# Mount Bures Parish Council

<u>Minutes of Mount Bures Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30 P.M in the Village Hall, Mount Bures</u>

**Present:** Cllr Ian Woodman (Chairman), Cllr Hillary Bufton (Vice Chairman),

Cllr Michaela Harris, Cllr Fiona Willett, CBC Peter Chillingworth, 3 residents & the Parish

Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw.

20/154 Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Graham

20/155 Declaration of Members interests

None

**20/156 Public Open Forum** (Maximum 15 minutes)

A resident informed the meeting that she was not happy with the proposal that the Parish Council's should cut back tree branches from a Hornbeam Tree on the village green. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was looking into quotes to cut back the tree to make it more manageable in the future prior to discussion whether any work should be undertaken. Cllr Hillary Bufton will contact a local tree surgeon to get a quote for the work needed. The Chairman asked for this to be added to the next agenda. Another resident mentioned that the Horse Chestnut Tree might also require some attention.

A resident informed the meeting that she has environmental concerns relating to the development of the Old Pumping Station/Pumping House near their home. The resident was concerned that safe drinking water from the Water Authority's bore-hole might be affected by proposed sewage and waste water arrangements and that polluted water might be discharged into the adjacent ditch running to the river. The Resident reported that this has been an ongoing issue since 2017 when Anglian Water sold the site, which included a condition on removal of sewage. The Resident explained that planning applications for removal of conditions has recently been approved and that a licence from the Environment Agency for discharge of waste water would no longer be required and the issues not properly considered.

CBC Peter Chillingworth reported that planning officers are aware about this site and he is currently waiting on answers from them in relation to it. He suggested that if a concern was that the Environment Agency was not sufficiently engaged, it might be worth writing to the local MP (Bernard Jenkin) as this case was at a higher level than that of the Parish Council.

Chairman, Ian Woodman reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had not objected to the previous planning applications but would be likely to share valid concerns about sewage pollution issues and would wish to be kept informed as to whether these issues were being properly addressed.

**20/157 To approve the minutes of the last meeting** (8th September 2021)

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Hillary Bufton Seconded: Cllr Fiona Willett

**20/158 Visitors Report** (CBC Peter Chillingworth, CBC Nigel Chapman, ECC Lewis Barber)

Ward Councillors Report (Peter Chillingworth)

1. General

I am pleased to report that things in Colchester Borough Council are beginning to return

to something like normal, although many people are still working from home and I suspect this will become the norm for some. Illness and staff shortages are beginning to affect some departments such as the waste service, but it has so far managed to continue operating without significantly affecting resident's collections.

Full Council was held in the Moot Hall as the Council Chamber is still considered too cramped to allow safe seating. The Oyster Feast went ahead almost as normal, although we were all frisked for weapons as we arrived following the tragic shooting in Southend. Security arrangements will be stricter than normal for the Remembrance Day parade on 14th November. Councillors have all been given advice by the police on our personal safety when meeting the public in situations such as surgeries.

The recent budget announcement saw a sum of around £2.5m coming to Colchester for the renovation of parts of the Greenstead Ward, the Borough's most deprived area.

#### 2. Local Plan

The Inspector delivered his proposed modifications in late September and these are currently out for public consultation, the 6 weeks period is about to close. They can be found on the Council's planning website. If finally adopted by the Council as part of Section 2 of the Plan, that will be the final stage in this extended process and Colchester will finally have an up-to-date Local Plan!!

#### 3. Flooding

Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish Councils are considering the options available for the purchase of a movable flood protection barrier to allow pedestrian access to the village shop and Post Office when the Colne floods at the bridge. I hope to fund the project from my Locality Budget. Not only will this benefit residents living in those parishes, but also residents of Mount Bures who use the shop and PO. You will know however that the shop is on the market, so if it were to close, the equipment could still be stored and used elsewhere.

In addition, Chappel PC have applied to the Local Highway Panel to provide movable road signage for use by the bridge at times of flooding. Highways have given permission in principle for the PC to erect it when necessary.

#### 4. Old Pumping Station. Application 211697

I have been approached by a resident who lives close to the Old Pumping Station off Colchester Road following this application, which has yet to be determined by CBC. The resident is seriously concerned that Anglia Water, who sold the property has not control the subsequent operations required by the change of use comply with Environment Agency rules, and that EA and their agency are not policing these themselves. These concerns were raised with CBC who have to approve the various conditions regarding sewage disposal and water discharge. Planning officers have promised to look carefully at all aspects of the application before approving. Her concern is understandable and I have supported her approach to the planning officers. I mention this in my report, because the resident may speak tonight and I agreed the PC should be made aware of the situation, although the consultation period is long passed.

# **Peter Chillingworth (CBC)**

Cllr Ian Woodman informed the meeting that after several trials it was clear that textiles placed in blue bags would not be collected from Mount Bures unless Colchester Recycling were contacted first.. The Parish Clerk was actioned to put the necessary contact information in the next edition of the Mount.

# 20/159 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that Chappel Parish Council would like to join together with Mount Bures Parish Council in purchasing a VAS sign. It was agreed that a small meeting to discuss this should be arranged.

# **20/160** Finance

To approve payments in accordance with the Budget Payments for October/November 2021

Parish Clerk Salary	£270.46
Mileage Expenses	£21.60
HMRC Tax/Paye	£67.80
Lawn Mower Repairs	£60.00
EALC Chairman's Course - Day 1	£108.00
EALC Chairman's Course - Day 2	£108.00
EALC Chairman's Course - Day 3	£108.00
Website Design - New Website	£180.00
Total	£923.86

Proposed: Cllr Michaela Harris Seconded: Cllr Hillary Bufton

# 20/161 Planning/Housing

- 161.1 Applications for discussion at meeting None
- 161.2 Planning Applications Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting

**212727 - Takeleys, Fordham Road, Mount Bures –** Addition of Carers accommodation within existing annexe

**Comments:** No Objections

161.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting None

#### 20/162 Dangerous Corner - Junction of Brook House Lane & Colchester Road

Cllr Ian Woodman actioned the Parish Clerk to find out the latest information on this junction from ECC Lewis Barber, Bures PC & the Local Highways Panel.

#### 20/163 Mobile Speed Sign

This was discussed under the Clerk's Report 20/159

#### 20/164 Crossing Cottage

Cllr Ian Woodman reported that the over grown garden had now been comprehensively cleared but sadly a lot of rubbish including what looked like asbestos remained behind locked gates. The Parish Clerk was actioned to contact the enforcement officer to see if it was possible to obtain details of the owner, so that volunteers could potentially maintain the garden as a more attractive wildlife site.

#### 20/165 Footpath 34

Cllr Ian Woodman informed the meeting that nothing had been heard from Essex Highways in relation to this footpath. It was agreed that Cllr Hillary Bufton would walk this footpath in the next few days and report if the work had been completed or not.

# **20/166** Flooding Issues in Mount Bures

The Parish Clerk was actioned to contact ECC Lewis Barber for an update on when the officers would come out to meet and discuss the issue of flooding.

# 20/167 Wormingford Gliding Club - Power Days

Cllr Ian Woodman reported he had attended a meeting with the gliding club, which had been very helpful and the chairman of the gliding club had offered to come and speak at our Parish Council meeting in March 2022. The Gliding Club said that they as a club wanted to work to mitigate any issues with local residents.

# 20/168 New Website

The Parish Clerk reported that the new website was now up and running. Cllr Ian Woodman actioned the Parish Clerk to look into having a set email for the Parish Council rather than using personal email addresses.

### **20/169** Precept

The Parish Clerk handed out information on the Precept for 2022 for councillors to look at in advance of the meeting in January 2022 where the precept would be set for the year.

#### 20/170 Proposed Meeting dates 2022

The Parish council meeting dates for 2022 were agreed by all. The Parish Clerk was actioned to put the dates into the next edition of the Mount.

Proposed: Cllr Ian Woodman

Seconded: Cllr Hillary Bufton

# 20/171 Tree (Village Green)

Was discussed under 20/156.

#### 20/172 Queens Platinum Anniversary 2022

Cllr Ian Woodman informed the meeting that events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary were happening across the country on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 with a lunch being suggested. Cllr Fiona Willett volunteered to contact the Church Parochial Parish Council on behalf of the Parish Council to set this in motion. Cllr Michaela Harris informed the meeting that she would be willing to help and work with Cllr Fiona Willett on this. The Parish Clerk was actioned to put a notice in the Mount.

#### 20/173 Training/Events

173.1 Reports on attended events

Chairman's Training Days 1- Dates: 2nd November 2021 – the chairman reported that this had been a very useful course and that he was looking forward to the other two chairman days to follow.

173.2 Nominations for new events - None

# **20/174 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda** - None

20/175	<b>To confirm date and time of next meeting</b> Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.	
Signed		Chairman
Date		