

MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Meeting held on 12th November 2019

Present

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

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Hollamby and Whines declared a personal interest in item 8.2 on the agenda, as they are members of the 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 Hardy.

4. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 10.09.19 be confirmed as being an accurate record of the proceedings. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.

5. OPEN FORUM

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

- Central Government funding is still in question due to the forthcoming general election.
- The Revenue Support Grant and 75% of the Business Rate Pilot are finalised.
- There will be a 2% additional precept for adult social care.

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

- RDC have declared a climate change emergency.
- Parish Councils can now speak at planning committee meetings by default.
- There is still an issue about the provision of brown garden waste bins – some residents have been waiting for months. The charge will now be £35.00/year.

5.3 Public Question Time

- A member of the Battle Festival Committee complained that some of their signage advertising the event had been removed.

6. SOUTHERN WATER SEWERAGE SCHEME

6.1 Update from the Mountfield Residents Group

- The infrastructure is now in place.
- SW are still testing the treatment works.
- Landscaping has been deferred until Spring 2020 due to the very wet weather and its impact on soil conditions.
- There is still flooding at the Riverhall level crossing – is this due to SW excavations? The Clerk will contact ESCC Highways and SW. **ACTION – CLERK**
- SW will be contacting residents about special offers etc.

6.2 Re-erection of village sign – ESCC Highways confirmed that the new position is OK, and they are going to relocate the pedestrian sign, so our village sign is more prominent. Unfortunately, we believe our sign will not be re-erected by SW until the landscaping is underway in Spring 2020.

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7. VILLAGE MATTERS

7.1 Solomon's Lane verges/bollards – ESCC Highways appear reluctant to approve wooden bollards in Solomon's Lane, although they are in many other areas. The residents will decide on the type of bollard to be used.

7.2 **RESOLVED** – that MPC adopt and maintain the historic phone box in New Cut for the sum of £1.00. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.

ACTION – CLERK

7.3 The Mountfield clean-up day was very successful with 112 kilos of rubbish collected. The only thing to complain about was Biffa (through RDC) were 4 weeks late in collecting the bags.

7.4 **RESOLVED** – to authorise the Clerk to use the MPC Mastercard to purchase another battery for the defibrillator at the junction of Hoath Hill/Solomon's Lane, the cost being £148.00 plus VAT. Councillor Snuggs proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.

ACTION – CLERK

8. GRANT AND DONATIONS

8.1 **RESOLVED** – to grant to Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) the sum of £500.00, towards the purchase of a new vehicle. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.

8.2 **RESOLVED** – to donate to the Mountfield Village Hall Committee the sum of £500.00 for the Bonfire/Fireworks event and the Children's Christmas Party. Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

8.3 **RESOLVED** – to donate to the Alzheimers Society the sum of £50.00 in memory of Ruby Willis. The Chairman proposed and Councillor Snuggs seconded, the voting was unanimous.

9. MPC MEETING DATES FOR 2020-21

The Members agreed the MPC meeting dates for 2020-21 as presented by the Clerk. These will be available shortly on the Mountfield website – www.mountfield.org.uk.

10. PLANNING

10.1 No planning applications for consideration.

10.2 No other planning matters for discussion.

11. ENFORCEMENT

11.1 Appeal against RDC enforcement notice, land at Eatenden Lane, Mountfield issued on 12.08.19.

AGREED – that MPC will write to the Planning Inspectorate strongly supporting RDC's enforcement notice.

ACTION – CLERK

11.2 **AGREED** – the MPC will notify RDC Enforcement about the new stable block at Holly Lodge, querying is there planning permission.

ACTION – CLERK

12. HIGHWAYS

There has been severe flooding at the north-bound entrance to the Riverhall level crossing. The Clerk will contact ESCC Highways to get this persistent flooding rectified once and for all.

ACTION – CLERK

13. FINANCE

13.1 Bank balances at 31.10.19

MPC deposit account	£19,072.19
MPC current account	£1,393.48
KGF current account	£4,659.75

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- 13.2 **RESOLVED** – to approve the following payments. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Whines seconded, the voting was unanimous.
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| Clerk – salary/HO (Oct/Nov 2019), expenses | 708.80 |
| RDC – election expenses (May 2019) | 118.35 |
| SSALC – ESALC conference attendance | 72.00 |
| Grant to BACT | 500.00 |
| Donation to Mountfield Village Hall Committee | 500.00 |
| Donation to Alzheimers Society | 50.00 |
| Defib Store – SP1 defibrillator battery (Mastercard) | 177.60 |
| TOTAL | £2,126.75 |
- 13.3 **RESOLVED** – to approve the second quarter accounts at 30.09.19, as presented by the Clerk, Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 13.4 **RESOLVED** – to approve the budget monitor and bank reconciliations at 31.10.19. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Snuggs seconded, the voting was unanimous.
14. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**
10.12.19 – Planning meeting (provisional, will only be held if required)
14.01.20 – Full Council Meeting
Both to start at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall
15. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**
RESOLVED – that the public and press be excluded from consideration of item 15 as it includes a discussion on terms and conditions of employment. The Chairman proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
16. **STAFF MATTERS**
Changes were made to the Clerk's contract of employment.