

Mountfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Mountfield Parish Council Annual Meeting
held on 25th May 2021

Present

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

*We are sad to announce the resignation of John Snuggs from
Mountfield Parish Council and we will miss him.
John joined MPC in 2015 and was well known for his walks around the Parish,
keeping a very close eye on the pavements, verges and roads.
We wish John and Susan a long and happy "retirement."*

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2021-22**
RESOLVED – that Councillor Rickman-Smith be elected Chairman for the council year 2021-22. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous. The Chairman signed the Declaration of Office, countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer.
2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2021-22**
RESOLVED – that Councillor Hollamby be elected Chairman for the council year 2021-22. Councillor Ray proposed and Councillor Whines seconded, the voting was unanimous.
3. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**
None declared.
4. **DISPENSATIONS**
None requested.
5. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
None required.
6. **SIGNED OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
The accuracy of the following minutes has previous been approved by resolution and had not been signed by the Chairman due to lockdown. The Chairman signed the following minutes:
 - 06.10.20 – full council meeting
 - 24.11.20 – planning meeting
 - 14.01.21 – full council meeting
 - 09.02.21 – planning meeting
 - 09.03.21 – full council meeting
 - 04.05.21 – planning meeting
7. **OPEN FORUM**
 - 7.1 County Council report (ESCC) – Councillor K. Field
 - Children in residential care have suffered considerably during lockdown.
 - There is funding from Central Government to extend secure unit placing.
 - 7.2 District Council report (RDC) – Councillor E. Kirby-Green
 - Bexhill Town Council have had their first meeting.
 - The cost of parking in Lower Market Square, Battle car park has been reduced to £3/day.

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- 7.3 Public Question Time
A resident asked what actions are being taken with RDC Planning. There appears to be no improvement or communication about improvements.
8. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2020-21 (AGAR)
- 8.1 Certificate of Exemption 2020-21
RESOLVED – to approve the Certificate of Exemption 2020-21, Councillor Whines proposed, and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.2 Annual Governance Statement 2020-21
RESOLVED – to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21. Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.3 Accounting Statements 2020-21
RESOLVED – to approve the Accounting Statements 2020-21. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.4 Explanation of Variances and Bank Reconciliation at 31.03.21
RESOLVED – to approve the Explanation of Variances and Bank Reconciliation at 31.03.21. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Hollamby seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- 8.5 Internal Auditor
The Members and Clerk/RFO thanked Mrs. Moore for the constructive and positive manner in which she carried out MPC's internal audit 2020-21 and appoint here again as MPC's Internal Auditor for 2021-22.
9. RE-ADOPTION/AMENDMENTS TO MPC'S COUNCIL DOCUMENTS
RESOLVED – to re-adopt MPC's council documents and no amendments are necessary. The Chairman proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.
10. MPC APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
The following appointments were agreed:
- East Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC) – the Chairman
 - Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) – the Chairman
 - Mountfield Village Hall Committee – Councillor Whines
 - Battle Area Community Transports (BACT) – Councillor Ray
11. RDC PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
AGREED – the Members agreed that this protection order should still apply to the parish of Mountfield.
12. PLANNING
- 12.1 Planning application for consideration
RR/2021/502/P – Johns Cross Inn, Johns Cross Road
Erection of fencing around the site with planting bed frontage, container unit (café) with associated facilities for a drive-through facility with visitor car parking and staff parking.
AGREED – to object to this application on the following grounds:
- It is proposed that the café be open from 6am to 8pm. This is very early and very late for local residents to suffer the inevitable disturbance.
 - We think the entrance/exit arrangements are very poorly thought out, on a section of the A21 which has a 30mph speed limit which is very rarely adhered to. The entrance is on a downward slope and a 90° turn will be required to use it. For vehicles coming from the south, entry will cause traffic behind to stop. We cannot understand how poorly thought out these entrance/exit proposals are.
 - Lighting – is it intended that the lights will be on from 6am to 8pm every day? It is not acceptable that local residents are subject to such lighting pollution on this scale.

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- Littler is already a problem in this area and a drive-through will inevitably make the matter worse.
- There is a large café 250 yards north of the proposed application.
- We trust that RDC will refuse this application as it will have a major detrimental effect on many local residents.

12.2 Other planning matters for discussion
None.

13. ENFORCEMENT

13.1 RDC weekly enforcement list
No Mountfield items.

13.2 Other enforcement matters for discussion

- Johns Cross Tack Room – the signage/signs are left out all night. The Clerk to contact RDC Enforcement.

14. HIGHWAYS/RIGHTS OF WAY

- The “No Access to British Gypsum” sign at the entrance to New Cut from the A2100 obstructs the sight lines of larger vehicles turning onto the A2100. The Clerk is to contact British Gypsum to get it moved.

15. FINANCE

15.1 Bank balances at 30.04.21

- MPC deposit account - £21,274.61
- MPC current account - £1,792.57
- KGF current account - £4,449.54

15.2 Authorisation of payments

RESOLVED – to authorise the following payments. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

- Clerk, salary/home office (Apr/May 2021) - £910.80
- UserWay (accessibility requirements) - £318.38
- ESALC/NALC subscription 2021-22 - £191.00
- SGB Computers (S. Taylor) - £50.00
- BHIB, MPC insurance 2021-22 - £414.25
- Zoom subscription - £14.39

15.3 Fourth quarter accounts

RESOLVED – to approve the fourth quarter accounts at 31.03.21. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Hardy seconded, the voting was unanimous.

15.4 Budget Monitor and Bank Reconciliations at 30.04.21

RESOLVED – to approve the budget monitor and bank reconciliations at 30.04.21. Councillor Whines proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.

15.5 The updated mandate for Unity Trust Bank was completed.

16. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 08.06.21 – planning meeting
 - 13.07.21 – full council meeting
- Both to start at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall