

# **MORETON ON LUGG PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINTUES OF THE MEETING**

**held**

**on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.00 p.m.**

**in Village Hall Car Park**

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

Further to the leaflet which had been delivered to all residents and due to the current Government legislation - this meeting was held under strict social distancing guidelines with all health and safety measures in place.

Parish Clerk – Lesley Hay

### **PRESENT:**

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

Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the July Meeting.

### **MINUTES:**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Boden; Ward Cllr Guthrie; Cllr B Garbett.
2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation – none declared.
3. To discuss Co-option of Parish Councillors. The Chairman explained Cllr. Diane Preece has now resigned as a Parish Councillor due to her recent house move. The Clerk has informed the Elections Officer and the Notice of Vacancy is already on the Notice Boards. It was agreed to send Cllr Preece a card of appreciation acknowledging her time as a Parish Councillor and wishing her well in her new home.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that there were two ongoing Parish Councillor vacancies from the 2019 Elections which could be filled by co-option. The Chairman was delighted to introduce Kim Cooper and Christopher Sharp both of whom had recently put their names forward with a view to becoming Parish Councillors.

After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to invite both to join the Parish Council and both duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Officer form. The Clerk will complete the necessary paper work and inform the Elections Officer.

4. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 had been circulated. These were unanimously accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
5. The Clerk informed the Councillors that Balfour Beatty were offering extra funding towards resolving some of the drainage problems that exist throughout Herefordshire. This work to be undertaken by the lengthsman where possible.

The Clerk confirmed that, after a village walk about by the lengthsman and the Locality Steward during which they identified local drainage issues, she had completed and submitted an application form for a grant.

6. Finance: Accounts sheet/schedule of payment sheet had been circulated. It was unanimously agreed that all invoices should be paid and the clerk will do so via online banking.
  - 6.1 All correspondence associated with the 2019 -2020 end of year accounts had been previously circulated.
  - 6.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
  - 6.3 The Annual Accounts for 2019/2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
  - 6.4 Chairman signed Certificate of Exemption which will now be submitted to the External Auditor.

All documents will now be displayed on the website.

The Notice of Public Rights will be displayed from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. The slight delay is due to the Clerk moving house but the accounts will be available from that date if any members of the public wish to make an appointment.

- 6.5 It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Robert Taplin as Internal Auditor for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021
7. Play Park – The Chairman confirmed that the Annual Inspection had taken place but no report available. The play equipment remains locked and the Play Park remains closed due to the present Government guidelines.

However, despite lockdown, the Chairman reported that Steve Browne remains very active daily maintaining the safety of the Play Park. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge this with a card and small gift of appreciation for Steve's work during these unprecedented circumstances.

8. Website suitability after September. The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Mark Millimore and the Parish Council website is all set - the Accessibility menu is on the website so people can ask for the web page to be "read" to them, navigate via the keyboard rather than using the mouse and make text bigger etc. All within the new government legislation requirements.
9. Planning matters

(9.1) Planning Consultation: 201678 Grain shed extension – after discussion – no objections raised.

(9.2) Planning Consultation: 201752 Land adjacent to A49  
Outline application to erect up to 43 dwellings.

The Chairman confirmed that a leaflet (please see copy attached to the end of these minutes for reference) had been delivered to every household in the village. The leaflet explained that due to the present Government guidelines – it was not possible for the Parish Council to hold an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss this Planning

Application. However, it invited everyone to email direct to the Planning Department and/or the Parish Council with their comments/support and/or objections so that these could be discussed and form part of the Parish Council's response.

There has been an overwhelming response and it was noted that the vast majority totally object to this outline planning application.

It was proposed that Cllr Javens should now go ahead and draft a response from the Parish Council taking into account the many issues raised by parishioners. This draft to be circulated and, once agreed, will be submitted to the Planning Officer.

10. Date of next meeting provisionally - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Cllr K Cooper reported that the Village Hall remains closed at this time.

It was agreed this meeting may have to be via Zoom if restrictions have not been further lifted to allow safe access to the Village Hall.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## Moreton on Lugg Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr. Richard Styles

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lesley Hay

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26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Resident,

I hope this finds you and your family keeping safe and well.

As you may be aware, the village has recently received an outline planning application to erect up to 43 dwellings (to include 35% affordable housing) alongside the existing new development at Church House Farm.

When the village received the application for the existing development in September 2017, the Parish Council called an Extraordinary Meeting which gave all residents an opportunity to attend and discuss their views. These views were then collated by the Parish Council to form a strong letter of objection which was then sent to the Planning Department. (see website: [moretononlugg.org](http://moretononlugg.org) Council Business: Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017).

Unfortunately, as you will all be very aware, due to the current Government guidelines the Parish Council is unable to call an Open meeting on this occasion. There have been suggestions that the Parish Council call a Zoom meeting but, it has become clear that not all residents have the technology to join such a meeting so this option would not allow a fair representation.

After discussions with NALC and SLCC (National Organisations representing Parish Councils) they have confirmed that it would be illegal to call even an open-air meeting, due to possible numbers of

residents wishing to attend, as this would be considered an illegal 'gathering'.

It has, therefore, been decided that the only option is to invite everyone to put in writing their thoughts/comments/objections based on this new application and to let the Parish Councillors have copies before Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

You can email the Clerk on : [thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk) or Cllr Richard Styles on [rjsassessors@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rjsassessors@yahoo.co.uk); Cllr Barbara Jackson on [bahjacks@gmail.com](mailto:bahjacks@gmail.com) or Cllr Val Javens on: [valjavens@hotmail.com](mailto:valjavens@hotmail.com).

The Parish Council will then meet to discuss the content and these will then form the Parish Council's response to the Planning Department. However, it cannot be stressed strongly enough - it is imperative that you all individually write into the Planning Department - individual letters have much more impact than one letter from the Parish Council.

The closing date for all comments/objections is the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

These letters can be submitted online – go to Herefordshire Planning via Google and follow the steps – the application number is 201752; or email to [catkins@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:catkins@herefordshire.gov.uk)

or send in your comment by post to:

Planning Services, P O Box 4, Herefordshire Council, Hereford HR4 OXH.

The Parish Councillors can only apologise that they are not able to offer you an Open Meeting but, due to the very high risk of a second spike of the Coronavirus, they feel it is their duty to protect residents and not to expose anyone to unnecessary risk.

Yours sincerely

Moreton on Lugg Parish Councillors