

Playing Field Lease

Following the Housing Development consultation, discussions continued with Warwickshire College Group (WCG) management about the Playing Field lease through the Working Group where we are represented by Councillors Parry, Gordon and Greetham. This is hopefully now near completion.

Playing Field

Playing Field equipment has been inspected with some minor concerns raised and being addressed. The skate park is nearing the end of its life and the wooden circuits equipment is showing serious wear and tear. When the lease issue is resolved we hope to invest in some new equipment. Thanks to the committee for their work, especially Councillor Cleeton.

Some issues related to fencing and flooding on the boundary with Box Field were pursued with WCG.

Adult size goalposts have been added to the Playing Field equipment.

A new bench set has been purchased thanks to a County Council grant, and we also have funds to purchase a gazebo for use at village events, such as the fete and Party in the Park. Thanks to County Councillor Parry for these grants.

Village Hall

MMPC provided a substantial grant to the Village Hall committee to allow replacement doors and windows to be fitted to improve insulation.

Village Signs and Bus Shelter

Two further signs have been erected at the entrance to the village on Brook Lane, and planters will be added. Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Howarth for planting and maintaining these. County Councillor Parry facilitated the installation of a new bus shelter which is a significant improvement to the street scene.

Planning

As ever the Planning Committee have been kept busy responding to various applications throughout the year. My thanks to all members of the committee for the time devoted to considering applications, visiting locations and holding discussions with applicants and other parties; and to all Councillors for taking sometimes difficult decisions with care.

Footpaths

There have been numerous queries and concerns relating to footpaths throughout the year, my thanks to the Footpaths Committee for all their work, especially concerning new stiles etc. and liaison with landowners regarding maintenance. Councillor Parry continues to explore which old footpaths could be reclaimed following the guidance of 'Restoring the Record', claims can be made up until 2026. WCG erected new traffic signs on John Taylor Way alerting drivers to pedestrians on the road as part of this road is a public footpath.

Speed Awareness and Road Safety

We have corresponded with Wellesbourne Wheelers about concerns of cyclists speeding through the village; they will alert all members of the need to comply with speed limits. The College Farm Manager arranged to remove all the scrub vegetation from the

‘Visibility Fence’ on the corner with the Newbold Pacey road, and we have applied some visibility tape to the fence, hopefully this will reduce traffic incidents at this junction.

Table Tennis and Circuit Training

We now have two tables and a monthly Table Tennis evening is taking place with Hall Hire funded by MMPC. Villagers can hire the Village Hall to use the tables at other times.

Circuit training is available in the College sports centre on Monday evening and open to all villagers. The initial hire costs are being met by MMPC and we are grateful to Own Pettiford for running these sessions which are well attended and appreciated by many villagers.

Beacon Event: 100th Anniversary of end of WW1 and Memorial Poppy

MMPC collaborated with Church, School and College to plan an evening commemoration as part of a nationwide initiative called ‘Battles Over’. The event was attended by over 200 people. Our symbolic ‘Beacon’ was one of over 1000 and lit in the School Playing Field – the highest point in the village. It was a poignant evening, with a service written and produced by the school children led by Reverend Rachel Saum and contributions by School and Village Choirs and Sebastian Foxwell as our bugler. I am deeply grateful to MMPC for the grant provided to enable this event, and to all those who joined our joint committee to plan the evening – an excellent collaboration. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.

MMPC also commissioned a metal memorial poppy which was blessed at the morning Church Service and displayed by the Beacon. This will shortly be positioned on the Church gates as a permanent memorial of our Village marking this day. We are grateful to Dafydd Bowles, Farrier at MM College for his dedication in both designing and making our memorial.

Villager

We are grateful to Alison Gregory for all her work producing our bimonthly Villager, and to all contributors and deliverers. It’s an essential part of our village communications network.

Freedom of Information (FOI) and GDPR

An FOI request was received in April and fully complied with. MMPC subsequently updated the FOI policy so that Villagers and MMPC are clear about how this system works. MMPC are covered by GDPR but we still await guidance on a suitable policy to adopt, the clerk will continue to monitor this matter.

4. Finance

i. Report of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

The Clerk made the following report:-

I am presenting the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The balance carried forward from last year was £61869

Total receipts for the year amounted to £25078 including a WCC grant of £600.

Total payments for the year amounted to £23529 resulting in an excess of receipts over payments of £1549

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £63418 with £20852 allocated to the general fund, £30000 to the project fund , £10000 to the planning fund , £1200 to the election fund,£766 to the Transparency Act IT fund and £600 to buy a bench and gazebo as a result of WCC grant.

The accounts have already had their internal audit with no issues and will be subject to external audit in the coming weeks.

I will request the accounts are approved and the Statement of Accounts is signed in the main Parish Council meeting.

5. County Councillor's report

Cllr Parry filed the following report read out by J Cleeton:-

Community Grants

Through my community grants, donations were made for a new bench for the playing field and for a gazebo/tented structure which can be used for village events. The new Community Grants have just been launched and will close early June, so it is recommended that organisations submit their applications quickly.

Delegated Members Road Safety Budget

A new replacement bus stop was installed in the village from my Road Safety Budget and is a big improvement on the previous one.

Pot Holes

Pot holes have increasingly become a serious road safety issue, however WCC has been active in repairing pot holes throughout the district so it's therefore important to continue to report any pot holes via the WCC website and also alert myself so that I can chase them.

Adult Social Care and Health

As a member of the Adult Social Care and Health team I have been extensively involved in a Task and Finish Group looking at GP Services throughout the County over the last 12 months. It is widely known that GP Services are extremely stretched at present, however the issue is being compounded by no-shows from patients and those booking appointments for minor ailments which could otherwise be dealt with by the local pharmacy. Over £153 million is spent on delivering adult social care and health services across the district and this year's Council Tax 4.99% increase includes 2% which has been ringfenced specifically to cope with the rising costs in this area with a growing elderly population.

Speeding

Following the horrific road traffic accident last year, I have been working with WCC on the installation of further road safety measures to the Newbold Road with additional signage, white lining and cats eyes. Newbold Road continues to be of serious concern and in my view additional measures are still required to enhance of the safety of traffic movements through Newbold Pacey and the turning to Moreton Morrell.

WCC has also implemented a maintenance programme of filling pot holes in and around the villages over the last three months.

Warwickshire Road Safety Fund

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Philip Seccombe has opened a £500,000 grant fund for initiatives tackling road safety, as part of his commitment to reduce the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on the county's roads. The PCC invites applications for any project that aims to address road safety problems in Warwickshire, and which will have outcomes aligned to the Police and Crime Plan priorities. All applications should be for one-off funding for a specific project. Projects may be focused on prevention, engagement, education and/or enforcement. The grant scheme is open to both established and new service providers. Applications will be welcomed from community, voluntary, third sector and statutory organisations that deliver projects or services at a countywide level or for projects that are targeted in one or more local authority areas within Warwickshire. The grant form can be downloaded via: <https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/commissioners-grants/warwickshire-road-safety-fund/>.

Problem solving is at the centre of my role and I wish to reassure the Parish Council and residents that whilst I try to resolve issues quickly there are often processes and procedures that appear to block actions and decisions being more rapid which is not only frustrating for all of you but also myself. Thank you for your understanding and I am always happy to help where I can, and I look forward to working with you all over the next 12 months.

6. District Councillor's report

Cllr Parry filed the following report read out by J Cleeton:-

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who kindly supported my election and to advise I will continue to work hard on behalf of all the villagers.

The last 12 months have been busy ones and I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new medical centre in Wellesbourne in March, which I am sure has been much welcomed by the villagers – there is no doubt that the new facilities will encourage additional doctors to join the team when they are in a position to recruit more staff.

The District Council has been particularly busy under the new leadership of Cllr Tony Jefferson and SDC has become a councillor driven district council which includes the following initiatives:

- Spearheading the Compulsory Purchase Order of Wellesbourne Airfield to stop and protect the owners from selling the airfield to Gladman's for more housing. Work is still on-going with potential future partners/operators and a further meeting with the owners is scheduled for June. £1.25m set aside if required for CPO legal fees
- Increase in council tax was 1.5%
- Five Year Housing Land Supply which currently stands at 6.25 years is being recalculated as of 31st March 2019 and results are anticipated in July
- Budget approved in February 2019 and expected level of revenue reserves c£10m – current Corporate Strategy extended to cover 2019 with the main priorities being: a flourishing local economy, people and their environment and being a responsible community leader.

Over the last year I have been Chair of Regulatory Services, Vice Chair of Planning East and a committee member of Planning West. I am pleased to advise that I have been appointed to Cabinet and am the new portfolio holder for Regulatory Services which includes environmental health, building control, land charges and enforcement.

The next SDC Full Council Meeting is on 22 May 2019.

Cllr Parry also reported on a few other matters:-

Parish Matters

Members of the Parish Council were alerted to dogs being walked on the playing field and not on a lead with photo evidence provided. Cllr Parry has spoken to the individual concerned and no further action is needed.

Members of the Parish Council have also been alerted to the use of weedkiller along the boundary of 12 Oak Tree Close on the playing field area – a concern has been raised that any weedkiller spraying on the playing field can only be instructed by the Parish Council, as its action requires a commercial spraying licence to be used in view of health and safety requirements on public open spaces. Cllr Parry is investigating the matter.

Cllr Parry has briefed the Lengthsman via WWPC on clearing the area adjacent to the boundary of 12 Oak Tree Close and the ditch but these works have been delayed and not started due to health issues of the Lengthsman.

7. Community representative's report

i. Warwickshire College

Angela Joyce from WCG filed the following report that was read out by the Clerk and J Cleeton:-

Farm

Around 2,000 visitors made the most of the sunshine and flocked to the Moreton Morrell College annual lambing event at Nether Moreton Farm in March. Families and members

of the community were given the opportunity to get up close to the lambs, take a tour of the farm and welcome approximately 50 new lambs born over the two day period. The Animal Centre was another hit with visitors on the day, with most of them taking the opportunity to tour the centre and meet our meerkats, porcupines, chameleons and many more. To help capture the special moment, the college invited guests to share their pictures on social media with a chance of winning a prize for the best photo. Lots of lovely entries were received, with the winning photo being taken by Melissa Dee Talbot-Hyde from Southam, Warwickshire.

Beef Unit

The old dairy shed was converted into more cattle housing in February this has allowed the farm to increase its cattle numbers to 450 with aim of reaching 500 by the end of May. The viewing platform will also be refurbished to create an area suitable to host lectures.

Other Farm News

The farm has recently applied to become a strategic farm for AHDB beef and lamb production. If successful there would be increased access to new technology and industry knowledge and we would host days throughout the year to showcase the farms production systems.

Estate

The college has received confirmation that it will have a higher education (HE) teaching capital grant for the next academic year to pay for the refurbishment of Cotswold Court to create a HE Centre at Moreton Morrell. This will create a learning environment for our HE students that will be distinct from the FE students. The decoration works will be undertaken during the summer months in readiness for September 2019.

Moreton Hall

We are continuing to work closely with our design team as we work towards finalising the designs for the Hall which will be a key element in the second round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In the current economic climate, construction costs have inevitably increased and so we are reviewing options to ensure that we are working within our original cost estimates. It has also been fascinating to work with the interpretative designers, as they, along with the heritage architects consider how we can best preserve and showcase the heritage in the building for generations to come. As part of this work, focus groups were undertaken with members of staff who recall working in Moreton Hall before the fire. During the delivery phase of the project, there will be several opportunities for the local community to engage with the project and we look forward to discussing our Memories of Moreton campaign with you.

Community

Moreton Morrell had the pleasure of welcoming volunteers and children who are supported by 'The Friendship Project For Children', to our Animal Welfare Centre for an inspiring and educational day. Our Sports department at Moreton are once again hosting weekly sporting sessions with the pupils from Moreton Morrell Primary School. Our sports students organise and lead sessions to encourage and increase participation on sporting activities.

We continue to talk to the Parish Council representatives regarding a new 5 year lease on the Playing Field. We hope to soon reach agreement on the terms of the lease.

Sadly, on a less positive note we continue to experience a small number of local residents who are walking in the non-permitted areas of the College's estate (i.e in areas other than the public footpaths or Box Field). We continue to be disappointed that our private property is being treated in this way and that staff and students are seeing unregistered people in our grounds. It is further disappointing that we continue to receive reports of verbal abuse when these individuals are approached by College staff.

Staff and Students

Fourteen land-based service engineering apprentices at Moreton Morrell from AGCO dealerships across the country were delighted to learn that they had passed their End Point Assessment (EPA) taken with Lantra at the land-based college at the end of February. They are the first in the UK to pass the robust new industry sector standards.

The AGCO Academy Apprenticeship is now in its twentieth year and in partnership with Moreton Morrell College, has been the starting point for some of the most highly-respected and sought-after agricultural engineers in the sector.

A huge well done to Moreton Morrell Animal Welfare and Vet Nursing lecturers Victoria Bowes and Helen Coleman who recently had their book published on pet obesity.

PC Darren Lund the youth engagement officer for South Warwickshire police came to Moreton Morrell to deliver the second of a series of talks to the Preparation for Adulthood students at the White House. The theme was 'keeping safe in the community'. Many areas of safety were discussed including the issues surrounding knife crime which is a growing problem nationally. The talk was a great success and the groups are looking forward to Darren's next visit. Our thanks to Darren and South Warwickshire police for giving us this opportunity.

Our Level 3 Wildlife and Countryside Management students have been carrying out earthworm surveys as part of their studies in Wildlife Conservation. The students collected earthworms from the college grounds and identified the different species. Once they had been identified, the earthworms were safely released back where they were found.

The Level 3 Wildlife & Countryside group have started preparing the wild game cover for the coming season. This is one of 3 areas on the Moreton Morrell estate that is planted every year with a mix of species for wildlife: Sunflowers, maize, Quinoa, mustard and kale are some of the species that will be included. It is providing the group with good practical experience using the machinery, and also the theoretical knowledge on how estate management, farming and wildlife can work together.

Moreton Morrell Preparation for Adulthood group held the first of their Coffee and Cake Enterprise Initiatives at the White House 'Pop Up' Cafe. The day was kept purposefully

low key paving the way for taking on a wider audience in future. The activity was designed to encourage the students to engage with members of the college community that they do not usually come into contact with to build confidence, self esteem, improve communication, money handling and customer service skills in a safe and informal setting. The students worked really hard both before, during and after the event by creating and distributing bespoke invitations, baking cakes, scones and brownies, taking money, clearing away and washing up and chatting to their customers. It was a fantastic day and really well supported by many areas.

Our Level 3 Wildlife and Countryside Management students have been investigating water pollution as part of their Environmental Science unit. The learners were given nine water samples, and they had to use their knowledge gained in the classroom to work out which of the samples were contaminated and what had caused it. The students assessed the pH, colour, turbidity, odour, sediments and signs of aquatic life.

Representing WCG at the Rugby Dragon's Den, Moreton Morrell student Chanel Ebourne-Peak gave an excellent presentation of her new equine clothing brand "Eqinell". The dragons, drawn from the MD's of various local businesses, were very impressed with the samples of her new designs and her business plans.

Well done to Josh Aherne, a student at our Moreton Morrell Gatherum Centre, who has secured work experience under the supervision of Toni Deakin, Cook / Supervisor in the Refectory within the Animal Care Centre. Another hard working and conscientious student demonstrating an excellent work ethic.

Congratulations to our Moreton Morrell Level 3 Animal Management student, Kaycee McCafferty, on her placement at Drayton Manor Zoo. The employer feedback was at distinction level - great job Kaycee! Thank you Drayton Manor Zoo for providing such a wonderful placement.

Residential Services had a Landex visit to undertake a mock inspection. The inspection went well with a lot of positive feedback. Landex felt that all of the points they gave us last year have been addressed and that we now should try to focus on getting up to an 'Outstanding' grade. The team are working hard to be able to secure a grade from Ofsted that is reflective of the hard work they do and of the support we provide for our residential students.

Visit by L & Q housing feedback:

'...Just wanted to let you know that Richie brought round some visitors from L and Q housing yesterday who are interested in taking on possible Carpentry and Brickwork apprentices. I wanted to let you know as they commented on the professional, clean and well maintained set up we have at MM and were extremely impressed with the quality of the work that our learners are doing. They compared some of the brickwork jobs to the other colleges that they have visited and said that you are producing work to are far higher standard. Some of the work that they were particularly impressed with was actually work carried out by multiskills learners.'

The Bricklaying department has also been successful as one of six Hubs sponsored by the London Brick Company and have had 12,000 bricks donated.

Open Events

The Moreton Morrell College annual Affiliated Horse Trials took place on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd of May. We were delighted that we had over 450 horse and rider entries and the two days was extremely successful. We were also pleased that the unaffiliated horse trials held on the 5th May is growing year on year as the event becomes a firm favourite in the equine event calendar in the region. Our thanks go to the organisers, students and many volunteers which help these events be such a great success. Our Open Events have gone very well with visitor numbers and applications up across the board. April Open Events proved successful with attendance on average running about double the rate from last year, and the events yet to run also showing increased pre-registrations. At the end of June, we will be hosting a number of school students for taster sessions in our curriculum offer, prior to them making post-GCSE choices in the autumn. We are hosting a series of events over the summer months for visitors and students to come and look around the campus and have the opportunity to speak to specialist staff and tour our extensive resources.

Courses / Curriculum

Moreton Morrell hosted Dr Liz Halford who led the annual Landex peer review visit with colleagues from the Scottish Rural Colleges. This year the focus was on land-based higher education at Moreton Morrell and Pershore Colleges. The areas of good practice included the personalised approach to students and the input of individual teaching staff members which is highly valued by students; the process and methodology used for HE teaching observations which forms part of our application for HEA fellowships; and the agri-tech research facility which is a valuable opportunity to support knowledge exchange in relation to local economic needs. Dr Halford also commented on WCG's successful Office for Students registration and the introduction of the integrated foundation year.

We were pleased to host a day visit from the Government's T-Level Route Panel for Animal Care and Management pathways at Moreton Morrell. The panel is tasked with writing the outline content for the new qualifications and are made up of employers, professional bodies and providers. Following an introduction the panel had a tour of Moreton Morrell and employers in particular were interested in our physical resources and how we deliver the content. Such an awareness helps their thinking when developing the outline programme content. The group were highly impressed with our resources and facilities but also with staff and students that they met during their visit. Thank you to all staff who were involved in conversation with our visitors and to our students who spoke with pride about their time with us.

ii. The Villager

Jane Cleeton made the following report:-

Alison Gregory is retiring from editing, a great loss, but we thank her for a fantastic job over the last few years. Peter Gibbins has agreed to take over the role but needs items for

publication. The account has £202 account balance, and as agreed at the previous meeting the remuneration for the editor will be £100 per issue.

iii. Village Hall

Mike Harwood made the following report:-

It has been another relatively quiet year but with more use of the hall by the village community. The Hall is now being regularly used for coffee mornings, Bingo, table tennis, Christmas Carols and Pilates. It has also been used for fund-raising events.

We thank particularly to Jo and Katrina for the organisation of their events.

We thank The Parish Council for their valuable support with their annual grant of £1,000 which is a much-needed contribution to our increasing costs.

We value the support given by their representative Bernard Keavy who provides the link to the PC.

Also, further support given by way of funding for:

- New tennis tables
- Door repairs and new door
- New double-glazed windows

The latter two have contributed greatly to keeping the Hall warmer in the cold winter months.

We used the two storage heaters more to endeavour to maintain some background heat. We have considered installation of a third storage heater. However, their use has meant that our electricity bills have increased despite us reviewing provider and our contract.

We are always considering ways to attract use of the hall and those who do use it like its appearance, facilities offered and position in the centre of the village.

The Community Trust have organised fund raising events being the Burn's Night and St Patrick's Night which have been successful, and they have offered to consider support by purchase/replacement of equipment etc.

We need to consider the replacement of the smaller tables by lighter folding ones which will complement the larger tables which have been a success.

The cost of six of these is approximately £650. With costs rising we will need to consider the charges for the use of the hall, but we do not wish to discourage more Hall use as bookings are still comparatively low.

We thank Fiona who has looked after Bookings for over 25 years who has now handed this role over to Diana.

We need to consider fund raising events to improve our finances to meet our day to day costs and building up funds to meet the larger maintenance costs ie roof repairs and exterior redecoration.

We need to consider ways of attracting the new residents, and youth to make them fully aware of the community facilities we can offer.

We believe that the Hall continues to be an important facility available to the village community. We would always welcome new committee members.

iv. Community Café

Jo Boulton made the following report:-

Jo reported that 7 to 10 people regular attend and I would like to carry on, the grant though could be reduced from £300 to £200.

v. Village Gym

Owen Pettiford made the following report:-

The sessions have been running since 11th June, firstly in the new sports hall and now in the Suggett Centre . The PC fund £17.50 per week which pays for the hall. Sports England provided a grant of £300 which covers equipment and insurance, Alan West also donated some equipment. Around 40 people from the village have attended at least once, and the average is 12 to 15, with 8 regulars. The ages range from teens to 70+. more details at www.mmct.org.uk

vi. Moreton Morrell Parochial Church Council

John Moverley filed and read the following report:-

Thank you for the opportunity to present this brief report. This has certainly been another busy and successful year for your church. The Room continues to get extensive use complementing the facilities of the Village Hall but also for wide ranging community use. Working with children from the village school, we have run well-attended monthly coffee mornings for parents after school drop-off. Other uses have also included, village photograph sharing events, a puzzle day, musical events, clergy meetings and more. Your church has had packed attendances at services such as the school carols and our own nine lessons and carols.

We were delighted to combine with the Parish Council and School in the Remembrance celebrations. The service itself was well attended and a large number of villagers joined us at the church gates at 11am for the period of silence and laying of the wreath by our

Parish Council Chair. We would hope that we can gain your support for this being an annual event. The link with our school is very strong and we held a successful fete together as well as the school using the church for a range of activity.

We are currently in a period of interregnum as the Vicar of our Benefice of Churches left us last year, as did our curate. It has taken some time to work thorough the issue of replacement and bring together a profile for a new Vicar. However, it is now being advertised and our hope is that a new appointment will be made soon. In the meantime, it has been very much business usual as you will see, and our thanks are due to the many in our community who have helped. We are especially thankful to the Venerable Brian Russell, recently retired Archdeacon, who has taken the bulk of our services and helped with weddings, funerals and baptisms.

As a church, we attract good attendances and as said are blessed with all the voluntary support we receive from flowers, maintenance etc. Financially we recorded a small deficit this year in terms of income and expenditure and so any support for your church in any way is well received. We thank the Parish Council particularly for their support and specifically towards maintenance. It is so much valued and vital. Thank you

8. Matters of Interest

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.