

MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st July 2025

PRESENT:

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

3 members of the public

1. Public participation

None.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Slora, Cllr Parry, G Cowcher.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had received a letter of resignation from Cllr James. All wished a vote of thanks for his contribution over the years. The Clerk will advertise a vacancy.

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

None

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 19th May 2025

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th May were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Keavy, seconded by Cllr Gordon and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. District Councillors' Report – Cllr Parry

Cllr Parry was not present but her report was read out by Cllr Edwards.

Five Year Housing Land Supply 5YHLS

SDC is now under pressure to approve new housing planning applications in the wake of a marginal 5YHLS. Government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) means that under a new calculation the 5YHLS drops from 24.65 years to 5.06 years!

The significance of the new calculation method, courtesy of the government's pledge to build 1.5 million homes over its parliamentary period could potentially provide an open door for housing developers!

Key trigger points for SDC will be the outcomes of both the forthcoming Bordon and Hill and Kineton Road Appeals – which could have a major impact on other planning applications in villages across the district.

SWLP

With over 20,000 responses to analysed from the SWLP consultation it is hoped that an indication of the preferred new settlement options and strategic growth areas for new housing will be known by late autumn. Critical factors on new settlement options for the district will depend on resolving road infrastructure capacity for the Long Marston development.

Licensing Act 2020 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2026- 2031 [Consultation]

This is to advise that SDC has reviewed and amended its Statement of Licensing Policy which is now out for consultation. Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires a Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a Statement of its Licensing Policy at least every 5 years. The current policy for SDC is due to expire in January 2026. Before determining this policy, the Licensing Authority must consult with members of the public, trade and responsibly authorities.

The draft policy for 2026-2031 can be viewed on the council's website by searching for 'Licensing Policy' or via the following link: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/licences-permissions/licensing-policy.cfm> This consultation will run until 10 September 2025.

Planning & Enforcement

SDC is implementing its restructuring programme for its planning and enforcement departments and the Local Enforcement Plan in terms of its priorities is to be reviewed.

Local Government Devolution

SDC's Full Council endorsed a two unitary model, as outlined by the Deloitte's report as the preferred option for the purposes of local public engagement, prior to a final decision being taken by the Council to be presented to government in November.

Whilst this on the face of it makes sense from a geographic perspective to have a North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire unitary, it is potentially a heart versus head view in so much that the costs of delivering services to residents for adult social care, SEND, children's services, education, police and fire services will be significantly higher operating as two unitaries rather than one, and is likely to lead to increases in council tax or reduced services for residents.

Further research and due diligence is therefore required before making recommendations in this respect, however the final decision will be made by the Government anyway and likely to be made on a cost savings basis.

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr Cowcher

Cllr Cowcher had another meeting, but his report was read out by Cllr Edwards:-

1. The composition of the County Council is 22 Reform Members, 14 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives, 7 Green, 3 Labour and 2 Independents. Because of the resignation of the Reform Leader of the Council interim arrangements have been in place for some time. Matters will be resolved on 22 July when a new Leader of the Council will be elected and either the current administration will be confirmed or an alternative arrangement will be put in place.

2. Currently I am a Member of the Regulatory Committee and am the Shadow Portfolio Holder for planning and Transport which fits well with my Stratford District responsibilities
3. The Government in its financial review did not address the key issue facing the County \council being its off balance sheet debt. The previous Government allowed the County to create a “statutory override” whereby the underfunding of SEND was captured in a debt which does not appear in the Council’s accounts. This debt which amounts currently to more than £40million grows monthly. We are promised a reform of SEND arrangements but the Chancellor extended the “statutory override until 2028. If the Council was forced to pay off this debt it would be bankrupt alongside most other shire counties.
4. Local Government Reorganisation is a key issue for both District and County Councils such as Warwickshire. The Government has announced that two tier authorities will be abolished and new Unitary Authorities created. In addition Unitaries will be grouped under the governance of an elected mayor to become strategic combined authorities. Substantial power and money will be devolved to these strategic authority so it is important that Stratford District becomes part of the right Unitary and that Unitary joins the right strategic authority. SDC has confirmed that it prefers to see Warwickshire becoming two Unitary Authorities with Stratford and Warwick becoming a South Warwickshire Council. The previous administration of the County Council preferred a single Warwickshire. The new council has yet to express a view. With there being no prospect of any Unitaries in Warwickshire joining the West Midlands Combined Authority (ruled out by the existing mayor) South Warwickshire may be able to combine with other shire neighbours such as Worcestershire or Gloucestershire.
5. There is to be review of Parish Council boundaries, particularly for smaller parishes that may wish to merge. I will ensure all Parishes are briefed about this.
6. I am getting to grips with grant arrangements which are available and of particular interest to parishes. I am aware that some parishes have submitted proposals for Highways and communities grants and I have asked that they be copied to me so that I may provide support. I also have a delegated highways fund of £36000. Unfortunately I have three Area Surveyors covering my Division so I am trying to coordinate underspendings from previous years, money committed and get priorities from Parishes. I am copying all Parishes in a separate progress report on this.

7. Warwickshire College Report

No report was filed.

8. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

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

Cllr Edwards explained that Jane Cleeton had reported some recent damage. Steve Routly had inspected the site, and found some was due to the dry weather exposing foundations, and a few parts were missing on the toddlers’ play trail , he would contact Kompan for a quote for parts. The Clerk reported the zip wire had been tightened and an inspection had been booked.

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead
i) Update

The Clerk stated the solar farm agreement had been signed. SDC had just issued the planning consent.

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

Cllr Bulter stated the new horsebox signs were in place and seemed to be having an effect. The big issue now was speeding cyclists, it was agreed to raise with Cllr Cowcher to liaise with WCC Highways , as cycle clubs had been contacted before with little impact.

d) Village Appearance – All
i) Update

The recent hedge removal at Mill Farm was raised, it was resolved to write to Newbold Pacey and Ashorne PC to see if they knew why. *Clerk to write.*

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead
i) Update
ii) Footpath map

Cllr Edwards stated that she would arrange for her hedge to be cut on pub alley to playing field. Cllr Gordon stated that repairs to the steps by the school playing field and Darky ditch had been arranged.

As Cllr Parry was not present it was agreed to discuss the footpath map at the next meeting.

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

The Village hall was discussed again, but no Trustees were present. It was resolved that Cllr Edwards , Butler and Keavy would approach the Trustees again to request a meeting.

It was also resolved unanimously to write to the Charity Commission again due to lack of progress. *Clerk to write*

g) College Update
i) Update

Cllr Edwards said the College was planning to develop a wildlife walk.

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

a) Allotment rent

The Clerk informed the meeting that WCC had increased the allotment rent from £360 pa to £600 pa , this first time in about 20 years . It was proposed by Cllr Edwards that in the 1st year only 50% of the increase be passed onto the Allotment Association, and the full amount a year later. This was seconded by Cllr Butler and carried unanimously. *Clerk to inform Allotment Association.*

10. New items

- a) Pocket Wildlife Park maintenance.**
- b) Feedback on Unitary council meeting with Wellesbourne**

Cllr Edwards informed the meeting the pocket park had been a great success and used by many, but it needs ongoing maintenance. A proposal had been put forward by the project lead to engage Ron Cleeton at a rate of £500 pa to look after the park, this would be 1 to 2 hours a week, he would invoice. This would be funded from possible grants and the balance of the original fund. This was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Keavy and carried unanimously . *Clerk to inform parties.*

Cllr Bulter informed the meeting he went to Wellesbourne to attend the Unitary meeting , but was told by their clerk it had been cancelled .

11. Planning Applications

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

None.

- b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information**

25/01198/FUL Extension to existing school building to form new nursery classroom & ancillary spaces including minor external works. Moreton Morrell C Of E Junior And Infant School Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AN . **Support sent**

- c. District Decisions for information**

24/02072/FUL Installation and operation of solar farm including DNO substation, site accesses, cable connection, landscaping and ancillary infrastructure . Land East And West Of The, Fosse Way, Moreton Morrell. **Granted with many Conditions**

12. Finance

- a. Approval of payments (circulated)**

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

1.	Tomato Energy – street lights Apr	£54.02 (DD)
2.	Tomato Energy – street lights May	£55.83 (DD)
3.	Tomato Energy – defibrillator Apr/May	£1.44 (DD)
4.	R P Hall grass cutting May	£402.13 (paid)
5.	J Cleeton – New Planters	£500.00 (paid)
6.	Salvo design – Villager printing	£151.00 (paid)
7.	P Routly Salary July / Aug	£1083.52
8.	P Routly Expenses – June / July	£61.05
9.	PATA Payroll -1 year	£98.10
10.	R P Hall grass cutting June	£283.90
11.	Kompan – zip wire re tension	£299.52
12.	Moore – External Audit	£252.00
13.	P Gibbins – The Villager	£100.00

b. Receipts (circulated)

The Clerk reported the following receipts :-

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|----|----------|---------|
| 1. | Interest | £251.01 |
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c. Internal Audit feedback

The Clerk informed the meeting that Moore accountants had completed the External audit and there were no issues to report.

13. Correspondence – all circulated by email

The Clerk had circulated by email all correspondence.

14. Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.

Footpath map and filling Councillor Vacancy

15. Any other business allowed by Chairman

None

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on 22nd September 2025 in The Room. Nore this is one week later than usual

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.