

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th January 2020

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

10 members of the public

1. Public participation

None.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

b) Freedom of Information

No new requests.

c) Code of Conduct - DPI

No Updates.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 18th November 2019

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th November were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Parry, seconded by Cllr Gordon, and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry presented her pre-circulated report:-

Wellesbourne Airfield

Wellesbourne Airfield continues to be high on the agenda at Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) and much work has been undertaken by Cabinet members to protect the existing business interests. Its commitment to ensure that the flying functions at the airfield are retained will continue to be at the forefront of negotiations with the owners, as any deviation from this stance would provide the evidence to trigger the compulsory purchase

order. To date SDC has incurred over £88k in legal costs to ensure its Core Strategy policy is retained.

Green Waste

Financial pressures are also continuing to impact at a district level and the introduction of a green waste levy in 2020 received Full Council approval last month. It is worth noting that the SDC Council Tax only represents 40% of all funding that is received and SDC currently only gets £139.12 for a Band D property. The Council has seen a reduction of £7m of Central Government funding in recent years.

Whilst the collection of green waste is a discretionary service, 70% of district and borough councils throughout the UK are now having to charge for the fortnightly collection of green waste. The proposed charge of £40 per green bin equates to 80p per week and residents with small gardens may find it to be both cost saving and practical to share a green bin with their neighbour, however up to three food caddies will be provided on request and emptied free of charge for everyone.

Gardeners are also encouraged to compost at home, where space permits, as this is an inexpensive, natural process which can transform kitchen and green waste into free nutrient-rich food for the garden, which is environmentally friendly.

Full Council

It is a busy time at present looking at budgets and yes there will be an increase in Council Tax – in the region of around £5 by SDC to a Band D property. It is worth highlighting that SDC only keeps a fraction of the Council Tax it collects – in fact just 7.8% - the County Council get 77.3% and the Police 11.5%.

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry presented her pre-circulated report: -

Road Safety

Road Safety continues to be a key focus and speeding the primary cause of accidents in the area. There were 354 killed or seriously injured on Warwickshire Roads in 2018/19 – with significant loss on the motorway network but every effort is being made to increase signage to encourage speed reductions. I am continuing to work in close contact with the highways team at WCC to implement increased road safety signage measures and it is good to see the 30mph signage on the road through the village. The pothole by the school has been repeatedly repaired and works are scheduled to implement a permanent solution. Two potholes have also been repaired in Brook Lane this month.

Climate Change

Climate Change is widely agreed to be the most important environmental driver of economic and societal change for the 21st century and the climate change agenda has featured strongly both at a district and county level. A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken by both authorities by the respective Task and Finish Groups and 2020 will start to see the fruition of their efforts. WCC is committed to tackling climate change and it is working towards a properly costed plan with targets for the short, medium and long term.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care and Health is another extremely important area and WCC currently spends well in excess of £150 million in delivering and providing personal health care throughout the county. With an ageing population the demand on these services is increasing rapidly and a further 2% increase in the Council Tax, which is ring-fenced to

Adult Social Care and Health, is to be expected plus an increase in the region of 2.99% for the other services which will include a budget for Climate Change.

7. Warwickshire College Report

WCC submitted the following report, which was read by Cllr James:-

Farm

There are currently 420 beef cattle on farm. The weather continues to hinder the arable operations with no crops currently planted. The aim will be to try and plant some wheat before the end of February, failing that Spring barley will be planted.

The ewes were scanned last week and scanned at 196% and will start lambing on the 10th of March. Unfortunately, the sheep escaped from their field, on Christmas day, and went into the village. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and would like to thank everyone that helped put them back.

Estates

We have been busy since the severe wet weather in December exploring options to prevent stormwater from the fields flooding certain areas of the upper campus. A contractor has been deployed to construct a bund wall at the rear of the construction building, whilst further advice is sought from a Drainage Consultant to formulate a permanent plan to protect the building and area.

There is also ongoing work to resolve various drainage issues around the site and on a staff property in Lime Tree Drive.

We continue to work to reduce our carbon footprint, working with the Students Union to raise awareness of the amount of waste created on campus, and with the students, we are exploring ways we can reduce waste and increase recycling. In addition, a water fountain without a cup holder and with an elongated dispenser suitable for bottles, has been installed in the Learning Resource Centre to encourage students to use refillable water bottles instead of disposable plastic cups or single use bottles.

Moreton Hall

Over the last 3 months we have staged a number of information events for both the public and our own staff, to raise awareness of the plans for Moreton Hall and our need to generate additional funding to make this achievable. These events culminated in a public consultation event on 18th December, with an online comments feature that closed on 13th January. We were encouraged by the volume of type of responses received.

Landscaping apprentices from Pershore College have continued their work on the Italianate Gardens. In November the restoration work included pond maintenance and the cutting back of a large western red cedar hedge along the edge of the garden.

Staff and Students

We are delighted to announce that our Floristry students at Moreton Morrell are celebrating a double-success after securing gold and silver at a national competition. Renata Egan-Wyer and Jen Jones were two of the five florists from the college competing at the WorldSkills UK Final at the NEC in Birmingham. The competition took place over two days, where the competitors had to plan and create five different floral designs which demonstrated their knowledge of both colour theory and principles of design alongside specific competition floristry techniques.

The WCG Green Team, a new sustainability group made of college staff members, will be focusing their efforts on Moreton Morrell College. Over the coming months, they will be making small changes to improve the sustainability of the college and holding events to get students involved.

Moreton Morrell's higher education graduates celebrated their achievements at Warwick's St Mary's Church on 11th October. Students had studied a range of Equine, Animal Management and Veterinary Nursing subjects over the previous 2-3 years, to graduate with either a Bachelor's (Honours) degree or a Foundation degree. The graduates were addressed by David Domoney, who as a past student was able to provide motivation to the graduates and encourage them to work for a positive impact on our increasingly fragile environment.

We were delighted to be able to award an honorary fellowship to David Domoney at the Higher Education graduation event. As an alumni of both Moreton Morrell and Pershore Colleges, David has championed horticulture for 40 years, working with the RHS, Chartered Institute of Horticulture, Birmingham Botanical Gardens and numerous other horticulture and conservation organisations. We look forward to working with David as a fellow of WCG in the future.

The equine arenas and outdoor facilities at Moreton Morrell College have continued to be very busy through the autumn with bookings almost every day of the week, including regular training by Moreton Morrell Riding Club, Stoneleigh Riding Club, North Warwickshire Pony Club, Warwickshire Hunt and British Eventing.

The college has played host to a number of regional competition events in the period including the British Dressage Central Region competition and the British Riding Club Area 5 Show Jumping competition, at which 44 teams were represented.

In March, Moreton Morrell College will be opening its gates again to the local community for its annual Lambing Weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the first lambs of spring and hopefully witness one being born! The event on 21-22 March.

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

- a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead**
 - i) Safety Audit discussions - Committee**
 - ii) New Equipment - Committee**

Cllr Edwards presented the following report:-

Following the recent safety inspection of the play area and equipment it is clear that a lot of the equipment needs repair or replacement or has a fairly limited lifespan.

The climbing frame was identified as high risk of an accident occurring due to rotted posts and this has been taped off to take it out of use. This is obviously a temporary solution and the item either needs to be repaired or removed ASAP.

Other items of moderate risk need to be repaired and there are numerous maintenance items which need to be dealt with mostly described as low risk but need attention.

The full report has been circulated to all Councillors and is very comprehensive and describes in detail the problems identified.

An amount of £30,000 has been identified within the budget for upgrading the play area and decisions need to be made on which items of equipment we need to renew or repair.

As part of this process a survey needs to be conducted to assess what the village and the young people who use the play area would like this money spent on .

After discussion it was resolved unanimously to seek a contractor to remove the climbing frame and other wooden items that were classed as medium and high risk. *Clerk to seek quotes*

Cllr Parry had constructed a survey both by paper and online to inform the committee of what parishioners would like in terms on new equipment. The survey would start this weekend.

In terms of the skate ramp the report stated it has a one to three-year life, it was decided to wait for the survey results before making a decision on its future.

Once the survey had been analysed, quotes for new equipment would be sought. The clerk informed the meeting due to the sum involved three quotes would be required

It was also resolved to seek a contractor to complete all the items of general maintenance, clerk to seek quotes. *Clerk to action with committee.*

Finally, all agreed to seek additional grant funding. Following a recent communication Severn Trent water company have been identified as a possible source.

b) Planning – Cllr Parry
i) Housing needs survey

Cllr Parry updated the meeting, the survey will be delivered on Friday, and needs to be distributed this coming weekend, along with a leaflet on playing field survey. *All to help.*

c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Gordon
i) Update on speed gun training

Cllr Gordon stated that two more people were required as volunteers before training could be arranged. Mr Parry volunteered. It was agreed to promote again.

d) Village Appearance – All
i) School water trough repointing - Clerk
ii) Dog Fouling pack – Clerk
iii) Planters - Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting the trough pointing would be done in March after the frosts and road repair. Dog fouling signs and posters etc were handed to Cllr Parry. Mr Howarth spoke of the planters .It was proposed to allocate £300 for plants etc by Cllr Keavy, this was seconded by Cllr Slora and carried unanimously.

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead
i) Update

Cllr Slora and Cllr Gordon updated the meeting and stated that £5000 had been allocated in the budget, there were several areas requiring work, but it was currently too wet.

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

Cllr James informed the meeting the hall roof had been repaired. There was nothing else to report.

- g) **College - Committee**
 - i) **Moreton Hall Hotel plans**

Cllr Edwards informed the meeting she had met with Peter Husband, he confirmed the playing field fencing was the PC responsibility. He would not move on any discussion on the right of access. *Cllr Edwards agreed to seek future meeting dates.*

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

- a) **VE day 75th (8/5/20) – Discussion**
- b) **Moreton Hall plans**

VE day was discussed, it was resolved to hold a street party from 12 noon to 5pm. *Clerk to arrange road closure.*

The clerk informed the meeting that £1000 had been allocated in the budget for the event, after discussion Cllr Parry proposed an increase to £1500 this was seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously. *Clerk to re-issue budget.*

It was agreed to publicise event and look for volunteers to help organise. Cllrs Slora, Keavy and Parry offered to help.

The Hall plans were covered in the College report

10. New items

- a) **None.**

11. Planning

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

None.

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

19/03133/FUL Erection of rural worker's dwelling and associated external works
Centaur Biomechanics Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BD – **Objection sent**

c. District Decisions for information

19/02709/FUL Construction of an extension to the existing house, replacement of existing sections of timber cladding with Cotswold stone, and engineering works to re-design the terraces around the house. McGovern House Moreton Paddox Moreton Morrell CV35 9BT .
Permitted with conditions

19/01383/LDE Commercial storage yard Certificate Lawful Development-Existing
Abbotscroft Fosse Way Moreton Morrell CV35 9DF. **Existing Lawful Development - Permitted**

19/03133/FUL Erection of rural worker's dwelling and associated external works
Centaur Biomechanics Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BD – **Withdrawn**

12. Finance

a) Approval of payments (to be circulated)

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

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| 1. | WALC Cllr books | £10.00 paid |
| 2. | EON Street Lights elec – Nov/Dec | £209.85 |
| 3. | Village Hall rent Jan Mtg | £15.00 |
| 4. | P Gibbins – Villager November | £100.00 |
| 5. | WCG playing field rent | £500.00 |
| 6. | Royal British Legion, Poppy Appeal | £25.00 |
| 7. | Play Inspections | £180.00 |
| 8. | P Routly Salary (2 months) inc back pay | £794.22 |
| 9. | P Routly Expenses – Nov / Dec | £104.06 |
| 10. | PATA Payroll | £12.75 |
| 11. | BT Hall wifi Aug/Sep (P Routly) | £57.98 |
| 12. | Cllr A Parry survey & printing exp | £44.50 |
| 13. | Cllr C Monks printing expenses | £51.60 |

b) Receipts (to be circulated)

There were no receipts.

c) 2020/21 Budget Approval

The Clerk had pre-circulated the proposed budget, after discussion Cllr Keavy proposed the budget be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Monks and carried unanimously. *Clerk to re-issue with revision to VE day funding as agreed in item 9a)*

d) 2020/21 Precept Approval – Proposal is carry over ie 0% increase

Cllr Parry stated that due to the significant spending planned the precept should be kept in line with inflation and proposed a 2% increase to £23,000, this was seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously. *Clerk to inform SDC.*

13. Correspondence (most circulated by email but these particular items require short discussion)

- a) **Stratford District Council Consultation on additional planning guidelines relating to Climate Change**
- b) **Changes to Flexibus services effective Monday 6th January 2020**
- c) **Royal Garden Party 2020 – Nominate**

Mr Howarth stated the Flexibus changes were causing problems with overcrowding. *Cllr Parry agreed to follow up.*

It was agreed unanimously to make a nomination for the Garden Party. *Clerk to inform WALC on selection*

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items

Cllr Slora raised the issue of litter picking; it was resolved to arrange an event in early March.

The missing village sign was discussed, it was damaged in a car accident in November. The clerk was asked to follow up with the police to claim on the driver's insurance. *Clerk to contact police.*

Cllr Parry requested that the Clerk asks WCG for 10 tickets for the lambing event for villager. *Clerk to follow up.*

15. Any other business allowed by the Chairman as Urgent

None.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will held in the Village Hall, Moreton Morrell on Monday 16th March 2020.

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