

# Mentmore Parish Council

Minutes of the Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held at Mentmore Village Hall on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00pm.

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## **PRESENT:**

Councillors Robert Fletcher (Chairman), Tracey Waring-Mundy (Vice Chairman), Caroline Horgan, Daniel McGinty and Laura Smethurst.

Mentmore Parish Clerk Bridget Knight.

Four members of the public.

### **C/104/23 Chairman's Welcome.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **C/105/23 Apologies and Attendance.**

Councillor Brazier submitted his apologies which were accepted.

### **C/106/23 Disclosures of interest on items pertaining to the agenda.**

None.

### **C/107/23 To approve the minutes of the Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

It was agreed that the minutes were true and accurate. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### **C/108/23 Co-Option of Parish Councillor(s).**

Laura Smethurst and Daniel McGinty were co-opted as Councillor PROPOSED BY Councillor Fletcher and SECONDED BY Councillor Horgan and carried unanimously.

### **C/109/23 Public Question Time.**

A local resident asked for his comments from last meeting to be minuted:

- a request to move the planter outside of the Village Hall away from the hedge.
- A request that no further public funds are spent on the planters in front of The Stag.

The resident commented a Parish Councillor had informed him there was a potential conflict of interest with a Councillor over a planning application. This was refuted by the Councillor and the Chairman confirmed this is not an issue and merely speculation. The resident mentioned the December 2022 minutes were shown as draft on the website. The resident commented on the grammar of the minutes where the word 'concerned' was written twice. The Parishioner did not want to be named.

A Crafton resident thanked the Parish Council for all the work they do for the community and stated how much he appreciates the new trees in Crafton.

A Crafton resident mentioned the ditches in Crafton and whether work on them can continue. The resident asked what was happening with Mentmore Towers and the timescales for the enforcement with Buckinghamshire Council. Councillor Brazier was absent but can be

contacted over this matter which is confidential and whilst the Parish Council does not have any agency on information regarding to current status of Mentmore towers an inquiry to the relevant county council depart will be made.

**C/110/23 Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor(s).**

A report was submitted by Councillor Town, there were no comments.

**C/111/22 Planning Applications:**

23/03443/AGN | Erection of agricultural barn and agricultural track | Bridge Farm Rowden Farm Lane Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QD

No Comment.

23/03168/VRC | Removal of condition 2 (ancillary use) relating to application 94/02115/APP (conversion of store and loft into additional living accommodation) | Stable Cottage Stable Yard Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QG

Object PROPOSED By Councillor Fletcher and SECONDED BY Councillor Horgan and carried unanimously.

**C/112/23 Village Hall, Village Green and Mentmore Parish Events.**

Christmas tree – the Chairman thanked Jonthan Langley for organising the tree.

Village Hall tables – It was agreed to purchase soap dispensers and eight large tables and a trolley to hold all the tables, the cost is £1,631 PROPOSED BY Councillor Waring-Mundy and SECONDED BY Councillor Smethurst and carried unanimously.

The tree survey has been considered and two quotations have been received a third quotation has been requested for the tree works. Permission is being sought from Buckinghamshire to allow the tree works in the Mentmore Conservation Area.

**C/113/23 Footpaths, Bridleways, Trees and Playgrounds.**

Stile by cricket pitch – work has been delayed due to access arrangements and Councillor Horgan will speak to the landowner.

Donation of tree saplings from Woodland Trust – a discussion took place and residents suggested footpath MEN/10 or to thicken hedges in the parish or in Crafton near the wooden posts.

Mentmore Parish Council has received a complaint about the verges in Mentmore which have not been cut due to concrete and rumble on the grass and the lawn mowers are not able to cope with the surface. The objects on the verges have been left by Ecom and Buckinghamshire Highways. The grass cutting contractor said he cannot cut due to risk of stones flying into passing vehicles or damaging the equipment. The Parish Clerk will contact the Local Area Technician about this issue and request he contacts Ecom and Highways to reinstate the verges.

Signage and rumble strips are due to be renewed as confirmed by the Local Area Technician. The Parish Clerk will ask the Local Area Technician for 'Stop' signs at the Mentmore crossroads from Wing and Mentmore directions.

**C/114/23 Devolved Services inc Grass Cutting Tender.**

No update – Councillor Brazier is preparing this.

**C/115/23 Budget and Precept Setting.**

Councillor Waring-Mundy explained the budget was not increased last year. Last year's costs were budgeted at £16,000 but reserves were used in addition. This year the budget

will be increased by 22% which equates to two year's increase. The increased budget will accommodate the tree works and other increasing costs. The precept demand is £18,500. PROPOSED BY Councillor Waring Mundy and SECONDED BY Councillor Fletcher and carried unanimously.

**C/116/23 Finance and Accounts for Payment.**

The following payments were approved for payment:

Payee		Amount
Microsoft	Licence	£59.99
Buckinghamshire Council	Crafton dog bin installation	£347.52
Hugo Fox	Website fee	£23.99
Lloyds Bank	Bank fees	£3.00
Amazon	Office supplies	£37.23
Poppy Shop	Wreath & donation	£40.00
Premier Farnell Electrical	VH Screen	£156.00
Clerk	Allowance and expenses	£27.14
Octopus Energy	VH Elec - October	£66.88
Ivinghoe PC	Training and phone share	£50.00
Anglo Dutch	Payroll services	£36.00
Arbuthnot Lathan	Wicksteed inspections	£158.40
Clerk	Allowance and expenses	£40.33
M Levick	VH Chimney	£60.00
Hugo Fox	Website fee	£23.99

<b>Received:</b>		
Village Hall Rent	VH Rent - November	£269.50

<b>Balances:</b>		
Mentmore PC Current Account		£16,771.93
Mentmore VH Current Account		£20,030.78
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£36,802.71</b>

**C/117/23 Clerk's Report**

No comment.

**C/118/23 Meeting Dates**

2024: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The meeting closed 7.50pm.