

# MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
held on 8th March 2016, at 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall

Present

Councillors P. Miles (Chairman), J. Ray (Vice-Chairman),  
C. Hollamby, S. O’Sullivan, S. Rickman-Smith, J. Snuggs  
Mrs. I. Marchant (Parish Clerk/RFO)  
County Councillor K. Field  
District Councillor E. Kirby-Green  
Members of the Public

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS  
None declared.
2. DISPENSATIONS  
None requested.
3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Apologies for absence, the reason for which had been lodged with the Clerk, were received from Councillor Hardy.
4. ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
**RESOLVED** – that the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12.01.16 be confirmed as being an accurate record of the meeting. Councillor Snuggs proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
5. ADJOURNMENT
  - 5.1 County Council report (ESCC) – Councillor K. Field
    - There will be a 3.98% increase in council tax, 2% of this will be for Adult Social Care.
    - There is a reduction in the Revenue Support Grant to county councils and this is gradually being phased out.
    - Although now allowed to keep business rates, there are concerns regarding what will happen to net importers of business rates and the shortfall. ESCC are bidding with West Sussex CC and Surrey CC to become a “combined local authority,” to address this issue. Devolution talks are now taking place. Please note this devolution is just to address this particular issue.
  - 5.2 District Council report (RDC) – Councillor E. Kirby-Green
    - Council tax to be increased by 1.94%.
    - All Battle parking machines are to be upgraded so people can pay for only what parking time they use and payment can be made by card or smartphone. The present “pay by the hour” system will remain.
  - 5.3 Public Question Time
    - Mr. Mayers commented on how bad the roads were in the Village and there is an issue of HGVs using Solomon’s Lane. The Clerk is to see if there is someone at British Gypsum that residents could contact when HGVs are seen as, statistically, they are likely to be destined for BG, and also to ask ESCC Highways if signage – “Unsuitable for HGVs” – can be installed at suitable locations. **(CLERK)**
    - Building is continuing in the garden at 9 Eatenden Lane and the area is approximately 65sq metres.
    - Amey’s site, much debris is on the site, this is concerning due to their pending vacation of the site, please aware and monitor the situation.

THE MEETING RECONVENED

# MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

6. SOUTHERN WATER NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME  
The Clerk has obtained a provisional outline schedule of works. This will be placed on the parish website. **(CLERK)**
7. MOUNTFIELD AND WHATLINGTON SCHOOL
  - There are six parcels of land. The site will be put up for auction as a single lot and the proceeds will go to the beneficiaries of the original donors.
  - War Memorial Plaque – the final location of this is to be decided by Mountfield and Whatlington PCCs, in consultation with the Parish Councils. **(COUNCILLOR SNUGGS)**
8. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PENSIONS REGULATOR  
MPC have written to the Clerk informing her of her rights under this scheme. The Clerk has declined a pension from MPC and will complete the on-line compliance requirements. **(CLERK)**
9. PARISH ASSEMBLY 2016  
This will be held on 12.04.16 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The format will be as last year and the Clerk will send out invitations and agendas. **(CLERK)**
10. PARISH PLAN 2016-20  
It was decided to take no action at the present, but to monitor and revisit if Members consider a Parish Plan is necessary.
11. KING GEORGE'S FIELD
- 11.1 Fencing grant – very many thanks to Councillor Kirby-Green who fought our case so valiantly. After RDC had originally declined our grant request, Councillor Kirby-Green intervened and RDC have now confirmed that they will match-fund the sum of £4,215.00 for the new fencing. The Clerk is to contact Akita Fencing to start the new fencing installation. **(CLERK)**
- 11.2 Mountfield Stoolball Club – the Members discussed the request for a reduction in fees for 2016-17, due to decreased fixtures.  
**RESOLVED** – to decrease the Stoolball Club's annual fee to £50.00 for 2016-17. Councillor Hollamby proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous. **(CLERK)**
12. RURAL BROADBAND
  - A presentation was made by the "Local Action Group" to Huw Merriman MP, this was very successful. The presentation slide show will be made available to Members and put on the parish website. **(CHAIRMAN/CLERK)**
  - Huw Merriman is putting together a conference regarding our very poor rural broadband and the Mountfield group has been asked to take part.
13. AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
It was decided to ask AiRS to present information to Parish, District and County Councillors. This will most likely be on a Saturday morning. **(CLERK)**
14. RIVERHALL CROSSING  
The Clerk is to write, yet again, to Network Rail regarding the unacceptable lighting levels at this crossing. **(CHAIRMAN/CLERK)**
15. BULB/TREE PLANTING  
A Working Party is to be formed, to include the Community as well, to discuss ideas and locations for planting.

# MOUNTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

16. PLANNING (standing item)
- 16.1 Planning applications for consideration  
RR/2016/458/P Serenity, London Road, Mountfield  
Renewal of alternative access to existing house  
**AGREED** – to support this application. **(CLERK)**  
RR/2016/501/TN Arqiva Site, Eatenden Lane, Mountfield  
Installation of electronic communications apparatus (information only, no response).  
RR/2016/535/P 3 Mountfield Villas, Hoath Hill, Mountfield  
Proposed two-storey side extension and front entrance porch.  
**AGREED** – to support this application, subject to adequate width of access. **(CLERK)**
- 16.2 The Edlins application is going before the RDC Planning Committee on Thursday.
17. ENFORCEMENT (standing item)
- 17.1 9 Eatenden Lane, planning applications have been requested for both front bank and back garden works. Councillor Kirby-Green agreed to follow up with PEET.
- 17.2 None.
18. ROADS, PATHS, VERGES (standing item)
- It was agreed that unfortunately we can do nothing about speeding on the A21.
  - There is an abandoned car (blue) in Woodside, this has been reported.
19. FINANCE (standing item)
- 19.1 The Clerk reported on the bank balances at 29.02.16
- |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| MPC deposit account | £22,467.25 |
| MPC current account | £1,486.81  |
| KGF custom account  | £3,725.67  |
- 19.2 **RESOLVED** – to approve the following payments. Councillor Snuggs proposed and Councillor Ray seconded, the voting was unanimous.
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| MPC ACCOUNT                                     |         |
| Clerk (Feb/Mar16) salary, home office, expenses | £653.98 |
| KGF ACCOUNT                                     |         |
| T. Tidmarsh, new container lock                 | £50.00  |
- 19.3 The Members received and noted the Budget Monitor, Statement of Earmarked Reserves and Bank Reconciliations at 29.02.16.
20. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS
- 12.04.16 – Parish Assembly 2016, 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall.  
10.05.16 – Annual Council Meeting, 7.30pm in Mountfield Village Hall.