

Mount Bures Parish Council

Minutes of Mount Bures Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30 P.M via Zoom

Present: Cllr Ian Woodman (Chairman), Cllr Douglas O'Neill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mark Graham, Cllr Martin Baird, Cllr Hillary Bufton, CBC Peter Chillingworth, 3 Residents & The Parish Clerk Mr G. Walkingshaw.

20/76 Welcome by Chairman and apologies for absence
None

20/77 Declaration of Members interests
None

20/78 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)
None

20/79 To approve the minutes of the last meeting
The minutes of the meeting dated 13th January 2021 were approved.
Minutes signed by the Chairman
Proposed: Cllr Mark Graham Seconded: Cllr Hillary Bufton

20/80 Visitors Report (CBC Peter Chillingworth)

Ward Councillor's Report

1. General

It is very pleasing to note the rapid decline in Covid cases both locally and in Essex and the East of England. Many of us will have had our vaccination and the government's programme for reopening after lockdown has been announced. Never the less, I hope we will all encourage our contacts to continue following the guidelines until the appropriate dates when life can begin to look more normal again.

The government has announced that the local elections will go ahead on May 6th and campaigning is to be allowed as long as social distancing and other rules are rigorously followed. Political parties will be able to deliver leaflets and carry out door-to-door canvassing from 8th March. The rules can be seen on the government's website; I understand masks must be worn in polling stations, and you must bring your own pencil or pen! In Colchester Borough, we shall have three elections, for County where Anne Brown's successor will be elected, CBC where Christopher Arnold's successor will be elected and for the Police and Crimes Commissioner.

Following the adoption of the Council Budget for the next financial year, I have to report that Locality Budgets for Councillors will be halved for 2021, meaning I shall only have £1000 to allocate, with £3000 for the whole ward.

CBC is pleased that the bid for improvements to the town under the government's Town Centres Fund has been partially successful. The Chancellor announced as part of the budget that Colchester will receive £18.2m of the £26m requested. This will assist many major projects such as improvements to the public spaces around Jumbo and the St Nicholas Square project.

2. Local Plan

The Extraordinary Full Council met on 1st February and adopted Pt 1 of the Local Plan; a major milestone. This opens the way for Pt 2 of the Plan to be considered by a new inspector during April. Tendering's will be considered shortly and Braintree's inspection will follow Colchester.

3. Tree Planting

As part of the Council decision to become carbon-neutral by 2030, it plans to plant 200,000 trees in the Borough over 10 years, and this commenced during the 2019/20 planting season. Due to the dry spring and summer in 2020, many of the trees planted around the Borough have failed and are now being replaced. The Borough's annual "Trees for Years" February give-away was postponed this year until the autumn planting season, due to Covid restrictions.

4. Flooding

Some of you might have been affected by the flooding by the bridge in Chappel/Wakes Colne during the winter. Those Parish Councils are trying to arrange with County Highways to allow local signage at such times to warn drivers and stop reckless actions. In addition they are working to ensure that there is adequate protection for the Post Office/Shop.

Peter Chillingworth

9th March 2021

20/81

Parish Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the Internal Audit date would be Wednesday 21st April 2021.

20/82

Finance

To approve payments in accordance with the Budget Payments for February & March 2021

The following payments were approved:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Parish Clerk Salary | £270.66 |
| HMRC – Tax/Paye | <u>£67.60</u> |
| Total | <u>£338.26</u> |

20/83

Planning/Housing

83.1 Applications for discussion at meeting
None

83.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting
None

83.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting
202513 – Mount Cottage, Hall Road, Mount Bures – conversion of existing-detached garage

Decision: Approve conditional

202523 – Josselyns Cottage, Bells Hill, Mount Bures – Proposed single storey front and side extension

Decision: Approve Conditional

202592 – Air Strip, Fairfields Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford – Change the use of a 0.4 ha soil bunded concrete slab from Agricultural to Outdoor Caravan Storage for up to 85 mobile caravans for storage when they are in use

Decision: Withdrawn

202863 – Herds Pasture, Old Barn Road, Mount Bures – Extension, refurbishment and change of use to a studio barn (in ancillary use to residential dwelling) to separate dwelling house

Decision: Refuse

20/84

Financial Risk Assessment Policy March 2021

To adopt a Financial Risk Assessment Policy for the Parish Council

Cllr Ian Woodman suggested that a section on zoom meetings be added to the Financial Risk Assessment. It was proposed to approve the Financial Risk Assessment Policy as it stands and add an amendment for zoom meetings at the next meeting of the Parish council.

Proposed: Cllr Doug O' Neill

Seconded: Cllr Mark Graham

Agreed by all

20/85

Essex & Suffolk Gliding Club (Wormingford)

Cllr Ian Woodman informed the meeting that he had made contact with Steve Jones (Chairman of Essex & Suffolk Gliding Club). Steve will make contact with the Parish Council to invite us to meetings and to give information to the Parish Council on "power days" where they launch by aerotow under planning permission and power planes on the 4 days a year they are allowed.

The Gliding Club thought local parishes would be invited to a meeting, perhaps in July 2021 once Covid restrictions allowed. It would be important that Mount Bures Parish Council were represented at any meeting.

20/86

Footpath 34

Cllr Ian Woodman reported that two small gates had been put across footpath 34 at Hushwing Farm (next to Hammonds Farm) where a mobile home has been installed. The gates form part of a picket fence around a small garden in front of the home and while it is possible to walk through them they have obstructed the footpath.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that Essex Highways had been contacted in relation to the signage for the footpath (Reference Number: 2705068). He further reported that he had contacted an enforcement officer at Colchester Borough Council and was awaiting a reply at this present time. The Parish Clerk was actioned to chase this up.

Cllr Ian Woodman reported that the Parish Council were disappointed at this obstruction, since they had supported planning permission on the property previously with the proviso that the footpath be unobstructed during any construction work and signage be put in place to show the footpath route.

It was understood that the owners were looking for planning permission for a house on the property at a later stage and that the mobile home could be temporary.

20/87

Flooding

Cllr Hillary Bufton informed the meeting that driveways built over and obstructing drainage ditches in any number of locations has meant that excess water has been running down the roads and destroying tarmac.

Cllr Mark Graham asked if it was highways responsibility?

Cllr Ian Woodman said he understood that ditches are the responsibility of the landowner. Where owners have driveways, the responsibility for maintaining drainage lies with the property owner. The small ditches or “grips” carrying water from the road to the ditch are the responsibility of Essex Highways.

Cllr Ian Woodman suggested that any complaints in relation to driveways should be redirected to Essex Highways. If a major concern affecting a number of people, then the Parish Council would write to Essex Highways on their behalf.

Cllr Ian Woodman informed the meeting that the Highway Authority had successfully completed work on drains at the entrance to Craigs Lane. There was now a further issue with flooding on the short section of disused road at the village green. He and the immediate householder planned to try rodding the drain in an attempt to clear the issue before contacting Essex Highways. It was suggested that photos/videos of any flooding would be very useful to the Parish Council.

CBC Peter Chillingworth left the meeting at 8.32 p.m.

20/88

Training/Events

88.1 Reports on attended events
None

88.2 Nominations for new events
None

20/89

Information Exchange/Items for next agenda

Cllr Ian Woodman has been in contact with the Arch Company who is responsible for Crossing Cottage. The company will cost up clearing the garden and will make further contact with Cllr Ian Woodman.

Cllr Ian Woodman had suggested to the company that local residents might be prepared to keep the grass area around the cottage mown once the brambles had been cleared by the Arch Company in order to keep the area looking neat.

A resident asked whether it could be used for living or for rental?

Cllr Ian Woodman reported that he understood that the company had a 99-year lease on the property, which means they cannot sell it but that renting could be an option. The property is however, in poor condition and it would require considerable expenditure to make it habitable. Cllrs discussed ideas for using the property including turning it into a shop if anyone were interested in running a shop in the village.

Cllr Mark Graham asked whether it could be turned into a shop?

Cllr Ian Woodman asked for any further ideas to be shared with the Parish Council.

Cllr Ian Woodman asked about the development of the Parish Council facebook site. The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that he had experienced difficulties getting it up and running. A resident suggested contacting Bures facebook page for advice.

Cllr Ian Woodman informed the meeting that on the audit page of the website still had an issue with requiring a password. The Parish Clerk was actioned to look into this.

The Parish Council was saddened to hear about the death of John Cowling who had worked exceptionally on behalf of the Church & Village, Cllrs wanted to record their appreciation of all his work on behalf of Mount Bures Village over very many years.

20/90

To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.42 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....