

# Mount Bures Parish Council

## Minutes of Mount Bures Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 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, - Residents & The Parish Clerk Mr G. Walkingshaw.
- 20/91 Election of Chairman (sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office)**  
Chairman Ian Woodman was re-elected as Chairman of Mount Bures Parish Council.  
Proposed: Cllr Mark Graham                      Seconded: Cllr Doug O'Neill  
Agreed by all. Acceptance of Office form signed by Chairman.
- 20/92 Welcome and apologies for absence**  
None
- 20/93 Declaration of Members interests**  
None
- 20/94 Election of Vice Chairman**  
Vice Chairman Hillary Bufton was elected as Vice Chairman of Mount Bures Parish Council.  
Proposed: Cllr Martin Baird                      Seconded: Cllr Mark Grahame  
Agreed by all. Acceptance of Office form signed by Chairman.
- 20/95 Election of Councillors for representatives**  
Colchester Association of Local Councils (CALC)- Cllr Ian Woodman  
Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) - Cllr Ian Woodman  
Essex Highways – Cllr Martin Baird  
Recycling & Transport – Cllr Hillary Bufton  
Parish Paths Partnership – Cllr Ian Woodman  
Emergency Planning – Cllr Mark Graham & the Parish Clerk  
Website - Cllr Doug O'Neill & the Parish Clerk
- 20/96 To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control (Internal Audit)**  
Chairman to sign Certificate of Exemption and add minute reference  
Chairman to sign Annual Governance Statement after approval at meeting, to date and add minute reference  
Chairman to sign Accounting Statement after approval at meeting, to date and add minute reference  
Chairman to sign Bank Reconciliation after approval at meeting  
The Chairman, Ian Woodman signed the Internal Audit Documents for 2020/2021  
Agreed by all
- 20/97 To review Standing Orders**  
The Standing Orders were reviewed by the Parish Council and adopted 05/05/21  
Agreed by all.
- 20/98 To review Financial Regulations**  
The Financial Regulations were reviewed by the Parish Council and adopted 05/05/21  
Agreed by all.

- 20/99**      **To Review Financial Risk Assessment**  
The Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed by the Parish Council and adopted 05/05/21  
Agreed by all.
- 20/100**     **Public Open Forum** (Maximum 15 minutes)  
None
- 20/101**     **To approve the minutes of the last meeting** (10<sup>th</sup> March 2021)  
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.  
Proposed: Cllr Doug O'Neill                      Seconded: Cllr Martin Baird  
Agreed by all
- 20/102**     **Visitors Report** (CBC Peter Chillingworth, ECC Anne Brown)  
Ward Councillor's Report  
**1. General**  
My apologies for missing your Annual Parish meeting in April, no excuses, I forgot as it was not on my calendar!  
With over half the population vaccinated and the first stage in easing lockdown underway, it is good to visit shops and meet friends and family out-of-doors again. If all goes well we shall be celebrating the next stages of easing as we get to May and June. The local elections in England take place on Thursday and some of the Borough Council results seem to be on a knife edge. Polling will take place in the Village Hall as usual, but with masks, social distancing in place. Bring your own pen or pencil! Because of the elections Council activity is not great this month!  
The High Court has now ruled that the Government's decision not to introduce new primary legislation to continue virtual local authority meetings was a political issue and not one it could alter. The case was brought by Hertfordshire County Council and others. This is a blow to many councils. Following elections legally LA's have 21 days to hold their AGM's. In Colchester, for example, a face-to-face meeting cannot be held in the Council Chamber because it is not big enough for social distancing and must be held somewhere large enough. I have yet to hear where, perhaps Charter Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Needless to say it is equally disappointing for Parish Councils, like you, most of ours are bringing their May meeting forward.
- 2. Local Plan**  
A new inspector commenced the virtual examination of the CBC Local Plan Part 2 on 20<sup>th</sup> April and was due to complete by 30<sup>th</sup> April. I have yet to hear how this was carried out. As a Councillor, I have heard very little. I assume the inspector asked some parties to present further information, but 8 working days seems very brief for what there is to be considered, including planning policies, retail and commercial development and all housing allocations (other than the Garden communities) such as those in Chappel and Great Tey. For example, it includes the highly controversial 1000 houses on Middlewick Ranges.  
I hope to attend your virtual meeting on Wednesday and am happy to answer questions about these or other Council matters. I may miss the start as Wakes Colne PC are also holding a meeting that evening starting at 7.15 p.m.
- 20/103**     **Clerk's Report**  
None
- 20/104**     **Finance**  
To approve payments in accordance with the Budget  
Payments for April & May 2021

Parish Clerk Salary	£270.66
Mileage Expenses	£21.60
Heelis & Lodge Internal Audit	<u>£58.00</u>
Total	<u>£350.26</u>

**20/105 Planning/Housing**

105.1 Applications for discussion at meeting None

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

105.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting None

**20/106 Financial Risk Assessment Policy March 2021**

The Financial Risk Assessment Policy for the Parish Council was approved. Agreed by all.

**20/107 To Review Parish Council Risk Assessment**

Cllr Doug O’Neill was appointed councillor to review the risk assessment policy on behalf of the Parish Council

**20/108 Footpath 34**

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that Colchester Borough Council Planning Enforcement Officer had looked into this matter on behalf of the Parish Council. He had checked the planning approval for the site and stated that there were no conditions relating to the footpath. Therefore, they would be unable to help us. The Parish Clerk was actioned to chase this up with Essex County Council. Agreed by all.

**20/109 Footpath Maintenance**

The Parish Council agreed to continue using Ian Andrewartha for servicing of the mower, maintenance of footpaths (up to a maximum of £375) & cutting of hedgerows (Phillips Path/Brook House Lane Path) Agreed by all.

**20/110 Training/Events**

110.1 Reports on attended events

110.2 Nominations for new events

The Chairman, Ian Woodman expresses an interest on the new councillors course. The Parish Clerk was actioned to look into this on his behalf.

**20/111 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda**

Wildlife Proposals (Hildegard Hall) to be added to the next agenda.

The Chairman informed the meeting he would contact Pam regarding the Village Hall.

**20/112 To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting finished at 8.23 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....