

# MOUNT BURES PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Kevin B. Money  
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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. November 2023 at 7.30pm in Mount Bures Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs I. Woodman (Chair), F. Willett (Vice-Chair), H. Bufton and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk).  
 There were also 1 member of the public present

**094/2023 Chairman's welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**095/2023 Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr M. Graham

**096/2023 Declaration of Members interests**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda. **None Declared**

**097/2023 To approve the minutes of the last meeting of Mount Bures Parish Council**

To receive and agree the minutes of the MBPC Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. **All Agreed**

**098/2023 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**

- Environmental Issues – policy for MBPC including Dark skies policy

This item was considered under Agenda item 105/2023.

Hildegard Hill informed the Council that the deadline for contributions to the Christmas edition of 'The Mount' was around 2 weeks from the date of the Parish Council Meeting e.g. before the end of November.

**099/2023 Training**

The Clerk informed Councillors of any training sessions

**100/2023 Visitors Report**

No report was given

**101/2023 Planning Applications**

**232531** - Meadow House Craigs Lane Mount Bures Essex CO8 5AN

New single storey detached garage

**RESOLVED:** The Council would make no objection to this application providing no close neighbours raised any objections with the Council.

### FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**231800** - Land Adjacent To Hammonds Farm Chappel Road Fordham Colchester CO6 3LS

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed building. **SEE BELOW**

**232322** - Coes Lower Road Mount Bures Essex CO8 5BH

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing residential use of the land edged in red. See supporting statement and plans.

**THIS IS NOT A PLANNING APPLICATION** and comments about the acceptability or otherwise of the physical development / use of land cannot be taken into account by CBC

The Council noted that it was not able to offer any information in relation to this application.

**102/2023 Planning Decisions made by CBC affecting Mount Bures**

**231800** - Hammonds Farm, Chappel Road, Fordham, Colchester, CO6 3LS

Prior Approval Required - **Refused**

**103/2023 Finance**

- To receive the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2023

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2023

- To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2023/2024

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2023/2024

- To approve payments for October & November 2023 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the

Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

**104/2023 Budget 2024/2025**

Councillors discussed at length the anticipated expenditure for 2024/2025. This resulted in a provisional budget of £4061 which was likely to equate to a precept of £3409; an increase of £109 or 3.2%. The Council will consider the budget again at its meeting in January including in the light of information about the final level of grant from Colchester City Council.

**105/2023 Information Exchange**

Speed signs in Mount Bures require straightening. The Council would raise this with Essex Highways who were responsible for road signs.

Hall Road Flooding issues. It was reported that the Highways Authority had carried out further works on the drains on the old road adjacent to the telephone kiosk on the Village Green and that it appeared that this had been successful in unblocking the drain there.

Hedges and Ditches/Dark Skies. Cllrs noted that during the year they had received representations from local residents about the need for landowners to take action to keep roadside ditches clear and hedges trimmed, and also on the desirability of maintaining the beauty of the rural environment by minimising light pollution. While these were not matters for which the Parish Council was directly responsible, Cllrs agreed that they would consider at their next meeting whether and how the Council might usefully promote good practice on these matters to the benefit of residents generally.

Hall Road flooding issues

Hedges and Ditches policy – Residents and landowners to clear ditches and cut hedges

Dark skies policy – Residents to be careful not to disturb neighbours with lights being left on at night.

**106/2023 Items for next agenda**

Budget 2024/2025

Hedges and Ditches - Dark skies procedures

**107/2023 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. January 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Councillors to note 2024 meeting dates 12.03.24: 14.05.24: 09.07.24: 10.09.24: 12.11.24**

**108/2023 Closure of the meeting**

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.25pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*I Woodman*

9<sup>th</sup>. January 2024

**Ian Woodman  
Chairman**