

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT MORVILLE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00PM

Present: Councillors: Cllr R-L Brown, Cllr C Bullock, Cllr J Cantrill, Cllr J Davey, Cllr D Gibson, Cllr L Moxon-Jones, Cllr S McDermott (Chairman), Cllr A Pitchers, Cllr G Wilkes, Cllr P Yuille,
Unitary Councillor: Shropshire Cllr R Tindall

In Attendance: Officer: C Maclean (Locum Clerk)
Apley Estate: G Hamilton, G Manton
Police: Officer M Goddard
Members of the Public: 3

22.51 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, representatives from Apley Estate, the Police and members of the public to the meeting.

22.52 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Cllr G Brown.

22.53 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

22.54 PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public noted that Register of Interest forms for a number of Councillors were not being shown on the websites for Shropshire Council and the Parish Council. Whilst it was acknowledged that the period of submission to submit these had passed, no member of the Elections Team at Shropshire Council had been in contact in this matter. The Locum Clerk advised that whilst these had been obtained and consolidated into a bundle, he had not been able to deliver these to Shropshire Council's offices as planned. This he planned to address within coming days. The Locum Clerk and Chairman both advised that to their knowledge these forms were not separately displayed on a Parish Council website and that access to view these forms was through the medium of a link to the forms on the Shropshire Council website. It was confirmed that this position would be checked.

The member of the public enquired on the current situation relating to environmental maintenance and the grant that was previously obtained. Enquiries were also raised whether the level of insurance cover was adequate. The Chairman advised the resident that some of the work being undertaken within the parish is by volunteers, covering activities such as litter picking. Whilst the insurance policy was not to hand at the meeting, the resident was advised that the level of cover did not differ to what was previously in place. The member of the public enquired about the level of insurance cover in place to cover risks associated with potholes. The Chairman responded advising that this was a matter for Shropshire Council Highways and not the Parish Council.

22.55 APLEY ESTATE

The Chairman invited G Hamilton and G Manton to present on the Apley Estate. G Hamilton provided the attendees with a presentation on the aspects of the Estate, its history, ambitions and long-term plans. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Estate did not own any land within the Morville Parish, it adjoined the parish on the Tasley side. Considerable time and effort were being undertaken to consider and comment on the proposed development adjoining Tasley and it was felt by Estate members that such a development would be better placed at Stanmore.

G Hamilton advised that the plan is to continue the development of a long-term commercial enterprise, driving the local economy and financial stability. A key focus is on improving the environment, cherishing the heritage and landscape. The Apley Farm shop has been in business since 2011, with an emphasis on selling locally produced food.

The Estate maintains a strong focus on fostering strong communities and recent initiatives included the development of existing buildings to provide accommodation for businesses and associations. Works continue to be undertaken to the environment through regenerative farming and woodland stewardship, which included working with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

G Hamilton also advised of a recent initiative whereby they are working to deliver affordable homes through building modern high quality low energy cost sustainable builds. They had undertaken visits to other locations such as the Duchy of Cornwall to understand the challenges and opportunities.

Cllr P Yuille enquired on the possibility of a tour of the farm and was advised that this could be arranged. Cllr P Yuille also enquired whether the Estate had been in contact with the South Shropshire Climate Action Partnership and was advised that Estate representatives had attended presentations on this topic and that they were happy to develop discussions with the Partnership.

Cllr A Pitchers enquired about the number of people employed by the Estate and was advised that directly and indirectly this totalled approximately 75.

The Chairman thanked G Hamilton and G Manton for a most informative presentation. The representatives expressed their thanks and left the meeting at 7:45pm.

22.56 POLICE

The Chairman invited Officer M Goddard to address the meetings on Police matters.

Officer Goddard advised that a detailed report had been forwarded to the Locum Clerk, but a brief outline of key recent incidents was provided which mainly focused on thefts and driver behaviour. He advised that the local team had currently been reduced in size due to the departure of one of the PCSO's.

Officer Goddard noted that contact should shortly be made with the Parish Council in relation to updating the Community Charter and the top three priorities for the Police to focus on.

Cllr P Yuille enquired on the possibility of merging some of the theft related categories and whilst Officer Goddard would make enquiries, he expressed doubt on that being possible.

Cllr A Pitchers enquired on the level of thefts from outbuildings. It was noted that there had been a couple of incidents, but experience suggested that these occurred in phases. There had been no theft of large farm machinery of late.

Councillors discussed with Officer Goddard concerns over speeding through the Parish and the dangers these presented. Councillors were advised that use of speed cameras fell within the scope of West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council and not the local team itself.

Officer Goddard was invited to attend the next meeting to update on what could be done about speeding and consolidation of the charter categories.

Officer Goddard was thanked for his attendance and update and he left the meeting at 8:00pm.

22.57 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

(i) To receive and agree the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd May 2022

Proposed by Cllr P Yuille, seconded by Cllr R-L Brown and it was resolved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd May 2022 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

(ii) To receive and agree the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 27th June 2022

Proposed by Cllr P Yuille, seconded by Cllr G Wilkes and it was resolved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27th June 2022 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

(iii) To receive and agree the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th July 2022

Proposed by Cllr L Moxon-Jones, seconded by Cllr P Yuille and it was resolved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th July 2022 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

22.58 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None raised.

22.59 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

(i) Shropshire Cllr R Tindall updated Councillors on recent activities impacting the parish.

(ii) **Path to Morville School:** enquiries continue into the ownership and responsibilities for the path to the school.

(iii) **Outline Planning Application for Four New Homes in Monkhoppton:** objections have already been noted in view of the quota for the parish having been exceeded. Councillors discussed with Cllr R Tindall his position on this matter and he reaffirmed his previous comment that he had made his views clear to the planning officer and that in the event there was a view to approve, the application would be called into Shropshire Council Planning Committee.

(iv) **Speeding Through Weston:** Cllr R Tindall noted Councillor concerns over speeding through the village and advised that there was nothing further he could do at this stage. Whilst it was noted that other areas such as Staffordshire had a larger number of speed cameras, there was a requirement to rely upon what could be provided by Shropshire Council. Whilst he endeavoured to support the message to introduce traffic calming, he had to leave the matter with colleagues in Shropshire Council Highways.

- (v) **Acton Arms:** Cllr P Yuille noted the sale of the property to a developer and expressed a desire to ensure that the new purchaser would adhere to conditions that had been sought in relation to the previous application. Cllr R Tindall confirmed that he would contact the Planning Officer overseeing this case and request that she monitor this.

Councillors thanked Cllr R Tindall for his updates and he left the meeting at 8:14pm.

22.60 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- (i) Cllr S McDermott updated Councillors on recent activities he sees impacting the parish. Full report attached as Appendix 1.
- (ii) **Licence Renewal With Morville School Covering Playing Field and Car Park:** the proposed amendment to the draft Licence had been passed back to the Solicitor and their response is awaited. Councillors discussed whether the delay created any undue risk to the Council but it was considered that this lay with the school.
Cllr J Cantrill advised that one piece of play equipment remained in place as it required a larger machine to extract it but his view was that it was in a condition that did not necessarily require its removal. Discussions would be held with the school.
- (iii) **Environmental Maintenance and Lengthsman:** A termination letter was sent by the Locum Clerk with no response received. Changes to the arrangements had been communicated via the Council's social media with request for parishioners to identify any maintenance required. No contributions have been provided other than comment on the decision. Appreciation was expressed to Mr R Dorrell for his efforts over the years to clear litter from the area.
- (iv) **Loose Tiles on Morville Bus Shelter:** The Chairman had fixed some loose tiles on the bus shelter and cleared ivy from the telephone box. It was noted that a glass panel had been broken at the foot of the telephone box and it was proposed that this be replaced.
- (v) **Monkhoppton Telephone Box:** appreciation was expressed for the refurbishment of the telephone box by Cllrs D Gibson and L Moxon-Jones and the good condition it was now in.

22.61 CLERK'S REPORT

- (i) **Licence Renewal With Morville School Covering Playing Field and Car Park:** The Locum Clerk confirmed that feedback was awaited from the Solicitor to the clause amendment.
- (ii) **Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy Consultation:** The feedback received had been passed to the officer at Shropshire Council.
- (iii) **Shropshire Council Tree Scheme:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that in the absence of any feedback he considered the matter closed.
- (iv) **Councillor Emails:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that as the new setup had now been completed he would progress with establishing Councillor emails. Enquiries would be needed with each Councillor to note which devices are used to read emails.

22.62 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillors noted there had been no further progress in filling the vacant seat for Morville. The position continues to be advertised.

22.63 COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Councillors considered the possible impact on parish residents of the current cost of living crisis. Councillors considered the ability to identify residents that needed support and the means to refer them to organisations that can deliver assistance.

Cllr P Yuille noted that the Parish Council did not respond to the COVID pandemic in terms of assistance to the community but considered it appropriate to do so on this occasion.

Questions were raised over the means to locate organisations in Bridgnorth such as the Food bank for people to go to.

Councillors considered splitting the parish into the wards and visiting parishioners to note their circumstances and identify any requiring assistance.

Cllr A Pitchers noted that Citizens Advice could be a suitable organisation to assist and Cllr P Yuille advised that she would follow up on this.

Councillors noted that there is a mobile unit going round the county seeking to provide advice and that Shropshire Council will have details on their social media. There is an expectation that the unit would visit the parish.

Councillors considered the ability of the village hall to provide facilities such as 'warm room' and food which could be sponsored by the Parish Council.

Councillor P Yuille advised that she would make enquiries with the WI, Doctors and Citizens Advice. Information would be shared with fellow Councillors.

22.64 TRAFFIC CALMING WITHIN THE PARISH

Councillors noted that this topic had been covered by discussions with Officer Goddard earlier in the meeting. The situation revolved around progress being made by Shropshire Council Highways and a follow up with the Police at the next meeting.

Cllr A Pitchers enquired whether the situation merited the Parish Council writing to Philip Dunne, the constituency MP. It was agreed that Councillors should consider all options and discuss further at the next meeting.

22.65 GRIT BINS

Cllr D Gibson advised Councillors that he had been having discussions with a resident about the adequacy of grit bins within the parish and suitability of locations and had been requested to raise the topic at Council. Cllr S McDermott noted that this topic had been the subject of discussion at meetings of the previous Council.

Cllr D Gibson shared with Councillors two maps detailing current and possible locations.

Councillors noted that these related to parts a number of locations, but not the full parish.

Councillors noted this facility was the responsibility of Shropshire Council and Cllr S

McDermott shared his understanding that Shropshire Council would work to a set of criteria that would identify the suitability for siting of grit bins and their maintenance.

It was agreed that the Locum Clerk approach Shropshire Council Highways to enquire about the possibility of further grit bins within the parish and request the criteria for consideration.

The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that as the meeting had been going for two hours, Councillors needed to decide whether to suspend Standing Orders to allow them to continue or defer the remaining items to a further meeting.

Cllr S McDermott proposed, Cllr L Moxon-Jones seconded and it was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue to its conclusion.

22.66 S137 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Councillors noted the request from Wheatland Hunt Pony Club for financial assistance to enable them to fund their appearance at 'The Horse of the Year' show at the NEC in October. Councillors considered the request but noted that further information in relation to their expectations, efforts to secure funds from other organisations and a breakdown of costs behind the quoted amount of £15,000 had not been provided.

Cllr J Cantrill advised Councillors that part of his family were members of the Club and it was agreed that he had to declare an interest and therefore be excluded from any decision and vote on the matter.

Councillors considered the merits of the Parish Council providing assistance when Councillors were also considering what support could be provided to parishioners to assist with managing the cost of living crisis. Cllr J Davey expressed concerns about providing this form of financial support with Cllrs L Moxon-Jones and P Yuille in agreement.

Cllr J Davey proposed, Cllr L Moxon-Jones seconded and it was resolved with 5 members against and 4 members supporting the principle and that no grant assistance be provided to this application.

22.67 ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE

Cllr S McDermott advised the current situation relating to the departure of the lengthsman had been publicised on the Parish Council's social media with feedback sought on areas where maintenance is required. Councillors noted that in view of the Parish Council's concerns over the ability to meet the application criteria set by Shropshire Council, no request for the grant had been submitted.

Cllr J Davey advised that he had received some positive feedback on the lengthsman, but this was a view not commonly shared.

Cllr P Yuille proposed that the council pay someone to pick up litter on the B4368 in the Weston area which a parishioner had been doing voluntarily for years but this was not seconded. Councillors agreed that the situation be monitored.

22.68 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillors noted and considered application 22/03781/FUL relating to the proposed erection of oak framed 2 bay carport adjoining existing garage gable end at The Old Vicarage, Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV6 6SB. No objections were raised by Councillors.

Councillors noted application 22/04045/FUL relating to the proposed change of use of land to camp site with 56 plots, new shower/toilet block, refuse area and septic tank (amended scheme) at proposed camp site West of Hurst Farm, Morville, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Councillors agreed that as the application had been received from Shropshire Council close to the meeting time, further consideration was required prior to a response being provided. Cllr S McDermott requested Councillors to share views within next two weeks.

Cllr D Gibson raised further concerns over the decision process relating to Monkhopton Home Farm and the longstanding issues with the outbuildings. Cllr S McDermott advised that whilst the Parish Council had been made aware the decision lay with the Planning Officer at Shropshire Council.

22.69 FINANCIAL REPORT

- (i) **Report on Current Finances:** the Locum Clerk advised Councillors that further information had been required of current signatories to the account and that this had been obtained and passed to the signatory assisting with the changes to the setup. He is awaiting confirmation that these have been implemented.
- (ii) **Option to Opt Out of the SAAA Central External Auditor Appointment Approval Arrangements:** Councillors had reviewed the paper and proposal submitted prior to the meeting.
Proposed by Cllr S McDermott, seconded by Cllr J Davey and it was resolved that the Parish Council remain with the current arrangements and not opt out.

22.70 INFORMATION ITEMS

Cllr J Davey noted that the voucher scheme for the broadband rollout had been re-introduced and that he was assisting in efforts to implement this in Aston Eyre. Cllr C Bullock advised Councillors that the scheme relating to Upton Cressett was progressing. Cllr C Bullock enquired about the provision of the funding agreed by Council and was advised to submit an invoice to the Locum Clerk.

22.71 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr C Bullock noted the condition of trees adjoining the lane at Meadowley Bank. It appeared the trees were being supported by adjoining telegraph poles. Cllr J Cantrill agreed to speak to the landowner to see if this issue could be addressed.

22.72 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Locum Clerk to be advised of any items to be added.

22.73 NEXT MEETING

14^h November 2022 at 7:00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:34pm.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report for September 12th 2022

Since our last meeting, we have received a new draft Licence to occupy the playing field and car park, from the solicitors acting for the Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust, who control Morville Primary School.

After circulating this draft to councillors, it was agreed that we should ask for a clause to be added ensuring full discussion by all concerned if any repairs to the access road were proposed – subject to this addition, councillors agreed that we should renew the licence.

A letter has been sent by the Clerk to the lengthsman, notifying him that we now regard our arrangements with him as terminated. He has not responded. It should be noted that the last communication we had from him was on March 14th.

As agreed at the last meeting, I published an article about this change in the Morville Parish Newsletter, and on our Facebook page, asking that if any parishioners identified any maintenance that needed attending to, they should notify us. Richard Dorrell has continued to collect roadside rubbish in Weston, as he has been doing for several years, but no other matters have been reported, yet. There has been some comment on our decision on the Facebook page.

I fixed some loose tiles on the Morville Bus Shelter and cleared ivy from the Morville phone box (both owned by the Parish Council, so not eligible as work funded by an EMG).

We are grateful to Cllrs. David Gibson and Lesley Moxon-Jones for their excellent refurbishment of the Monkhopton phone box – this is also Parish Council property, so would not be regarded as a lengthsman's job.

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Chairman

10th October 2022