



Minutes of Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2016 at the Village Hall, Mentmore at 8pm.

Present: Councillors, Peter Brazier, Jonathan Langley, Elizabeth Dack, Iain Butler.
County Councillor A Davies.
Maxine Hayes, Clerk to the Council
3 Members of the Public

235. Chairman's items and welcomes

The Chairman welcomed the new clerk and thanked her for taking on the role at such short notice.

236. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor F Medler & District Councillor P Cooper and approved by Councillors.

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

None disclosed.

**238. Public Question Time (10 minutes)
To receive any questions from members of the public.**

Richard and Alison Phillips had attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding activity at Mentmore Towers. They had been aware of machinery noise and were concerned what might be happening. It was thought it could be preparation for the site of the new memorial but it was agreed to monitor the situation and report this to planning control.

Richard Philips also asked if the Parish Council received notice or had any control over the various bike rides that took place using Mentmore as part of the route. He was informed that the Parish Council did not always receive notice unless they ask to use the Green or the Village Hall as a stopping off point. Event organisers had to apply to Bucks County Council for a licence but often called the event a sportif not a race. Councillor Brazier would check how far ahead the licence had to be applied for and whether it had to go through a licensing committee.

**239. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 December 2015
Copies previously circulated.**

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2015.

240. Police Matters

Councillor Brazier had received a report from the PCSO regarding a single vehicle incident near Cheddington Lodge (as detailed in clerks report).
The Council were made aware of the forthcoming bridge closure at Cheddington from 15th February for 9 weeks and the increase in traffic through village as this was part of the diversionary route. Concerns were

Signed By Chairman.....

expressed over possible damage to verges. It was agreed this could be a good time to use the MVAS and Sentinel to monitor traffic and Councillor Langley agreed to look at this. Councillor Brazier was intending to see if any funding might be available to improve the kerbing in Mentmore.

241. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Avril Davies reported on the issues relating to Tring station in light of the new development of 700 houses in Tring and 25,000 new houses across Aylesbury Vale. This would increase the pressure on the use of the station and existing parking. Discussion took place over how several tickets could not be purchased at Cheddington station and the machine also refused to accept several credit cards. Tickets could be purchased on the train and at the other end of the journey. This made it difficult for travellers to use this station as an alternative to Tring.

She reported that Bucks County Council only received 20% of the funding they expected to receive and had approved a 1.9% increase in the Council Tax.

There would be pressure on all Parish Councils to take on devolution and eventually costs would have to be met from the parish precept.

There was some concern over Local Area Forums (LAF) which could be affected by the budget cuts.

Councillor Brazier expressed his concern over this as it was the only forum where parishes were able to meet and work together on shared issues.

242. Village Hall

(a) To receive a report from the Committee.

Minutes of most recent meeting 20th January 2016 had previously been circulated to Councillors.

The Hall Committee made a request for approval to get the work done following a recent leak. They had obtained 2 quotations and they were both £375. It was PROPOSED SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY approved that the village hall accepts the quote of their preferred builder and get the work completed.

The Clerk had been contacted by Makeitcheaper who had supplied quotation for the renewal of the contract for electricity in the village hall. There was a small difference between the various suppliers. It was agreed to instruct the Clerk to go ahead and renew the contract for a further year with Eon if the difference in cost was minimal.

It had been agreed following a survey of the Rowan tree in the village hall garden that the tree would be removed when the building work commenced. Wood from the tree would be used in new building. It was also proposed that if the tree was removed, then a replacement tree would be planted and the reason for the original planting by the WI commemorated.

Mentmore Arts Festival had raised the issue of insurance to cover the event and had been told that they were not covered by the Parish Council insurance as this was not a Parish Council event. The Clerk had spoken to the insurance company twice and had been informed both times that the event would require their own insurance. There was some confusion over whether they would be covered under the village hall insurance even if one of their members was on the hall committee and Richard Philips agreed to look at the policy and advise the Parish Council.

243. Planning

(i) To receive details of planning decisions received.

15/04123/APP – Removal of existing store and erection of single storey rear extension to provide meeting room and store - APPROVAL.

(ii) To discuss planning application no's.

15/04280/APP – single storey rear extension – 12 Rowden Farm Barns – No Objections at this time

244. Progress report from Pedestrian/Road Safety working group

Councillor Brazier reported that the Parish Council continue to chase the County Council about potholes.

245. Devolution update

Councillor Langley reported that repairs to verges opposite Howell Hill Close were required to make the verge level so that the grass could be cut. It was agreed that a system of traffic management would be required whilst the work was taking place and this would need to be looked into.

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246. Condition of Mentmore Towers

No further update. Councillor Brazier would chase a full update from planning and natural England for the April meeting.

247. Finance

Accounts update including, Expenses for Payment, Balances. The Spreadsheet had been forwarded to Councillors before meeting.

The following expenditure was approved by the Council:

| Payee | Description | Amount |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Eon | Village Hall Electricity | £ 81.28 |
| Wingrave with Rowsham | MVAS Maintenance contract 1/3 | £ 80.00 |
| Webgenie | Annual hosting fee for website | £ 60.00 |
| Maxine Hayes | Clerks Salary & expenses December 15 - February 16 | £ 296.49 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £ 48.00 |
| BALC | Payment Finance course 10/2 (1/2 cost shared with Wing) | £23.77 |
| E Dack | Reimbursement flowers and card for outgoing Clerk. | £27.39 |
| Roderick Wilson | Work to trees on The Green | £540.00 |
| J Langley | Reimbursement payment to Morgan fire protection village hall fire equipment testing | £30.00 |

S106 - Councillor Brazier reported that he was still awaiting quotes from builders. Community Chest application needed to be submitted before 15th February.

Councillor Langley had received quotes for the replacement rope nets for the play equipment. It was PROPOSED SECONDED and APPROVED to agree an expenditure of up to £80 for the replacement of the nets including labour.

248. To receive Clerk's Report

Contents approved. Items highlighted:

- Litter pick 10/4
- Councillor Butler reported that the groundworks for the drainage work had started in Ledburn. Recording Councillor Brazier suggested that it would be good to find a local person to take photographs of where the pipes are being laid as an historical record.
- Councillor Langley reported that the new BT pole in village had been located in front of MVAS location which could now not be used. They would be asked to provide funding towards the installation of a new replacement ground fixing.

Meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Signed By Chairman.....