

Mentmore Parish Council

Minutes of the Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held at Mentmore Village Hall on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors Robert Fletcher (Chairman), Tracey Waring-Munday (Vice Chairman), Caroline Horgan, Charlie Sabel and Laura Smethurst.

Buckinghamshire Councillor Peter Brazier.
Mentmore Parish Clerk Bridget Knight.

Six members of the public.

C/001/25 Chairman's Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/002/25 Apologies and Attendance.

Apologies were received from Councillors Gumbs, McGinty and Bucks Councillor Town.

C/003/25 Disclosures of interest on items pertaining to the agenda.

None.

C/004/25 To approve the minutes of the Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on 4th December 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

C/005/25 Public Participation.

There was an attempted break-in in Ledburn recently, the Parish Clerk will request Thames Valley Police increase their night time drive-bys.

C/006/25 Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor(s).

Councillor Brazier reported the road repairs near Mentmore Barns are scheduled for 28th – 31st January. Councillor Brazier expects the Cheddington Road (Gas Works Field to the Manor) to be resurfaced over the next few months.

C/007/25 Planning Application(s):

New this meeting:

24/03720/VRC | Variation of condition 2 (use) 3 (hours) relating to application 08/02616/APP (Change of use of part of unit from Class B1 (Offices) to Class D1 (Health Clinic) use) | Suite 1 The Old Haybarn 9 Rosebery Mews Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0UE.

Objection. A vote took place with one Councillor abstaining it was resolved to object.

24/03765/APP | Householder application for Installation of a timber summerhouse | Crafton Lodge Crafton Lodge Road Crafton Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QJ. No Comment.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Site Address:

1
Chairman _____ Signed by

Mentmore Towers Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QH Proposal: Householder application for retention of existing single storey outbuilding (Retrospective). Appeal by: Mr Simon Halabi Application Ref: 24/02005/APP Appeal Ref: 24/00082/REF Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/D/24/3356186

Pending or recent decisions by Buckinghamshire Council:

24/02344/APP | Change of Use of an Agricultural Buildings to Commercial Storage Use (B8) (Retrospective) | Gas Works Field Cheddington Road Mentmore Buckinghamshire. Update: Approved by Buckinghamshire Council. MPC requested to be consulted on traffic routing drafting. Update: Approved.

24/02938/APP | Householder application to replace existing Georgian style windows with double glazed aluminium frames | 17 Crafton Lodge Road Crafton Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 OQL.

24/03217/APP | Householder application for garden annexe | 9 Crafton Lodge Road Crafton Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 OQL.

C/008/25 Village Hall, Village Green and Mentmore Parish Events.

- Play Area – no update.
- Octopus Energy – 12 month contract agreed 26.45p K/Wh no standing charge.

C/009/25 Footpaths/Bridleways/Roads including Speedwatch.

- Councillor Horgan reported the bridleway from bottom of Crafton Lodge across golf course is overgrown, in places is unusable. The landowner was present.
- The bridleway from Gas Works to Ledburn has been ploughed, Ascot Estates have been contacted.
- There are fallen trees on the Ledburn footpaths will be reported by Councillor Smethurst on Bucks Rights of Ways portal.

C/010/25 Finance.

- Accounts for approval, balances and bank reconciliation.

The following payments were approved for payment:

Payee:		Amount
Webgenie	Website hosting	£90.00
Amazon	Stationery	£7.55
Bucks Council	Dog Bins 24-25	£390.00
Octopus Energy	VH December	£85.46
Hugo Fox	Website November	£23.99
Hugo Fox	Website December	£23.99
Octopus Energy	VH December	£76.69
T Waring-Mundy	Reimburse VH roof materials	£41.18
Npower	Streetlight Elec	£351.44

Income		
HMRC	VAT Refund	£330.42

Balances 10.01.25		
General PC Account		18,546.13
VH Account		10,351.75
Total:		£28,897.88

C/011/25 Parish Council Lawn Mower.

No update.

C/012/25 Mentmore Parish Council Website and Emails.

- New website – this will be reviewed.

C/013/25 Correspondence from one resident.

Deferred.

C/014/25 Clerk's Report.

- Correspondence.
- Buckinghamshire Council Community and Sports Facilities in Mentmore Parish survey.
- Lane Rental Consultation – Buckinghamshire Council.

C/015/25 Next Meeting Dates:

26th February, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 6th August, 1st October and 3rd December.

The Meeting closed at 8pm.

C/137/24 Finance.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Payee:		Amount
Ltd Odd Jobs	Mentmore Village Hall	£63.44
Ltd Odd Jobs	Devolution invoice 38	£80.00
Ltd Odd Jobs	Village Green Cutting invoice 83	£330.00
Sloane & Sons	Benches	£808.20
Royal British Legion	Donation (plus wreath)	£60.00
Clerk	Allowance and Expenses	£23.40
	VH Booking Refund	£96.00
PE Mead	Christmas Tree	£250.00
RBL	Dontion to Poppy Appeal	£60.00
George Brown	Innertube - mower	£21.92
30.11.24		
General PC Account		20,877.22
VH Account		10,384.97

Total:

£31,262.19

The budget was set and the precept was agreed £21,800 which represents a 17.84% increase. Councillor Waring-Mundy explained the reasons for the increase are electricity prices (streetlights), cost of new website and emails, the grass cutting contract had not been agreed at the time of the budget for last year so reflects the new costs.

C/138/24 Parish Council Lawn Mower.

The inner tube will be fitted and the lawn mower will be serviced, three quotations will be obtained.

C/139/24 Mentmore Parish Council Website and Emails.

A meeting will be organised to review the new website.

C/140/24 Clerk's Report.

The Proud of Bucks Awards are being held on the 11th December in Hardwick.

Correspondence had been received from one resident complaining about the time of the meetings, a discussion took place and the Councillors want to meetings to be held at 7pm where possible, this includes those Councillors with full time careers.

C/141/24 Next Meeting Dates:

2025: 13th January, 24th February, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 6th August, 1st October and 3rd December.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.