MORETON MORRELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th November 2026

PRESENT:	**Councillors:**	G Slora (Chair), B Keavy, J Gordon, D Bulter
	District Councillor:	G Cowcher
	County Councillor:	G Cowcher
	Clerk :	P Routly

9 members of the public

1. Public participation

Tammy Hicks asked about the burnt matting at the playing field , and whether the college would pay for re-instatement given it was caused by WCG students. *Clerk to follow up with WCG*

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Edwards, Cllr Parry (ill) & Cllr Bowler (ill)

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 21st September 2026

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st September 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 Slora read Cllr Parry's filed report:-

Firstly, I was pleased to attend the Remembrance Day Service at the Church of the Holy Cross on 8th November, which was very well orchestrated and attended.

Moreton Road Unauthorised Development
SDC's Planning Enforcement Team and the Forestry Commission have inspected the site off the Moreton Road (between Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey) and have confirmed that this is a case of unauthorised development with the creation of a new access onto the highway together with the removal of extensive woodland without a licence.
Details of the landowners have been provided to SDC, Forestry Commission and the Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team in Wellesbourne). Martin Rone-Clarke, the gypsy and traveller

police officer is also aware of the situation, however this is a local authority matter at present, however, the SNT are incorporating regular visits down Moreton Road as part of their patrol programme. – PCSO Liam Allen has been most helpful.
Extensive investigations are underway by both the enforcement and Forestry Commission teams and it has also been noted that extensive hedgerow clearance has been undertaken to the front of the site during the weekend (31st Oct) – photos of which were sent to SDC's Enforcement Team.
SDC's Enforcement Team has asked villagers to monitor any activity and either inform myself or contact planning.enforcement@stratford-district.gov.uk with details and photo evidence. However, the landowner has advised the case officer that the access onto the Moreton Road is the re-opening of an 'old' access which was hidden by hedgerows and woodland! This has been contested with extensive evidence from Google Maps etc and further investigation is awaited. A major fire incident also incurred earlier this month, with a number of villagers calling the fire service and fortunately this was put under control.
There is a legal process that has to be followed and I can confirm that there is no approved planning for the works which have and are being undertaken, so this represents a significant planning breach in my view. In the meantime, the enforcement team are trying to establish what the landowner's plans are – apparently for the use of grazing horses is their latest proposal!
In the event a Temporary Stop Notice is required this would expire after 56 days from being issued, which at present if issued would fall between Christmas and New Year, which has to be avoided.
The site falls into the parish of Moreton Morrell, but lies adjacent to the parish of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne; I will continue to liaise with both NPAPC and MMPC regarding this matter.

Orbit and Oak Tree Close
Orbit are currently investigating matters concerning ASB issues which have been reported in Oak Tree Close and the situation is still under investigation. There have also been major repair issues in respect of hot water and heating matters which I have had to deal with swiftly in view of the vulnerable adults involved.

Galileo Farm
Lesley Adams, SDC's tree officer is intending on carrying out a site visit at Galileo Farm over the next weeks as the felling licence from the Forestry Commission was not clear in respect of the extent of the hedgerow removal and replanting programme.

Planning Reforms
With effect from 31 October, elected councillors have lost their say on the vast majority of planning decisions, which has a huge impact on local democracy.
The National Scheme of Delegation for Planning Functions is a new legal framework that shifts most planning decisions to officers and sharply limits automatic committee referrals, including ward-member call-ins and objection thresholds.
The reforms introduce a national, uniform system for deciding which planning applications are handled by planning authority officers and which may go to committee.

Schedule 1: Applications That Must Be Decided by Officers – these include:
Householder applications, minor commercial development, minor residential schemes (up to 9 dwellings on sites <0.5 ha), discharge of conditions, prior approvals, permission in principle, non-material amendments, biodiversity gain plans, certificates of lawfulness and most reserved matters applications. This means that these cases cannot be taken to committee simply because of objections or councillor requests.

Schedule 2: Applications That *May* Reach Committee
Schedule 2 covers wider categories, including: Larger residential or commercial applications, listed building consent, advertisement consent, tree preservation order consent, Section 73A retrospective applications, Section 106 modification/disharge decisions.
A Schedule 2 application can only go to committee if: The nominated officer and nominated member both agree to refer it, and at least one statutory gateway test is met:

- The proposal raises an economic, social or environmental issue of significance to the local area, or
- It raises a significant planning matter in relation to the development plan or other material considerations.

However, a referral is expected to be exceptional, not routine.

Own-Interest Applications
Applications submitted by: The authority itself, a councillor, an officer or cases where the authority or its members/officers have an interest may be referred to committee by agreement between the nominated member and officer, but do not have to be; otherwise they are decided by officers.
In view of the above reforms, it will be interesting to see how this impacts on the planning committee, however SDC is being inundated with applications for new homes across the district from developers and land agents.

Local Government Reorganisation
The Government has confirmed within the last week that Stratford-on-Avon District Council will hold local elections in May 2027 based on the existing boundaries for the district council. A new South Warwickshire Council will be established for 2029 with elections to shadow councils in May 2028.
Throughout this process, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's priority remains on delivering services for residents and supporting communities across the district and further information will be provided as and when it becomes available.

New Taxi Licensing Policy
Stratford-on-Avon District Council is inviting residents, licensed drivers, private hire operators, businesses, partner organisations, and other interested parties to have their say on a proposed new Taxi Licensing Policy.
The 12-week consultation runs until 21 December 2026. Feedback received during the consultation will be considered before the final policy is presented for adoption through the Council's democratic process.
The proposed policy updates the Council's existing approach, which was introduced in 2009 and amended in 2013. It aims to improve standards for licensed drivers and vehicles, strengthen safeguarding and accessibility expectations, and provide clearer information for both the trade and the public.
Key proposals include clearer expectations for drivers and passengers, updated information on data protection and use of the National Register of Taxi and Private Hire Licence Revocation and Refusals database, guidance on accessibility duties and assistance dogs, regular safeguarding and disability awareness training, revised enforcement provisions, and a requirement for drivers to subscribe to the DBS Update Service.
The draft policy also proposes changes to vehicle age requirements for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. Under the proposals, diesel, petrol and LPG vehicles would be licensed until they reach 12 years of age, hybrid vehicles until they reach 15 years of age, and no vehicle age limit would apply to fully electric or hydrogen zero-emission vehicles with no exhaust emissions. The current minimum age requirement would also be removed.
Further information, including the draft policy and details of how to respond, is available on the Council's website – www.stratford.gov.uk

6. County Councillors' Report – Cllr Cowcher

Cllr Cowcher filed and read extracts the following report :-

Local Government Reorganisation
We have received notification that the Secretary of State is minded to approve the proposals for two Unitary Authorities for Warwickshire, this is subject to a three week consultation period which has yet to start (no date has been confirmed). I have heard that the County Council will be asking the Secretary of State to consider new evidence about the financial stability of a Northern Unitary Council and be restating their preference for one Authority for the whole of the county. The new Authorities are planned to come into existence in May 2029 with shadow elections in May 2028. Local elections will be held for Stratford District Council in May 27 with the term of office being two years. Work in already underway in creating a new Unitary for South Warwickshire and there is a need for a watchful eye to be had over budgetary arrangements as the current administration constantly maintain that the North of the county is underfunded and more provision should be made there. Things are a little complicated by the political instability in Warwick District but the extra year is helpful in this respect. I remain on the County Council's Local Government Reorganisation Working Party.

Deputy Leader
As Deputy Leader of my political group I am able to attend the County Group Leaders Forum and Cabinet which gives me a great insight into current issues at the County. I have also just completed a round of meetings with the main Directors to discuss context for preparing the 2027/28 budget. Key issues are continuing overspend on adult social care, the SEND deficit, potential level of Council Tax and draining the remaining reserves, the future of delegated highways budgets, children's centre funding, capital programme particularly for education, highway design capacity. Much depends on the local government financial settlement that is announced just before Christmas

WCC Councillor Grants
I have allocated the last of my community grant to help the establishment of an 11-14 youth club in Wellesbourne. I am encouraged to see the reestablishment of youth service which were severely cut a few years ago. I believe this provides a good marker for the new Unitary Authority. I have small grant fund available for community safety projects and I would welcome any ideas the Council might have for using this.

Highways
Current Issues . I have registered Moreton Morrells interest in having a 20mph limit through the village I remain in discussions with Minor works and others about the corner of Brook Lane and will give an update at the meeting I have reported the new illegal entrance off the Moreton Morrell to Newbold Pacey road

Library Review
A review has been undertaken about the operation of libraries including Stratford and Wellesbourne. The long report produced states there are no issues. I have asked for the opportunity cost of preparing this report that used significant amount of staff time be prepared to see how much this potentially cost.

7. Warwickshire College Report

Sara-Jane Watkins filed the following report:-

Campus Infrastructure & Facilities
Dene Building Handover and Upgrades: The College completed works to convert the Dene building into permanent classroom spaces, ending reliance on temporary accommodation. The site was handed over on 9th November 2026, with the Estates and Digital teams installing furniture, IT/AV equipment, and accessibility ramps over the half-term break.
Taylor Wimpey Centre of Excellence: The official opening of the new Centre of Excellence took place on Friday, 16 October 2026, significantly enhancing on-site construction and trade training facilities.
Proposed Cadets Unit: Following WCG's formal signing of the Armed Forces Covenant, plans are progressing to establish and develop a new cadet unit based at Moreton Morrell to support local progression into military service and assist military families.
Estates Team Bereavement: The college announced the sudden and sad passing of Estates team colleague Jack during October.

Land-Based Studies, Farm & Equine Centre
Five-Star Riding School Rating: The Equine Centre successfully retained its top-tier Five Star rating following a formal Riding School Inspection on 23 October 2026, earning warm praise from the Licensing Lead and Head Vet for yard management and horse welfare.
Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) Grant: The Farm Manager successfully secured and submitted an essential Sustainable Farming Incentive grant application under an emergency same-day government turnaround.
National Learner Awards Finalists: Moreton Morrell learners reached the national finals of the National Land-Based and Environment Learner Awards 2026 across disciplines including Agriculture, Arboriculture/Forestry, Landscape/Horticulture, and Land-based Engineering. The final ceremony takes place in December 2026.
Departmental Attendance Award: The School of Agriculture, Countryside and Floristry at Moreton Morrell achieved the highest attendance across the entire college group for Term 1 at 92%, receiving an award of £500 to invest into the department.

Community Events, Footfall & Local Engagement
Moreton Morrell Annual Show 2027: Planning and coordination for the 2027 Annual Show have officially commenced. The Show is planned for Saturday 15th May 2027.
Autumn Open Event Footfall: The campus held its primary autumn open event on Saturday, 17 October 2026. Moreton Morrell logged 538 prospective student bookings, welcomed 357 attendees on the day, and took 48 direct course applications on the day.
Charity Fundraising: The campus library hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising £500.99 for Macmillan Cancer Support.
Supported Learning Feedback: Following the Supported Learning & Engagement parents' evening, the department received positive commendations from parents praising staff professionalism and support for high-needs students.
Road Safety & Safeguarding Initiatives: Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team is rolling out free "Driving for Life" workshops to 16–18 students across Warwickshire campuses to address rural road risks and the "Fatal 5" causes of collisions. Bespoke safeguarding and County Lines awareness training is also being delivered in partnership with Connect Futures and Future Impacts.

Curriculum, Industry Links & Student Sports
Construction Industry Exchange: Funded by Warwickshire County Council and the West Midlands Technical Excellence Colleges programme, Moreton Morrell trade students and

tutors will receive direct access to visiting industry experts, employers, and modern site practices.
14–16 School Collaboration: Moreton Morrell Sports Academies provided physical education and sports practical delivery for the college group's new alternative provision pilot, WCG Drive.
National Football Team Trials: Two Moreton Morrell students—Thomas Corbett (MM Sport) and Jayden Grigg (MM Carpentry)—were selected to represent the college at the regional England College National Team trials in Leicester.
Campus Sport Fixtures: The MM Football 1st Team reached the National Cup 3rd Round against SGS College (Bristol). The MM Football Development Squad defeated Pershore College 2nds 7-1 in a friendly fixture. The Basketball Academy established a dedicated campus social feed, and Foundation Learning students engaged in weekly 1-to-1 boxing enrichment sessions.

8. <u>Sub Committee Reports and Updates</u>

a) Playing Field – Cllr Edwards lead / Clerk
- **i) Update**
- **ii) Freehold Transfer update**

The Clerk stated the next playing field inspection was due before the end of the month, and the Freehold transfer was awaiting WCG getting approval from DOE.

b) Planning – Cllr Parry lead
- **i) Update**
- **ii) Galileo Farm hedgerow / tree removal**
- **iii) Moreton Road development**

Cllr Parry gave updates in her report

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

Cllr Bulter stated he was pleased to here that Cllr Cowcher was pushing for a village 20mph limit. A member of the public asked if we were likely to get a new lollypop person. Cllr Cowcher said no.

d) Village Appearance – All
- **i) Update**

Cllrs Keavy thanked everyone for the litter pick. The lack of water flowing to the village ponds was discussed, it was concluded it was due to the drought and lack of rain.

e) Footpaths – Cllr Slora lead
- **i) Update**

Cllr Slora thanked Malcolm Whyte and other villagers for their help clearing footpaths and around the swings of the playing field.

f) Village Hall and Church – Cllr Keavy lead
- **i) Update**
- **ii) Trustees Feedback email**

The Clerk read the response from the trustees. No information requested in the village petition had been forthcoming and it appears they are not resigning. They confirmed they are in dialogue with the Charity Commission. The Clerk confirmed she had also written to the Charity Commission. After much discussion Jo Ford offered to pursue what other actions could be taken to remove the trustees, or to get them to perform their legal duties. The clerk agreed to provide background info. *Clerk to contact Jo Ford.*

g) College Update

i) Update

Cllr Edwards was not present, and no updates other than the WCG report

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

a) Oak Tree Close Issues

Cllr Parry covered in her report.

10. New items

a) Water Leak on Duffus Hill

b) Christmas Celebrations

The clerk suggested in the first instance getting STW to test the water leak and if proven to not be theirs Cllr Cowcher offered to follow up with WCC Highways. The Clerk offered to report if a Cllr provided the what3words for the exact location.

Cllr Slora confirmed a Christmas Community lunch and event was planned for 17th December. All Cllrs voted unanimously for the same budget as last year (ie £1500)

11. Planning Applications

a. New Applications to consider at this meeting

26/02469/FUL Single storey side extension. Mulberry House Barn Fields Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9AQ

After discussion it was decided unanimously to send No Objection. *Clerk to respond to SDC.*

b. Decisions of committee since last meeting for information

None.

c. District Decisions for information

26/01558/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and annexe outbuilding/store and replacement with new self build dwelling. Hales Farm Fosse Way Moreton Morrell Warwick CV35 9DF. **Permission with conditions**

12. Finance

a. Approval of payments (circulated)

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

1.	Salvo Digital – Villager printing	£242.00 (paid)
2.	Penmans Solicitors	£2067.00 (paid)
3.	British Gas streetlights Sept	£63.73(paid)
4.	P Routly Salary Nov/Dec + backpay	£1282.24
5.	HMRC Employers NI	£67.22
6.	PATA Payroll	£21.95
7.	P Routly expenses Sep/Oct	£178.37
8.	British Gas streetlights Oct	£74.89
9.	R P Hall Grass cutting	£636.48
10.	T H Hardwoods - Shredder	£1900.00
11.	MMPCC Churchyard grant 2nd payment	£500.00
12.	Villager grant 2nd half	£75.00
13.	Royal British Legion donation	£50.00
14.	P Gibbins – The Villager	£100.00

b. Receipts (circulated**)**

The Clerk reported the following receipts: -

1.	Interest	£191.97
2.	Grant WWT	£2800.00
3.	Allotment rent	£240.00

c. Mid year Budget Update

The Clerk had circulated the midyear budget update. It was healthy with underspend on playing field due to freehold.

13. <u>Correspondence – all circulated by email</u>

All had been circulated by email.

14. <u>Matters of interest – future meeting agenda items.</u>

15. <u>Any other business allowed by Chairman</u>

None.

16. <u>Date of next meeting</u>

The next meeting is on 18th January 2027 in The Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.