

## MINUTES OF THE MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st NOVEMBER 2022

Present: Councillors S. Rickman-Smith (Chair), J. Cooper, M. Hardy, P. Miles, J. Ray, S. Taylor, N. Whines.

Mrs. I. Marchant (Proper Officer/RFO)

County Councillor K. Field, District Councillor J. Barnes

### **1. Disclosure of Interests**

Councillors Miles and Whines declared a personal interest in item 9., on the agenda, as they are both members of the Mountfield Village Hall Committee.

### **2. Dispensations**

None requested.

### **3. Co-option of a new MPC Councillor**

RESOLVED – to co-opt Jemma Cooper as a Mountfield Parish Councillor. The Chair proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.

### **4. Apologies for absence**

None.

### **5. Accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting(s)**

RESOLVED – that the draft minutes of the council meeting held on 28.09.22 be confirmed as being an accurate record of the proceeding. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

### **6. Open Forum**

#### 6.1 County Council report (ESCC) – Councillor K. Field

- More foster parents are urgently needed, they receive good support from ESCC.
- ESCC are “looking after” many Ukrainians and their children, who are settling into their schools. Many are in low paying jobs but are learning English.
- £41M has been approved by Central Government for bus service improvements and flexible buses will be much used.
- The new highways contract has started and has been awarded to Balfour Beatty.

#### 6.2 District Council report (RDC) – Councillor J. Barnes

- More affordable housing is needed and there is still a problem with “build-out.”
- Planning permission for the Bexhill Town Hall has been refused on design grounds.
- All staff are to receive a £1,500/year increase and RDC are looking at their allowances for working from home.
- RDC are doing better than expected with their deficit, but it is still expected to be over £3M.
- There is still no news on the Central Government settlement for district councils.
- The planning backlog is gradually being reduced.

#### 6.3 Open Forum – no members of the public present.

### **7. Approval of MPC Revenue Budget 2023-24**

RESOLVED – after some discussion, the budget was approved with the amendment to reduce the precept by £1,100.00 (MPC precept for 2023-24 to be set at £12,000.00 at the January 2023 meeting). Councillor Miles proposed and Councillor Whines seconded, all other Members were in favour, except Councillor Ray who objected.

### **8. MPC Scheme of Delegation**

RESOLVED – to approve the Scheme of Delegation to the Proper Officer with a limit of £1,000.00 for all delegated payments. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded, the voting was unanimous.

## **9. Donations**

RESOLVED – to approve a donation of £1,000.00 to the Mountfield Village Hall Committee for the Bonfire and Fireworks Event on 04.11.22. The Chair proposed and Councillor Cooper seconded, the voting was unanimous.

## **10. Outstanding Matters**

Welcome Packs, MPC Environmental Policy and the Phone Box are all still being worked upon. Quiet Lane will be part of the MPC Environmental Policy. Progress on these items will be discussed at the January meeting.

## **11. Planning**

11.1 No planning applications for consideration.

11.2 Other planning matters

- Planning application RR/2022/2244/O – The Woodyard, Church Road  
MPC supported this application, using the Proper Officer's delegated authority.
- No other planning issues for discussion.

## **12. Enforcement**

12.1 No additional Mountfield items on RDC's most recent enforcement list.

12.2 RDC Enforcement are investigating the issues with an agricultural field being used as a business (A2100) and Coussens Cranes.

## **13. Highways/Rights of Way**

13.1 MPC are watching closely any changes Highways England intend for the John's Cross roundabout and the A21 approaches.

13.2 A drain on Eatenden Lane is blocked.

## **14. Finance**

14.1 Bank balances at 30.09.22

- MPC deposit account - £20,983.29
- MPC current account - £4,323.43
- KGF current account - £4,072.46

14.2 RESOLVED – to approve the following payments. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Cooper seconded, the voting was unanimous.

- Clerk, salary/home office (Oct/Nov 2022) - £910.80
- \* Jubilee cricket match refreshments - £191.50
- \* Mastercard fee – 3.00
- \* UT service charge – 18.00

\* Already paid

14.3 RESOLVED – to approve the second quarter accounts at 30.09.22 as presented by the RFO. Councillor Whines proposed and the Chair seconded, the voting was unanimous.

## **15. Dates of next meeting(s)**

- 13.12.22 – planning meeting (provisional)
- 17.01.23 – full council meeting

## **16. Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED – pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to resolve that the public and press be excluded from consideration of item 17., as it may include contractual information. Councillor Miles proposed and the Chair seconded, the voting was unanimous.

## **17. Closed Session**