

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT MORVILLE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM**

**Present:** Councillors: Cllr G Brown, Cllr R-L Brown, Cllr D Gibson, Cllr L Moxon-Jones, Cllr S McDermott (Chairman), Cllr P Yuille

**In Attendance:** Officer: C Maclean (Locum Clerk)  
Members of the Public: 5

## **02.01 WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

## **02.02 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

From: Cllr J Cantrill (other commitment), Cllr A Pitchers (covid isolation), Shropshire Cllr R Tindall (other commitment). Apologies accepted.

## **02.03 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None

## **02.04 PUBLIC SESSION**

One resident declared that she was the applicant relating to planning application 22/00301/FUL and the proposal to create vehicular access to include visibility splay and removal of hedgerow at the proposed development land northeast of 2 Beacon Hill, Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The application has been submitted to enable her in the development of a flower growing business with separate access required as the current arrangement with the local landowner is not a viable long-term solution. The resident presented her case for a local seasonal and sustainable flower farm providing a positive ecological impact on the environment. She advised that professional support and advice had been secured in understanding and advising on the best means to access and maintain the land. Access to the public was not intended with the only access sought to deliver materials and removal of cut flowers.

A fellow resident expressed his concerns over the proposal and considered that current access to the land was sufficient.

Some concerns were expressed over the amount of hedging impacted but the applicant advised that new planting was in accordance with professional advice.

## **02.05 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022**

**It was resolved the Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

## **02.06 MATTERS ARISING FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY MINUTES**

None

## **02.07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- (i) The Chairman read from a report prepared for the meeting and full details set out in Appendix A.
- (ii) Councillors noted the resignation of Cllr A Nichol-Smith on 7<sup>th</sup> February following her relocation to another part of the country. The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Councillors for her contribution to the Council and Parish. The Chair advised that public notices of the Morville vacancy would be displayed.
- (iii) Councillors noted that vacancies remained in the Acton Round, Aston Eyre and Upton Cressett wards.
- (iv) The Chairman advised that the Clerk vacancy continues to be advertised on Facebook, the parish notice boards and SALC website.
- (v) Councillors noted that the Precept request had been submitted as agreed at the previous meeting. It was noted that any surplus over the election costs due to Shropshire Council would be placed in the Reserves.
- (vi) Councillors noted that following checks by Shropshire Cllr R Tindall advice had been received that the Environmental Maintenance Grant from Shropshire Council would be available and details were awaited on the timing and process to apply. The funds received would contribute towards the Lengthsman's costs.
- (vii) The Chairman advised that he and Cllr P Yuille met with the Lengthsman who detailed his duties. Further discussions would be held to discuss further employment and establishment of a formal contract.
- (viii) Councillors noted that contact had been established with the Operations Manager of the Hereford Diocese to identify ownership and responsibilities for the piece of land adjacent to the school. It was noted that the streetlamp in the lane to the field was not working and potholes required addressing. Concerns were advised relating to the level of public access to the field so close to the school during class times and these would be considered.
- (ix) The Chairman advised of the work undertaken to update the Council's website and ensure it is more user friendly.
- (x) The Chairman advised Councillors of the recently established Facebook which had proved popular. This would also be used to advise of local road closures.
- (xi) Councillors noted the efforts to re-establish links to Shropshire Council's Planning portal and ability to respond to applications on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **02.08 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

- (i) The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that updated Income and Expenditure Accounts were not available at this meeting. Latest bank statements would be obtained from the previous Clerk along with other remaining documents. Further details would be provided once these had been received and analysed.
- (ii) Details of the budget and the breakdown for the next financial year were noted to be subject to agreement with Shropshire Council on the election costs. Once finalised and the Reserves allocations identified these would be submitted for consideration.
- (iii) Details of training sessions available through SALC were being advised. Bookings available through the Clerk and Councillors were invited to advise of interest in particular sessions.

- (iv) The Locum Clerk advised that future meeting Agendas would be adjusted to enable more timely discussion on topics of local interest and these would include Parish Matters.
- (v) The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that the Council was subject, like all Councils, to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which required submission to the External Auditors by 1<sup>st</sup> July. Separate sessions would be arranged to enable Councillors to better understand their responsibilities in the review and acceptance of the returns required. Details of the requirements for this year were awaited which are normally received late March.

#### **02.09 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- (i) In the absence of Shropshire Cllr R Tindall, the Chairman read to Councillors his report provided for the meeting and full details set out in Appendix B.
- (ii) In relation to Planning the assistance of the ICT team in Shropshire Council had been secured to assist in securing access to the portal and planning applications. Concerns have also been raised in relation to application 21/05318/FUL.
- (iii) Confirmation that the Environmental Maintenance Grant was being renewed had been passed on and concerns were noted in the lateness of the advice from Shropshire Council as this impacted Parish Councils from planning their budgets for the next financial year.
- (iv) Efforts to address the issues relating to St Gregory's Close and Morville Primary School are being focused on by Cllr A Pitchers and assistance was offered where required.
- (v) Efforts to address the flooding at the Lye had achieved some results with assistance from a couple of the Parish Councillors.

#### **02.10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (i) Councillors considered application 22/00301/FUL and proposal to create vehicular access to include visibility splay and removal of hedgerow at the proposed development land northeast of 2 Beacon Hill, Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The Chairman read to Councillors the contents of comments and objections from a resident to the application. Councillors discussed the concerns relating to the objections raised and the ground conditions relating to the access to the field. On electing to take a vote 5 Councillors expressed their support for the application with one abstention. One condition was agreed that the hedging be planted as proposed and maintained in accordance with specifications.

8:14pm: Two members of the public expressed their thanks and left the meeting.

- (ii) Councillors considered application 21/05899/FUL and proposal to erect a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension at the Foldyard, Aston Eyre, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6XB. Councillors considered the proposals but views were expressed that the proposed extensions would detract from the barn's previous agricultural character and extend beyond the current footprint. On agreement of a vote 5 Councillors voted against the proposal with one abstention.
- (iii) Councillors considered application 21/05959/FUL and proposal under Section 73A of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 for the construction of a small new plant room to house a 40kWth ground source heat pump (GSHP) and ancillary connections and equipment

such as hot water tanks for operation of the hot water and heating system. Construction of a car parking area for 3 - 4 cars with 2 x electric vehicle charging points. Both for previously consented planning application ref 18/05671/FUL | West Farm House Aston Eyre Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 6XB. Councillors considered the merits of the application and no objection was raised to the proposals.

- (iv) Councillors noted the withdrawal of application 21/05563/FUL and the proposed change of use of agricultural building and land to use D2 (Assembly & Leisure) for wedding and events venue together with erection of three conjoined tipis, parking area and camping area | Proposed Conversion Of Agricultural Building NW Of High Clear Barn Beaconhill Lane Monkhopton Bridgnorth Shropshire
- (v) Councillors noted the refusal by Shropshire Council of application 21/03038/OUT and the Outline Planning Application (all matters reserved other than access) for the erection of 5no dwellings | Proposed Residential Development Land West Of Apsley Cottage Aston Eyre Bridgnorth Shropshire.

#### **02.11 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- (i) Councillors noted the next meeting would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Village Hall which has been booked.
- (ii) Agenda items for the next meeting to include:
  - a. Parish Matters – Local Crime
  - b. Annual Parish assembly
  - c. Locum Clerk to be advised of any further items to be added

Public meeting closed at 8:35pm.

### **APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES OF MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

#### **Appendix A: Chairman's Report for Morville Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Alison Nichol-Smith moved to Sheffield on February 8th, and on February 7th I received her letter of resignation from the Parish Council. I must express our thanks for her valuable contribution during the nine months since her election last May. The vacancy has been notified to Shropshire Council, and public notices should be published soon.

Vacancies for councillors still exist in Upton Cressett, Aston Eyre and Acton Round – the vacancy in Upton Cressett is now advertised and we will be looking to co-opt a new councillor. The other two will remain vacant for some time due to the elections that were called when no candidates stood – there will now have to be an interval until at least the end of March, while the electoral formalities are observed.

The parish clerk's job is also currently advertised - meanwhile we are grateful to Chris Maclean for continuing to act as our part-time locum clerk.

The precept for the coming year was applied for before the deadline – when we submitted the application, there had still been no bill from Shropshire Council for the May 2021

elections, but we hope we have budgeted enough to pay for them, plus the more recent bill for January/February 2022 – there may still be more costs to come if elections are called again in Acton Round and Aston Eyre, and for Alison's Morville seat. If these election costs turn out to be less than we have been told to expect, the remainder will be used to bring the Parish Council's reserves back up to the recommended level – we inherited a depleted figure.

We have now been informed that the Environmental Management Grant from Shropshire Council will be available again this year, and we will be notified when the time comes to make an application. We have also been informed by Cllr Tindall that this will be at the same level as last year, which was enough to pay about a third of the cost of employing the lengthsman.

We succeeded in tracking down Nigel Oliver, the lengthsman, and Pam and I had a constructive meeting with him – he outlined what his job involved, and the costs he incurred, and we agreed that, subject to the funds being available, we would discuss employing him in the coming year, with his hours and duties to be reviewed.

Assessment of costs such as the lengthsman, and employment of other contractors during previous years, has been made more difficult by the lack of paperwork – invoices, contracts etc, that should have been available from the previous parish clerk. We intend to try to reclaim VAT where possible, but this has not been done during previous years, and would be much easier to do now if proper records had been kept and handed over to us.

We have been in communication with the operations manager for the diocese of Hereford, and the school governors, in an attempt to clarify our responsibilities for the land around the school and St Gregory's Close – again, little relevant documentation was available from the previous clerk.

The Parish Council website has now been re-designed and updated, and we are grateful to Ian Hesson for doing this. We hope it is now easier to use and maintain, and it contains more comprehensive and useful information. A Morville Parish Council Facebook page has also been constructed and has been running since February 1st. It has proved to be very popular and has been well publicised by co-operative sharing on the Village Hall, Women's Institute, and the two Parish Church pages.

We have set up a new registration with the Shropshire Council Planning Portal, as the previous log-in details were not handed over to us. This was done last week, so we will now be able to comment on planning applications as a council again.

## **Appendix B: Shropshire Councillor R Tindall's Report for Morville Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **1. Access to Planning Portal**

- The ICT department provide me with the link for MPC to log on to Shropshire Council's Planning Portal and I have passed this on to Pam Yuille.
- Planning Application 21/05318/FUL Parish Councillors have raised concerns as indeed I have.

2. I have received confirmation that the Environmental Maintenance Grant (aka the Lengthsmen's Grant) is being renewed for 2022/2023 and at the same rate as for 2021/2022. It is annoying, to say the very least, that this confirmation has come through after Parish Councils have had to meet the deadline of setting their precepts.
3. Anthony Pitchers is currently dealing with the matter concerning St. Gregory's Close and Morville Primary School. I am more than happy to help if I am needed to.
4. I have been able to report the flooding at the Lye which we met to discuss on the 12th January. I have had to do this manually as I am told my broadband speed is too slow to support using the interactive map. However I do receive automated acknowledgements and a case reference in the same way as I would if I had been able to use the interactive map. I have passed these details on to Pam Yuille. I had asked to meet the Engineers on site with John Cantrill but I think an inspection may have already taken place. However I will find out when I return to Shropshire and back at my desk on Wednesday 16th February.

Please let me know if there is anything with which I can help.

Robert Tindall

12th February 2022

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Chairman

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022