

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th January 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: R James, G Slora,
A Parry, C Monks,
E Edwards, B Keavy,
District Councillor: A Parry
County Councillor: A Parry
Clerk : P Routly

4 members of the public

Meeting held as Video Conference due to Covid 19

1. Public participation

Karen Marshall of the Old Garden House Moreton Paddox introduced herself and explained that due to personal circumstances her family needed to downsize and would be putting in an outline planning application for a single storey dwelling in their rear garden. Neighbours had been informed. Cllr thanked her for the advanced notice.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Gordon.

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

b) Freedom of Information – report on any new requests

The Clerk explained that she had one request last week from Paul Waller of Daventry (he sent the same to all Warwickshire Councils), he was asking how we conducted virtual meetings, as Daventry have been running a ‘closed’ zoom meetings excluding certain members of the public. The Clerk explained she responded that ours were totally open, and had not heard any more. WALC have also sent a response advising meetings should be open to the public.

c) Code of Conduct / DPI

No updates declared.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 16th November 2020

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th November were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Keavy, seconded by Cllr Parry, and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry pre-circulated her report:-

SDC Budgets and Council Tax

The economic impact of Covid-19 on the district as a whole has been severe and the net shortfall against the 2020/21 budget is already projected at more than £4m without the known effects of Lockdown 3 and reflects the impact of the pandemic on fees and charges originally budgeted. Part of the net revenue shortfall in 2020/21 will be financed by the release of £2.355m from ear-marked reserves into general reserves.

The introduction of charges for the Garden Waste Service will be implemented from April 2021 together with increases to off-street parking fees.

Expenditure for 20/21 has been reduced by £236k which includes savings from joint working appointments with Warwick District Council (WDC) and decisions not to fill a number of vacant posts. Working more closely with WDC is currently estimated to provide savings of £1.25m over the next five years and SDC plans to accelerate opportunities with WDC which deliver added value benefits to residents.

Council Tax is likely to increase by the maximum allowed by £5 per household next year and by 2% per annum thereafter, ie SDC Council Tax for a Band D property would increase in April 2021 from £144.12 to £149.12 per annum.

In terms of the Council Tax 'cake', SDC only receives 7.5% of Council Tax paid by residents as Warwickshire County Council has 77%, the Police 12.3% and Towns/Parishes 3.2%

New Waste Contract

SDC is to enter into a joint waste contract with Warwick District Council, known as the 123+ service. This decision was ratified by full Council in December and is now subject to Warwick DC adopting the same policy position.

There were four waste streams to be considered; dry recyclate, green or garden waste, food waste and black bin domestic waste (residual), and early soft marketing testing had indicated that to maximise efficiency and secure competitive bids, the service design needed to be the same across the two Councils. The 123+ service design comprises:

- 1** weekly separate food waste collection;
 - 2** weekly mixed recycling collection in a wheelie bin;
 - 3** weekly general residual waste black bin collection in a 140, 180 or 240 litre bin;
- plus an optional 2-weekly chargeable garden waste service. (Stratford-on-Avon District Council had already approved this and would commence on 1 April 2021, having delayed implementation due to the Covid-19 pandemic). The disposal of nappies and adult pads is also being considered for regular collection.

It was noted that the proposal of a 123+ service would be for core properties. Bespoke solutions would be made for communal, black bag and urban properties. Further noted was that the weekly food collection was recommended in anticipation of the pending Government Waste Strategy.

Full details of the contract will become clear should Warwick DC adopt the same policy and the salient points will be shared with you and communicated to the public in due course.

Green Waste

From April 2021, Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be introducing a charge for the collection of garden waste. The current cost of providing the service free for all properties in the district is £1,152,525 a year. The introduction of a charge is part of a package of measures to offset a cut in funding from central Government.

The annual charge is £40 for each green bin, however, if residents sign up from now until 28 February 2021, there is an early bird offer of £35 per green bin.

Householders who pay to have their garden waste taken away will be issued with a non-transferable permit to attach to their green bin. Householders who choose not to take part in the scheme have the choice of home composting or taking their garden waste to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

For more information please visit [Garden Waste Service | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Gypsy and Traveller Plan

In December Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet agreed the draft version of its Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.

The SPD is one of a number of SPDs that accompanies the Core Strategy, and provides detailed advice and guidance to applicants when submitting planning applications relating to Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation. When adopted, it will be used by Stratford-on-Avon District Council to help reach decisions on whether to approve or refuse planning applications.

The consultation draft sets out the need for additional accommodation within the District and identifies areas where new Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites may be suitable, subject to planning permission, as well as guidance on what any new sites should look like in respect of their design and layout.

The SPD does not allocate specific land for new permanent sites as this can only be done through a higher level policy document. Prepared as an interim measure, the contents of the SPD will be subsumed into a Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan in due course. The Council has started work on a Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and is currently exploring options to identify new permanent sites.

The draft Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople SPD will now go out for a six week period of public consultation between 7 January and 19 February 2021. During this time the draft SPD will be available to view online at www.stratford.gov.uk/gandt along with details of how comments can be made. There are no sites proposed in the Wellesbourne area.

Public Open Space

At Full Council, consideration was given to a proposal to revise and update the mechanisms used to deliver and maintain Public Open Space (POS) in Stratford-on-Avon District.

Concerns had been raised by many residents in new developments regarding the 'hidden' charges levied by private management companies appointed by developers to maintain the POS. Furthermore, the quality of the maintenance work carried out was often of concern.

The proposal sought to eliminate the risk of future ‘fleecehold’ charges being levied on householders and to improve the quality of POS within new developments.

The Council has resolved that, in the event that a Town or Parish Council decide not to take ownership of a designated public open space in relation to any relevant planning permission granted after 1 January 2021, Stratford-on-Avon District Council would generally take ownership of the land and responsibilities for maintenance and that this be adopted as part of the Council’s Policy Framework. This decision will ensure that all future POS is properly kept and maintained.

6. County Councillors’ Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry pre-circulated her report:-

COVID-18 Update

Two weeks into Lockdown 3 and figures released on 15 January show that for the SDC area the seven day rate/100,000 is now showing signs of levelling – 344.4/100,000 (338.2 last week) and the over 60’s day rate is 271/100,000 (278.2 last week) (with 113 cases over the last seven days), which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 497.4/100,000, North Warwickshire 386.1/100,000, Warwick 324.2/100,000 and Rugby 527.8/100,000.

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has continued to increase which is not unexpected with 130 (107) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 4 (5) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 8 Jan). The capacity has consequently decreased to 10% from 12%, inspite of a small increase of ‘open’ beds up 369 to from 364.

New Testing Facility

A new Lateral Flow Testing facility has been launched at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford and is for people without any Covid symptoms. Booking a test is online via [Stratford-upon-Avon COVID Community Testing Events | Eventbrite](#)

Vaccinations

The vaccine rollout has now started and gaining momentum in GP practices together with the Hospital sites; and WCC is involved with the setting up of a mass vaccination site which will be located in Stoneleigh in due course. This will complement another mass vaccination facility in Birmingham at Millennium Point which is being used as an alternative facility offering earlier access, however residents may prefer to await an invitation to go either to the medical centre in Wellesbourne or at Southam Clinic – depending on which GP practice they are registered with.

Essentially the three hospital hubs will be using the Pfizer vaccine and local GP’s will be administering the OxfordAZ vaccine. Roving teams are carrying out vaccinations in care homes amongst staff and residents and it is anticipated to have all care homes in Warwickshire vaccinated by the end of the month, as this is a priority area.

Waste and Recycling

The Household Waste and Recycling Sites in Wellesbourne and Leamington will continue to be operated via the booking system throughout the Lockdown period, unless there are changes to the guidelines by the Government.

Local Elections

A decision on whether the local county elections are held in May is still awaited, but the local elections are likely to be deferred until a bit later in the year, however it is noted that residents in Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox will be asked to vote at Ashorne Village Hall as the village hall in Moreton Morrell is too small to facilitate safe Covid-19 practice with the single access door. Residents without transport are encouraged to register for the Free postal vote system in these circumstances.

7. Warwickshire College Report

WCG submitted the following report:-

Farm

We are currently in the process of completing the LEAF (linking environment and farming) marque for the farm. This accreditation is an additional step in improving the environment and biodiversity on the farm and will be an excellent resource for the students learning.

The 515 ewes were pregnancy scanned last week and scanned at 202%, this means we are expecting over 1000 lambs which are due to start on the 3rd of March. We have also recently put out some farmland bird feeders to feed the songbirds over the winter months.

Estates

We are continuing to maintain the measures put in place to ensure the site is Covid-Secure.

Lighting on the camera tower on Lime Tree Drive has been upgraded to ensure the camera is operational 24/7 for site security. Car park and security lighting has been repaired where necessary with all fittings being upgraded to LED to assist in reducing our carbon footprint.

Resurfacing works are planned for February half term, with the potential of being moved forward depending on lockdown restrictions. The areas to be resurfaced include the road leading to Arden Carpark and the concourse opposite Cotswold Court leading up to the block pathing at the Residential white gates.

The College this year received a grant allocation for capital works. The grant has been used at Moreton Morrell for works including; repairs to Cotswold Court sash windows, refurbishment of Cotswold Court toilets, replacement of the Refectory doors and the redecoration of Cotswold Court. All works are either underway or planned for completion during this academic year.

Workshop lighting in the Agricultural Engineering building has been upgraded with all units being replaced with LED fittings. This work not only improves working conditions but also reduces our energy usage. The Fire alarms in Avon & Jubilee residential halls have also been upgraded with new control panels.

Moreton Hall

Unfortunately the plans to restore and transform Moreton Hall into a four-star training hotel have been put on hold due to the impact of Covid-19. Whilst the College had secured funding support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this was dependent upon the college being able to raise additional funding from alternative sources. The pandemic has resulted in organisations not seeking to invest in the project and the hospitality and tourism industry has been hard hit regionally and nationally diminishing any prospect of industry support. We are very disappointed to have had

to make this decision regarding the Hall and we recognise there was a great appetite among our supporters to see the building restored to its former glory.

The College is exploring the potential sale of the Gate House Lodge, a residential property at the college which is not currently utilised by the college and not part of the Moreton Hall plans.

Lastly, in order to maintain the college's liquidity and to ensure that we can withstand future challenges, we will be selling a plot of agricultural land at our Nethermorton farm. The field is at the edge of the College estate and will be sold for agricultural/equestrian purposes. The field is currently arable and will not directly impact on the student experience. We remain fully committed to the agriculture and countryside management curriculum at the College. After careful consideration we do not feel the sale of this land detrimentally impacts the College or our students. The farm continues to work well and the Genus food trials, for instance, are going from strength to strength.

Staff and Students

The Leamington FC Academy at Moreton Morrell continues to go from strength to strength with programmes running at level 2 and 3 this year. The College has also approved the introduction of a HNC in Sport from 2021 which will allow aspiring footballers with the Academy to continue their studies alongside football beyond age 18. Applications for the Sport HNC are already sufficient to make this provision viable.

Amongst the Academy's successes are the recruitment of two teenage French football prodigies Rayan Pierre and Thomas Kavuliviko who have led the LFC under-19s side to victory in the early games of the season.

In December students were given the opportunity to talk with Marc Abraha (more commonly known as 'Marc the Vet') one of the nation's most prominent animal welfare campaigners as part of a special virtual session. He held an open conversation session with the students who had the chance to ask him questions about his high-profile animal welfare campaigning in the UK. The session was organised by Helen Coleman, HE subject lead for Animal Behaviour and Training, Canine Therapy and Rehabilitation degree programmes

Applications during the Autumn for Moreton Morrell have been very positive, with FE applications up by 19% so far and HE by 40%, driven by greater interest in Equine and Animal welfare courses in particular, although all subject areas have seen increased applications. Some of the animal-related increases may be a direct result of covid lockdowns in 2020 and the increased interest in animals which this generated.

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk

i) Additional Grass matting – Clerk

The Clerk explained she had not ordered the additional matting yet as she did not want it delivered if the Lenghtsman could not lay due to Covid restrictions. She said she would ascertain when he would be available and order. *Clerk to follow up.*

ii) Inspection regime – Clerk

The Clerk explained she had booked a one-off annual inspection from the 'Play Inspection Company', but also had a quote for a 3 times a year inspection with minor maintenance plus one 'annual' inspection and maintenance for £648 from Kompan and recommended

acceptance. The proposal was made by Cllr Edwards , seconded by Cllr Monks and carried unanimously. *Clerk to place order.*

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead

i) Local Housing need update – Sarah Brooke-Taylor

Sarah joined the meeting and explained that the village registered need for alternative housing inc social had risen from 12 households in Nov 2019 to 16 now. She explained that social housing companies like WRHA could develop a site in the village that could be put forward under the exceptional need criteria but would need the council's support. The next step would be to identify sites and approach landowners. A discussion was held including the fact that Orbit are selling old housing stock inc bungalows. Sarah explained that WRHA operated in a different manner to Orbit. Cllrs discussed the proposal and agreed that Sarah should proceed in approaching land owners, and feed back at a future meeting .

ii) Enquiry from Warwickshire College Group – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry explained that she had been approached by a developer who was re-looking at the Triangle field on behalf of WCG . She explained to them that any proposal would need the support of the Council and in particular secure the playing field.

Cllr Edwards explained a letter had been received from the college explaining that due to funding and Covid the development of Moreton Hall was not to be pursued at the moment , and a piece of college land was to be sold to raised funds.

c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Gordon lead

i) Update

Cllr Gordon was not present but had submitted a report stating there were no updates.

d) Village Appearance – All

i) Update

ii) Street light upgrade - Clerk

The Clerk confirmed the LED street light upgrade had been ordered , and we have the WCC grant.

The issue of the missing letter box was raised, the Clerk explained she had written with no response to the Post Office. Mac Howarth stated he had also written online and had a response stating that it would be replaced at some point, but no time could be given due to Covid. he agreed to circulate the response.

Damage to the corner by lorries by the missing letter box was also raised, it was confirmed that WCC would not invest to improve. Other suggestions were made , but Paul Thandi confirmed the area had many electrical cables below and access to those could not be covered.

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead

i) Update

Cllr Slora explained there were some issues with access at Little Morrell to be investigated. Cllr Edwards raised the issue of developing a 'more' graphical footpath leaflet for the village. It was agreed to explore further and could be tied in with the pub re-opening.

f) Village Hall and Church – Cllr Keavy lead

i) Hall next steps

Cllr Edwards explained her husband David had put his name forward to the hall committee and was awaiting next steps.

Cllr Keavy confirmed he had spoken to the hall committee about the further Covid grants but had no confirmation they had applied.

Cllr Slora informed the meeting the Church has a new Vicar.

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

None.

10. New items

a) Banking update and options

The Clerk explained that recently a Safeguarding review had to be held with HSBC, this had taken a year to organise due to Covid and their bureaucracy. The Clerk thanked Cllr Parry for conducting the review. As a result of the review Cllr Parry suggested the council needed to move forward with online banking (now permitted for councils) and suggested the Clerk should make an application. The Clerk stated she had also investigated moving to Unity Trust Bank that specialised in local authorities. After discussion it was agreed to persist with HSBC for the time being. Cllr Parry proposed that the Clerk applies to HSBC for online banking, be appointed the 'Primary User', and have authority to make online payments to an individual limit of £1000 per payment, after Council approval. Secondary users would be the existing signatories. This was seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously. *Clerk to make the application.*

11. Planning

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

None.

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

20/02759/FUL Two storey rear extension and new detached garage. With solar panels to side facing roof slope. The Old Post Office Main Street Moreton Morrell CV35 9AL. **No Objection sent**

20/03253/FUL Erection of 1.5 Storey side extension to replace existing single storey garage The Russetts 1A Brook Lane Moreton Morrell CV35 9AT. **Support sent**

20/03313/FUL & 20/03310/FUL Additional flat roof light to planning permission 17/01496/FUL

Brookside Brook Lane Moreton Morrell CV35 9AT. **Support sent**

20/03460/FUL Change of use of first and second floors into letting bedrooms and diversification of existing pub use to involve the sale of food on the premises. Alterations to the building to comprise adaptations to front, side and rear elevation fenestration and doors and the construction of a timber canopy/pergola to rear beer garden. The Black Horse Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AR **Support sent**

c. District Decisions for information

20/02960/TREE T1 - ash – Remove. The Black Horse Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AR. Tree works approved

20/02785/FUL Propose Expansion of commercial storage yard and erection of new building (revised design to that approved under 20/01497/FUL) to re-locate the covered storage/office area and amend the roof) (part retrospective). Abbotscroft, Fosse Way, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9DF. Permission with conditions.

20/03253/FUL Erection of 1.5 Storey side extension to replace existing single storey garage The Russetts 1A Brook Lane Moreton Morrell CV35 9AT. Permission with conditions.

12. Finance

a. Approval of payments (to be circulated)

The following payments were proposed by Cllr Slora, seconded by Cllr Parry, and approved unanimously.

1.	WCC Street light repair	£116.00 (paid)
2.	Kompan Final payment	£17228.24 (paid)
3.	P Routly Salary	£725.26
4.	P Routly Expenses – Sept/Oct	£125.12
5.	BT Hall wifi Nov/Dec (P Routly)	£59.98
6.	EON Street Lightselec – Nov / Dec	£209.85

b. Receipts (to be circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts:-

1.	WALC Grant playing field	£7770.00
2.	WCC Grant street lights	£500.00

c. Clerks annual salary increase

Cllr Parry proposed increasing the Clerks Salary in line with the agreed Local Government (LGS) increase from April 2020 , this was seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously.

d. 2021/22 Budget Approval

The Clerk had pre-circulated the proposed budget, after discussion Cllr Edwards proposed the budget be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Monks and carried unanimously.

e. 2020/22 Precept Approval – Proposal is increase of 2%

Cllr Keavy proposed the Precept of £23460 as highlighted in the budget , a 2% increase , this was seconded by Cllr Slora and carried unanimously . *Clerk to inform SDC.*

13. Correspondence – all circulated by email

All circulated by email over the past 2 months.

a. Gypsy and Travellers consultation – deadline 19th Feb

b. Census day is 21st March 2021- info

After discussion it was agreed to responded to the Gypsy and Travellers consultation stating that the Council supported the proposal that any sites would need to be located relatively close to local facilities. Therefore, it was not appropriate for any site to be within the Moreton Morrell Parish due to the lack of facilities such as transport, doctors, shops etc. *Clerk to respond.*

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

None.

15. Any other business allowed by Chairman

Discussion was held on further Covid volunteers including drivers to take people for the vaccine . Cllr Monks offered to publicise .

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will a video conference via Zoom, the date is Monday 15th March 2021.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.