



Minutes of Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 at the Village Hall, Mentmore at 8pm.

Present: Councillors, Peter Brazier, Jonathan Langley, Elizabeth Dack
District Councillor P Cooper
Maxine Hayes, Clerk to the Council
1 Member of the Public

248. To Elect Chairman for the Forthcoming Year

It was PROPOSED SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to appoint Peter Brazier as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

249. To Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Chairman

Received.

250. To Elect Vice Chairman for the Forthcoming Year

It was PROPOSED SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to appoint Jonathan Langley as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

251. Chairman's items and welcomes

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

252. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Iain Butler and Tadhg O'Seadhdha.

253. Disclosures of Interest on items pertaining to the agenda

Councillors to declare any interests.

Councillor Peter Cooper, Councillors J Langley & Peter Brazier declared an interest in Agenda Item 16 as they had all submitted bills for payment.

254. Public Question Time (10 minutes)

To receive any questions from members of the public.

Duncan Harris Smith reported on the Oakwood Farm application 15/03222/APP for change of use of unit which had been refused. He informed the meeting that he would be going to appeal.

255. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd February 2016

Copies previously circulated.

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016 and they were signed by the Chairman.

256. Police Matters

The following report was given:

- A shed had been broken in to in Mentmore but nothing stolen.
- Mark Swinbank picked up two parts from crashed cars which had not been removed by the Police. This accident had been reported but not recorded.
- A report had been made regarding the increase in speeding in Mentmore and the Parish Council were awaiting an update from PC Duthie on when the speed van might be able to visit Mentmore.
- Theft from motor vehicles had increase since just before December over a wide area including Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. It was reported that in the last 4 weeks the Police had been involved in operations to apprehend suspects, gather evidence to enable them to put forward a bigger case regarding these thefts.

Signed By Chairman.....

- The Police reported a male suspect who was visiting farms to gain information and then returning to steal equipment etc. On Saturday this male had been arrested.
- An initiative was being organised from Wing Police Station to run Open Days to offering a free property engraving service to try and prevent theft. It was agreed to try and help publicise this service.

257. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Peter Cooper reminded the Council of the forthcoming elections for Police and Crime Commissioner being held on the 5th May.

He updated the meeting regarding the situation at AVDC Planning Department. They were very short staffed and unable to cope with the unprecedented number of planning applications being received. He advised the Council that a decision had made to suspend the service of giving planning advice and guidance. All 5 Councils in Buckinghamshire needed to review how they were working and seemed to be reluctant to work with each other. Both Councils would have to make substantial savings due to Government cuts in the next 3 years. Both the County Council and AVDC were looking at making application to government to become a Unitary Authority. Councillor Brazier raised the issue that AVDC did not engage with parishes and this would be a crucial part of their bid to go Unitary.

258. Village Hall

(a) A report had been circulated and noted. Councillor Langley reported that Karen Thomas had been in contact with the LBO who had photographs of the original planting of the Rowan tree 40 years ago. She would try to get permission to use photographs.

259. Planning

No application received.

Decisions:

Oakwood Farm 15/03222/APP | Erection of agricultural building for storage and distribution of plant, machinery and parts for agricultural - Refused

The owners of The Smithy had approached the neighbours and the Parish Council regarding their proposed plans to develop the derelict building into a residential dwelling. The neighbours had all been in support and it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections.

260. Progress report from Pedestrian/Road Safety working group

Councillor Brazier reported on the Road Safety Group. Once the Village Hall project is further on and taking less of the Councils time he proposed a more formal group was developed in the form of a subcommittee to work on this area. He believed there was sufficient interest and enough people willing to partake to make it worthwhile. He would like to cover not only safety but also all road related issues. It would put the Parish Council in a better position should we be offered more devolved services in the future. It was reported that the road from Mentmore to Ledburn was in a poor condition.

261. Devolution update

Councillor Brazier was continuing work on the maps regarding verge cutting.

Councillor Brazier had been in discussion with Bucks County Council regarding additional services being devolved down to Mentmore Parish but to date no progress had been made. There were a variety of additional services that mentmore would like to take on including temporary road repairs,

Management of road signs, rural verge cutting, film licensing, bollards, kerb management, parking enforcement, fly tipping and waste licences for removal of rubbish.

262. Condition of Mentmore Towers

A report was given that The Towers had received planning permission approval to repair the building.

263. Finance

Accounts update including expenses for payment and balances. The Spreadsheets had been forwarded to Councillors before meeting.

Signed By Chairman.....

The following expenditure was UNANIMOUSLY approved by the Council:

Payee	Description	Amount
		£
Eon	Village Hall Electricity	81.28
		£
AVDC	Planning Fees V Hall	250.00
		£
Maxine Hayes	Clerks salary/expenses February 16	269.87
		£
Maxine Hayes	Clerks salary/expenses March 16	236.68
		£
DR Design	Survey & development of plans V Hall	250.00
		£
HMRC	PAYE February	52.00
		£
HMRC	PAYE March	52.00
Limited Odd Jobs	Devolved Services	£400.00
		£
Limited Odd Jobs	General Maintenance	55.00
		£
Limited Odd Jobs	Village Hall	8.50
		£
Limited Odd Jobs	Play area play equipment bases	40.00
		£
Limited Odd Jobs	Village Hall chimney swept	55.00
		£
MPC Digger Hire	Work to verges Mentmore	150.00
		£
Garry Campbell	Roof repairs Village hall	375.00
		£
Morgan Fire Protection	Village hall inspection	30.00
		£
P Brazier	PC expenses, parking, copying, copper strip edging play areas	88.00
		£
Anglian Water	Village Hall Water Bill	15.22
		£
Hallmaster	Village Hall Booking System	130.00
		£
C Sargisson	Replacement First Aid Kit VH	15.25
		£
E Dack	Reimbursement Rights of Way Book reference book	32.00
		£
Mentmore Church	Donation upkeep of churchyard	945.20

Churchyard Maintenance Donation.

The Parish Council had been advised that the way the Section 137 donation to the church yard maintenance was paid last year was incorrect. It was PROPOSED SECONDED and APPROVED to give a donation of £945.20 in this financial year towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

Devolved Services

Councillor Brazier reported that the County Council had paid next year's funding towards devolved services in this financial year which would affect the end of year figures.

Signed By Chairman.....

264. To receive Clerk's Report

- It was agreed that Mentmore would not enter the Best Kept Village Competition this year due to the village hall extension work taking place. It would be reviewed next year.
- It was reported that Fay Morley-Medler had resigned from the parish Council. The Clerk would inform AVDC and put the necessary paperwork in place. The Parish Council should be able to co-opt at their June meeting. She would be thanked for her work on behalf of the Parish in the past year.
- The next Parish Council meeting would include the Annual Parish Meeting which would commence at 7.30pm followed by the full Parish Council meeting at 8pm.
- It was agreed not to donate to the request for funding from AVALC as there was no benefit to the parish.
- The Clerk gave notice of play area inspection due to take place in May.
- The Clerk confirmed that the community chest application had been submitted but that Parish Council had not yet been notified of any decision.
- The Clerk would be attending the Annual Audit training on 27th April and the Parish Council approved payment of the cost shared with Wing Parish Council.
- The Clerk had received notice from AVDC that the summary of responses to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) was now available to view.
- Councillor Dack had purchased a copy of the Rights of Way recommended reference guide on behalf of the Parish Council and it was approved to reimburse her £32.
- Policies: Draft policies had been circulated for consideration:
 - Equality and Diversity Policy – It was PROPSOED SECONDED and APPROVED to adopt the policy.
 - Risk assessment Policy – It was PROPOSED SECONDED and APPROVED to adopt the policy.
- The Clerks Contract of Employment had been approved and signed by the Chairman and Maxine Hayes.

Meeting finished at 9.34pm

Signed By Chairman.....