

MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Meeting
held on 10th September 2019

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

Mountfield Parish Council were saddened to hear of the death of Ruby Willis. Ruby had played a very large part in Mountfield life, she was a member of the Parish Council for many years and a member and leading light of many other Mountfield organisations. One of her greatest legacies was the Mountfield Children's Christmas Party, which she started many years ago and is still going strong. Our condolences are with her family and many friends, we will be sending a donation to a charity of the family's choice.

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillors Taylor and Whines declared a personal interest in item 14.1 on the agenda, as they live in Solomon's Lane.

2. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

4. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – that the draft minutes of the meetings on 09.07.19 and 13.08.19 (planning) be confirmed as being an accurate record of the proceedings. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.

5. OPEN FORUM

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

- ESCC are expected an additional funding of £8M a year for Adult Social Care.
- They are hopeful that the Troubled Families Scheme is starting up again.
- There are delays with the Fair Funding Review from Central Government and the Business Rate Retention Review.

5.2 District Council report (RDC) – Councillor Kirby-Green sent apologies but sent an emailed report.

- The consultation for the implementation of civil parking enforcement has now opened.
- It is hoped that parish councils will now be able to speak at planning meetings.
- Cabinet agreed that RDC would spend £3M to purchase property to help house Rother's homeless. A huge amount is spent on B&B accommodation and this is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, this is not creating new housing, but shifting ownership from the private to the council sector. The issue of modular housing was raised and hopefully officers will be looking into this.

5.3 Public Question Time

- A resident complained about a very strong, foul smell near Eatenden Lane last weekend. Nobody has any idea where this came from and any re-occurrence will be investigated.
- Councillor Hollamby raised the serious issue of Lyme Disease caused by ticks, this seems to be on the increase. The Clerk will post information on the Mountfield website.

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- A resident said that the additional signage for British Gypsum HGVs seems to be working.

6. SOUTHERN WATER NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME

6.1 Update from the Mountfield Residents Group

- The network is now complete.
- A great success, the treatment works are up and running.
- Commissioning is starting this week.
- The final liaison meeting between SW and MRG is on Thursday.
- SW need to carry out a “connection campaign,” with the good news of the extended offer.
- There are concerns about aftercare/problems when SW finally decamp. A senior person in SW should be nominated.
- The MRG have asked SW to install a permissive path around the reservoir.

6.2 There is no further update on the re-erection of the Village Sign by Southern Water, the Clerk is chasing.

7. NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED – that Mountfield Parish Council adopt the new Financial Regulations as presented by the Clerk. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

8. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

- Councillors Hollamby and Taylor are organising this.
- Most of the materials ordered have been delivered, the Clerk is just waiting for the final two.
- The date the clean-up is Saturday 19.10.19, details are on the Mountfield website and noticeboard.
- RDC have said they will collect the rubbish bags.
- RDC have said that Biffa will clear the waste on the A2100.
- Battle Area Community Transport are supporting the clean-up with a mini-bus to take the volunteers to the various locations.
- The Clerk will produce a risk assessment for the event.
- The Clerk has also volunteered to sort out the refreshments in the Village Hall when the volunteers return.

9. DONATION – LITTLE DUCKLINGS BABY GROUP

The Little Ducklings organisers thanked MPC for all their support. They have had 10 sessions in the Village Hall, the attendance has been good, but fluctuates between 9-12.

RESOLVED – to donate another £192.00 (roughly a term) to Mountfield Village Hall, in lieu of rent for the Little Ducklings Baby Group. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.

10. PLAYGROUND

RESOLVED – to accept the quotation (£346.70) from Playdale for repairs to the adventure trail. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.

11. KGF PAVILION – ELECTRICAL REVIEW

RESOLVED – to accept the quotation from Fairway Electrical in the sum of £180.00 to receive an Electrical Installation Certificate (insurance requirement). Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

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12. PLANNING

12.1 No Mountfield applications for consideration.

12.2 No other planning matters for discussion.

13. ENFORCEMENT

13.1 There was one Mountfield item (Glottenham Farm) on a recent RDC enforcement list, the issue has now been resolved.

13.2 No other enforcement matters for discussion.

14. ROADS/PATHS/VERGES

Recent letter from ESCC Highways enforcement about the verge protection by the residents of Solomon's Lane.

- ESCC Highways have never cut the verges in Solomon's Lane.
- There is a major safeguarding issue for the residents, schoolchildren, riders and walkers.
- The new sewage system connection boxes are on these verges.

The Clerk will reply to the recent email from ESCC Highways enforcement. There now seems to be a more positive way forward.

15. FINANCE

15.1 Bank balances at 30.08.19

MPC deposit account £22,054.64

MPC current account £1,142.71

KGF current account £4,364.28

15.2 **AGREED** – to approve the following payments

Clerk – salary/HO (Aug/Sep 2019), expenses 680.19

Fairway Electrical – electrical review at KGF pavilion 150.00

RALC – subscription/digital mapping 2019-20 75.00

TOTAL £905.19

16. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

08.10.19 – Planning meeting (provisional, will only be held if required)

12.11.19 – Full council meeting

Both to start at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall