



**Minutes of Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at the Village Hall, Mentmore at 8pm.**

Present: Councillors, Peter Brazier (Chair), Jonathan Langley, Elizabeth Dack, Robert Fletcher and Iain Butler.  
3 members of the public

Bridget Knight – Clerk to the Council

**341. Chairman's items and welcomes**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

**342. Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Peter Cooper and Bucks County Councillor Avril Davies

**343. Disclosures of Interest on items pertaining to the agenda  
Councillors to declare any interests.**

None.

**344. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Copies previously circulated.**

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and they were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**335. Public Question Time**

After recent building work in the village a verge has become damaged and needs repairing, Councillor Langley to monitor the situation and update the council.

**336. Police Matters**

PCSO Frank Callaghan was absent from the meeting.

**337. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

District Councillor Peter Cooper emailed the following report:

The current main issue at AVDC is the possible transition to Unitary authority status. This is a brief summary of the status of the process. The County Council have submitted a bid for a single County wide unitary. This was sent to the secretary of state in September 16.

The 4 Bucks districts have jointly submitted an alternative bid for two new unitary councils, one covering the existing geographical area of AVDC and the second covering the areas currently represented by Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks Districts. This bid was submitted to the secretary of state on the 17th Jan 17.

The leaders of the 4 districts had a one to one meeting with the S of S last Thursday and were able to explain the reasoning behind the split unitary proposal. This is based on the geographical and economic links in north Bucks with MK and the Oxford Cambridge arc, and in South Bucks with north London and Heathrow.

The S of S informed the meeting that he had NOT had a similar meeting with the Bucks County leadership to discuss a single unitary but planned to do so within days. Having heard both cases he planned to make a decision on the way forward quickly and in any case before the commencement of the election period for the County elections on the 4th of May.

That implies that his decision will be public before the end of March this year.

Signed By Chairman.....

Assuming he chooses a unitary option (and not to maintain the status quo) a 2 year transition period is likely to start from the date of the County election, with the new unitary structure coming in to force in May 2019.

### 338. Village Hall

Copies previously circulated. Chair thanked Councillor Dack for the minutes. The final accounts from the Village Hall extension were distributed and the Chairman explained them. The Chairman reported the project is under budget even with additional items such as new smoke alarms being fitted in the existing hall and replacing the whole flat roof, these were maintenance issues and not part of the original extension project. Extension and additional maintenance works still under the original budget.

There is £750 available to re-landscape the garden and £250 to replace the memorial tree.

The fire alarm commissioning will take place Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017, this will be in place prior to any bookings.

Councillor Dack asked whether the insurance should be increased to include the extension. Councillor Langley will request re-valuation for insurance purposes and check the capacity for the hall. Clerk to contact insurers.

### 339. Planning

None.

### 340. Highway's Act 1980 Section 119 Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No 1 (part) Mentmore

The council has received three comments from parishioners objecting to the footpath being moved. Having carefully considered the proposed routing and the comments received by the Council it was PROPOSED by Councillor Brazier and SECONDED by Councillor Langley and UNANIMOUSLY agreed to write to the Bucks CC Definitive Maps Officer setting out the supporting comments received (with personal details removed) and objecting to the proposed re-routing of the footpath. Clerk will inform the parishioners they can also object direct and let Bucks CC have their names and addresses.

### 341. Progress report from Pedestrian/Road Safety working group.

County Councillor Davies is making progress with Thames Valley Police. Councillor Brazier hopes to receive an update at tomorrow's LAF meeting.

### 342. Devolution update

Chairman to meet with Bucks County Council Devolution Manager on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017.

### 343. Finance

The accounts to date including payments and receipts had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

It was PROPOSED SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to pay the expenses and accounts and that the balances were a correct record. The following expenditure and expenses were approved by the Council.

Payee	Description	Amount
J Hawes	Village Hall Roof Repairs	£2,880.00
J Hawes	Village Hall Final Payment 5	£11,745.60
B Knight	January 17 Salary & Expenses	£301.00
B Knight	December 16 Salary & Expenses	£327.94
Eon	January Statement Street Lights	£94.38
Fortem Digital Ltd	Website Hosting for 1 Year	£60.00
Registration IOC	Mentmore Registration	£35.00
Eon	Street Lighting Oct 15 - Dec 16	£336.46
J Hawes	Village Hall Payment 4	£8,769.90

### 344. To receive Chairman and Clerk's Report

Councillor Dack offered to publicise the donate-a-gate scheme in the newsletter.

Signed By Chairman.....

As circulated.

**345. Litter Picking/Fly Tipping Update**

No update.

**The meeting closed at 8.34pm.**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 8pm.**

Signed By Chairman.....