

# MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** G Slora (Chair), J Gordon , R James  
B Keavy, C Monks, A Parry, E Edwards

**District Councillor:** A Parry

**County Councillor:**

**Clerk :** P Routly

6 members of the public

## 1. Public participation

Mr Whyte thanked the council for the work cutting back trees on the old farm drive, but said he thought more work could be done to tidy the area up. Cllr Parry offered to meet him on site with other Cllrs to review.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Cllr P O'Donnell, P Husband.

### 3. Governance

**a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**  
None.

**b) Freedom of Information – report on any new requests**  
None.

**c) Code of Conduct / DPI**  
None.

#### **4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Parry, seconded by Cllr Edwards and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

## **5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry**

Cllr Parry filed and took the meeting through the following report :-

## CIL Grant Award

I am delighted to advise that MMPC is to receive a £4500 grant towards the new youth shelter in the playing field which will be paid in April. This follows extensive lobbying to ensure that small projects were considered as well as the larger ones and to give a fair balance to the grant allocation. Well done to Pam Routly for submitting such a good application in order to gain maximum accreditation points for this type of grant project.

### **Council Tax**

SDC is raising the council tax by £5 (3.2%) based on a category D property therefore to £159.12. Whilst SDC issue the Council Tax statements and are responsible for collecting all revenues on behalf of Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police, the district council's share of the council tax represents around 7% of the total monies collected.

Stratford District continues to have the lowest levels of Council Tax across Warwickshire. The levels of Council Tax to be charged by the other Borough/District Councils in the county for a Band D property in 2023/24 are:

	2022/23	2023/24	Increase	%
North Warwickshire	£222.30	£228.86	£6.56	2.95
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£248.51	£255.94	£7.43	2.99
Rugby	£204.72	£210.84	£6.12	2.99
Stratford	£154.12	£159.12	£5.00	3.24
Warwick	£176.86	£176.86	Nil	Nil

### **Upper Lighthorne GP Services**

I have been involved in the lobbying activities for standalone GP and Health services in Upper Lighthorne and have been working closely with Cllr Andy Smith of Lighthorne PC in this respect and as a conduit with SDC. Following a meeting that SDC set up with the parishes and the Integrated Care Board it was agreed that a new GP practice be developed in Upper Lighthorne which would relieve pressures on the surrounding GP facilities.

Pressure on the ICB is being continued and SDC has appointed a project manager to develop the timescales and manage its development from an SDC and planning perspective. I am attending a meeting in Coventry on Friday to progress discussions with Homes England for both a temporary and the permanent surgery facilities.

### **SWLP Consultation**

According to the Head of Development there appears to have been excellent levels of response to this consultation but we will need to wait a few months to have some feedback on the outcomes.

### **Economic Development Strategy**

The draft South Warwickshire Economic Development Strategy has been launched for public consultation and sets out the priorities for how SDC and WDC wish to support the economy. Whilst there is no legal requirement for local authorities to prepare economic strategies both SDC and WDC recognize the importance of doing so. This has been produced to provide evidence in the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

### **Wellesbourne University Innovation Campus Framework Masterplan SPD**

Cabinet has approved the go ahead of the publication for this document which is designed to attract innovative new businesses and encourage economic growth delivering high calibre jobs for local people. This is also out for public consultation and the links can be found on SDC's website.

### **Wellesbourne Airfield Update**

The future of Wellesbourne Airfield has been protected and is to benefit from enhanced flying functions, generating economic growth and safeguarding jobs.

Equally welcome to local residents is that there is now NO HOUSING planned for the development of the airfield, which I have actively campaigned for over the last eight years.

Plans for the proposed Code2 runway are currently with the Civil Aviation Authority for review and the new runway will have the same operating length as its existing 917m one, which is suitable for small commercial aircraft for business travel.

Stratford District Council will continue to be extensively involved in the development of the airfield by Stoford which is looking to invest a £multi-million sum into the airfield, improving the existing facilities and plans for the development of high-tech and innovative industries. In view of the progress to date there could be a planning application in by the end of the summer. This site could create 4-5,000 highly skilled jobs over the next 5-7 years which would be a great result for Wellesbourne and the District as a whole.

The protection and planned enhancement of the airfield has only been made possible by extensive legal initiatives and negotiations with the owners and their developer partners by Stratford District Council, which has also involved the necessary finance and complex preparation to enforce a Compulsory Purchase Order to protect the operation of the airfield if required.

### **Local Authority Housing Fund**

SDC has been allocated £2.35m of support for its refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine from the Government's £500m Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) which will be used to provide an additional 17 homes in the district both to accommodate refugees in the short term and provides a welcome boost to the district's capacity for affordable housing in the longer term. Platform Housing Group has been identified as the preferred partner to help the Council deliver these new homes which are to be purchased.

### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in South Warwickshire**

SDC will be carrying out a feasibility study in partnership with WDC to help inform the future infrastructure for Electric Vehicle charging across the districts. The study will build on the report considered last year which identified the number of charging facilities that may be required and will investigate how these could be implemented. In a nutshell this will be looking at making sure that the location of chargers are in well-lit locations and addresses issues surrounding accessibility to cater for the needs of all users.

### **VOTER ID**

Villagers are urged to make sure they understand the new rules which require voters to show photographic ID before voting in this year's local elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station was introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act, which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to [apply for free ID online here](#), in person at Stratford District Council, or by completing a paper form. The deadline for applying is 5pm on Tuesday, April 25.

#### **Acceptable forms of ID include:**

- a passport
- a driving licence (including a provisional one)
- an older persons or disabled persons bus pass
- a Blue Badge
- a biometric immigration document
- an ID card issued by an EEA state
- an ID card bearing the proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a Pass Card).

Voters will be able to use an expired ID if the photo still looks like them. Alternatively, voter ID is not required if you register for a postal vote. I have a poster which can be laminated and promoted accordingly in the village.

## **6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr O'Donnell**

Cllr O'Donnell was not present but sent the following report:-

### **One Year Anniversary of the war in Ukraine.**

As the war sadly continues, more Ukrainians need a place of safety, and the Council are seeking new hosts in Warwickshire to help those coming to the UK as well as those already in Warwickshire who need to move on from their initial sponsorship arrangement.

If you are interested in hosting Ukrainians, you can join the '[Homes for Ukraine' Sponsorship scheme](#). This bespoke scheme will offer a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home. It will enable individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for those forced to escape their homeland. Alternately if you are interested in hosting in Warwickshire we now have a dedicated team who are supporting matching and rematching. Please get in touch via the helpline, 0800 408 1447 or email [ukraine@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@warwickshire.gov.uk) to discuss further.

### **£2 Bus Cap**

Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap. Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months.

### **Help for Warwickshire residents struggling to pay utility bills.**

Warwickshire residents who are struggling to pay their utility bills can seek extra support from WCC.

The councils Local Welfare Scheme is distributing government funding through the Household Support Fund to provide short term financial assistance for people in Warwickshire.

It is a one off voucher payment to meet immediate needs and help those struggling with utility bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from Local Welfare Schemes for residents in financial crisis. **Applications must be made by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 by calling 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182**

### **Warm Welcome locations**

Warwickshire residents can now search over 150 Warm Welcome locations to find their nearest one, if they are looking for somewhere warm and safe to spend time.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3989/find-your-nearest-warm-welcome-location>

### **Easter Holiday Activities and Food**

The Warwickshire Holiday Activity and Food programme will once again offer free and fun activities for eligible children and young people this Easter.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4012/easter-activities-for-warwickshire-children-and-young-people>

### **Clean Air.**

**Warwickshire County Council has recently re-launched their popular 'Kids Need Clean Air' campaign in partnership with Warwickshire Primary Schools.**

This campaign aims to educate drivers of the benefits of switching off their vehicle engines when stationary, with a particular focus on engine idling outside schools during drop-off and pick-ups. Idling uses unnecessary fuel and is a significant contributor to local air pollution. By stopping engine idling, drivers will reduce fuel costs and save money, improve air

quality, and reduce air pollutants which can help cut heart disease, reduce lung cancer and prevent asthma attacks. By reducing the amount of fuel being used, drivers can improve the quality of the air that we breathe.

Throughout February 2023, 27 primary schools across the county launched this campaign, with each of these schools receiving a banner for the schools' railings, a digital animation offering advice and guidance for parents and carers, and an article for newsletters.

### **NO MORE Campaign re Domestic Abuse.**

**Warwickshire County Council and partners including Warwickshire Police, Refuge and colleagues from across the District and Borough Councils, unite together to say NO MORE to Domestic Abuse.**

The national campaign, UK SAYS NO MORE, now in its 10th year, ran from 5th – 12th March. It looked to highlight domestic abuse and sexual violence for everyone across the UK. One in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and more shockingly, two women a week are killed by a current or former partner in England Wales alone. Warwickshire says NO MORE.

The Act also looks to promote greater awareness of domestic abuse and ensure it is the top of everyone's agenda. Warwickshire has implemented a number of safe spaces for victim-survivors. The idea behind the safe spaces is just as the name suggests, a safe room for anyone who wants to escape an abusive partner or family member.

Anyone wishing to use the room would either simply 'Ask for Ani' or give a specific password unique to a supporting pharmacist or job centre. Inside the room is a phone that connects to a domestic abuse helpline. Information and advice is also available. To access a full list of participating pharmacists and jobs centres in Warwickshire, go to [www.uksaysnomore.org/safespaces/](http://www.uksaysnomore.org/safespaces/)

### **SEND Supported Internships in Warwickshire.**

In a drive to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to access their full potential, young people in Warwickshire with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will benefit from a life changing supported internships programme, thanks to a grant of £105,000 from the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi).

The grant, which will be distributed over a three-year period is designed to support more young people with additional needs to have greater choice and control over opportunities that prepare them for adult life and enable them to gain long-term meaningful employment. Currently, only 4.8% of people nationally with special educational needs and disabilities gain permanent paid employment in the UK, compared to 80% of their peers.

Supported internships help young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) to achieve paid employment.

### **Businesses looking to grow in, or relocate to, Warwickshire now have access to £40m of financial support as the latest pillar of a major economy-boosting initiative goes live.**

The Property and Infrastructure Fund is the third and final strand of the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund. This major £100m initiative was launched to provide access to debt finance and safeguard businesses in, or those expanding to, Warwickshire from any of the adverse economic effects caused by the pandemic.

The focus of the PIF is on supporting and enabling new development that will help provide sites and premises needed to drive the future growth of the local economy and, with ambitions that match the County Council's goals on reducing emissions, to build on the strong links that the county has established in low Carbon fields such as digital creative, electric vehicle development and battery manufacturing.

The £40m fund will be managed by CBRE following a competitive procurement process, providing loans of £2m-£10m to support commercial projects, with repayment terms available up to five years. Eligible developments include office, industrial and warehouse

developments and refurbishments, new housing projects offering innovative sustainability solutions, early-stage infrastructure funding and mixed-use schemes.

Those looking for more information or wishing to discuss investment proposals with the council should use the expression of interest form on the council's website at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wrif](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wrif)

## **7. Warwickshire College Report**

Mr Peter Husband was not present but sent the following report:-

### **Farm**

We currently have 373 cattle on the farm which is lower than expected and is due to above average numbers being selected for slaughter. However, we are expecting our next delivery of calves soon which should return the herd to between 400 and 425 which is nearer the desired occupancy.

All the sheep have been scanned ahead of lambing with a rate of 171% achieved for the mules and 188% for the home bred. These are good rates although they should ideally be scanning at 190-200%. All sheep came into the lambing shed 4-5 weeks earlier than usual this year due to the colder weather and reduced availability of grazing on the farm. As a consequence, the students sheared all of the sheep before lambing which was a great experience for the students, with some undertaking the task for the first time. The shearing pre-lambing has also resulted in a reduction in the required space of up to 20%.

Lambing has already begun and we are looking forward to another busy lambing weekend. The college has provided the Parish Council with tickets to be distributed to enable villagers to attend at no cost.

### **Estates**

We have now completed the Canine Hydrotherapy building and facility on the lower campus to support Higher Education students and the building is already in use by students as part of their studies. We have recently completed roof repairs to the lambing shed alongside general roof and guttering maintenance on the site, including general repairs to our student residential accommodation.

### **Events**

On Tuesday 7th March, Moreton Morrell College hosted a group of senior staff from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) as part of their 'Big Conversation'. IfATE's Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor, Strategy Director and Head of Skills System and Oversight Government met staff, students and apprentices in equine, farriery, construction, animal welfare and agricultural engineering before finishing with a tour of the farm. The purpose was to allow IfATE staff to develop a greater understanding of a Land based college and particularly the specialist facilities required. They had all previously visited general FE colleges and found Moreton Morrell fascinating and felt the visit would help their understanding of delivering specialist provision.

On Tuesday 21st February, Moreton Morrell College hosted Ian Jelley, Director of Landscape Recovery, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The College staff and Ian had some detailed conversations about creating a meaningful partnership that would deliver mutual benefits and a big impact for both organisations.

Potential collaborations include;

The Farm - WWT providing farm advice, invitation to WWT farm clusters, showcasing best practice and project funding

Curriculum - WWT providing guest lectures, field visits and accredited training

Campus enhancement - WWT being a critical friend, supporting the College estates staff with the 30by30 approach and health & wellbeing

R&D - WWT providing access to Satellite imagery, IOT devices and nature based solutions.

## **Staff and Students**

Moreton Morrell College recently welcomed 17 International students from the Netherlands. Groups of students come over each year as part of their Veterinary Nursing training. The students are based at our Pershore College, however each week they receive teaching from the staff at Moreton Morrell and gain valuable experience on the animal centre and Nethermorton Farm. The students will now enjoy a 2 week UK lambing placement before they leave to utilise the skills they gained from us to support the local farming community during this busy period. This year the students had the added benefit of meeting HRH Princess Royal who visited Pershore College during their stay to officially open the Agri-Tech Research Centre there.

Students from a variety of courses will be undertaking lambing duties over the next 3 weeks, including nights. The students are divided into small mixed groups from different courses, they then take on the care of the ewes and lambs over the course of the evening, this allows students to put into practice what they have learnt during practical and theory lessons in a controlled environment whilst also building communication and problem solving skills. Carpentry students have once again been involved in constructing a range of products that will be sold in support of charity and we are pleased to announce that we are supporting Molly Olly's charity this year. The students have been involved in constructing resin and wood based products ranging from chopping boards and coasters to small tables. The smaller items will be sold at lambing weekend and the table will be raffled, all proceeds will go to the named charity.

## **8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates**

### **a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk**

- i) Latest report and actions - Clerk**
- ii) CIL Grant / Youth Shelter quotes – Clerk**

The Clerk had pre-circulated the latest inspection report, two items were called as moderate risk, the wooden legs on the old swings and the wooden legs on the wooden house (rotted) . Mr Routly inspected these and concluded they were robust and not an issue.

The Clerk confirmed the following grants :- CIL from invisible house £1283, WCC grant 2021 £511, CIL from Fosseyway development £3228.76 , SDC CIL grant due April 23 of £4,500 and had circulated 8 quotations from 4 suppliers for the youth shelter. Cllr Parry proposed the Caloo version in green on matting , at a cost of £11174 plus VAT , this was seconded by Cllr Slora and carried unanimously . *Clerk to place order.*

### **b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead**

- i) Local Plan – next steps**
- ii) Marriott Land correspondence - Clerk**

Cllr Parry stated that she would arrange a separate meeting to discuss the local plan actions . The Clerk informed the meeting that a holding email had been sent to Marriott land (pending hall report) regarding their interest in making a presentation on the proposed development of Triangle field.

### **c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Gordon lead**

- i) Update**
- ii) Email from resident on speeding on John Taylor way – College traffic - Clerk**
- iii) Email from resident on parking on kerbs and around Brook lane junction - Clerk**
- iv) Road sign not working by school- Clerk**

Cllr Gordon stated there were no updates other than correspondence. It was resolved that Cllr Edwards would arrange a meeting with the college about John Taylor Way . It was also resolved to publicise in 'The Villager' about poor parking in the village and Cllr Parry also agreed to involve the Police SNT team to conduct checks . Cllr Parry stated she was still short on numbers to operate a speed gun , more volunteers though came forward in the meeting and the training could now be progressed. It was also resolved to escalate with Cllr O'Donnell the speed sign issue. *Clerk, Cllr Edwards and Cllr Parry to action*

- d) **Village Appearance – All**
  - i) **Update**
  - ii) **Email from resident on drain on old farm drive – Clerk**

It was resolved to escalate the issue of the flooding drain on old farm drive to Cllr O'Donnell. *Clerk to action*

Cllr Monks reminded the meeting they had agreed to a village litter pick on 1<sup>st</sup> April and it had been publicised, Cllr Parry agreed to obtain litter pickers , bags and tabards. It was also resolved for the Clerk to write to the school to request litter is not dropped whilst collecting children. *Clerk to write*

Cllr James reported the drain at the top of the hall drive was blocked. *Clerk to add to WCC list*

- e) **Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead**
  - i) **Update**
  - ii) **Stile at Middletown – Handyman update**

The clerk informed the meeting the handyman had been instructed to repair the stile.

- f) **Village Hall and Church – Cllr Keavy lead**
  - i) **Update**
  - ii) **Hall Survey feedback**

Cllr Keavy had shared the hall survey from the chartered surveyors . There were many structural issues, and it concluded the hall was beyond economic repair. The report is to be shared with the trustees and discussed in the next meeting.

- g) **College Update**
  - i) **Update**

No Update.

## **9. Matters arising from previous meetings**

- a) **Handyman jobs**
- b) **Local Elections May 4th 2023 – Election forms**
- c) **Coronation Street Party planning – May 8th 2023**
- d) **Defibrillator training**

The Clerk informed the meeting she had written to the handyman with a list of jobs and would follow up as they had not been actioned. *Clerk to follow up.*



The Clerk handed out packs for the May elections. Cllr Monks informed the meeting she would not be standing due to personal commitments , vacancy to be publicised.

Cllr Edwards informed the meeting that catering was booked for the street part , but would need to know numbers. To be discussed via email .

The Clerk informed the meeting the Dr's Gordon had agreed to arrange defibrillator training, and just need to confirm dates – *Clerk to sort via email*

## **10. New items**

### **a) Website Cost and Update – Steve Routly**

Mr Routly stated that the hosting company of the council website he had maintained for the last decade was now charging \$16/month , and it also need updating to comply with new requirements. It was resolved to seek quotes from companies that specialist in council websites . *Clerk to follow up.*

## **11. Planning**

### **a. New Applications to consider at this meeting**

None.

### **b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information**

23/00499/TREE -T1 Large oak - Reduce low limbs to growth points where possible, as highlighted in submitted photograph, to clear garage and reduce risk of branch failure, removing approximately 50% of branch length, which is 6-8metres. -G1, conifers x2no. - Fell to ground. The Old Stables Main Street Moreton Morrell Warwickshire CV35 9AL – **No Objections sent**

### **c. District Decisions for information**

None.

## **12. Finance**

### **a. Approval of payments (to be circulated)**

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

1.	J Cleeton planter expenses	£50.54 (paid)
2.	Mckelvie Lloye hall survey	£1200.00 (paid)
3.	Kompan inspection	£225.04
4.	WCC street light maintenance contract	£34.27
5.	WCC Allotment rent	£180.00
6.	WCG Playing field rent	£500.00
7.	RP Hall cutting farm drive	£360.00
8.	P Routly Salary inc tax back	£912.64
9.	P Routly Expenses – Jan/ Feb	£203.53
10.	BT Hall wifi Feb/ Mar ( P Routly)	£59.98
11.	Npower Street Lights elec – Jan / Feb	£54.69
12.	P Gibbins villager	£100.00
13.	Hall rent	£15.00

### **b. Receipts (to be circulated)**

None.

**c. Clerk salary – As National agreed increase April 22 (backdated)**

Cllr Parry proposed increasing the clerk's salary ( backdated from April 22 ) inline with the national agreement , equating to £1/hour increase , this was seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried unanimously.

**13. Correspondence – all circulated by email**

All circulated by email over the past 2 months.

**14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.**

Cllrs agreed they would have a separate meeting to discuss the village plan.

**15. Any other business allowed by Chairman**

All Councillors not standing at the future election were given a vote of thanks.

**16. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting and AGM will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.