

# Mentmore Parish Council

Minutes of Mentmore Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 8pm virtual online meeting.

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## **PRESENT:**

Mentmore Parish Council Chairman Councillor P Brazier, Mentmore Parish Council Vice Chairman Councillor J Langley (Vice Chair), Mentmore Parish Council Councillor I Butler, Mentmore Parish Council Councillor E Dack and Mentmore Parish Council Councillor R Fletcher.

Mentmore Parish Clerk - Mrs B Knight

Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillors Anne Wight and Councillor Peter Cooper.

One member of the public.

## **C/037/20. Chairman's items and welcome.**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## **C/038/20. Attendance and Apologies.**

None.

## **C/039/20. Disclosures of Interest on items pertaining to the agenda – Councillors to declare any interests.**

Councillor Brazier declared an interest in the planning application for The Stag Public House as he is a Director and shareholder of The Stag, Councillor Langley chaired that part of the meeting and Councillor Brazier took no part in the discussion.

## **C/040/20. Minutes from previous meeting.**

It was PROPOSED BY Councillor Dack, SECONDED BY Councillor Fletcher and APPROVED and carried unanimously that the minutes from the parish council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 were correct and the minutes will be signed at a future meeting when possible.

## **C/041/20. Public Question Time.**

A member of the public spoke about:

Proposal for a community picnic to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, the resident asked for the parish council to contribute £300 - £500 towards the event to cover the cost of the music.

Car Parking in Mentmore - a local resident raised the lack of parking in Mentmore and the possibility of increased visitor parking when the pub re-opens. The resident asked whether a grasscrete parking area could be added to the Village Green. This will be added to the next agenda.

## **C/042/20. Fibre Broadband.**

Fibre broadband is being installed in the parish and some residents have expressed concern whether their properties will be included. Mentmore Parish Council has raised concerns about the quality of the reinstatement of the road and grass verges.

### **C/043/20. Coronavirus.**

The Village Hall Committee is carrying out a risk assessment for the potential re-opening of the play area on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### **C/044/20. Police Matters.**

Thames Valley Police Community Support Officer Matt Samson submitted a report prior to the meeting which has been circulated. Crime in the area has reduced during lockdown.

### **C/045/20. Reports from Bucks Unitary Councillors.**

Bucks Councillor A Wight gave the following report:

The government has also given more details on the further easing of the lockdown measures for the wider public. Going forward, keeping our distance, following signs and guidance when out and about, and most importantly, washing hands regularly for at least twenty seconds will make a big difference in helping us to carry on controlling the virus locally and to keep Buckinghamshire open. If you have coronavirus symptoms, it's essential you get a test as quickly as possible.

Coronavirus mobile testing sites are returning to Amersham, Aylesbury and Buckingham over the coming days.

The Amersham site will be running from Thursday, 2 July, for up to two days, and then again on Monday, 6 July, for up to another two days.

The Aylesbury site will be open from Saturday, 4 July, for up to three days.

And the Buckingham site will also be open from Saturday, 4 July, but this will be running for up to two days.

These are in addition to other local and regional coronavirus testing sites, which are still available for residents in Buckinghamshire to use.

Anyone with coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) is currently eligible to be tested. An early test will also help us trace anyone you have been in contact with if your test is positive, so they too can isolate and we can stop the virus from spreading further.

If you book on days 1-4 of having symptoms, you can book a drive through/walk through test or a home testing kit. However, if you wait longer, then it will be too late to order a home test. By day six, it's too late to have a test at all.

For more information and to book a test, go to the government's website. You can also book a test by calling 119 if you don't have access to the internet.

However, tests for essential workers, such as frontline healthcare staff, are being prioritised over tests for the wider public at this time. Tests at these mobile sites should be booked first and are not available on a 'drop-in' basis at this time. Further details of the testing sites will be provided to people when they book their test.

To arrange a test, go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and click on the appropriate link for you within the 'testing' section of information. The booking process is slightly different for members of the public to that for essential workers.

You can find out more about getting tested as a member of the public with symptoms here - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

And you can find out more about getting tested as an essential worker here - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>

### **Continued support for our most vulnerable residents**

The government recently announced changes in the guidance for people shielding. Shielded individuals will be able to go outdoors and meet others at a distance from Monday 6 July and will be able to go out more from Saturday 1 August, such as to the shops or to work or school. Government food parcels will stop from this date. The full guidance issued by the government yesterday is here. Everyone who was identified as needing to shield will be getting a detailed letter from government in the coming days.

Nearly 18,000 Buckinghamshire residents have been shielding for the past three months, but I can confirm that Buckinghamshire Council will carry on supporting clinically extremely vulnerable residents who may still need assistance during the coronavirus pandemic, helping them to get back to a more normal lifestyle.

Through eight support hubs, we've co-ordinated a wide range of support, such as organising emergency food parcels, helping people set up priority supermarket deliveries, delivering medication and taking people to medical appointments. We will carry on helping anyone needing our support.

We are putting in plans to make sure that all support can be scaled back up at very short notice if there was a further spike in cases.

For up to date information keep checking the online support hub on our website for information on community support, business support and also the Buckinghamshire plan for localised outbreaks.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

**If you are worried about a vulnerable friend, relative or neighbour . . .**

Our Adult Social Care team is checking in with all vulnerable residents we are aware of by making many regular phone calls and by supporting in other ways too. Please tell us if you know of someone who might need our help by calling the Adult Social Care team on 01296 383 204.

Please also carry on using our online community hub for details of how to find support in your local area.

**Freight Strategy**

The attached link is available on the Buckinghamshire Council website for residents and parish councils who are concerned about periods where Heavy Good Vehicle movements may appear to increase through our local villages.

As I have received quite a few emails recently from residents and parish councils alike regarding Heavy Good Vehicle movements which I have reported to our Freight Strategy officer, he has explained how it is helpful to first capture information about the trucks, dates, timings and the operators' livery to allow his team to identify which companies may be using which routes.

The freight toolkit which is available on the webpage via the link below includes useful information and a survey template for capturing this information.

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/policies/limits-and-routing-for-heavy-goods-vehicles/>

Please do note that there is some safety information in the toolkit for residents and representatives to carry out the survey.

Once we have more specific information to hand, our Freight Strategy officer will be in a better position to reach out to operators to discuss how best to take things forward for the benefit of both residents and businesses alike.

## Community Boards

Our first Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board meeting is being scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> July and will be online. While we are still looking into the best technical platform for this meeting with our IT officers, I am delighted to say that things are moving quite quickly now on the Community Boards. We now have an appointed dedicated coordinating officer, Katrina Kelly, who comes to her new role fresh from having worked for the past months as a coordinating officer for the Aylesbury Hub. The Hub has been involved in assisting shielded residents and helping to coordinate local volunteer groups for the provision of food, medicines and other essential items during the Covid lockdown period. Katrina knows the area, local parishes and volunteer groups very well and is ideally placed to help get the Community Board off to a good start. Katrina will be contacting parish clerks over the next two weeks to invite parish council representatives to the meeting and to get a feel for local priorities in advance.

I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that we very much look forward to working together with our parishes and external partners to ensure that the Community Board is a vibrant, adaptive and ever-evolving forum through which we can work constructively to address local challenges and needs.

### Bucks Councillor P Cooper gave his report:

The first round of meetings of central Bucks happened last week and there is another one next week, this was held using MS teams. The Community Boards are a different approach and will look at all aspects of the community. Councillor Cooper said it would be good to get some projects undertaken before the elections and decide on priorities for the new council and stated that parishes are an important part of the community boards.

The Village Hall will receive £10,000 grant from Bucks Council to compensate for lack of income during the lockdown period.

### **C/046/20. Village Hall and Village Green.**

This was covered earlier in the meeting. Mentmore Clerk will find out whether the insurers would cover the use of toilets only for a Village Green booking during the social distancing period. Councillor Dack asked whether we can consider painting a white line outside of the Village Hall entrance to deter cars from blocking the access. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council does not have the power to do this on a public highway.

A discussion took place about the Play Area proposal and the Chairman thanked the resident for her efforts. The resident will send a proposal to the council for next month's agenda. Mentmore Clerk will research Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents guidelines about distancing of play equipment.

### **C/047/20. Planning.**

#### New this agenda:

20/02014/APP | Demolition of some wall below windows on the rear elevation, New glazed doors and new windows in larger openings on rear elevation, New external steps, ramp and alteration of levels in Garden, New pub sign and new lantern light to match existing. | The Stag Ph The Green Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QF. The Chairman took no part in the discussion and Councillor Langley Chaired this part of the meeting. Support PROPOSED BY Councillor Langley and SECONDED BY Councillor Fletcher and carried.

#### Previously consulted:

20/00881/AOP | Outline planning permission for the erection of a dwelling with some matters reserved | Land Adjacent The Coach House Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QG - Awaiting decision, extension until 17<sup>th</sup> July.

20/00582/APP | Construction of a timber carport utilising the existing garden wall and the existing driveway/parking area, with the addition of an electric vehicle charging point | 10 Rowden Farm Barns Rowden Farm Lane Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QD Update: Withdrawn/Not Proceeded With.

**C/048/20. Footpaths and Bridleways.**

Footway/Cycle path to Cheddington Station. Bucks Council feasibility study cost is £7,913.30. The Chairman will speak to the Cheddington Chairman about Cheddington contributing toward this cost and Mentmore Parish Council would apply for Community Board match funding.

**C/049/20. Finance.**

It was agreed to make the following payments:

Payee	Description	Amount
Vision Building Services	Village Hall Work	£230.00
Almar Tring	Office Supplies	£86.76
Anglian Water Business	Village Hall Water Feb - May	£21.59
Anglian Water Business	Village Hall Water - Nov - Feb	£19.15
Diane Armson	Reimburse Village Hall expenses	£88.15
Be Safe Fire Protection	Fire Inspection – Village Hall	£60.00
Bucks Pensions	Pension Payments	£102.57
Bucks Pensions	Pension Payments	£102.57
Bucks Pensions	Pension Payments	£113.96
Clerk	Office Allowance April	£15.00
Clerk	Office Allowance May	£15.00
Clerk	Office Allowance and Expenses	£18.60
E Dack	Reimburse Village Hall expenses	£22.48
HMRC	Payroll	£73.60
HMRC	Payroll	£73.80
HMRC	Payroll	£81.80
Lathwell Estates	Village Hall Work	£1,140.00
Octopus Energy	Village Hall Electricity Dec - Apr	£1,115.69
Octopus Energy	Village Hall Electricity May	£101.67
Octopus Energy	Village Hall Electricity Jun	£232.31
Playsafe Ltd	Playground Inspection	£82.20
S Arnold Electrical	Village Hall Work	£1,200.00
SLCC	Subs	£72.00
St Mary The Virgin Church	Donation towards grass cutting	£900.00
T A Beeches	Internal Audit	£85.00
WEL Medical	Defibrillator Parts	£206.40

Balances:

Metro	Current Account	£27,153.92
Metro	High Interest Account	£0.00
Metro	Village Hall Account	£6,011.54
	Petty Cash	£0.00
Unity Trust	Current Account	£253.40
Unity Trust	High Interest Account	£0.00
Unity Trust	Village Hall Account	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>£33,418.86</i>

**C/050/20. AGAR 2019-20 Section 1.**

The AGAR 2019-20 Section 1 was agreed and signed.

**C/051/20. AGAR 2019-20 Section 2.**

The AGAR 2019-20 Section 2 was agreed and signed.

**C/052/20. Clerk & Chairman's Report.**

This was circulated prior to the meeting and there were no further questions.

**C/053/20. Clerk's Annual Review.**

This was agreed PROPOSED BY Councillor Dack and SECONDED BY Councillor Langley and carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

**C/054/20. Next meeting dates:**

The next meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 remotely using Zoom.