

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th March 2025

PRESENT:

Councillors:	D Slora (Chair), A Parry, B Keavy D Butler, J Gordon, E Edwards
District Councillor:	A Parry
County Councillor:	P O'Donnell (from 8.15pm)
Clerk :	S Routly (P Routly ill)

1 members of the public (Cllr Simon Howe from Wellesbourne)

1. Public participation

None.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr James.

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

Cllr Parry confirmed she would submit an updated Declaration of Interest form.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 20th January 2025

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20th January were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Gordon and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

It's been a very busy month attending meetings, briefing sessions regarding the SWLP and providing support to local residents regarding their concerns about the proposed options for the 12 new settlements and 24 strategic growth areas. It is anticipated that the outcomes of the consultation and the preferred options will be announced towards the end of this year.

Full Council

The council tax for Band D will rise by 3.05% from SDC, 5% by Warwickshire County Council and by 4.83% by Warwickshire Police. Moreton Morrell precept is £72.71 for a total of £2368.49 per annum – total precept to Moreton Morrell is £25,470.

Earmarked reserves will be used for the following projects:

Trees for parish councils - £50k

Western Relief Study - £250k
Avon Hydro Scheme £1.2m
Acquisition of housing to rent £2.5m
Climate Change Fund 520k
Prostate cancer screening programme with Graham Fulford Trust for two years - £80k
Arden Street Design to release Windsor Street capacity - £100k
Stratford High Street Pedestrianisation study - £70k
Business Conference - £50k
Implementation of projects - £500k
Community Group Bids for projects - £250k

Devolution

Proposed plans for Devolution is dominating the agenda and SDC held an Extra-Ordinary Meeting on 17th March for councillors to debate and discuss the proposals.

Whilst the county council elections are proceeding on 2 May 2025, this is likely to be followed by another election in April 2028 – so I shall be your ward member for an additional year!

Financial savings are at the heart of the devolution plans, which are being fast-tracked by the government, and the savings for a single unitary with Warwickshire are estimated to be £21 million and £18m for a South Warwickshire unitary. Whilst a South Warwickshire option would appear to be more favourable in view of the geography of Warwickshire, the numbers for SDC and WDC fall short of the minimum number of 500,000 residents, plus there is concern that adult social care and children's services would suffer both financially and operationally.

However, more work is required and SDC will be developing a submission document to the Government in November.

It is also estimated that the change process towards Devolution will cost SDC around £2 million in view of the additional resources and consultants required to implement the programme.

Oaktree Close

SDC has installed bollards around its piece of land in Oaktree Close to prevent any cars parking on this grassed area – however sufficient space has been left for access into the playing field. SDC has also renewed the licence for the piece of land to 12 Oaktree Close.

Cllr Parry also mentioned the proposed Solar Farm was going to committee on 2/4/25, she would be attending as District Cllr, and it was agreed Cllr Keavy would attend to represent the PC.

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr O'Donnell

Cllr O'Donnell arrived at 8.15pm due to another meeting, the following report was pre-filed.

Planned Works this financial year

Resurfacing on Oaktree Close Moreton Morrell

I have requested a paths audit with minor works for Moreton Morrell.

SEND

Budget for and prevalence of **Special Educational Needs** often comes up with residents. I thought it would be interesting to see how SEND presents within Stratford upon Avon District.

Out of the **21,109 children on the school roll** within the Stratford upon Avon district, the children with **SEN support is 2979 14.1%**. Those with the support of an Education and Health Care Plan (**EHCP**) is **698 which equates to 3.3%** of the number of children on roll for school. The application for EHCP has increased by over 40% in the past 2 years. Over £60 million is spent on young people with Special Educational Needs (SEND). In Warwickshire higher attainment scores have been achieved than the national average.

At WCC I chair **Children and Young Persons Partnership** which has covered many challenging areas recently. Self-harm is an ongoing area of work.

Over the period 2021/22 - 2022/23 for all ages, 48.3% of Warwickshire hospital admissions that were due to self-harm were intentional self-poisonings. CWPT found that paracetamol accounted for the largest number of overdose admissions and the source is mostly within the family home.

Pre-teen and teenage females were found to be at risk and had a higher prevalence of intentional self poisonings. Teenage females also account for a higher proportion of under-18 alcohol admissions than males (2018/19 -2022/23) This is an area we will continue to monitor and look at causality and prevention.

The Labour Government, through the **Devolution White Paper**, has directed all two-tier Local Authority areas shall become Unitary Councils by 2028. Consultation will be undertaken by the Secretary of State through their department. This is a top down exercise with very little consultation from local government upwards. It is crucial that future Unitary Government is not remote from local communities and engagement with them is embedded within future structures. Our rural voice is key. At WCC we have agreed cross party that: The Council therefore:

1. Will develop a proposal to Government for unitary local government for Warwickshire which meets the guidance, criteria and time frames set out by Government.
2. Seeks to quickly establish clarity from Government regarding the model to be progressed to enable the best use of time and resource.
3. Commits to engage with Districts, Boroughs, Towns, Parishes and Communities in developing proposals, both existing and future emerging arrangements.
4. Recognises the importance of the boundary and the identity of the County of Warwickshire in any proposals and will work with regional partners.
5. Will continue to strive for the economic prosperity of the area even against adverse national headwinds.
6. Agrees to establish a cross-party working group to support this work.

Around 700 new electric vehicle (EV) public charge points are to be installed following Warwickshire County Council's approval to invest nearly £3.3m in public charging infrastructure.

At its 28 January meeting Cabinet approved the addition of £3.295m to the Capital Programme for the installation and ongoing management of EV chargepoints. This funding comes from the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund.

The procurement process is now underway, with the aim of awarding contracts by September 2025. It is anticipated that the new twin-socket chargepoints will be installed across the county over the next three to four years.

The new chargepoints will be delivered with a firm focus on public need, being strategically located to prioritise areas where residents lack off-street parking.

Warwickshire County Council is collaborating with neighbouring local authorities, led by the sub-national transport body Midlands Connect, to leverage collective buying power through a joint procurement process. This approach will maximise the number of chargepoints delivered and ensure the most effective use of funding.

Lighthorne Heath Primary School and Sydenham Primary School (part of the Leamington Federation) have become the first schools in the county to achieve the Schools of Sanctuary Award.

The award recognises their commitment to creating welcoming and inclusive learning environments for all their pupils, particularly refugees or asylum seekers, and their work in educating pupils about the experiences of people seeking sanctuary.

The [Schools of Sanctuary](#) programme is a national initiative being supported in Warwickshire by the county council service, EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service). The award acknowledges schools that foster a culture of inclusion for refugees and asylum-seeking children and families. The approach also benefits children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with SEND. All children feel safe, valued and supported. Becoming a School of Sanctuary requires a whole school effort and going above and beyond statutory requirements.

For schools interested in learning more about the support available to become a School of Sanctuary, please email EMTAS with the heading 'Schools of Sanctuary': emtasadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk

For more on the benefits of the Schools of Sanctuary programme visit: <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

7. Warwickshire College Report

Sara-Jane Watkins CEO was not present, but filed the following report :-

Strategic

WCG remains under a Financial Notice to Improve (NtI) from the Department for Education (DfE), with a detailed Single Improvement Plan (SIP) driving financial recovery and operational improvements. Significant progress has been made since December 2024, including the completion of the Malvern sale and securing refinancing agreements to strengthen financial stability. A stocktake visit by the Further Education Commissioner (FEC), led by Deputy Commissioner Frances Wadsworth, will take place on 21 March 2025 at Pershore Campus to assess progress in financial health, governance, and curriculum strategy. Key performance indicators (KPIs) show positive trends in learner recruitment and staff retention, although cash flow and apprenticeship achievement rates remain focus areas. Governance oversight has been strengthened through regular board updates, financial monitoring, and strategic alignment with the SIP. The college is on track to meet financial and operational targets, positioning itself for the potential lifting of the NtI..

Farm

The College sheep flock has been housed, shorn and sorted into lambing groups, the first of our early lambs have arrived and at the time of writing this we have a healthy single and a set of healthy twins. The main flock is due to start lambing on the 24th of March, Students will be taking part in day and night lambing as part of their study programs. We look forward to inviting the public to see our lambing on April the 5th.

Our winter wheat crops have had fertiliser applied, with other less successful fields being drilled with spring wheat and spring oats. A number of the fields will be drilled by the students using the new equipment purchased giving them hands-on arable experience and learning how to use GPS guidance for accurate drilling.

The beef Approved Finishing Unit continues to maintain high husbandry and welfare standards. With cows achieving very good weight gain targets.

New equipment purchased from T level funding is due to arrive in the next month including a new Mower, Tedder and Rake ready for the students to undertake forage haylage production later this year.

Students will be out in the grass fields over the coming weeks applying fertiliser to our grazing platform to ensure a plentiful supply of grass for our sheep when they are turned back out on grass post lambing.

Plans are underway to develop a small Poultry unit on the farm to further enhance student experience and supply eggs to the wider college group and community.

Estates

The new DfE T Level funded Animal housing building project is in full swing and is on target to be completed by 2025. We are also now considering how we renovate the Tausky Yard to expand our construction offer due to significant demand.

Events

We welcomed prospective students to our third Open Event of the year this past Saturday 15 March. Our next and final open event of this academic year (specifically for our HE university-level courses) takes place on Saturday 14 June, from 10am to 1pm, where we look forward to seeing the first crop of potential applicants for our degree courses starting in September 2026.

Moreton Morrell College staff and students are abuzz in the run-up to the Lambing and Animals event on Saturday 5 April. It's a perfect event for families to visit us to see our arrivals, including the ever-popular lambs, our new rabbit and guinea pig enclosure, as well as visit our popular marketplace with local traders selling food and gifts. You can also find out more and take part in have-a-go activities provided by our academic departments. Tickets are still available to buy from wcg.ac.uk/lambing and we are looking forward to seeing as many local parishioners as possible on the day!

During this term the Animal Centre will be hosting a Livestock Training Event for UK Animal Care Technicians from across the country. This will include a tour of the Animal Centre and the new build as well as the College farm.

Facilities regular hire - Weekdays - Term Time

Mondays & Fridays - Vaulting training

Tuesdays - Stoneleigh RC Jump & Flatwork Training

Wednesdays - Warwickshire Hunt Pony Club

Thursdays - North Warwickshire Hunt PC Mounted Games Training

Fridays - Warwickshire Hunt Pony Club MG Training

Supported Learning

The Gatherum Centre at Moreton Morrell will be hosting an easter egg hunt during the one day lambing event on the 5th of April. Alongside this we will be selling homegrown beautiful flowers and vegetables, grown by our wonderful students, for their employability units, and Maths and English project. In addition to this we have collaborated with Shipston Home nursing our local community charity to sell our produce and double the money they have given to us to pass on to their brilliant and devoted charity, to help others in need. As our relationship with the animal care department grows even stronger, we will also have a pet supplies stall onsite selling a variety of gifts and foods for pets, made by our students - from tortoise food to cat nip. It will prove to be a lovely countryside event supported by all.

WCG Sport

WCG Sport is a new College initiative being launched in March 2025. The mission is to develop a structured programme that nurtures elite athletes through high-quality training, academic support, career pathways, and community engagement, creating a lasting impact on both our students and the wider community. Our vision is to establish WCG as a centre

of excellence in elite sports, providing student-athletes with unparalleled support, training, and opportunities to excel both academically and athletically. The college is investing in its facilities which will include the development of the Suggett Centre to become the hub for WCG Sport. This building will accommodate the new strength and conditioning gym, changing rooms and a new clubhouse. The college is also investing in changing some of the old bungalow accommodation to outside changing facilities. The Warwickshire Academy of Sport will be based at Moreton Morrell where students will be able to access coaching sessions, strength and conditioning and sports physiotherapy while studying on any of the curricula offered across Moreton Morrell College, Royal Leamington Spa College and Warwick Trident College. In September 2025 the college will offer academies in men's and women's football, basketball, rugby and Esports. The academy offer will be developed each year. To introduce WCG Sport we have a launch event planned for the 6th March 2025 from 18.00-20.00.

Staff and Students

The Warwickshire Careers Hub, in conjunction with the Careers and Enterprise Company, recently honoured WCG's commitment to creating powerful relationships between education and employers to support young people, through the national Careers Hubs and the Enterprise Advisor Network. David Lennox, from the Warwickshire Careers Hub, presented our Head of Careers, Emma Williamson, with a certificate to celebrate this achievement at a recent network meeting of Warwickshire schools careers leaders.

Gavin Tutton, owner of Gavin Tutton Carpentry and a former student, recently returned to Moreton Morrell during Employability and Enterprise Week to talk to current students about his experiences in the industry. Gavin said: "Returning to the college that helped shape me was a full circle moment; it wasn't just about giving back, but the possibility of enhancing the experience for the students who might follow a similar path I once took."

Carpentry apprentices recently teamed up with students at Moreton Morrell Primary School for a fun masterclass in building wildlife housing. Our talented apprentices put together kits for bat boxes and hedgehog houses, and expertly guided the primary school kids as they assembled the kits, learning valuable carpentry skills along the way. It was fantastic to see our apprentices in action, sharing their knowledge of different hand and power tools and collaborating with the children to complete each project together. The best part? These beautiful homes for wildlife will be gifted to the local community and placed around Moreton Morrell to help encourage wildlife and promote biodiversity.

We're thrilled to announce that Ethan Jarvis Baker from Crawfords, one of our Land Based Service Engineering Apprentices, emerged as the winner of the AGCO Apprenticeship Level 3, Year 3 cohort 50-question challenge conducted at the LAMMA show in February. The Level 3 apprentices took on the task of finding answers from companies that support apprenticeships and external training programs at LAMMA. Their dedication and effort were truly inspiring!

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk

- i) Update**
- ii) Latest report and actions**
- iii) Wildlife hedge planting**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the latest annual inspection report of the playing field showed a few medium risk items, these are moss on balance beams, a worn chain link on large swings, eroded surface on the spinner and rotten wood on the junior climber, in the rope area. Mr Routly had inspected with Cllrs Keavy and Butler and offered to undertake the repairs. Cllr Keavy proposed the max budget of £1000 inc all parts, this was seconded by Cllr Parry and carried unanimously. *Clerk to advise.*

Cllr Edwards informed the meeting she had been asked by Catherine Stacey if native hedging could be planted on the playing field, inside the boundary fence at the bottom and the side by old farm drive . The cost would be zero as the Woodland Trust fund, and it would help bio-diversity. All agreed subject to the College approval. *Cllr Edwards agreed to ask the College*

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead

- i) Update**
- ii) Triangle Field Update**

Cllr Parry informed the meeting she had been advised of a pre application for a replacement dwelling at Top Acre , it would be slightly higher than existing , but footprint smaller than the permitted development for the existing. To be discussed further when full application is received.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Marriott Land had been written to asking them to confirm the Triangle field offer in writing from the College. Peter Marriott had replied to confirm that this would happen, but also wrote to change the offer on the proposed walking route. The proposed route with access via Wellingtonia Drive to the top of the Box field was being withdrawn, due to access via the Wellingtonia gates and also the proposed hard standing being an issue for horse events. As an alternative they were offering a permissive path return route from the footpath that goes past the farm. In principal Cllrs thought this would be Ok, but would need confirmation that the access to Box Field would remain, and that stiles on the new route were improved with kissing gates *Clerk to follow up with Marriott land and also publish new route offer on the website.*

c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Butler lead

- i) Update**
- ii) Horsebox signs**

Cllr Bulter confirmed the new larger horsebox signs (directing away from village to the Fosse) were installed with the help of Cllr Keavy and Steve Routly

d) Village Appearance – All

- i) Update**
- ii) Fountain Repair**
- iii) Brook Lane / Duffus Hill corner verge damage**

The Clerk confirmed the fountain repair was complete, Cllrs thought it was a great job. Cllrs had written to Cllr O'Donnell about the damage to the corner by the old phone box, and requested the corner be opened. Cllr O'Donnell confirmed the WCC had refused to address, but would re look with the new pictures. *Cllr Slora to resend photos.*

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead

- i) Update**

Cllr Slora confirmed more work would be undertaken on farm drive, cutting back along with other footpaths and requested hire of a chipper be approved , the Clerk confirmed this was within budget , and it was agreed to go ahead. Work on stile improvement would also happen soon.

Cllr Simon Howe from Wellesbourne was in attendance and spoke of the footpath / bridle way that used to connect to Wellesbourne, he would like to reinstate. Cllr Slora explained the issue with a landowner but agreed to provide details to Cllr Howe.

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

Cllr Parry presented a request to improve the church lighting on the path to The Room , the quote was for £650. It was proposed that the PC provide this sum by way of a grant by Cllr Slora , seconded by Cllr Parry and carried unanimously. *Clerk to arrange.*

No update on the Village Hall , the Clerk reminded the meeting it was almost 4 years ago she wrote to the Trustees offering for the PC to take over, which was refused. It was resolved unanimously to write to the Charity Commission again due to lack of activity.
Clerk to write

g) College Update
i) Update

Cllr Edwards said there was no update since the last report.

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

a) None

10. New items

a) Wellesbourne Flood Group Letter

The Clerk had circulated a status report from the Wellesbourne flood group, good progress was being made. It was proposed (given that much water goes from Moreton Morrell parish land) by Cllr Parry to offer a £500 grant towards the future works, this was seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously. *Clerk to inform*

11. Planning Applications

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

25/00459/FUL Two storey height front entrance porch, replacement windows and chimney to be rebuilt in stone . Manor Fields Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AL

After discussion it was resolved unanimously to make a response of no objection. *Clerk to inform SDC.*

25/00449/FUL Erection of a single storey rear extension with new contemporary glazing. Nicholaston Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT

After discussion it was resolved unanimously to make a response of support, as the property needs an upgrade and it would improve dwelling. *Clerk to inform SDC.*

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

None.

c. District Decisions for information

25/00058/TREE -T1 oak - Reduce crown to avoid windthrow risk. Reduce crown radii by 2 metres off eastern side (widest side) and about 1-1.5 metres off the other sides and 1 metre off the height, as noted on submitted annotated photograph. -T3 crack willow - Re-pollard. Remove all upper stems to smooth sloping cuts at boles. Retain small live shoot to stimulate any growth, as per submitted annotated photograph. Oak Tree Cottage Duffus Hill Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AX **Tree Consent Approved**

24/03008/FUL Demolition of agricultural barn, removal of silage clamp, and erection of 4 dwellings, erection of bin/bike store, widening of vehicular access and improvements to driveway, with all associated works. Grange Farm Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BD. **Permission with Conditions.**

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 . **Permission with Conditions**

24/02028/FUL Erection of a home office outbuilding in the grounds of Three Gates House. Three Gates House Fosse Way Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9DE . **Permission Refused**

12. Finance

a. Approval of payments (circulated)

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

1.	C Stacey – Planters Wildlife park	£157.90 (paid)
2.	WCG Playing Field Lease	£500.00 (paid)
3.	D Edwards – Wildlife park food expenses	£24.70 (paid)
4.	WCC – Streetlight Maintenance	£40.66 (paid)
5.	Kenilworth Brish repairs – Fountain	£720.00 (paid)
6.	Nuneaton signs – Horsebox signs	£121.56 (paid)
7.	WCC Allotment rent	£180.00 (paid)
8.	MMPCC room rent	£12.00 (paid)
9.	Salvo Design Villager Printing	£162.50 (paid)
10.	Tomato Energy – street lights Jan	£60.50 (DD)
11.	Tomato Energy – street light Feb	£54.75 (DD)
12.	Tomato Energy – Phone box def	£2.16 (DD)
13.	Kompan Annual Inspection	£331.34
14.	P Routly Salary Mar / April	£1083.52
15.	P Routly Expenses – Jan / Feb	£81.00
16.	S Routly – Horsebox sign install	£40.35
17.	C Stacey – Swift box timber Wildlife park	£114.22
18.	P Gibbins – The Villager	£100.00
19.	J Cleeton plants	£18.00

b. Receipts (circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts :-

1.	VAT claim	£3999.99
2.	J Slora – Xmas Event return of balance	£366.39
3.	Allotment Rent	£180.00

13. Correspondence – all circulated by email

a) Church Flower Show

Cllr Parry reported the Church was having a flower festival on 6/7 September and would like the PC to sponsor a window for £25. This was approved unanimously. *Clerk to arrange.*

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

Cllr Parry raised the subject of VE day on 8th May, and suggest an event centred around the pub on 5th May to include a cream tea, and music, with a proposed budget of £1000. The clerk confirmed the budget contained monies for such an event and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously. *Clerk to arrange subject to the pub agreeing.*

15. Any other business allowed by Chairman

None

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting 19th May 2025 in The Room. this meeting will also be the PC AGM and Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 98.53pm.