

**MORETON ON LUGG PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held in  
Moreton-on-Lugg Village Hall

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Moreton on Lugg Parish Council website: [moretononlugg.org](http://moretononlugg.org)

Parish Clerk – Lesley Hay

**PRESENT:**

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

Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay; Ward Cllr Guthrie and 4 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the February Meeting.

**MINUTES:**

**1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None**

**2. UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – No interest shown. Item to remain on the agenda.**

**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.**

However, the Clerk explained that she had recently met PC Smith and her colleague, PC Peter Knight, both of whom had recently been

appointed as Rural Crime and Business Officers within the West Mercia Police.

This new role covers all aspects of rural crime but, in particular, encompasses 'We Don't Buy Crime' and the 'Smart Water' campaign. It also includes poaching; theft and local speed awareness.

It was agreed to invite PC Smith to give a short presentation – perhaps March or April according to her availability. Clerk to liaise.

**5. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Please see detailed report at the end of these minutes.

**5.1 Open Session – matters raised by members of public.**

It was noted that traffic measuring cables had been in place across the village road and A49 although the exact reason for this was not clear.

**5.2 The Chairman closed the Open Session.**

**6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – no issues that will not be covered within the agenda.

**7. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 3rd December 2019 were agreed to be a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman

**8. Update on matters arising**

(8.1) Cllr Garbett reported that he was making progress with the proposed parish leaflet. Cllr Garbett explained that he would like to include information briefly outlining the role of the Ward Councillor; the Footpath's Officer and the Play Park facilities. Each person involved was asked to provide a short report before the next meeting so that Cllr Garbett can collate a final draft to bring to the meeting.

(8.2) Letter re ditch behind 22 St Peter's Close.

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mr R Perkins highlighting residents' concerns associated with the ditch and asking if he could inspect it and maybe carry out most work to alleviate concerns. This letter had been acknowledged - Mr Perkins thanked the Parish Council for bringing this to his attention and promised to visit the site although any remedial work may have to be postponed due to the present very wet conditions.

### **13. VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

#### **VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE.**

Carole Potts has resigned from the Committee owing to relocation. We are grateful to Carole for her input and will seek a replacement in due course.

Our next meeting is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

#### **EVENTS**

The Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December and was reasonably successful raising approximately £300 towards Hall funds. The next event is a Race Night which will be run by an experienced team, on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Further events to be advised.

#### **HALL MAINTENANCE & DOCUMENTATION**

Quotations are being sought to update and/or replace the heating system. Bell Homes have promised a significant contribution.

Fire alarm tests are to be regularly implemented and logged. First test carried out in December.

#### **PUBLICITY**

The Facebook Site is developing: MolVillageHall

Feedback from users and the public is encouraged through an E-mail address: molvillagehall@yahoo.com.

#### **FINANCIAL**

The financial report submitted separately by the Committee \ treasurer shows a balance of £4788.19 with a £120 expected expenditure.

### **13. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT:**

(13.1) To consider payment of accounts – the February schedule of payments had been circulated.

(13.2) It was unanimously agreed these invoices should to be paid and the Clerk raised the cheques accordingly and these were signed.

### **14. PLAY PARK REPORT**

Generally, the Play Park is in good condition for the time of year although the football pitch is very wet. All equipment is serviceable.

Mr Browne reported that the hydraulic closing mechanism on both play area gates has become faulty and is now presenting as a health and safety risk. A quote from Wickstead for providing the self-closing mechanism for both gates plus labour is £1050.00 ex VAT.

After some discussion, it was suggested that Mr Browne should obtain another quote for this work. However, unless this new quote is very competitive – and, taking into account there is a 6 – 8 weeks wait plus the health and safety issues – it was unanimously agreed that Mr Brown should go ahead and order the gates from Wickstead as per the quote above.

### **15. FOOTPATH OFFICER /LENGTHSMAN / LOCLAITY STEWARD REPORTS**

(15.1) Footpath Officer reported– all footpaths are wet but generally in good order.

Footpaths MU7 and MU8 remain an ongoing problem. Despite letters and visits to the farmer, when the Footpath Office revisited them recently, they remain impassable. Footpath's Officer will again liaise with Balfour Beatty.

## **(15.2) LOCALITY STEWARD**

Drain is still blocked at the bottom of Moreton Road by the 5-bar gate. There has been an attempt to clear this drain but, unfortunately, the mud was so solid it requires a second visit by the Balfour Beatty work force to free this mud and so free the drain. Clerk to again liaise with the Locality Steward as this blockage is causing the road to flood during heavy rain.

## **(15.3) LENGTHSMAN**

Lengthsman February worksheet – no work identified at present.

**16. PLANNING** – Planning application 200155 – Pentaloe Moreton on Lugg.

Cllr Jackson reported that she has visited the site – it is a proposed rear extension for kitchen/dining room which will create bedroom/storage area at the first floor. After discussion, the Parish Council raised no comment/objection.

**CHURCH HOUSE DEVELOPMENT**– update report from Belle Homes dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020:

- WPD should have verbally confirmed that they will have their works finished at the end of February, although on email they have said mid-March (so will probably be the end of March).
- We are hoping to start the Drainage and Highway works on the site in the first week in April, which will mean a bit of upheaval for a few months after that, but then once all these works are completed, the site and surroundings will be able to be kept much neater.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE** – Copies of recent emails outlining possible problems regarding the entrance to the new development have been received from a local resident - all of which had been circulated. The

resident's concerns are now being handled by the appropriate personnel in the various departments.

Capital funding providing short breaks for disabled children -

October and November flooding relief

The Great Collaboration Event – Leominster 6<sup>th</sup> February

It was acknowledged that all the above correspondence had been circulated and after discussion, there was no further comment.

**18. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR NEXT AGENDA** – Cllr Garbett would like to discuss the possibility of combining V.E. Day celebrations with other organisations throughout the village i.e. the village hall and the church.

**19. DATE** of next meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 – 7.30p.m. start.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

### Ward Councillor's Update Report

#### Council agrees budget setting and Council Tax rates for 2020/21

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet agreed the proposed 2020/21 budget which will now be put forward for recommendation to Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The government settlement was more generous than anticipated including a grant for the extra cost of delivering rural services of £5.1 million.

The cost of delivering adult social care and meeting the needs of looked after children has increased significantly, representing more than 80% of the council's total budget.

However, the Cabinet has achieved a balanced budget which recommends limiting the levy ring-fenced to fund adult social care costs to £2m. This is the equivalent of a 2% increase in Council Tax. The

increase in funding for all the other council services – including looked after children – is restricted to a 1.9% increase in Council Tax.

The overall Council Tax rise of 3.9% represents an increase equivalent to £1.14 a week on a band D property.

The draft 2020/21 budget and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy can be viewed on the Herefordshire Council website at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news>

### Update on Southern Link Road & Western Bypass

The Council's administration is holding a consultation on the options reporting back in July. However, the Marches Enterprise Partnership cancelled the funding allocated on the assessment that Herefordshire Council will not be starting these projects in the next 12 months.

### Ward Highways Matters

#### Re: Parking Problem on Village Road at junction near St. Peter's Close

*Officers wouldn't be able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice to any vehicle which is parked wholly on the footpath and there are no yellow lines on the carriageway adjacent to where it is parked. In order for a dropped kerb offence to be enforced the vehicle would have to be parked on or partly on the carriageway adjacent to the dropped kerb. If enforcement action were to be taken, the driver could choose to park on the road in between the two dropped kerbs and the risk to pedestrians and other vehicles would likely be greater.*

I have alerted Balfour Beatty to all of the following issues:

- 1) Blocked drain HR1 3AX on C1126 in Sutton St. Nicholas village road blocked again with water flowing onto the road.
- 2) Repair Works at Laystone Bridge – Balfour Beatty Teams are due to start repairs in the Spring because scaffolding will need to be

placed in the water course which is currently at very high levels.  
Traffic lights are on site to slow down approaching traffic.

3) Flooding at junction with C1120 near Old School House - this has been reported to the Land Drainage team.

4) Flooding on C1125 at Small Ashes Marden – this has been passed to the Land Drainage team.

### Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority – Update

#### New smaller compact Fire Engine

As a member of Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority I attended an inspection of the new Fire Station Hub in the Wyre Forest. As part of the inspection Members viewed the two new fire engines, which are smaller and much more compact and 11 tonnes lighter than a traditional fire engine. The new fire engines are well equipped, highly manoeuvrable, which provides a greater flexibility especially for rural areas with narrow lanes.

Report by Kema Guthrie

Signed :

Date: