

Mentmore Parish Council

Minutes of the Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held at The Stag Public House Garden, Mentmore on Thursday 11th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

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

Mentmore Parish Clerk Bridget Knight.

Six members of the public.

C/030/24 Chairman's Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the Village Hall booking had been cancelled by the Booking Clerk and the Village Hall was not available. As an emergency measure the meeting was held in the garden of the The Stag Public House, Mentmore.

C/031/24 Apologies and Attendance.

None.

C/032/24 Disclosures of interest on items pertaining to the agenda.

Councillor Brazier declared an interest in The Stag Public House as he is a shareholder and Director. Councillor McGinty declared an interest as a shareholder of The Stag Public House, Mentmore.

C/033/24 To approve the minutes of the Mentmore Parish Council Meeting held on 6th March 2024.

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

C/034/24 Public Question Time.

A member of the public commented that the planning tracker is not working on the Parish Council/Hugo Fox website and expressed frustration with the website and asked whether the Parish Council could investigate alternative websites. A discussion took place and it was suggested the resident checks Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal as the Planning Tracker has been unreliable and should be fixed soon.

A resident asked whether noticeboards could be further utilised, and Councillor Horgan explained there are plans to improve the noticeboards in the parish to communicate better with residents.

A resident asked why there was a significant increase in the precept and council tax. The Vice Chairman explained the costs have increased and the precept had no increase last year, on reflection she felt it should have been increased by 10% last year and 10% this year. The Chairman explained compared to other neighbouring parishes the precept in Mentmore is much lower for a band D house it is £50 per annum lower.

C/035/24 Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Brazier.

No update since the last meeting.

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Chairman _____ Signed by

C/036/24 Planning Applications

24/00906/APP | Construction of agricultural building and extension of existing agricultural track (Part retrospective) | Rowden Farm Rowden Farm Lane Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 0QD. No comment.

24/00619/APP | Erection of one dwelling | Manor Farm Lane Mentmore Buckinghamshire LU7 OUG. Objection PROPOSED BY Councillor Mundy-Waring and SECONDED BY Councillor McGinty and carried unanimously.

Planning Appeal:

Pending Decision by Buckinghamshire Council:

23/02685/APP | Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural and equestrian and development of American Barn for stabling and ancillary equestrian storage of feed and bedding for personal recreation and leisure use | 22 Acre Paddock Cheddington Road Mentmore Leighton Buzzard LU7 0QG

23/02916/APP | Change of use of land to equestrian and provision of manege for personal recreation and leisure use | 22 Acre Paddock Cheddington Road Mentmore Leighton Buzzard LU7 0QG

23/02313/APP | Installation of a renewable energy generating solar farm comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays together with substation, tower connection, transformer stations, switchroom, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements | Land East Of Ledburn Mentmore Buckinghamshire

C/037/24 Village Hall, Village Green and Mentmore Parish Events.

A meeting took place with the owner of 35 The Green, Mentmore which was attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councillor Brazier and the Parish Clerk. The resident will be placing a new fence within the boundary of 35 The Green.

C/038/24 Footpaths, Bridleways, Roads including Speedwatch.

Speed watch signs – a quotation will be obtained by Councillor Mundy-Waring.
Horse riding signs – these have been requested with no further update from the Local Area Technician.

C/039/24 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

The following payments were approved for payment:

| Payee: | | Amount |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Limited Odd Jobs | Stag Hill Mowing | £10.00 |
| Limited Odd Jobs | General Maintenance - Village Green | £420.00 |
| Limited Odd Jobs | Village Green Mowing | £155.00 |
| Octopus Energy | VH Elec | £59.63 |
| Starboard Systems | Scribe Health Check | £49.00 |
| Hugo Fox | Website | £23.99 |

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| FCC Environment | Contribution to swings replacement | £782.60 |
| MC2 | VH Electrical Work | £216 |
| MC2 | VH Fire Testing | £135.00 |
| Octopus Energy | Historic VH Elec | £1,330.19 |
| Triency Ltd | VH Dispensers | £31.98 |
| Amazon | VH Soap | £20.85 |
| BALC | Subs | £70.35 |
| Lloyds | Bank fees | £3.00 |
| Unity Trust | VH Bank Fees | £18.00 |
| Unity Trust | Current Account Bank Fees | £18.00 |

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| Received: | | |
| Table Tennis Group | VH Rent - March | £75.00 |
| Table Tennis Group | VH Rent April & May | £135 |
| Bucks Council | Devolution Payment | £1,187.83 |
| Village Hall Rent | | £190.00 |
| HMRC | VAT Refund | £624.74 |
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| Balances at 4.4.24 | | |
| Mentmore PC Current Account | | £9,009.22 |
| Mentmore PC VH Account | | £17,530.58 |
| | | £26,539.80 |

C/040/24 Clerk's Report.

The end of year accounts are currently being audited by Trevor Beeches the Internal Auditor. The Parish Office will be closed from the 25th April for one week. The Chairman has mowed the verges to a standard to enable to contractor to start cutting the verges.

C/041/24 Meeting Dates

2024: 15th May (Annual Meetings), 5th June, 7th August, 2nd October and 4th December.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.