

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th November 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors:	D Slora (Chair), A Parry, B Keavy D Butler, J Gordon, E Edwards
District Councillor:	A Parry
County Councillor:	
Clerk :	P Routly

2 members of the public

1. Public participation

None.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr O'Donnell and Cllr James.

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Cllrs Slora declared an interest in item 8fii) Village Hall as a neighbour.

b) Freedom of Information – report on any new requests

None.

c) Code of Conduct / DPI

None.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 16th September 2024

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th September 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 parts of the following report:-

Planning Matters

- The latest five year housing land supply has been calculated at 24.65 years for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2031.
- Consultation in respect of site options for the South Warwickshire Local Plan will be launched early January for 8 weeks, however, the details of sites will be available publicly to view later this month as this will be going to Overview and Scrutiny. Please bear in mind there are more sites included than are required plus 12 potential new settlement sites have been identified across SDC and WDC.
- Next planning committee meeting is on Wednesday but there are no applications in respect of Moreton Morrell

- Concerns raised over the increased height of Moreton Morrell primary school with SDC enforcement with a suggestion to invite a retrospective planning application to regularise the planning permission granted. SDC Enforcement carried out a site visit, however they do not believe the error in the plans of a differential of 20cms warrants the submission of another application.

Budget

Biggest concern for our district are the changes in respect of Inheritance Tax to agricultural estates, businesses and pension pots and we have raised our concerns with Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP in these respects. We are also aware of farmers from the district attending the NFU organised rally in London on Tuesday 19th November.

Cyber Crime Awareness

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is taking the opportunity to remind residents about Cyber safety during Cyber Crime Awareness month. Cyber Scams are on the rise and with more people using devices connected to the internet this will only continue.

To avoid becoming a victim of online crime you don't need to be a computer expert.

Developing a few good online habits drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim of cyber crime, makes you less vulnerable and lets you use the web safely.

Visit www.ncsc.gov.uk for advice on keeping your devices up-to-date with the latest security updates, and for more online security advice.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of cyber crime you can reported this a number of ways. If you are currently being subjected to a live and ongoing cyber-attack then please contact Warwickshire Police on 101.

If you suspect you've been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime, the [Action Fraud](#) team can also provide the help, support and advice you need.

Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 (textphone 0300 123 2050).

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr O'Donnell

Cllr O'Donnell sent apologies.

7. Warwickshire College Report

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

Strategic

WCG has received a financial notice to improve by the DfE and we are currently in intervention and under 'Supervised Status' whilst we address our financial position. The College has developed a detailed financial recovery plan focussed on addressing operating costs and growth. WCG has also recently appointed a new CEO/Principal Sara-Jane Watkins. Peter Husband Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality has now left the College, and has been replaced by Stuart Evans Vice Principal. Roger Bevan, Chief Financial Officer, has also resigned and will be replaced by Rich Aitken who joins the College in December.

Farm

It is currently tupping time for the breeding ewes. The tups were introduced on the 29th October and will be taken out on the 2nd December. We will be due to start lambing on the 24th March, with the lambing weekend taking place on the 5th-6th April. Four new tups were purchased in October with the aim to improve flock performance. All of the winter drilling was completed on the 12th November. This is a lot later than normal, as we are normally looking to have drilling completed by the second/third week of October. This was solely down to the amount of rain that we received at the start of October. The conditions

were not ideal for drilling the wheat, but we will see how it is doing once it has germinated. The beef Approved Finishing Unit continues to maintain high husbandry and welfare standards. The number of animals on the farm has increased and we are working closer to our maximum capacity. We are really excited about new members of our governing body, including Bill Young, you has developed a new Farm Board with a vision of rejuvenating the farm to enable learner growth, and with a significant focus on sustainability and organic farming.

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

Moreton Morrell College held its first Open Event on Saturday 12 October for prospective learners looking to join us in September 2025. We were very pleased to welcome 276 prospective learners on the day with interests ranging from full-time courses for Year 11 school leavers, to those seeking a university degree or apprenticeship training, as well as adults looking for full- and part-time courses to upskill or retrain. Our next Open Event at the college will be on Saturday 11 January and a marketing campaign is already underway to promote the event to additional prospective students for the 2025-26 academic year. 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

Staff and Students

We are pleased to announce that Katie Green, Animal Care lecturer has been appointed as a Resource Content Producer by England Training Foundation (ETF) for the New T Level in Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care. This will help to support the delivery of these new courses in September 2025 Jess Edwards, 41 from Coventry, recently completed a BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Training degree at Moreton Morrell College, while balancing a job in event management and parenting responsibilities. During the course, Jess completed an expedition to the Dinokeng Game Reserve in Limpopo, South Africa through the course and is now on track to a dream career in wildlife conservation. Jess said: "My long-term goal now is to split my time working in the UK and southern Africa. I'm already visiting primary schools to teach classes and I hope to continue to get young people to think more about conservation." George Wynn, a Lutterworth apprentice who is completing his Level 2 Bricklaying apprenticeship training at Moreton Morrell College, will compete in the SkillBuild National Final 2024 in Milton Keynes on 20-21 November. George previously scooped third place in the bricklaying category of the SkillBuild challenge for the Midlands region, earning him a place in the final. We wish George all the very best of luck and we're very sure he will do Moreton Morrell and WCG proud. Hannah Beckley, Alexandra Bolton, Catey Burn and Jane Sked-Connop, four fabulous floristry students from Moreton Morrell College, have won education and training awards at the British Floristry Association Awards. The awards celebrate excellence from all areas of the floristry community in the UK, and the education category is devoted to celebrating the highest achievers in the Level 4 Higher Diploma in Floristry and Level 5 Master Diploma in Professional Floristry courses.

There are four awards for students, recognising the highest theory and practical marks at both levels, with students from Moreton Morrell College being crowned in all four categories. Students, apprentices and staff at Moreton Morrell College have completed the construction of a new end point assessment (EPA) centre – with the college also recognised for its excellence in apprenticeship delivery. The new centre will hold its inaugural EPAs in Spring 2025, with Level 2 and Level 3 Carpentry and Level 2 Brickwork learners to be the first to use the new facility. Due to the high pass rate and number of distinctions at the centre, Moreton Morrell College has also been presented with a City & Guilds Excellence in EPA plaque which will be erected in pride of place in the newly completed EPA centre

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

Item 8f on the Village Hall was brought forward as Jane Cleeton had to leave

Cllr Edwards explained a meeting had been held between the hall trustees, Jane Cleeton (Committee), Cllr Parry and herself.

The meeting concluded that the hall was beyond economic repair to bring it to the standard where people would wish to hire it, and also the funds were not available. It was agreed the building should be preserved and the trustees would look at engaging an architect with the view to seeking an alternative use and possible sale. In the meantime, the PC would look at alternative hall locations (subject to establishing need) including the old Openreach exchange and playing field. *Clerk to contact Openreach*

- a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk**
 - i) November inspection report feedback**
 - ii) Quote for repairs to matting around spinner - Clerk**
 - iii) Playing Field Lease renewal - Clerk**

Cllr Edwards stated that the latest inspection report showed a medium risk for one item, the grass matting under the spinner. All other items were low risk. Steve Routly explained he had inspected, and it was just a small dip in the ground in the centre, the fall height was low. The Clerk said she had a quote from Kompan to put wet pour rubber down around the spinner, but it was over £5000, she said she would find a more cost effective solution. The Clerk also informed the meeting she had started communication with the College, as the lease had expired. *Clerk to get quotes for spinner matting.*

- b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead**
 - i) Update**
 - ii) Parish Plan Approval status**
 - iii) School building complaint update**
 - iv) Solar Farm update and vote on planning funding (£500+VAT)**

Cllr Parry stated the SDC had approved all the plan changes and hopefully it would go for approval in January. All Cllrs expressed thanks to Cllr Parry for her work. Cllr Parry had already reported on the school building being higher than the approved plans. The PC concluded it was a matter for the neighbour and SDC planning, as it had no influence on the matter.

The Clerk had circulated a thank you letter from the solar farm campaign group. The Clerk asked for approval for the £600 spent on the planning report, this was proposed by Cllr Slora, seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously (Cllr Parry abstained). Cllr Parry thought it might be decided in December.

- c) **Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Butler lead**
 - i) **Update**
 - ii) **Larger Horse Box signs (£108+VAT)**
 - iii) **Complaint about illegal cones in parking space Duffus Hill / Brook Lane junction**

Cllr Bulter informed the meeting there was still a problem with large horseboxes in the village and proposed some larger signs at the cost of £108+ VAT, this was seconded by Cllr Slora and carried unanimously. *Cllr Butler to order signs.*

The cones complaint was discussed, and it was concluded it was an isolated incident.

- d) **Village Appearance – All**
 - i) **Update**
 - ii) **Broken sign repaired - Info**
 - iii) **Quote for repair of fountain / trough by school - Clerk**

Cllr Keavy said the trailer was still dumped on Brook Lane, *Cllr Parry agreed to report.* It was noted Carl had repaired the broken sign free of charge.

The Clerk stated she had found a company who could do the brick repairs to the fountain and was awaiting a quote.

- e) **Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead**
 - i) **Update**
 - ii) **Old Farm Drive cutting – Cllr Slora**

Cllr Slora was thanked for the work on the Old Farm Drive, along with neighbours from number 8 and 12 Chestnut Grove. More footpath works were planned.

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

Hall update covered earlier.

Cllr Slora said the Church remembrance service was well attended.

- g) **College Update**
 - i) **Update**

Cllr Edwards stated a meeting had been held with the new College CEO Sara-Jane Watkins and it was a 'breath of fresh air'. The relationship with the village should improve. It was noted the WCG is in poor financial shape.

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

- a) **Wildlife pocket park update / funding refund from MMPCC stalled !- Clerk**

Cllr Edwards confirmed phase 1 construction was complete and now Phase 2 improving wildlife was underway. She explained that MMPCC thought the funding was matched rather than spending their contribution first, but in any case, thought all monies would be spent. The Clerk confirmed she had received more money from MMPCC and would manage the situation

10. New items

a) Request for Grant for Oldies meal - £1500 J Slora

The Clerk explained she had received a requested from Jill Slora to reinstate the Village Xmas meal for the 'Golden not Olden', members of the community, and was proposing a festive meal at the Black Horse for around 40 persons. She requested a grant from the PC. All thought it was a good idea if it was inclusive. The Clerk confirmed there was unspent monies in the budget for a community event. Cllr James proposed support, Cllr Edward seconded and all agreed unanimously. *Clerk to inform Jill*

11. Planning Applications

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

The Clerk informed the meeting a new application has come forward since the agenda was published.

24/02852/TREE -T1 pear - Fell. Replace with yew hedging in same place. Nicholaston Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT

After discussion it was resolved unanimously to send support as it was causing issues on the footpath. *Clerk to respond.*

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

24/02662/TREE -T1 Lawson cypress - Remove. -T2 ash - Remove. -T3 horse chestnut - Remove low branch and basal stems, as per submitted annotated photographs. Land Adjacent To The Holy Cross Church Moreton Morrell CV35 . **Support sent**

24/02383/TREE -T3 copper beech - Crown lift to 5 metre above ground level and development site, by reducing lateral growth 3-4 metres in length with 40-60mm pruning wounds. Prune from BT and broadband wires, to give 1 metre clearance. To provide clearance around wires and above development site and newly extended building. Moreton Morrell C Of E Junior And Infant School Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AN .

No objection sent

c. District Decisions for information

24/01951/FUL Two storey extension to rear of property. Ground floor: kitchen extension. First Floor: additional bathroom converted from existing space and bedroom extension. 3 Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT **Withdrawn**

24/01926/FUL Two story extension to rear of property with pitched roof. Ground floor kitchen extension. 4 Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT **Withdrawn.**

24/02383/TREE -T3 copper beech - Crown lift to 5 metre above ground level and development site, by reducing lateral growth 3-4 metres in length with 40-60mm pruning wounds. Prune from BT and broadband wires, to give 1 metre clearance. To provide clearance around wires and above development site and newly extended building. Moreton Morrell C Of E Junior And Infant School Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AN . **Tree works approved**

12. Finance

a. Approval of payments (circulated)

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

1.	Leaves of Green - Material	£1992.62 (paid)
2.	Leaves of Green - PM	£1440.00 (paid)
3.	Leaves of Green - Materials	£445.10 (paid)
4.	Tim Prickett - Digger	£330.00 (paid)
5.	D White Tree works	£600.00 (paid)
6.	Carl Aspinall - Stiles etc	£1014.00 (paid)
7.	Jenny Edge Food	£95.80 (paid)
8.	C Gordon Defibrillator	£216.00 (paid)
9.	N Power sept	£51.95 (paid)
10.	Salvo design – Villager print	£162.50 (paid)
11.	T H Harwoods - Shredder	£250.00 (paid)
12.	Enplan solar planning	£600.00 (paid)
13.	R P Hall mowing	£484.42
14.	P Routly Salary Nov/Dec	£1043.20
15.	P Routly Expenses – Sept/Oct	£61.05
16.	N Power oct	£56.28
17.	P Gibbins – The Villager	£100.00
18.	The Villager grant	£75.00
19.	MMPCC Churchyard Grant	£500.00

b. Receipts (circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts :-

1.	Allotment rent	£180.00
2.	Interest	£284.62
3.	Refund from MMPCC Leaves of Green PM	£1440.00
4.	Refund from MMPCC Leave of Green materials	£445.10

c. Mid Year Budget update – Clerk

The Clerk had circulated the report and finances were healthy.

d. Approval of Clerks Salary increase from April 2024 inline with national agreement

Cllr Gordon proposed approval in line with national agreement, this was seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously. *Clerk to inform payroll company.*

e. Approval of Change of Electricity Supplier – 35% saving for 3 years

The Clerk informed the meeting, based on a email from WALC that she could secure a 35% saving on electricity cost for 3 years. Cllr Slora proposed changing suppliers, this was seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried unanimously. *Clerk to implement.*

13. Correspondence – all circulated by email

- a) Letter on Travellers site at Ladbroke

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Ladbroke PC about a new travellers site in their Parish and was looking for funding to help support a legal challenge. Whilst Cllrs were sympathetic it was felt that other councils were nearer neighbours.

All other correspondence has been circulated by email over the past 2 months.

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

None.

15. Any other business allowed by Chairman

Cllr Slora read a letter from Bea Slora suggesting the village should have a Christmas tree. It was agreed this was a good idea and Cllr Gordon proposed a maximum budget of £500, this was seconded by Cllr Parry and carried unanimously. *Cllr Slora to follow up.*

It was reported the culvert under Brook Lane was blocked. *Clerk to report to Cllr O'Donnell*

Cllr Slora informed the meeting that Owen Pettifer had approached him regarding PC support if he re started the gym class at the College. It was agreed in principal the PC would support with a grant if asked.

Cllr Keavy said he was progressing discussions with a company who could help obtain a Lottery grant for play field climbing equipment.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting 20th January 2025 in The Room

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.