



Minutes of Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th August 2016 at the Village Hall, Mentmore at 8pm.

Present: Councillors, Peter Brazier, Jonathan Langley, Elizabeth Dack, Iain Butler, Robert Fletcher
District Councillor P Cooper
Andrew Campling – BT
2 members of the public.
Maxine Hayes – Clerk to the Council

285. Chairman's items and welcomes

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

286. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor A Davies.

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

Councillor J Langley declared an interest in Agenda Item 16 as he had invoices presented for payment.

288. Co option for Casual Vacancy

It was PROPOSED SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to co opt Robert Fletcher to fill the casual vacancy. He was welcomed to the Parish Council.

289. Register of Interests

The Clerk confirmed this had been received.

290. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Clerk confirmed this had been received

291. Andrew Campling – Next Generation Access BT

Mr Campling was attending the meeting on behalf of BT and explained that BT were currently working with Herts & Bucks across the two counties to deliver Broadband. They had got in touch with Mentmore Parish because they were out of scope for this contract and they wanted to let the parish know their options.

He explained it was a budget allocated task and the contract was aiming to get the maximum amount of coverage for budget. This was being driven by Bucks County Council. Mentmore Parish would not benefit from BDUK (Broadband delivery UK) because the BT contract was with the 2 Counties and BT were not involved in how the area to be covered was being defined. This was being decided by the County Council.

Mentmore would also fall outside Phase 4 of the Connected Counties. Peter Cooper informed the meeting that he had not been made aware of this. He had been in contact with Aston Abbots until recently who thought they were due to be connected and now know they will also fall outside area.

Mr Campling was asked why if there is broadband in Cheddington that Mentmore could not also be connected. The meeting was informed that not all of Cheddington was covered. He explained that there was an alternative for Mentmore which would involve BT still delivering service but not under the Connected Counties contract.

Signed By Chairman.....

BT would work out cost of delivery and would subtract any commercial contribution and if community were interested they would have to fill the gap of difference in funding.

They would be able to let Mentmore know what cost would be involved and what contribution would be required from the residents. The Parish Council would not be allowed to subsidise this through the precept. Mr Campling explained that the contract would have to be with a 'body' and not with individuals. The money would have to come from residents but the Parish Council could act as a banker.

Geographically Mentmore and Ledburn were on different exchanges and there was also Rowden and Crafton to consider. It was agreed that BT would cost each area of the parish separately as well as a total cost.

Mr Campling explained that BT does not supply services to everyone and does not have all the addresses. The Parish Council would have to supply street names of area they wish to be covered.

Cllr. P Cooper felt it was totally unsatisfactory asking people to pay for BT infrastructure costs when it's the free in other areas and the principle was all wrong. Peter Cooper said that Aylesbury Vale is providing a broad band service using its own cables to nearest exchange.

Duncan Harris Smith said that he thought they had to provide a universal service but was informed that there was no legal right to broadband. It was currently going through parliament and by 2020 everyone has a right to request the service but they do not have to legally provide it and it would be dependent on cost.

If the cost to provide broadband was above a certain threshold householders would have to pay the excess cost. BT work out their calculations based on commercial costs and need to see a return of investment.

It was agreed the Parish Council would provide a list of street names to Mr Campling and he would report back to the Parish Council.

292. Public Question Time (15 minutes)

Mr Alan Barber asked if the footpath across the golf course was a legal path. He was informed that this path was diverted when the Golf Course was built and there is no right across the course.

293. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st June 2016

Copies previously circulated.

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2016 and they were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

294. Police Matters

None

295. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

Peter Cooper reported on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) which was currently in the middle of the public consultation period. It was agreed that Mentmore Parish Council would be replying with their comments and individuals should also be encouraged to make comments. It was anticipated that it would be enacted next June. All planning decisions were currently being decided on the National Planning Policy Framework which was unsatisfactory.

He explained that the VALP needed to include a 5 year supply of new housing in line with Government recommendations and it currently only included 4.2%.

He explained the knock on effect that unmet housing need would have on Aylesbury Vale if other neighbouring local authorities could not meet their Government quota of housing. This unmet need would then be passed on to the next authority. At present there appeared to be no unmet need in Mid Beds or Milton Keynes but High Wycombe had 5500. The twenty largest villages in Aylesbury Vale were being looked at along with Aylesbury, Buckingham Haddenham and Winslow.

He reported on the plans for a Unitary authority. Aylesbury Vale were undertaking an independent study and would then have to make their decision. A similar study was undertaken in 2004 – 2006 and no action was taken. The decision would have to look at whether to have one unitary authority or a North/South split.

Peter Brazier asked who would make the final decision. He was informed that all 4 Districts would have to agree and submit a proposal to the Government.

Currently Bucks County were consulting the parishes on their plans but Aylesbury Vale DC had not so far engaged with the parishes.

Signed By Chairman.....

296 . Planning

Councillor Cooper gave an update on the following:

- 15/03894 Temporary storage shed – Mentmore Towers – The planning department had agreed with comments from Mentmore. It was due to be determined under delegated powers within the next week and would be most likely rejected.
- 15/04107 Mentmore Towers – Memorial – English Heritage had raised concerns over materials being used and the application was on hold waiting for agent to come back with further details.
- 15/03173 Retention of Mobile home Rowden Farm – no update

- Red House planning breach and comments from Gary Dunne - nothing further to update. He was not hopeful that any enforcement action would be taken. Oakwood Farm – A site visit was planned in the next 2-3 weeks.

- 16/02777 Barley Cottage, Ledburn Erection of single storage orangery to rear– as there were no plans on the website the Parish Council were unable to make comments. The Clerk would inform AVDC.

- 16/2582/COUAR Top Bliss farm, Crafton – determination – The email received from Mr R Sharp with his comments were noted. The Parish Council were not being invited to comment.

He reported to the meeting that AVDC Planning Dept were under pressure at the moment due to Government funding cuts to Local Government. Many of the staff had left and there were an increased number of applications that the remaining staff were having to deal with.

297. Village Hall

Copies previously circulated

The minutes of the village hall committee meeting held on 13 July 2016 had been circulated and were approved as a correct record. –The Parish Council extended their thanks to the village hall committee for all their hard work.

Thanks were also extended to Brian Spriggs for his recent work to repair the gate.

Councillor Langley reported that the building work on the village hall should be commencing next week and Duncan Harris Smith offered help with equipment if required. He was thanked for this offer.

298. Progress report from Pedestrian/Road Safety working group

Councillor Brazier had been talking to Sue Stovell about forming a group and he would report back any progress to the next meeting of the Council

299. Devolution update

Nothing to report.

Councillor Langley raised his concerns about the hedges being full of brambles which were making it increasingly difficult to mow the areas alongside the hedges. It was agreed the landowners should be contacted to ask them to cut back the hedges as this was not a Parish Council responsibility.

Councillor Langley would require the help of an extra person while he was cutting several dangerous areas in the Parish due to the speed of traffic towards the end of the cutting season. It was agreed to organise this.

The Parish Council had been asked by Bucks CC to provide details of their contractor for devolved services but it was agreed that as the situation in Mentmore was unique due to Councillor Langley undertaking these services on behalf of the parish it would not benefit them to have the details.

Signed By Chairman.....

300. Finance

The following expenditure was approved by the Council.

Payee	Description	Amount
Eon	Village Hall Electricity	£ 68.00
Maxine Hayes	Clerks salary/expenses June	£ 224.74
Maxine Hayes	Clerks salary/expenses July	£ 238.74
HMRC	PAYE June	£ 52.00
HMRC	PAYE July	£ 52.00
Limited Odd Jobs	Village Hall framing of parish map & installation of gate post	£ 115.11
Limited Odd Jobs	Village Green grasscutting & weed spraying	£ 575.00
Limited Odd Jobs	Devolution verge cutting, weed spraying & branch trimming	£ 340.00
Limited Odd Jobs	General maintenance play area	£ 70.00
BALC	Annual Subscription	£ 70.72
Anglian Water	Village Hall	£19.05
Litterpicker EU	Equipment, pickers, hoops & bags	£108.54
David Humphrey	Mower service	£93.00
D Armson	Plant Sale BBQ xp	£22.49

Councillor J Langley took no part in the discussion or vote on payments to Limited Odd Jobs.

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.

301. To receive Clerk's Report

The Clerk had circulated the two quotations received for insurance. After comparison and discussion it was PROPOSED SECONDED and RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £472.55 from Zurich for a 3 year contract.

302. Cycle Races

Councillor Langley reported that the recent road race organised by the RAF had been well organised and they had fully cleared up after the event.

Councillor Brazier recommended that as Mentmore was on a British Cycling Federation recognised cycle route that the Parish Council should be pro active in welcoming the cyclists and appoint Councillor Fletcher as the point of contact due to his cycling knowledge. A code of conduct for cyclists which would include how they dealt with litter etc would be helpful and could be given to every event organiser.

303. Fly Tipping

Councillor Brazier reported on 2 significant fly tips instances in the Parish which had included asbestos. It appeared to be a grey area as to whose responsibility it was and both AVDC and Bucks CC had been involved in the clearing of the fly tipping. Councillor Dack reported that there appeared to be no system in place with regarding to the collection of fly tipping and after the recent litter clear in the parish she had reported several item that had been dumped including tyres. They had collected the rubbish but had to be requested more than once to return to finish the job. It was agreed that if the fly tipping took place at weekends then residents called 101 and there was an emergency number for the County Council if it was obstructing the highway.

Signed By Chairman.....

304. Memorial Bench Village Green

The Parish Council had been approached by a relative about the bench on the Green in memory of Mr Dennison a former Parish Council chairman. They had complained that the bench required maintenance. The minute relating to the placing of the bench on the Green in 1977 had been found which had given permission but no agreement to maintain the bench. It was usual that the relatives would maintain the benches. It was not possible to contact this person as they lived in Australia and the Parish Council would await further communication.

305. Dog Bin Village Green

After discussion it was agreed that a dog bin was no required on the Green.

306. Footpath MEN10 – recent damage caused – update/action

Following recent damage to Footpath 10 and the removal of the iron railings the Parish Council would write to the land agent of the Rosebury Estate and ask that the railings be reinstated. Councillors Dack would draft a letter for the Clerk to send.

307. Repairs to PG

Councillor Langley reported that the work to the equipment in the playground as recommended in the recent inspection report had been completed.

308. County Council – Letter asking to meet with Parish Council to discuss Unitary plans

It was agreed that this should be a public meeting in the village hall and the Clerk would liase with the County Council over dates.

Signed By Chairman.....