

MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Meeting held on 6th October 2020

Present

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

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Hardy declared a personal pecuniary interest in item 10.1 on the agenda, as he is an employee of British Gypsum. He will not take part in the voting.

2. DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Whines.

4. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 21.07.20 be confirmed as being accurate records of the proceedings. Councillor Hardy proposed and the Chairman seconded, the voting was unanimous. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM

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

- Thankfully, we still have a low COVID infection rate in Rother, but it is worth mentioning that testing is also lower.
- Due to the COVID emergency, ESCC are looking at a £10M loss which will have to come out of reserves.
- It is believed that an increase in domestic abuse cases (both adult and children) is due to the COVID lockdown.

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

5.3 Public Question Time – there was much interest and discussion from the public in the first of item 10.1 on the agenda – the British Gypsum planning application. Due to this the Members agreed to discuss this item next.

10. PLANNING

10.1 RR/846/CM – British Gypsum site,

Construction of vehicle service depot with associated landscaping and construction of a lorry strapping shed on a separate site.

AGREED – to make a general comment only, this is because MPC feel the documentation is inadequate and concerns from the public. MPC's response to ESCC Planning can be seen on page 4 of these minutes.

6. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN SURVEYS

6.1 Early Engagement questionnaire – MPC considered this to be somewhat of a "wish list," and considering pending changes to the national planning system and things outside of RDC's remit, e.g. speeding, the questionnaire was partially completed.

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- 6.2 RDC Settlement Studies questionnaire – the Clerk undertook to complete this questionnaire for RDC's new Local Plan.
7. **FOOTBALL CLUB CAR PARK**
RESOLVED – after much discussion, particularly with regard to any liability MPC may be liable for if any responsibility is undertaken or a licencing agreement signed, it was decided that MPC will have no responsibility for this car park and any matters will be between users and the Mountfield Estate. The Chairman proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.
8. **TELEPHONE BOX USE**
The plans for the telephone box are that it can be used as a book swap, information centre etc., however, these have been put on hold due to the COVID emergency.
9. **PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORT**
The Chairman undertook to complete the minor safety issues, there were no major ones.
10. **PLANNING**
- 10.1 Planning applications for consideration
RR/2020/1560/P – 9 Mountfield Villas, Solomons Lane
Proposed two-storey side extension and a single storey front porch/hall extension, together with replacement of existing conservatory with single storey rear extension.
AGREED – to support this application.
RR/2020/1447/P – 1 Brickyard Cottages, Mountfield Lane
Single-storey side extension and insertion of roof light within side roof slope of existing dwelling.
AGREED – to support this application.
RR/2020/1070/O – Old Park Pale, Mountfield Lane
Certificate of lawfulness for proposed erection of a boundary fence.
AGREED – to support this application.
- 10.2 No other planning matters for discussion.
11. **ENFORCEMENT**
- 11.1 No Mountfield items on RDC's weekly enforcement list.
- 11.2 No other enforcement matters for discussion.
12. **HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY**
- 12.1 The reports of anti-social driving have been sent to Operation Crackdown and our local PCSO. MPC and residents will continue to monitor.
- 12.2 Black Cat speeding device – there was much interest shown in this device. It is a fixed device (though moveable) which will show amount of traffic and speeds. These are sent to a central database which the Police can access. The Clerk is to contact the Police and the Chairman of Catsfield PC, who has led this project. Further details will be on the next agenda.
- 12.3 Some of our styles are in a very bad condition and dangerous. Councillor Taylor is to send photos to the Clerk, and these will be reported to ESCC ROW and Battle Ramblers. The replacement of these styles with kissing gates was thought to be a good idea.
- 12.4 No other Highways/ROW matters for discussion.
13. **FINANCE**
- 13.1 Bank balances at 31.08.20
- MPC deposit account - £16,174.61
 - MPC current account - £1,368.25
 - KGF current account - £4,629.61

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- 13.2 **RESOLVED** – to approve the following payments. Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor Snuggs seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- Clerk, salary/expenses (Aug/Sep 2020) - £906.60
 - * Subscription, RALC 2020-21 - £75.00
 - * SortSite software (accessibility) - £118.80
 - * Satswana (DPO), 2-year term - £150.00
 - * Millbrook (banner/diboard) - £162.00
 - * Playsafety (playground inspection) - £107.40
- * payment already made
- 13.3 **RESOLVED** – to approve the budget monitor and bank reconciliations at 31.08.20 as presented by the Clerk. Councillor Hardy proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**
10.11.20 – Full Council Meeting
08.12.20 – Planning Meeting (provisional, will only be held if required)
Both to start at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall

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RESPONSE TO PLANNING APPLICATION RR/846/CM
BRITISH GYPSUM – CONSTRUCTION OF A VEHICLE SERVICE DEPOT WITH
ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AND CONSTRUCTION OF A LORRY STRAPPING SHED
ON A SEPARATE SITE.

1. Mountfield Parish Council will only make general comments on this application, we are unable to make a decision as the specifications on the application are inadequate.
 - Much more detail is required regarding the application's impact on Dark Skies which are an important component to the beauty of the High Weald AONB and the quality of life to Mountfield residents.
 - Where lighting levels are stipulated in planning applications, these should be stipulated in Lumens (the true measure of light intensity) and not in Watts, which has been the practice in the past.
 - Conditions must be put in place to monitor lighting.
 - The High Weald AONB is campaigning for IDA "Dark Sky Landscape" status.
 - There appears to be no specification for the surface of the large area of parking and turning.
 - Flood Risk Damage and Drainage Strategy Report (106 pages long) – the phrase "run-off" suggests it is non-permeable, which in theory would produce artificial peaks of stormwater into the River Line, implies zero hydraulic retention of storm water into the surrounding natural environment.
 - We have no idea if there are adequate precautions to avoid diesel/fuel spillage into the River Line and landscape.
 - A MOT bay is shown on the application plans – does this mean that British Gypsum are offering this service to outside haulage contractors? This will mean a huge increase in heavy vehicles through Mountfield.
 - Paragraph 3.5 of the Design and Access statement states that Rother District Council have an "aspiration" to "protect and enhance the natural environment," we think it is important to reinforce that Rother District Council and British Gypsum have a **legal** duty to do so.
2. You will see from the above that Mountfield Parish Council have serious concerns about this application.

This application was discussed at the Mountfield Parish Council meeting on 06.10.20.

Irene Marchant (Parish Clerk)
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07.10.20