

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th May 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors:	D Slora (Chair), A Parry, D Butler, J Gordon, E Edwards
District Councillor:	A Parry
County Councillor:	Cllr O'Donnell (part)
Clerk :	P Routly

6 members of the public

1. Public participation

John Moverley enquired who were the villager hall trustees, Jane Cleeton replied :- Mike Harwood, Diana Coleman, Veronica Cluley and herself.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Keavy and Cllr James.

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Slora due to the planning application for the Black Horse.

b) Freedom of Information – report on any new requests

None.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 18th March 2024

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

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry filed and read out the following report:-

PCC Elections

Pleased to announce that Philip Secombe (Conservative) has been re-elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire and has pledged to continue to increase police officer numbers and is working to increase support for victims and survivors of all crimes as well as reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending.

Upper Lighthorne GP Surgery

The ICB has selected the St. Wulfstan GP practice in Southam to work with them in providing a new GP facility at Upper Lighthorne, which is extremely welcome news and follows extensive lobbying by the local parishes to secure a new medical facility in the proposed community hub. In terms of timing this is unlikely to happen until 1927, however it is hoped

that pressure can be brought on the ICB to sanction a temporary facility in the meantime and talks are continuing in this vein. My thanks are extended to Andy Smith for all his diligent and relentless work on behalf of all the parishes.

Wellesbourne Innovation Campus EIA Scope

This is to advise that I have submitted my comments to SDC – despite not being included as a consultee – but my concerns predominantly relate to increased traffic movements through Hampton Lucy and Charlecote as well as Wellesbourne – where vehicles are exiting from J13 M40 – which could also have an impact on Moreton Morrell and increase traffic flows on the Wellesbourne Road at Moreton Paddox. My concerns also extend to protecting the historical characteristics of all neighbouring villages, which will inevitably be impacted by such a large scale development albeit bringing economic benefits and jobs to the area.

No Mow May

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be taking part in No Mow May this year, following the new grounds maintenance contract and the Ecological Emergency Notice of Motion passed last week.

No Mow May is one of the actions which will preserve and enhance biodiversity within Stratford-on-Avon District. This aligns with our climate emergency declared in 2019 and with one of the District Council's Council Plan objectives:

Increase and protect green spaces which positively affect nature recovery.

No Mow May has multiple positive impacts for biodiversity. Reduced mowing allows different plant species to grow, which provides food sources for pollinators and other animals. Longer grass also provides wildlife with shelter. No Mow May also reduces pollution, increases carbon sequestration, and reduces emissions by reducing fuel use.

It is a contractual requirement for No Mow May to be carried out on highway verges, on non-rural roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less. Some road junctions will continue to be cut to maintain sight lines and not restrict the visibility of road users.

Open Space SPD Revised

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Full Council has formally adopted its revised Open Space SPD following a public consultation, where all Public Open Space as part of new developments will now be adopted by either the local Town/Parish Council or by the District Council.

In November 2020, The Cabinet agreed to change the way the District Council approaches the management and maintenance of public open space.

This was in response to the growing amount of public open space provided in associated with new development and concerns raised by residents about:

Charges levied by the private management companies appointed by the developers to maintain the public open space which are not always made transparent at the time of purchase, can change every year and are unlimited.

The quality of the maintenance work carried out.

Also, where a Parish or Town Council decides not to take ownership of public open space, the District Council would generally take ownership of the land, with responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The option of passing maintenance responsibilities onto private management companies would no longer be included in Section 106 agreements.

Annual Council

The Annual Council meeting was held on Wednesday 15 May and as the new shadow portfolio holder for Planning and Economic Development, this will be useful to maintain close contact with the planning and enforcement teams.

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr O'Donnell

Cllr O'Donnell was not present at this stage but sent the following report:

At the Warwickshire County Council annual meeting held on 14 May, the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Chris Kettle, handed the chain of office to Councillor Chris Mills.

Educational Disparity

Important recommendations come from a working group established in July 2022 to investigate the issue and include:

Lobbying for legislative change to allow automatic enrolment for free school meals: This would help schools to identify disadvantaged pupils and access additional funding to support them.

Establishing a sub-committee of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: This sub-committee will monitor the implementation of new and existing education strategies.

Enhancing the promotion of opportunities for pupils: This includes more communication about the different pass rates in 11-plus examinations and the additional free tutorial support available to Pupil Premium children.

Continuing the progress of the Warwickshire Education Partnership Board: This board will ensure a strategic approach as well as facilitate collaboration and sharing of best practices between schools across the county.

The working group also identified the long-term ambition of improving mental health for children as a potential factor towards achieving higher attainment levels.

#ShopKind

People in Warwickshire have been urged to be mindful of shopworkers' essential role serving the public.

They've also been reminded that workers should be treated with respect, kindness, and gratitude, as part of the national annual #Shopkind campaign.

Coordinated by the Association of Convenience Stores (ACS) on behalf of the Home Office, the #ShopKind campaign is supported by major high street retailers as well as smaller independent shopkeepers.

In Warwickshire, it has been supported by members of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board including Warwickshire County Council's Community Safety Team, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Warwickshire Police.

#ShopKind's aim is to encourage positive behaviours in shops, acknowledge the important role of shopworkers and raise awareness about the scale and impact of violence and abuse against shopworkers.

ChildCare

Warwickshire parents and carers who work are benefitting from the government's new 2-year-old funding entitlement, with access already at 88%, exceeding the national average of 83%.

The new entitlement was introduced in April 2024 and gives eligible working parents of two-year-olds access to up to 15 hours per week of free childcare or early education from the term after their child turns two.

Early education plays a crucial role in a child's social and cognitive development, and this scheme ensures that more Warwickshire youngsters can reap these benefits helping them to get the best start in life.

Important Information for Parents

- **Parents can still apply** for the 15-hour childcare offer for children turning 2 before August 31st, with places starting in September 2024. Applications are open now.
- **From May 12th**, applications open for children aged between 9 and 23 months on August 31st, with places also starting in September.
- Remember, codes need to be renewed every three months.

Visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> for further information and eligibility criteria.

Process for Parents

Parents and carers who work a minimum of 16 hours and earn at least £183 per week if over 21 (or less for younger parents) may be eligible for 15-hours childcare offer.

Anyone who would like to apply for this, will receive a unique code from central government if they are eligible which childcare providers need to validate before a child can access the funded hours.

Anyone who needs help with the application process or validating their code, should speak to their childcare provider.

More information about early years education in Warwickshire is available online: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts>

Child Seat Safety

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is inviting residents to attend free child car seat check and vehicle advice events being held throughout Warwickshire between 28 May and 1 June.

Delivered by Child Seat Safety, experts in the field of car seat safety and IOSH accredited in car seat training, these free to attend events are open to everyone.

With over 40 years of child seat knowledge Child Seat Safety will offer expert advice and support, check and adjust seats, and answer any questions relating to car seat safety that you may have.

From previous years, we know that around 80% of child car seats in Warwickshire do not fit the car, are incompatible with the child, or need adjustment such as re-routing of seatbelt or adjustment of head restraint.

These events raise awareness of the importance of correctly fitted child seats to reduce avoidable child passenger casualties and support drivers to undertake essential vehicle checks.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue will attend all events to offer vehicle safety and maintenance advice, around checking tyres, oil and screen wash levels. The team will support drivers to undertake these checks themselves. These vehicle safety checks, and maintenance advice are open to all Warwickshire residents at each event.

Events will be held between 10am and 3pm on the following dates:

- **Thursday 30th May:** Asda, Leamington Spa
- **Friday 31st May:** The Maybird Retail Park, Stratford upon Avon

To find out more about these events please visit: <https://warksroadsafety.org/child-seat-check-events/> or <https://www.childseatsafety.co.uk/events>.

If you are unable to attend any of the above events, free advice can also be found at www.carseatsmarter.co.uk.

Walk To School week

Warwickshire joins national campaign to celebrate the power of walking during Walk to School Week 2024.

Warwickshire's children and young people are in for some magical journeys, as pupils across Warwickshire join thousands nationwide as they take part in Living Streets' Walk to School Week, happening from 20 to 24 May 2024.

This year's theme – The Magic of Walking – will ignite children's imaginations while highlighting the many benefits of walking to school, from a healthier and happier lifestyle to a cleaner environment. Walk to School Week is part of Living Streets' National Walking Month initiative, encouraging families to embrace active travel throughout May.

Warwick Road Update

Warwickshire County Council is pleased to update residents on the ongoing progress with the A439 improvement scheme in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The focus of activity across the last two-weeks has been on footway construction and ongoing drainage improvements.

Overall, this project aims to significantly reduce the number of collisions and create a safer, more accessible environment for all road users and pedestrians.

This road safety scheme will include a reduction in the speed limit, a protected turning lane at the Ingon Lane junction, which has experienced a high number of collisions, streetlighting to improve visibility of crossing pedestrians at fisherman's car park, parking restrictions (physical engineering measures) to prevent dangerous parking along the route, an off-road cycle lane along the A439 Warwick Road Stratford, footway provisions which will better connect pedestrians to the town centre, as well as pedestrian crossings points where there is clear pedestrian movement across the highway.

Progress Over the Last Two Weeks

Traffic management was temporarily suspended to accommodate Shakespeare's Birthday celebrations and adjusted for the Stratford Triathlon.

Construction of the new combined footway and junction widening has progressed at pace.

Drainage gullies have been installed, and verges have begun reinstatement.

Nearly 2 kilometres (6,000 square metres) of footway has been constructed to surface course level.

35 new road gullies have been installed.

Over 600 linear meters of ditches have been dug and cleared.

Minor Adjustment to Schedule

While analysing borehole results for sheet piling walls, a layer of hard mudstone was identified. This requires a slight modification to the construction schedule. A different technique for pile insertion will be employed in late May, with minimal impact on the overall project timeline.

Traffic Management:

The council is pleased to report that most drivers continue to adhering to the 30mph speed limit. Instances of speeding have decreased when compared to earlier stages on the construction.

What next?

Construction of the new footway will continue.

The retaining wall at Ingon Lane junction is expected to be completed.

Street lighting works will commence between Stratford and Fisherman's Car Park, as well as at the Ryan Hill NFU entrance.

Additional drainage installation is planned.

7. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

- a) **Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk**
 - i) **Update**

The Clerk informed the meeting that she was waiting for the next inspection to see if it was different from the annual one before recommending any works. Mr Routly had looked at the items raised in the last inspection, when installing dog signs and there were no urgent issues.

A parishioner raised the issue of excessive grass clippings left. *Clerk to speak to contractor.*

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead
i) Parish Plan (SDC Approval)

Cllr Parry informed the meeting of the Cedar House application and the site visit , with following comments sent in support :-

Moreton Morrell Parish Council is pleased to support this planning application for a replacement dwelling as it is in accordance with CS9, AS10 and NPPF paragraph84(e). In terms of the history of the site, the principle for a replacement dwelling has already been substantiated in view of the extant planning permission which was not progressed. The proposed plans reflect an innovative design and landscaping scheme which would complement and enhance its setting in Moreton Paddox being opposite The Invisible House (granted on Appeal) and The Ghost House. The proposed dwelling will also be repositioned away from an adjacent property increasing the separation distance from its boundary and will be no higher in height than the current dilapidated building.

Cllr Parry also stated the Parish Plan was still awaiting SDC approval.

c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Gordon lead
i) Update

Cllr Butler stated the Twenty's Plenty signs seemed to be having a small effect, but cyclists were now the main issue

d) Village Appearance – All
i) Update

Cllr Parry read out a quote from CJ carpentry to refurbish the village signs, sand and re-stain at a cost of £300 each , £1800 in total . All felt this need to be done properly and involved the removal of the signs. Cllr Parry proposed the expenditure, Cllr Gordon seconded, and it was carried unanimously. *Clerk to order.*

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead
i) Update
ii) WCC Footpath Map – Next Steps

Cllr Gordon stated the Mr Frogley would start the stile work and in a few weeks. Cllr Parry stated she still had little input for the map. *Cllr Slora said he would try to do it next week.*

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

Update covered in Annual Parish. Quotes for works being sought. Clerk to ask for an action and business plan.

g) College Update
i) Update

Cllr Edwards stated there were no updates other than liaison on the wildlife area.

8. Matters arising from previous meetings

a) Wellesbourne Recycling centre – Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Heather Timms – (portfolio holder at WCC) had written stating there were no plans to close the centre. Cllrs stated there were still rumours about new housing in Wellesbourne on the site.

b) Brook Lane / Duffus Hill corner kerb damage

Cllr O'Donnell had arrived and committed to following up, along with the highway drain issue on the junction to Little Morrell.

9. New items

a) Email from John Anderson – Old farm Lane

The Clerk informed the meeting she had an email about the state of farm drive and flooding. The clerk though the grips from highways need digging out . *Cllr O'Donnell to follow up.*

10. Planning Applications

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

None.

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

24/00774/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of self-build replacement dwelling with associated landscaping. Cedar House Moreton Paddox Moreton Morrell Warwickshire CV35 9BT. **Support sent**

24/00882/TREE -Trees 0RX0 Liquidambar styraciflua, 0RX1 Acer negundo and 0RVX Betula pendula - Crown lift by 3 metres all round. -Tree 0RX2 Prunus sp. - Crown lift by 2 metres. -Tree 0RX4 Prunus domestica - Crown lift by 2 metres all round. -Tree 0RW5 willow - Prune to clear telephone lines .Moreton Morrell C Of E Junior And Infant School Main Street Moreton Morrell Warwickshire CV35 9AN . **No objection sent**

c. District Decisions for information

23/03002/FUL Erection of building to house animals for educational purposes. Moreton Morrell Campus Land Off John Davis Drive Moreton Morrell Warwick. **Permission with conditions**

24/00882/TREE -Trees 0RX0 Liquidambar styraciflua, 0RX1 Acer negundo and 0RVX Betula pendula - Crown lift by 3 metres all round. -Tree 0RX2 Prunus sp. - Crown lift by 2 metres. -Tree 0RX4 Prunus domestica - Crown lift by 2 metres all round. -Tree 0RW5 willow - Prune to clear telephone lines .Moreton Morrell C Of E Junior And Infant School Main Street Moreton Morrell Warwickshire CV35 9AN . **Tree consent with conditions**

11. Finance

a. Approval of change of Insurer

The Clerk informed the meeting that the renewal quote from Hiscox was £1130.69 , and she had sought new quotes with the best price for the same cover with Aviva for £767.21 . Cllr Slora proposed the change, seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously.

b. Approval of payments (to be circulated)

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

1.	A Parry – Expenses R Cleeton Present	£80.45 (paid)
2.	WCC Allotment Rent	£180.00 (paid)
3.	Npower Street Lights elec – Mar/Apr	£118.84 (paid)
4.	P Routly Salary May/June	£1043.20
5.	P Routly Expenses – Mar/Apr	£61.05
6.	BT Hall wifi April_FINAL (P Routly)	£30.05
7.	PATA payroll fees (1 year)	£81.60
8.	WALC annual subs	£264.80
9.	J Thornton – Internal Audit	£100.00
10.	MMPCC Room hire rests of 2024	£108.00
11.	MMPCC Room Hire to May 2025	£108.00
12.	Creative Foks (Parish Plan)	£240.00
13.	The Villager grant	£75.00
14.	MMPCC Churchyard Grant	£500.00
15.	Gardening Club Grant	£250.00
16.	Insurance – Clear council s (Aviva)	£767.21
17.	P Gibbins – The Villager	£100.00

Cllr Parry also proposed a new budget provision of £1000 for ‘The Villager printing’, if there were ongoing problems the WCG , this was seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously.

c. Receipts (to be circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts :-

1.	Precept	£12485.00
2.	Interest	£277.71

d. Approval of Asset Register

The Clerk presented an up to date asset register for approval. Acceptance of the register was proposed by Cllr Slora , seconded by Cllr Gordon, 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 2024

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

g. Annual Return - Statement of Assurance

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

h. Annual Return – Approval

The Clerk requested the annual return be approved. This was proposed by Cllr Slora, seconded by Cllr Parry 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.

A Parishioner asked about a ‘Party in the Park’ Cllrs stated it was unlikely this year , but would discuss at a future meeting , along with the Hall situation.

14. Any other business allowed by Chairman

None

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting and AGM will be Monday 15th July 2024 in The Room

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.