid the potholes.
18. FINANCE
18.1 Bank balances at 30.04.19
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|---------------------|------------|
| MPC deposit account | £18,987.01 |
| MPC current account | £1,042.72 |
| KGF custom account | £4,184.28 |
- 18.2 **RESOLVED** – to approve the following payments. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.
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| MPC ACCOUNT | |
| Clerk – salary/home office (Apr/May 2019), expenses | 858.64 |
| ESALC – ESALC/NALC subscriptions 2019-20 | 171.24 |
| SSALC – 7 copies of the Good Councillors Guide | 37.20 |
| BHIB Limited – MPC insurance 2019-20 | 387.45 |
| Grant – Mountfield PCC for churchyard maintenance | 500.00 |
| Donation – Mountfield VHC (Little Ducklings hall hire) | 192.00 |
| TOTAL | £2,146.53 |
- KGF ACCOUNT
- | | |
|--|---------|
| T. Tidmarsh – top-up float for maintenance | £100.00 |
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- 18.3 **RESOLVED** – to approve the budget monitor and bank reconciliations at 30.04.19. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 18.4 **AGREED** – Councillor Whines to be added to the MPC/KGF bank mandates and Susan O'Sullivan deleted from them.
19. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS
11.06.19 – Planning meeting (provisional only, will only held if needed)
09.07.19 – Full Council meeting.