

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th July 2020

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

2 members of the public

Meeting held as Video Conference due to Covid 19

1. Public participation

Richard Ollis briefed Cllrs on a proposed dwelling in his garden ahead of a formal application. Cllrs thanked him for the advance notice.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Gordon.

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 18th May 2020

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th May were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Slora, seconded by Cllr Keavy, and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings. *To be signed at next meeting.*

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry pre-circulated her report:-

As the Country gradually comes out of the Covid-19 lockdown we are, where possible, quickly returning to business as usual at the Council. Normal decision making of the Council is now fully operational through video conference meetings operated with MS Teams. A number of Planning meetings have been held, along with Scrutiny Meetings, Regulatory Meetings and the first full Council meeting took place last Monday 13th July.

The planning department has a substantial backlog of applications that need to be heard at a Planning Committee and whilst we are holding weekly meetings to hear all applications as soon as possible, it will take some time to get through all those, so we do ask for your patience and understanding as we work through those applications.

Our Council office, Elizabeth House, has now reopened to the public on reduced hours from 10am to 2pm. We have had a steady stream of visits since then with a range of queries

including applications for housing benefit, council tax support, home choice plus applications, homelessness and car parking permits.

Council Tax Hardship Fund

As you may recall from my previous reports, the Council received a payment of £660,000 aimed at providing assistance to those who are in receipt of Council Tax support. So far £594,521.30 has been allocated to claimants. We still hold c£65k in reserve, however, this will only allow us to support a further 436 cases. If the current rate of claims continue then we will require additional funding from central government and we continue to lobby for further financial support for residents.

Business Grants

SDC has now paid out £33,247,000 to 2796 businesses and Included in this are 190 discretionary grants totalling £1,197,000

Elizabeth House

Reception has now re-opened to customers this week and is open between 10am and 2pm each day. Business has been steady and has been appreciated by those who have called in.

Stratford Town Centre Works

Works to improve the appearance of the pedestrian scheme in Stratford have commenced with a number of trees installed in Bridge Street and High Street. Further improvements are planned for next week.

SDC Environmental Health

The environmental health teams at Stratford District Council are continuing to work really hard to provide advice and guidance to businesses and retail outlets including restaurants, pubs, cafes, garden centres and shops, in light of the new guidelines. The team has also provided a wealth of information with links to government guidance which can be accessed from its website <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-recovery.cfm>

Climate Change SPD

Having declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, the Council has undertaken an extensive piece of work in considering how it can do its part in helping to tackle Climate Change. Part of that work included a new Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document which sets out the Councils expectations for new developments.

The Climate Change SPD was approved at Council last week and now holds weight. It sits alongside the Core Strategy and provides support and clarity on existing policies.

Joint working with WDC

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Councils across the country have been put under increasing financial pressures.

Stratford District Council has been recognised as one of the worst hit in terms of its income (largely from tourism) and as a result the Council is considering ways in which it can continue to operate its services in the most cost effective way. Towards the end of June a joint announcement by the Leaders of both Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council was made informing us that consideration is being given to the sharing of services and functions, with a full review of Local Government being undertaken in the near future. Council has supported this review and it will begin imminently. A White Paper on Local Government Devolution is anticipated by National Government later this year and it is expected that emphasis will be placed on giving more powers to local authorities. By committing to undertake this review now, Stratford District Council will be well placed to

take appropriate action once the white paper has been published and further detail is known. I will keep you informed as to the progress made on this matter.

Pavement Licensing

At the time of writing the Business and Planning Bill is passing through the parliamentary process and it is expected to receive Royal Assent soon. Within that Bill

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry pre-circulated her report:-

Work over the last few months has been centred on dealing with issues arising from COVID-19 and working closely with Public Health Warwickshire in communicating the status across the District.

COVID-19 Update

The cumulative cases in the county are now 2512 up from 2477 with confirmed cases in Stratford on Avon District at 526 up 5 cases from 521 since the previous week. These cases now include data from both Pillar 1 (hospitals and NHS settings) and also Pillar 2 (community). Testing is continuing at Stratford College and the Track and Trace initiative is continuing to work well.

Out of the 423 SWFT Hospital Beds there are currently ZERO confirmed cases of COVID-19 at present and no patients are in the intensive care unit. The cumulative deaths across Stratford District has increased by two over the last week to 167 taking the number of deaths from a care home setting up two to 82 from a cumulative of 3536 'all cause deaths'. The cumulative total of all COVID-19 deaths in Warwickshire is now 579 and over the same period there have been 2957 non COVID-19 related deaths in Warwickshire. Across the county there have been 208 COVID-19 deaths in care homes settings (an increase of three in the last week) compared to 1054 'all cause deaths' over the same period.

The capacity in hospitals remains excellent with no beds occupied by COVID-19 patients but there are 16% beds taken up with suspected COVID-19 patients. There are 37% of beds occupied by Non-COVID-19 patients and a spare capacity of 47% reinforcing that the NHS is very much open for business!

Whilst the cases have flattened there is still a serious risk of a second wave with the lifting of many lockdown restrictions and so the message from Public Health Warwickshire is that it is absolutely essential to continue to respect social distancing procedures, where possible keep this at two meters apart and implement rigorous hand hygiene measures.

The senior management team from Stratford District Council met with Public Health England this week to discuss its role in managing any local outbreaks should they occur.

7. Warwickshire College Report

WCG did not submit a report.

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

- a) **Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk**
 - i) **New equipment budget and tender route**

Cllr Edwards explained the clerk had produced a tender document alongside the WALC grant application jointly produced with Cllr Monks.

There were a few open points to discuss :-

- 1) Whether to enclose the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) with fencing , after discussion it was resolved unanimously to only fence the ends due to the cost , narrow width and ability to move easier.
- 2) What type of gym equipment and location , after discussion it was resolved to specify the type recommend by Owen Pettiford and locate on grass area with matting allowing the basketball wet pour area to be preserved.
- 3) What type of tender process, after discussion it was resolved to use the ESPO framework and hold competition as recommended by the clerk .
- 4) Budget, after discussion it was resolved to allow budget for improving entrance and other repairs.

Clerk to re-write tender doc and publish , also to re-submit WALC grant application

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead

i) Update

All planning commentary is in item 10

c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Gordon lead

i) Update

Cllr Gordon submitted a report stating there was nothing to report other than the College were going to undertake muck spreading. However, the issue of speeding cyclists was raised again. Cllr Parry agreed to speak to Graham Stanley at WCC to see what could be done. Cllr James also raised the issues of blocked drains, and said he had videos of the issues. Cllr Parry asked him to forward to her.

d) Village Appearance – All

i) Bin by bus stop – is new location working ?

Cllrs informed the Clerk there had been complaints about the location of the current bin on the opposite side of the road. It was resolved to buy a new bin with a lid and locate at bus stop, with ‘no dog mess’ sign. *Clerk to order.*

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead

i) Update

Issues were raised about the path by the bridge on the entrance to the playing field from pub alley. It was agreed Cllr Slora would remove the visible liner when he could as it was a potential hazard. *Cllr Slora to action.*

f) Village Hall and Church – Cllr Keavy lead

i) Update

Cllr Parry confirmed the hall had received a £10k Covid grant from SDC. It was suggested some should be spent on new chairs and tables and the fabric of the building. Cllr Keavy reported that due to illness the committee was not active. It was suggested they should be approached to see if they would handover to a ‘new committee’ which would need recruited. It was agreed to make an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss a way forward. *Cllr Keavy to liaise with Cllr Parry to agree next steps.*

9. New items

a) Coronavirus Update – All

Cllr Edwards confirmed the main ongoing activity was prescription collection.

10. Planning

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

20/01564/VARY Variation of Condition 2 (occupancy restriction) of planning permission 96/00260/FUL dated 30 April 1996 to remove reference to Fosse Way Bungalow.
The Bungalow Fosse Way Moreton Morrell CV35 9DF

After discussion it was unanimously decided to make no objection. *Clerk to submit response.*

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

20/01259/FUL Construction of Sun Room Extension. Little Morrell Boarding Kennels Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BD . **No Objection**

20/00872/FUL Replacement sun lounge, utility room extension, shower room and W.C 11 Oaktree Close Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BB. **No Objection**

20/01693/TREE T1 - silver birch - Reduce to 6metres and remove lower branches overhanging property boundary fence and school access path. The Old Post Office Main Street Moreton Morrell CV35 9AL. **No Objection.**

20/01644/TREE-T1 horse chestnut - Fell. Moreton House Main Street Moreton Morrell CV35 9AR. **No Objection**

20/01497/FUL Expansion of commercial storage yard and erection of new building. Abbotscroft Fosse Way Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9DF. **Support.**

c. District Decisions for information

20/01259/FUL Construction of Sun Room Extension. Little Morrell Boarding Kennels Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BD . **Permission with conditions.**

20/00872/FUL Replacement sun lounge, utility room extension, shower room and W.C 11 Oaktree Close Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BB. **Permission with conditions**

20/00345/LDE Unrestricted residential C3 dwelling - confirmation that no occupancy conditions exist on the property. The Bungalow Fosse Way Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9DF. **Refused.**

20/00923/LDP Lawful Development Certificate seeking confirmation that planning permission 04/01808/FUL for 'Demolition of existing house and detached garage and construction of new home' has been lawfully implemented and that permission is extant and that all works associated with the permission can be lawfully undertaken. Cedar House Moreton Paddox Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BT. **Approved**

11. Finance

a) Approval of payments (to be circulated)

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

1.	P Routly Salary	£725.26
2.	P Routly Expenses – May/June	£90.70
3.	BT Hall wifi Jun/Jul (P Routly)	£62.14
4.	PATA payroll Apr/May/June	£12.75
5.	R P Hall grass cutting May	£211.18
6.	R P Hall grass cutting June	£230.43
7.	EON	£209.85
8.	Oriel Glazing – playing field clean	£324.00
9.	C Gordon – defibrillator pads	£89.20

b) Receipts (to be circulated)

There were the following receipts:-

- | | |
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| 1. Grant from Richard Cadbury Charitable Trust | £1000.00 |
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c) Clerk report on accounts

The Clerk made the following report:-

I am presenting the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The balance carried forward from last year was £63418

Total receipts for the year amounted to £25768 including a WCC grant of £1000.

Total payments for the year amounted to £24624 resulting in an excess of receipts over payments of £11144

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £64562 with £21596 allocated to the general fund, £30000 to the playing field, £10000 to village appearance, street lights and footpaths, £1200 to the election fund, £766 to the Transparency Act IT fund and £1000 (from WCC grant to purchase gym equipment).

The accounts, cash book and bank records etc have already had their internal audit by Jim Thornton of Ashorne with no issues and will be subject to external audit in the coming months.

d) Approval of Asset Register

The Clerk presented an up to date asset register for approval. Acceptance of the register was proposed by Cllr Keavy, seconded by Cllr Slora, and carried unanimously

e) Internal Audit feedback

The Clerk informed the meeting that Jim Thornton had completed and extensive internal audit and there were no issues to report.

f) Approval of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

The Clerk requested the accounts, and accounting statements be approved. This was proposed by Cllr Parry, seconded by Cllr Monks and carried unanimously

g) Annual Return - Statement of Assurance

The Clerk pre circulated the document, which was proposed for approval by Cllr Slora, seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously.

h) Annual Return – Approval

The Clerk requested the annual return be approved. This was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously. *Clerk to make return*

12. Correspondence – all circulated by email

All circulated by email over the past 2 months.

13. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

It was agreed the playing field and village hall should be the main discussion items.

The issue of parking on the grass by the new houses, 13A/B Oak Tree Close was raised. *Cllr Parry and Keavy agreed to investigate.*

14. Any other business allowed by Chairman

None.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will held in the Village Hall, Moreton Morrell (subject to Covid) on Monday 21st September 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.