

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th January 2025

PRESENT:

Councillors:	D Slora (Chair), A Parry, B Keavy R James, J Gordon, E Edwards
District Councillor:	A Parry
County Councillor:	P O'Donnell (from 8.30pm)
Clerk :	P Routly

2 members of the public

1. Public participation

Mr Matthew White thanks the Council and Cllr Parry for support of his planning application. He also informed the meeting he had been appointed as an advisor to WCG for the agricultural business.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Butler.

3. Governance

a) Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Cllrs Edwards declared an interest in item 11a) 25/00058/TREE

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 18th November 2024

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th November were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Keavy 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:-

Happy New Year to you all for what promises to be an interesting one from a local government perspective!

Devolution and Impact on Stratford-on-Avon District Council

The government published a White Paper just before Christmas about its plans to introduce devolution in England which will take powers from central government to the regions. This was part of the Labour manifesto, however the timing and the speed with which it is being introduced will put additional pressures on the district council, their staff and councillors.

In a nutshell, Warwickshire is likely to become a Foundation Strategic Authority which will include Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby Borough Councils.

Stratford and Warwick District Council will still need to push ahead with its South Warwickshire Local Plan as a priority, but there will be no statutory public consultation with regard to devolution and there is a possibility that the county council elections in May 2025 will be postponed to 2026. However, we will be advised by government within the next two months whether the county council elections are going ahead or not.

There will be three tiers/types of Strategic Authorities formed which will be dictated by the population size and area – Foundation Strategic Authorities – over 500,000 population with no mayor (Warwickshire 617k), Mayoral Strategic Authorities 1.5m population (with more power) and Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities (with even more power) – e.g. West Midlands Combined Authority.

Essentially this means there will be one authority handling all the aspects that our county council and district council provide and it is estimated that overall this is likely to introduce substantial savings.

All district and borough councils will be working closely with Warwickshire County Council to ensure the transition is successfully completed and services will continue as normal, this of course means that I am one of the last district councillors at SDC.

The new unitary authorities across England are expected to be delivered in 2027 and 2028.

If WCC wishes to defer the county council elections to 2026 it has to inform the government in writing by 10th January 2025 and so this means that SDC will be abolished in either 2027 or 2028.

It appears that town and parish councils will not be impacted by the current situation. However, more information is needed regarding this matter. I am concerned about the government's expedited process and the lack of public consultation.

SWLP Public Consultation

An eight-week public consultation commences on 10th January – 7th March in respect of the preferred options for sites in the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) for the combined areas of both Stratford and Warwick District Councils for the next 25 years.

Comments can be made online, via email and post.

The Preferred Options consultation will provide a third opportunity for residents to have their say on the emerging Local Plan, following feedback from the previous Scoping and Call for Sites (2021) and Issues and Options and second Call for Sites (2023) consultations. It is informed by a wide range of evidence that is now available to view on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website.

Once adopted, the Plan will set out how both Councils intend to deliver the housing and employment and infrastructure development required to meet our needs up to 2050 whilst also protecting our open spaces, green belt and countryside from unplanned development. The Plan will be the basis upon which all planning applications will be determined in a way that supports those needs and how we address the pressing issues around climate change, biodiversity, connectivity, and resident wellbeing.

It will include the identification of 36 emerging housing and employment growth location options (12 potential new settlement and 24 strategic growth location options) across South Warwickshire which are considered to be potentially suitable growth locations.

Key sites which have been identified and potentially impact on residents within the Wellesbourne North and Rural Ward include:

Potential New Settlements

Land South of Leamington and North of Wellesbourne (J14 M40 area)

Strategic Growth Areas

North of Wellesbourne

South of Wellesbourne

Gaydon Lighthorne Heath
Bishops Tachbrook

As part of the consultation, a targeted call for sites exercise will be held specifically for the following:

- Gypsy and Traveller sites
- Commercial and Community-Led Renewable Energy generation sites
- Housing and Employment sites within the 12 potential new settlement locations

The document has been informed by a significant amount of evidence and expert opinion and you can find out more information about the South Warwickshire Local Plan

at: www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp

I would recommend a separate meeting is held to respond to this consultation and appoint a sub-committee to deal with the responses.

SDC (Public Spaces Protection) (Dog Fouling) Order 2025 Consultation

Yet another consultation, but actually a really worthwhile one!

The Council will shortly consider making a public spaces protection order, effective across the whole district, to prohibit people from failing to pick up after their dogs.

Public spaces protection orders are designed to tackle anti-social behaviour in public places. The behaviour which the Council is looking to prohibit has been identified as detrimental to the area, persistent and unreasonable.

The Council would value your opinion in relation to this proposed order. Should you wish to take part in this consultation, please visit the Council's website – [Proposed PSPO \(Dog Fouling\) Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#).

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr O'Donnell

Cllr O'Donnell arrived at 8.30pm due to another meeting. She stated that she would soon be looking at Highway issues in the village with Geoffrey Hobday from WCC.

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 joined the College in December.

Farm

Tupping has finished and lambing is now fast approaching. The ewes were scanned on the 14th January, with an overall scanning percentage of 178%. The ewes have all been housed since the 17th January, with shearing planned to take place on the week commencing the 27th January. Lambing day is currently pencilled in for the 5th April, all preparations for this will take place closer to the time. After some challenging weather over the past month, the winter wheat is finally starting to grow. The plan is to get fertiliser on as early as possible to give it the best chance to get it growing properly. As soon as the ground conditions allow for this, the fertiliser will be applied. Currently aiming for the first/second

week of February. The beef Approved Finishing Unit continues to maintain high husbandry and welfare standards. A number of additional pieces of agricultural machinery have been purchased to enhance the curriculum and student experience at the college. This includes a Weaving drill, Kuhn cultivator and a brand new Massey Ferguson 6s tractor, amongst other exciting items. 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. The employment of Jack McDill as Head of Farm Development has added additional support to the farm and Agriculture academic teams, and will help to drive the farm forwards from both a commercial and curriculum perspective.

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 second Open Event on Saturday 11 January for prospective learners looking to join us in September 2025. Luckily, 187 prospective learners and their families braved the freezing temperatures on the day to come along and find out more about the wide-ranging courses and training opportunities at the college. Our next and final Open Event for those interested in joining us in September 2025, will be held on Saturday 15 March from 10am until 1pm. Preparations are ramping up for our annual Lambing and Animals event to be held on Saturday 5 April at Moreton Morrell College. We're opening up Nethermorton Farm for this special event so that families can come along and see the baby lambs, tour our 100-species strong Animal Centre, and visit our popular marketplace with local traders selling food and gifts. Look out for stalls from our other subject areas at Moreton Morrell College including Equine, Construction, and more - you may even get the chance to have a go on our riding equicizer or use hand tools to make wooden gifts! 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

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

During our annual higher education Graduation ceremony in November, we were delighted to award two fellowships to Louise Bennett OBE and Colin Hooper in recognition of their achievements and for contributions made to the college. Louise, former CEO of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, is the Vice Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands. She has held the position of President for WCG for the last two years and worked closely with the college group for nearly 20 years during her time at the Chamber of Commerce. Colin, formerly Estates Director at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire, is a Chartered Surveyor with over 45 years' experience in property management, development and master planning. He was a member of the board of governors for WCG from 2018 to 2024 and also sat on the advisory board for Moreton Morrell College.

Sam Crow, owner of Crow Carpentry and former Moreton Morrell student, was keen to employ an apprentice to help meet business demand, but had no employment procedures in place. Now, thanks to our specialist business support, Sam has a bird's eye view of employment law and a keen apprentice in place. "I can't speak highly enough of WCG," said Sam, who started his vocational journey at Moreton Morrell College in 2018. "Because I had never started a business before, I did not have PAYE in place and I wasn't insured correctly. WCG walked me through the whole process and were very patient as they explained it all. I really don't think I could have done it on my own."

Students, apprentices and staff at Moreton Morrell College have completed the construction of a new end point assessment (EPA) centre after delivering more than 100 EPAs for students on carpentry and brickwork courses over the last two years. Tutors at the college launched a project earlier this year to create a new specialist area for completing these assessments, led by Carpentry lecturer Ollie Adams. More than 50 learners have helped carry out the major transformation project on an existing building on the college site. Students were given the opportunity to hone skills in cladding, stud work and roofing in a live environment. Businesses including Taylor Wimpey, Bates and ECA Toolfast have donated materials to support the project. Moreton Morrell College has also been presented with a City & Guilds Excellence in EPA plaque, due to the high pass rate and number of distinctions at the centre.

Mike Duxbury studied at Moreton Morrell College in the late 1980s, which was then known as Warwickshire College of Agriculture. He was the first ever blind student at the college, became a pig specialist and won National Pig Development Student of the Year in 1989. Mike remains one of the only blind farmers in Britain. Mike has now been passing on his experiences to John Sharlot, a Level 2 Agriculture student who has been studying at the college for three years and has a visual impairment. Mike said: "I would do anything for Moreton Morrell College, they gave me an opportunity that very few would. This is a college that said in the 1990s that all people should be treated equally and it's what they are still doing now. John said: "I've had great support from the college since joining, they adapted the course so I could access it and was allowed to complete some parts of the course, for example, tractor driving at my home farm. My long-term ambition is to be a farmer and run a small unit independently which specialises in calves and cattle." S

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

- a) **Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk**
 - i) **Update**
 - ii) **Estimate for replacement mats on spinner - Clerk**
 - iii) **Playing Field Lease renewal - Clerk**

The Clerk informed the meeting that Steve Routly had offered to replace the matting under the spinner for a maximum budget of £500. Kompan had quoted £5000 for soft pour. This proposal was brought forward by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Keavy, and carried unanimously.

Cllr Edwards and Cllr Slora signed the new lease. *Clerk to return to WCG*

Cllr Edwards also raised a concern from Jane Cleeton about dogs off the lead, and fouling on the playing field.

- b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead**
 - i) Update**
 - ii) Parish Plan Approval status**
 - iii) SWLP consultation**

Cllr Parry stated the SDC had approved the Parish Plan, but the action section would need regular update.

Cllr Parry also stated the SWLP was out for consultation on sites, and she would coordinate a response. All agreed to meet at 6pm on 10th Feb in The Room to finalise the response.

- c) Speed awareness / Road Safety – Cllr Butler lead**
 - i) Update**

Cllr Butler was not present but Cllr Slora read out the quotes for the larger signs. All agreed they were too big, and should be no larger than double the old signs. *Cllr Slora to follow up with Cllr Butler.*

- d) Village Appearance – All**
 - i) Update**
 - ii) Fountain Repair 5th Feb (Info only)**

The Clerk confirmed the fountain repair was happening on 5th February.

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

Cllr Slora raised the issue of the report of flying tipping of old fence panels and branches on old farm drive. It was resolved to write to the household and ask them removed before reporting to SDC as fly tipping. *Clerk to write.*

- f) Village Hall and Church – Cllr Keavy lead**
 - i) Update**
 - ii) Hall update (telephone exchange not available) – next steps**
 - iii) Request for grant support for church lights**

Cllr Parry has pre circulated a report on the potential cost of outline planning for a new hall. It was agreed not to progress due to cost and the fact the playing field is not currently owned by the council.

The Church had written with respect to asking for monies to fund lighting on the path to the Room. But at the time of the meeting no quote was available, so it was agreed to carry over to the next meeting.

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

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

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

- a) Feedback from Village Xmas event**

Cllr Slora informed the meeting the village events and tree had been very well received with positive feedback, and were inclusive.

Cllrs gave a vote of thanks to Jill Slora and Cllr Slora for organising and Fabulous Suppers for the food.

10. New items

- a) None**

11. Planning Applications

- a. New Applications to consider at this meeting**

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

Cllr Edwards left the room. After discussion it was resolved unanimously to send no objection. *Clerk to respond.*

24/03057/VARY Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 24/01089/FUL dated 19 July 2024 to correct the scale bar on the approved plans. Original description of development: Removal and replacement of modular classroom plus construction of new tarmac path, fence and gate. Moreton Morrell C Of E Junior And Infant School Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AN

After discussion it was resolved unanimously to send no objection. *Clerk to respond.*

24/03174/OUT Outline planning application for the University of Warwick Innovation Campus with all matters reserved, except for means of access from the A429, for a mixed use development comprising up to 280,000 sq.m (gross) of laboratory, offices and light industrial floorspace (Use Class E(g)) and a proportion of ancillary retail, food and drink, hotel, gym, maintenance accommodation and/or cr?che floorspace (Use Classes E(a), E(b), E(d), E(f), C1, C3 and sui generis), multi-storey car parking (sui generis), alongside public realm, landscaping, other related infrastructure and associated demolition of specified buildings. Wellesbourne Campus Wellesbourne Warwick CV35 9EF

After discussion it was resolved unanimously to send no representations. *Clerk to respond.*

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

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

24/02922/AAPA , Creation of additional floor to existing two storey dwelling to provide further bedroom accommodation .Top Acre Moreton Paddox Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BS. Objection sent

24/02792/FUL Single storey kitchen extension to rear of house. 3 Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT. No Objection

24/03095/FUL Single storey extension to rear of property. 4 Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT . No Objection

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. Support sent.

c. District Decisions 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 . **Tree works approved**

24/02922/AAPA , Creation of additional floor to existing two storey dwelling to provide further bedroom accommodation .Top Acre Moreton Paddox Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9BS.

Class AA Prior Approval Granted

24/02792/FUL Single storey kitchen extension to rear of house. 3 Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT. **Permission with Conditions**

24/03095/FUL Single storey extension to rear of property. 4 Brook Lane Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AT . **Permission with Conditions**

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

12. Finance

a. Approval of payments (circulated)

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

1.	J Cleeton – planters	£18.00 (paid)
2.	Poppy Appeal	£50.00 (paid)
3.	J Slora – Village Xmas event	£2000.00 (paid)
4.	Creative Folks – Parish Plan	£168.00 (paid)
5.	Kompan inspections	£168.54 (paid)
6.	N Power – final bill	£54.69 (paid)
7.	Salvo Design Villager Printing	£162.50 (paid)

8.	D White Tree works – pocket park	£250.00
9.	A parry – expenses/ gifts	£30.00
10.	Tomato Energy – street lights	£56.90 - DD
11.	Tomato Energy – defibrillator box	£1.44 - DD
12.	P Routly Salary Jan/Feb + Backpay	£1264.96
13.	P Routly Expenses – Nov/Dec	£118.69
14.	C Stacey – Plants pocket park	£146.13
15.	P Gibbins – The Villager	£100.00

b. Receipts (circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts :-

1.	Interest	£289.73
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c. 2025/26 Budget approval

The Clerk had pre-circulated the proposed budget, after discussion Cllr James proposed the budget be accepted with the addition of another £2000 for village events, this was seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried unanimously.

d. 2025/26 Precept Approval

Cllr Gordon proposed the Precept of £25470 as highlighted in the budget, a 2% increase , this was seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously . *Clerk to inform SDC*

13. Correspondence – all circulated by email

a) Doug Fouling Consultation

Cllr Parry had covered District report

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

Cllr agreed to organise another litter pick at the next meeting.

15. Any other business allowed by Chairman

None

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting 17th March 2025 in The Room

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