

MORETON ON LUGG PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Moreton-on-Lugg Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Moreton on Lugg Parish Council website: moretononlugg.org

*Due to present Government restrictions this meeting was a
a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.*

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllr V Javens (Chairman). Cllr B Jackson (Vice Chairman);
Cllr C Cowley; Cllr C Colman; Cllr K Cooper;

Also present: Parish Clerk: Lesley Hay; Ward Cllr K Guthrie and Chris
Rogers (Village Hall Chairman).

MINUTES:

1. **Apologies for absence received from:** Cllr R Styles; Cllr J Lloyd and Cllr C. Sharp
2. **To receive declarations of interest** or written requests for dispensations. Declaration of interest was received from Cllr. Kim Cooper with regard to the village hall – item 11.
3. **Six-month attendance legislation** – this item had been deferred from the last meeting. Unfortunately, Cllr Boden has not been able to attend a Parish Council meeting for over 10 months and has, therefore, technically disqualified himself as a Parish Councillor. It was agreed that Cllr Cooper will visit Cllr Boden and again explain the situation. The Clerk will inform the Election Officer in January of the vacancy.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Richard Styles – although unable to attend meetings via Zoom – was still within the 6 month required attendance legislation.

4. **The minutes of the Parish Council** meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2020 were agreed as a true record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

5. Ward Councillor's Report: please see full report at the end of these minutes.

Special issues highlighted and discussed during the meeting:

With regard to recent correspondence received from Wellington Quarry in response to concerns about the dropping of water levels - the Ward Cllr agreed to forward copies of the comprehensive report to the two residents who had originally raised concerns regarding this issue.

Re: A49 Trunk Road – Meeting with Highways England

The Ward Cllr report that on 13th November 2020 she attended a Members Briefing Meeting on Zoom with Richard Timothy the new Area 9 Manager regarding the A49 Northern Route.

Concerns highlighted were with regard to the trunk road including the speed of traffic and the capacity (with increasing volumes of traffic at peak times) of the Moreton on Lugg village junction, Moreton Road junction, Moreton Business Park junction and Haywood Lane Junction.

Ward Cllr Guthrie reported that she had requested a Review of the Speed Limit (the section of A49 from Moreton Business Park to Moreton road) and a site visit to include Parish Council representatives at a suitable time - most likely in the New Year.

When there is a date for the site meeting – it was agreed that as many Councillors as possible should attend as it would give more credence to the importance of the problem.

In addition, the Ward Cllr confirmed that she had reported to Highways England that the bollard lights on the A49 junction with the village - need to be repaired as soon as possible.

5.2 Open Session

5.2 (a) Correspondence re: An email had been received and circulated referring to branch trimmings at the entrance to Church Farm House; the tumbled down small brick wall and lots of debris at the shop entrance plus unlit bollards on the A49.

The Clerk had acknowledged receipt of the email.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk will now write to the resident explaining the action that had been taken. The unlit bollards had been reported (see Ward Cllr's report).

The branches and leaves had been brushed up but the lengthsman will be asked to clear the paths and walkways throughout the village now that the leaves had dropped. Plus, Balfour Beatty will be asked to bring the sweeper through the village.

The shopkeeper had been diplomatically approached and asked clear the debris.

5.3 Reported disturbances related to dog welfare in Cedar Close. The concerned neighbours have approached the owner of the dogs and have reported issues to the RSPCA and Police. The Housing Association, Stonewater, have now promised to look into the situation – but the problem remains unsolved.

5.4 Close Open session

6. Chairman's report

In response to CO Charlotte Atkins' request re OPA 201752, to submit further comments regarding the 43 houses adjacent to the A49, the final submission, representing 6 residents was sent on 11th November; all Parish Councillors and the Ward Councillor were copied in to the submission.

At the last meeting, concerns had been raised by a resident about some branches on a tree which may pose a risk to passers-by. To save the PC the cost of employing D C Gardening, two volunteers from the PC offered to trim the tree and discard the cut boughs themselves. The resident living adjacent to the tree felt consideration should be given to those affected by the trimming of the tree and sent an email to the Parish Council outlining these concerns.

Resolved: Cllr. Javens will respond to the recent email explaining the reasoning behind the tree being trimmed and that it was carried out with the best intentions and for health and safety reasons.

Lockdown 2 was implemented on 05.11.2020. On 07.11.2020 there was a gathering in the Play Park from 18.00 – 22.00, referred to as a fireworks party, where it was evident that alcohol had been consumed. On seeking advice, it was alleged that residents who back on to the Play Park did not report the gathering to the police during the four hours it allegedly took place. Although it was reported that the party-goers tidied up after themselves, the M-o-L community website reported that there were shards of glass and some cans which were not cleared away. There was subsequent damage/vandalism to the Covid-19 signs which the PC have been asked to report to the Police.

Resolved: *After discussion it was agreed it was too late to report to the Police. However, Ward Cllr Guthrie said there was a member of the police force dedicated to issues concerning Covid, as well as a Council worker; she said she would find out who they are and see if there was anything they could do.*

The tree which was leaning precariously close to a property backing on to the wooded area in SPC was felled and cleared away by the farmer. As a result of his maintenance work of the wood and the ditch he has asked the PC to ‘police’ those residents who use the ditch at the back of their properties as a dump. The farmer subsequently cleared a 3 – 4m swathe through the wood adjacent to the ditch at the back of the properties. Some residents have noted that their security has been compromised owing to greater accessibility and exposing the back of their properties. The Farmer has forbidden all access to the wooded area, and has asked the PC to write accordingly to the residents who back on to the that part of his property.

Resolved: *This matter was discussed and Cllr Cooper will draft a letter and will hand deliver to each individual property.*

A letter was received by a resident concerned about the state of the small brick wall demarcating the shop front’s property.

Resolved: *The Clerk was asked to email the resident with an update on the issues raised. See Open session (5.2)*

An email was received by the Neighbourhood Planning team, outlining options which may be available to us now as the Cabinet Minister drew a line under further work to development of the Rural Areas Site Allocation Development Plan Document on which M-o-L were reliant rather than having their own Neighbourhood Plan. It appears a Local

Plan will replace the Core Strategy? The email is not clear, but the NP team have asked if we would like to meet with them.

Resolved: *The Clerk was asked to contact Sam Banks – Neighbourhood Planning Team Manager – and ask her if she would be prepared to do a Zoom presentation to the Parish Council with regard to the current situation regarding Neighbourhood Plans as outlined in a recent email which had been circulated. It was acknowledged that there is a response time restriction so it maybe an extra ordinary meeting will have to be called.*

7. Highways and Environmental Matters:

(7.1) Update on drainage grant work/skip - the drainage work has commenced. Mr R Perkins has very kindly agreed to house the skip in his farm yard.

It was noted that leaves on the pavements – especially between the bridleway and St Peter’s Close - were very thick and could be dangerous to walk through if wet. Clerk to ask Lengthsman to clear all the pavements and edge the verges. However, it was noted that the owners of the trees should be responsible for clearing the fallen leaves from their trees.

8. Finance: Accounts sheet/schedule of payment sheet circulated.

8.1 Bank Balances – circulated

8.2 It was unanimously agreed to pay of outstanding invoices.

8.3 Half year - Audit certificate received,

8.4 Payment of drainage funded work- it was agreed that the Clerk could pay the invoice to D C Gardening whilst waiting reimbursement from Balfour Beatty.

9. Play Park Report – the report had been circulated and a paper copy is on file.

9.1 Firework party – details of this had been received from Mr Browne and outlined in the Chairman’s report. There was also some discussion regarding the possibility of installing solar lightening in the Play Park – but, after discussion, it was unanimously agreed this would not be beneficial.

The pathways in the Play Park are very muddy and would be helped by laying some wood chippings. The Clerk to contact Owen Weatherall to see if he will drop off some wood chippings when he is in the area. A small group of volunteers will be needed to get them spread out along the pathways.

Vandalism to the Covid19 signs is ongoing – Mr Browne is repairing best he can but it was thought to be a waste of money to purchase new signs as they are likely to be destroyed as soon as.

10.Highways/Lengthsman/Drainage/Footpaths

10.1 Footpath Officer's report:

The Footpaths Officer reported that during recent winds the Brooklands bridleway fence had blown down. After much detective work, the owner was contacted and he arrived very promptly and repaired the fence.

The footpaths are boggy and there is still an ongoing problem with dog owners not picking up after their dogs despite notices and a disposal bin.

10.2 Free tonne bag of salt and grit offered by Balfour Beatty – after some discussion on suitable storage, it was agreed not to take up this offer.

11. Village Hall report – please see attached to these minutes.

11.1 There was a request for a contribution of £125.00 towards the Christmas tree and lights. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to pay for the tree from the annual fete budget which had not been used this year due to Covid19 restrictions.

12. Planning matters

12.1 Update-Planning Consultation: 201752 Land adjacent to A49 Outline application to erect up to 43 dwellings. This subject was discussed within the Chairman's Report and the Ward Councillor's Report.

12.2 Neighbourhood Plan – please see discussion within
Chairman’s report.

Date of next Parish Council meeting - please note there will be no
meeting in January – next meeting Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45p.m.

The Chairman wished everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and
New Year.

Signed

Date:

Ward Councillor's Report

Re: Coronavirus

From 00.01am on Wednesday 2 December 2020, lockdown restrictions in England will be replaced with a three-tier system.

Herefordshire has been placed into Tier 2: High Alert

The details of the different Tier restrictions. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

and the news update on post lockdown measures on Herefordshire Council's website:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1060/local-post-lockdown-measures-announced>

For the most up to date information and guidance please go to the Herefordshire Council and NHS website for more details:

Local information on services and

advice www.Herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

National information www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Re: A49 Trunk Road – Meeting with Highways England

On 13th November 2020 I attended a Members Briefing Meeting on Zoom with Richard Timothy the new Area 9 Manager regarding the A49 Northern Route. I highlighted concerns regarding the trunk road including the speed of traffic and the capacity (with increasing volumes of traffic at peak times) of the Moreton on Lugg village junction, Moreton Road junction, Moreton Business Park junction and Haywood Lane Junction. In addition, I raised the flooding issue which has occurred during heavy downpours opposite Moreton Business Park. I have requested a Review of the Speed Limit (the section of A49 from Moreton Business Park to Moreton road) and a site visit (with Parish Council representatives) at a suitable time when appropriate, most likely in the New Year. In addition, I have reported to Highways England that the bollard lights on the A49 junction with the village - need to be repaired as soon as possible.

Re: Update on Planning Application 201752

I asked the case officer how she might be minded to proceed with the application - Key points taken from her response below:

“Presently the application, other than with regards the phosphate issue, is considered to accord with the CS and NPPF. Also given the Council’s lack of 5 year housing land supply, under the NPPF there are no adverse impacts that would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. As per your redirection request the application is to be reported to Committee for determination if the recommendation is to grant permission.

Until there is a positive way forward in respect of phosphates the application will be held in abeyance and not presented to Committee”

Re: Wellington Quarry – ref: concerns regarding Ground water & private water supplies

I received an Officer update on this issue - key points regarding this matter are as follows:

“With regards to the concerns raised by Moreton Parish Council and that of Groundwater and private water supplies, we have made the Quarry Manager aware of the concerns and asked that in preparing the new required ground water monitoring scheme that all private water supplies are identified and recorded to ensure that the quarrying does not contribute to any determination of private supplies. So we can monitor this going forward, we have included a condition which requires a ground water monitoring scheme to be submitted within 3 months of the permission being granted which captures private water supplies within the vicinity. The condition requires an annual report to be submitted to the Council which provide a review and of the groundwater quality and level. If monitoring results provides evidence of any adverse risk of deterioration to groundwater flows and quality, a programme to investigate to understand and where possible provide remedy impacts, shall be carried out within a timeframe agreed by the Local Planning Authority and in consultation with the EA. This scheme shall include for (1) methods and analysis for investigating the causes of these changes and for remediating them and (2) Monitoring the success and failures of any remediation works carried out.

I would recommend that any complaints or concerns that either yourself or the Parish Council receive are forwarded to the quarry manager and myself so they can be logged and feed onto the annual monitoring. The report will also capture any complaints which are made direct to the quarry”

Re: Free car parking over the Christmas period – Herefordshire Council are encouraging everyone to shop local and support local businesses

Free parking will be offered in Council car parks on the following dates:

- **Ledbury** – Friday 4 December
- **Kington** – Saturday 5 December
- **Leominster** – Saturday 12 December
- **Ross** – Saturday 19 December
- **Hereford (city centre)** - Council car parks, on street pay & display and the Old Market car park will be free for shoppers after 4pm on Wednesday 2, 9, 16 and 23 December.

For more information - search the 'Love Local' map on the Herefordshire Council website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/lovelocal

Please Note: Free parking concessions do not apply to any private car parks (except the Old Market in Hereford).

Village Hall Report :

We have had no events since February and no Summer Fair. Committee meetings have been possible using "Zoom".

However, the new heating system is currently being installed - this involves fitting a new boiler and 18 radiators replacing the old gas fires.

Some redecoration will be required once the works are completed, especially in the main hall,

We have been promised, and look forward to receiving, financial contributions from Bell Homes and Special Metals in due course.

You may have noticed a large Christmas tree on the hall roof and we wondered whether the Parish Council would be kind enough to contribute towards the cost. We spent £125 on the tree (and a bit more on lights and a stand).

We look forward to a new year and reinstating the events calendar given easing of restrictions,

Meanwhile, Merry Christmas to all

Chris Rogers (Chairman)