

MORETON ON LUGG PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Moreton-on-Lugg Village Hall
on
Tuesday 5th June 2018

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllr. C. Boden; Cllr V. Javens; Cllr Richard Styles (Chairman); Cllr D Preece; Cllr B Garbett.

Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay. 9 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Jackson; Ward Cllr Guthrie; Cllr C Crowley.

2. UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported that, to date, no one had shown interest in filling the two vacancies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS by Parish Councillors - none declared.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICER - no representative present and no recent newsletter has been received.

5. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – apologies received from Ward Cllr Guthrie.

The Chairman reported that Ward Cllr Guthrie is due to meet with the Cabinet Minister Cllr Durkin on Wednesday when she hopes to have an opportunity to discuss the condition of the village road through Moreton. Ward Cllr Guthrie is also hoping to arrange a convenient date for Cllr. Durkin to visit Moreton Parish Council to discuss plans for future investment in Herefordshire roads and in particular the Moreton on Lugg village road.

The Chairman also read out an email Ward Cllr Guthrie had received with regard to the section 106 agreement associated with the development at Church House Farm which provisionally provides transport contributions:

- (a) improvements to passenger waiting facilities in Moreton on Lugg, shelter and kerbs.
- (b) installation of 5 dropped crossings
- (c) village gateway features including different coloured surfacing from the A49 east to the speed limit scheme will include gates, signage improvements and white line removal.

The payment of the contributions will be phased, with final payment being made prior to occupation of the 33rd unit.

Ward Cllr Guthrie will discuss/report on both these items in more detail at the next meeting

(5.1) OPEN DISCUSSION – with local residents present at meeting and matters raised between meetings.

The main topic for discussion was again the state of the village road which is becoming unfit for purpose plus the speed cars and lorries are travelling through the village. It was again noted that the village is regularly being used by HGVs as a short cut to and from the main A49 which requires careful negotiation over the very narrow Grade 2 bridge.

One of Moreton on Lugg's residents presented the Parish Council with a letter outlining all the above concerns and confirmed that a copy of this letter with associated photographs had been sent to the local MP and Herefordshire Council. Permission was given for this letter to be forwarded to Balfour Beatty and all other interested parties; to be displayed on the website; and on the Village Notice Boards. It was also requested that it should be attached to the bottom of these minutes as reference.

Whilst all Parish Councillors present agreed and supported the comments – it was stressed and acknowledged that the Parish Council and Ward Cllr Guthrie have repeatedly reported the ever-deteriorating state of the village road surface; have repeatedly requested that the bridge be more protected with a weight restriction; narrow bridge warning signs; speed restriction signs etc – but, realistically, both have very little power to actually get these requests put into place.

The Chairman confirmed that one resident was actively corresponding with the Chief Executive at Balfour Beatty and with Herefordshire Council in an attempt to get the road resurfaced and to upgrade the appearance of the village as a whole.

It was acknowledged that changes will be made to the village approach road when the new development starts to take place – but, to date, no definite plans have been submitted to the Planning Department so it could be many months before any action associated with this development becomes apparent.

In the meantime; the Parish Council are in the process of negotiating with S & A with regard to help with funding for a Speed Indicator Device to be hired on a monthly basis to be used in the village. The cost for this device supplied by Balfour Beatty is £250 + VAT per month and it is noted that it can only be used once in every three months in the same location. This item to be discussed again at the next Parish Council meeting.

The possibilities of purchasing a portable SID were discussed and will be followed up at a future meeting.

The Chairman closed the Open session

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - no report – all items will be covered under agenda items.

7. VILLAGE HALL REPORT – Cllr Boden reported that a meeting with the Fire Prevention Officer is planned for the 4th July to make sure the village hall complies with all current legislation.

There are plans for a Big Breakfast on Saturday and the Wednesday Afternoon Group has enough volunteers to enable it to keep going during June and July. The next fund raising event is the Summer Fete on 14th July with the usual stalls and entertainment.

The current bank balance is £4037.87 with one outstanding invoice for £63.15 yet to be paid.

8. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on the 1st May 2018 were agreed as a true record and it was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Clerk's update:

(8.1) Data Protection – this item is ongoing. As previously discussed, Moreton on Lugg Parish Council have, to date, met all requirements as set out in the GDPR with the help of Microshade. This item to remain on the agenda.

(8.2) After further discussion on the possible purchase of solar lamp to be placed between Cedar Close and St Peter's Close – it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to go ahead and purchase a lamp. The Clerk will liaise with D C Gardening and the Chairman will liaise with the resident who has agreed to have the lamp erected on his property.

(8.3) Update Community Governance review - Phase two is ongoing. Item to be discussed again at the next meeting.

(8.4) Discussion took place on whether to continue to hold a Parish Council meeting in August due to the holiday period etc. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed not to hold an August meeting but, if necessary, an Extra Ordinary meeting could be called to discuss any urgent issues that might arise.

(8.5) The revised Litter Picking Contract was agreed and will now form part of the current Insurance Policy.

9. PLANNING

(9.1) No update on Planning application: 172919 - West of Church House

(9.2) Update on The Beeches development – it reported that everything is on schedule but there has been a slight holdup in connecting to the sewage. However, these problems have now been resolved and work should start next Tuesday – there will be traffic lights in the village whilst this work takes place.

(9.3) Update on land adjacent to The Beeches - although there were no objections submitted to or by the Parish Council, it is reported that there are a considerable number of objections recorded on the Planning Department website.

10. PLAY PARK REPORT

The nets have been put up on the basketball court, and the court cleared. The nets and new supports have been put up on the football pitch, the pitch has been marked out. The children's play area equipment has been cleaned and the grass area cut.

The Clerk confirmed that Fran White has been asked to carry out the annual Play Park inspection with a request that this is completed before the start of the school summer holiday period.

There was discussion with regard to the Play Quest annual inspection of the zip wire and swings. The Clerk confirmed that she has requested the annual inspection to be undertaken prior to the start of the school holidays. The Clerk will confirm costings for this inspection as the equipment is still within the 3 years £150 per inspection visit agreement.

There was discussion on the tree work in the Play Park. Phase two has been postponed due to birds nesting. After some discussion, during which it was acknowledged that the work had been previously agreed and confirmed with Owen Weatherall, it was pointed out that the last tree inspection was done in 2015. With this knowledge, it was decided it may be prudent to have another inspection in the Autumn when the leaves have dropped.

Further enquiries to be made with regard to asking the previous tree inspector for costs etc. This item to be discussed again at a future meeting.

The tree outside 12 St Peter's Close has been inspected by the Locality Steward. It was acknowledged that this tree is on Herefordshire Council property and therefore their responsibility to keep it safe. However, after discussion, it was agreed to include this tree in the tree inspector's report.

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS/UPDATES

(11.1) Footpath Officer's report - no report – apologies received from Cllr Jackson.

12. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT:

(12.1) Payments since last meeting - none

(12.2) To consider payment of accounts - schedule of payments circulated.

After discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the outstanding invoices should be paid.

These to include -

(12.3) Poppy Wreath - £50 donation agreed.

(12.4) Newsletter contribution - £120 donation agreed

(12.5) Contribution to Village Fete - £350 donation agreed

13. LENGTHSMAN SCHEME – June work sheet – solar lamp.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Locality Steward with regard to several outstanding issues:

Gullies to be cleared in particular along St Peter's Close as a matter of some urgency.

Request the sweeper to come through the village as there is an accumulation of road surface debris at kerb sides on main village road from shop to A49. Also, can the sweeper be requested to include St Peter's Close where there is silage/tractor mud on the road in -with stones and general debris.

Request an inspection of the pavement outside 107 St Peter's Close - it has been reported as collapsing and will soon be a hazard similar to the one a resident tripped over necessitating hospital treatment.

14. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk reported that a revised Code of Conduct document and subsequent revised Declaration of Interest forms have been agreed by Herefordshire Council. There is a choice whether to adopt these new revised documents or to remain with the Code of Conduct as signed in May. The Clerk will circulate the email with the revised attachments and it was agreed that this item should be deferred until the next meeting.

The Clerk raised the need for replacement signatories on the Monmouthshire Building Society Account. It was agreed that Cllr Richard Styles and Cllr Barry Garbett would become signatories – this will entail taking documentation into Trevitt Hicks at 10 St Peters Street, Hereford HR1 2LE. The Clerk will get retiring signatories to sign the form and bring back to the next meeting.

The Clerk confirmed she had received several emails with regard to the village road surface – all of which she had acknowledged and confirmed that the Parish Council were very aware of the problems and that the Ward Councillor Guthrie plans to invite Cabinet Minister, Cllr Durkin to attend a Parish Council meeting in the very near future to discuss these issues.

The Clerk confirmed that one resident is, at present, in correspondence with the management at Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council expressing his dissatisfaction with the present state of the village road surface; the materials used when repairing potholes and questioning the cost to ratepayers when using these 'short life' materials. This correspondence is on a personal level and is ongoing but it was generally agreed that many individual letters are more beneficial than one letter signed petition.

It was requested that it be minuted that the Locality Steward has, on two occasions, offered to meet with the above resident in question for a site visit and walkabout – but, to date, this offer has been refused.

An email has been received and circulated – questioning the commitment of the Parish Councillors to the well-being of the village; whether they respond to complaints or ignore them and whether responsibilities are allocated to individual councillors to follow up outstanding issues within the village.

These points were discussed – and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Councillors are basically unpaid volunteers who give up their spare time to attend meetings and to support the village in general. A Parish Council has very little, if any, power – they can report and follow up issues but the power begins and ends with Herefordshire Council; Balfour Beatty and/or other local authorities.

It was confirmed that follow up responsibilities are not allocated to one Councillor but are undertaken as a whole as and when necessary.

The question of replanting clumps of daffodils – this issue has previously been discussed and responses have been sent to the resident.

The area in question is going to be subject to major disruption when the development starts to take place. The verges, where it is planned to plant the daffodils, belong to Herefordshire Council and to replant bulbs will require a licence from Balfour Beatty. However, it was acknowledged that the resident has now offered to personally replant the bulbs if the Parish Council will purchase the bulbs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the purchase of the bulbs but that the resident himself would have to obtain the required licence from Balfour Beatty via the Locality Steward.

15. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR NEXT AGENDA – none raised

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55p.m.

DATE of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Signed:

Date:

'Seniko'
12, Nursery Drive,
Moreton On Lugg,
Hereford.
HR4 8DJ.
2018.

20th May

Dear Sir,

It is with great concern that I put pen to paper to draw your attention to what I consider to be an increasing problem caused by the use of HGV vehicles travelling both ways along country lane that runs from Marden through the village of Moreton On Lugg and eventually onto the A49 trunk road.

I am a retired Police Officer of the West Mercia Constabulary, much of my service being spent on the traffic department. These are my personal observations.

A majority of the vehicles are forty ton articulated HGV's. It appears that a large majority of the vehicles are owned by S&A of Marden and vehicles servicing their depo.

Firstly, I draw you attention to the severe degradation of the carriageway on the approach to the village of Moreton On Lugg and the Lugg river bridge from the direction of Marden, it appears that a considerable amount of patching has gone on in the past, in places the sides of the road are completely broken down, the double yellow lines have been completely obliterated and only when a complete resurfacing project is undergone will the road be fit for purpose.

Secondly, the bridge over the river Lugg has a Heritage listing Grade 2 [1099255] and could go back to the 16th century and as such deserves better, it was built for a horse and cart not forty ton articulated lorry's, it is to my knowledge that the Hereford Council have been called upon to carry out repairs to the bridge in the past, [see photographs showing damage]

The carriageway at the point of the river bridge when travelling from Marden forms a bend to the right the view of approaching traffic is obscured, in effect it is a blind bend and not conducive to HGV's.

Almost immediately after the river bridge there is a railway line crossing the carriageway controlled by warning lights and a barrier level crossing, this is by its very nature is a cause for concern, I have seen lorry's travelling in convoy, it only needs one to get caught out to cause disruption to the railway system and there is always the potential of something much worse.

At the commencement of the village built up area there is a Mandatory 30 MPH speed restriction sign, the carriageway at this point is no more than a country lane and forms a series of bends, along this particular part of the road there is no footpath on either side, I have seen mothers pushing prams along here, I have yet to see a situation on the road where mothers pushing prams and HGV's mix successfully, this as I see it is a massive road safety issue.

The carriageway then straightens out and there are several junctions that lead to residential properties, visibility from many of these junctions is restricted and extreme caution must be exercised when joining the main carriageway. In the village there is a Premier food store, to access it a majority of the elderly village occupants have to cross the road, this is yet again a road safety issue and needs to be addressed, perhaps the introduction of a pedestrian crossing or a 20 MPH speed limit would be the answer.

Situated in the village is a very popular fish and chip shop, during opening times this facility attracts a large number of people and an influx of vehicles and the HGV situation is still there and road safety issues once again arise.

I draw your attention now to the general condition of the carriageway through the village, it is appalling, not just the odd pot hole or so, it's like a ploughed field a motor cyclists night mare. I do not intend to labour this point as I understand that a resurfacing program is taking place this year. My concern is that once the new surface has been laid, how long will it last with the continued abuse by HGV's.

There is a problem of speeding vehicles in the village, a point that has been brought to my attention by many people. It is an issue that is manifesting itself with vehicles across the board from motor cycles to HGV's. I would like to see representation made to the Police for an occasional radar speed check, perhaps that and would help matters. Personally, I would like to see an illuminated actual speed reminder sign to motorists regarding their speed, similar to that in many local villages.

Perhaps the most important point of this letter is to draw your attention to the amount of noise and air pollution being caused to the population of the village by these vehicles, I refer to Nitrogen Oxide [NOX] and how many of these lorries are fitted with an Emulator which makes the pollution much worse, in addition consideration must be given to the school children being forced to endure this pollution and dust kicked up by them while waiting for the school bus.

This is an agricultural area and the road through the village is used by the local farming community as one would expect. I do think in the interests and wellbeing of the local community the practice of using the main road through the village as a rat run for HGV's should be seriously looked at. All Highway Authorities are required by law to ensure that their roads are designed, constructed and maintained so that they are safe and fit for purpose.

Their statutory duties are contained in several Acts of Parliament. A question I think that must be asked at this point is.' Is this country lane fit for forty ton articulated lorries or not.

Your thoughts on the matters I have raised would be much appreciated, I understand that the Transport Industry have to operate but not at the expense of road safety and above all the peace and tranquillity that is the back bone of the communities of Herefordshire.

*Yours Sincerely
T.R. Davis.*

Cc Bill Wiggin, House of Commons

Hereford Council
Moreton On Lugg Parish Council