



**Minutes of Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the Village Hall, Mentmore at 8pm.**

Present: Councillors, Peter Brazier, Jonathan Langley, Elizabeth Dack, Robert Fletcher  
District Councillor P Cooper  
2 members of the public

Maxine Hayes – Clerk to the Council

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

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

**310. Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Iain Butler and PCSO Frank Callaghan – Thames Valley Police.

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

Councillor J Langley declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 application 16/03085 due to a family interest in the property and Agenda item 12 as he had accounts presented for payment.

**312. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
Copies previously circulated.**

Councillors approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and they were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**313. Public Question Time**

Mr Harris-Smith asked the meeting if Mentmore parish had a neighbourhood plan and if so he would like to suggest an area near Rowden Farm Barns as a possible development site. He was informed that Mentmore Parish did not have a plan as it was not necessary at this point in time.

**314. Police Matters**

PCSO Frank Callaghan submitted the following half yearly report:

**Crimes**

1. 06/04/16 – Criminal Damage at a farm in Ledburn whereby water was deliberately put into some farm machinery causing damage to same.
2. 03/05/16 – Theft in Mentmore whereby a copper cylinder was stolen from a farm premises.
3. 17/05/16 – Public Order Act Offence Mentmore. Female motorist stooped on main road to allow some pheasants to cross and truck driver behind became impatient and abusive. Driver of truck traced and cautioned.
4. 07/07/16 – Criminal Damage to farm gate in Ledburn

Signed By Chairman.....

5. 08/09/16 – Burglary non dwelling in Ledburn. Stable block broken into and tools stolen.
6. 08/09/16 – Burglary non dwelling in Ledburn. Shed entered and mower and garden vacuum stolen.

On 04/08/16 Police pursued a vehicle towards Crafton which had false registration plates. Vehicle subsequently crashed at Crafton and two males were arrested for thefts from rural premises. Stolen property found on board.

We have had no reports of Antisocial Behaviour in the area to date.

Mr Harris-Smith reported that his farm gate had been broken off and there were tyre tracks around the field.

### **315. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

Councillor Cooper reported that the Wingrave Neighbourhood Plan had gone to referendum with a vote of 78% in favour 22% against and a 40% turnout. This was now a made plan.

Councillor Cooper outlined the situation regarding the Government housing targets and the unmet housing need in neighbouring authorities. The Government targets required larger villages to take more houses and smaller villages such as Mentmore would only be required to take infill development in line with normal planning rules. The number for Mentmore was 9 and 5 of those houses have already been built with a further 3 to follow.

Wycombe were stating that they could not take the number of houses recommended for their area and these were being moved to neighbouring authorities such as Aylesbury Vale. AVDC had appointed Deloitte to undertake a figure comparison of the numbers produced by Wycombe.

Councillor Cooper reported on the traffic concerns which were only going to get worse when Dunstable Northern bypass was opened and adjustments made to restrict traffic through Dunstable. It would then be likely to go cross country affecting all the villages. Councillor Brazier stated that Mentmore were already suffering from speeding traffic using the village as a shortcut.

He reported that the Unitary authority plans were coming to a head and the County Council were meeting with all parishes in Buckinghamshire over the coming months. The joint public meeting with Wing was being held at Mentmore Village Hall on the 19 October at 6.30pm. In next week an alternative plan from the 4 districts would be launched. This would offer the option of a North & South Unitary authority. The North would be based on Aylesbury Vale District but extended to include Risborough and would not include Milton Keynes. This would even up populations and would follow the new parliamentary boundaries moving Mentmore into Aylesbury. Ideally a decision would be made in the next 6 months. At the point the decision is made all 5 councils would be disbanded and new unitary authorities formed with elections for members. The biggest issue for elected members of which there were 265 would mean a reduction of 80 members plus the loss of 3 chief officers and associated admin staff.

### **316. Village Hall**

#### **Copies previously circulated**

It was reported that building works under way. The build would go slightly over budget as building control required the foundations to be deeper than first anticipated. A third of the contingency fund had been spent leaving a balance of £2500 approx. Contingency £3k.

### **317. Planning**

*Councillor J Langley declared an interest in this application as a family member may be purchasing the property and took no part in the discussion or decision.*

16/03085/ACL – 2 Helsthorpe Farm Cottages, Crafton, Mentmore – Occupation without compliance for a period of at least 10 years of a dwelling subject to an agricultural restriction imposed by way of condition attached to planning application reference AV/969/77 – No comments

16/03473/APP – Mentmore Smithy, Mentmore – Demolition of existing single storey former blacksmiths workshop and the construction of a two storey dwelling - Support

Signed By Chairman.....

16/03536/COUAR – Top Bliss Farm, Stud Farm, Crafton Lodge, Crafton – Determination as to whether prior approval is required in respect of transport & highway impact, noise, contamination risk, flooding and locational considerations for the conversion of agricultural building into dwelling (Class Q (a) and in relation to design and external appearance of the building Class Q (b) - No comments

**318. Progress report from Pedestrian/Road Safety working group**

Councillor Brazier had attended a meeting recently and had been discussing the reestablishment of the speed watch group in the Parish. The Local Area Forum (LAF) were intending to get the traffic calming committee up and running again . The main issues discussed at the recent LAF meeting were around traffic issues and enforcement of speeding vehicles and large lorries through the villages.

**319. Devolution update**

It was almost the end of this season and the grass cutting had gone well this year and was within budget. There were safety issues in some areas with overgrown hedges which meant that the verges could not be cut. It was agreed to provide the Clerk with the details of the householders and she would write asking them to cut the hedges back.

**320. Finance**

*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. The following expenditure and expenses were approved by the Council.

Payee	Description	Amount
Eon	Village Hall Electricity Aug	£ 68.00
Eon	Village Hall Electricity Sept	£ 68.00
Maxine Hayes	Clerks salary/expenses August	£ 225.37
Maxine Hayes	Clerks salary/expenses September	£ 236.68
HMRC	PAYE August	£ 52.00
HMRC	PAYE September	£ 52.00
J Hawes	1st Stage Payment VH Extension	£ 8,769.60
Zurich	Annual Insurance Premium	£ 477.97
Limited Odd Jobs	Village green hedgecutting & playground soil and seeding	£ 120.00
Limited Odd Jobs	Village Green Grasscutting, mower repairs	£ 264.99

Income	
	£
AVDC S106 reimbursement (nett amount)	7,308.00
	£
AVDC 1/2 year Precept	6,520.00

Signed By Chairman.....

**321. To receive Clerk’s Report**

Actions from previous meeting:

291. Andrew Campling BT – following the meeting with BT the Clerk had sent a complete list of postcodes for Mentmore Parish and had received no further contact.

304. Memorial bench village green – nothing to report.

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

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Dack for organising the litter pick and to all the volunteers who took part. Councillor Brazier reported that Thames Valley Police had responded to a report of fly tipping on green but it was the bags from the litter pick. Thanks to TVP for attending promptly. Tyre had been dumped just past the entrance to Rowden Farm and had been reported. It was agreed that the level of litter had been much less this time. Buckinghamshire County Council had recently dealt with the dumped asbestos and paint.

**323. Remembrance Sunday – Purchase of Wreath**

Councillor Langley reported that the wreath purchased last year which was plastic had been removed quite quickly and was still in very good condition. It was agreed to contact the Royal British Legion and ask if in the spirit of recycling Mentmore Parish Council could re use the wreath but still make the same donation.

**324. Footpath MEN10 – recent damage caused – Update and Stag Hill**

The Clerk reported that she had received no response from Mr Garton (land agent) since sending the letter on the 18<sup>th</sup> August and a follow up email. The RSPCA had called the Clerk regarding the damage to the badger sets and had taken the land agents details.

It was reported that the hedge from the Rothschild Estate was overhanging the pavement and it was agreed to write to the Station Road Trust asking them to cut this back. If no action was taken it would be referred back to Buckinghamshire County Council to take action.

**325. Cycle Events**

It was reported that the recent event had gone well and Councillor Fletcher was thanked for taking on the role of co-ordinator.

**Date of Next Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 8pm.**

Signed By Chairman.....