

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT MORVILLE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00PM**

**Present:** Councillors: Cllr G Brown, 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

**In Attendance:** Officer: C Maclean (Locum Clerk)  
Members of the Public: 7

### **22.94 WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **22.95 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Shropshire Cllr R Tindall.

### **22.96 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None.

### **22.97 PUBLIC SESSION**

A number of the residents shared concerns over a planning enforcement matter which had been referred by a resident to Shropshire Council. Cllr S McDermott advised residents that the matter rested with Shropshire Council.

Residents noted that the matter may result in a subsequent planning application but this could only be dealt with if and when this occurred.

Residents shared with Councillors concerns over the extended use of the buildings sited at Home Farm. Cllr S McDermott advised residents that this matter had previously been the subject of discussion although the Parish Council had been advised by Shropshire Council for information only and views were not being sought.

Cllr S McDermott advised residents that he could share their concerns with the local MP, Shropshire Cllr R Tindall and the leader of Shropshire Council and recommended that they take a similar course of action.

Six of the residents expressed their thanks to Councillors and left the meeting at 7:34pm.

### **22.98 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**Proposed by Cllr A Pitchers, seconded by Cllr G Brown and it was resolved the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

### **22.99 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- (i) **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:** Councillors noted the advice received from Shropshire Council that maintenance by the Parish Council of links to the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests forms contained within the Shropshire Council website was acceptable practice

and did not breach any regulations. The advice stated that there was no perceived need for the Parish Council to also show these on their website and that the link was considered sufficient.

- (ii) **Police Community Charter:** Councillors noted the current priorities listed as (i) theft; (ii) speeding; and (iii) rural crime.
- (iii) **Playing Field Equipment:** Councillors noted that the equipment had been removed.
- (iv) **Grit Bins:** Councillors noted that an assessment of local requirements had previously been undertaken by Shropshire Council.
- (v) **Overhanging Trees on Meadowley Bank:** Councillors noted that the trees on one side of the lane had been dealt with. Any issue with the remaining trees was not a matter for the Parish Council.
- (vi) **Village Hall Charges:** Cllr S McDermott advised Councillors that a query on previous charges had been raised with the Village Hall Committee Chairman and a response was awaited.
- (vii) **8 May 2023 Annual Parish Council Meeting:** Councillors noted that following the announcement that Monday 8 May will be a Bank Holiday to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, the Council meeting scheduled for that date would need to be moved.
- (viii) **Insurance Cover for Volunteers:** The Locum Clerk would check the Council's insurance to see if it covered activities of volunteers supporting the Parish Council.
- (ix) **RTS Support to Previous Clerk:** The Locum Clerk was checking with the supplier on the level of support in this matter.

#### **22.100 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillors noted the absence of Shropshire Cllr R Tindall and that no report had been provided.

#### **22.101 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- (i) Cllr S McDermott updated Councillors on recent activities he sees impacting the parish. Full report attached as Appendix 1.
- (ii) **SALC AGM:** Councillors noted that the AGM was held online and included a presentation from Pippa Mills, Chief Constable of West Mercia Police Authority. Whilst the remainder of the meeting included routine formalities, the proposed increase in SALC Affiliation Fees was questioned by Cllr S McDermott. Recognising that SALC maintained reserves in excess of £100,000 he stated he enquired whether an increase was necessary. The matter was put to a vote and carried by 54 votes to 1, with Morville being the one to oppose the increase. In light of this information, Cllr P Yuille questioned the need for the Parish Council to continue being a member of SALC.
- (iii) **Morville Defibrillator:** Councillors noted with disappointment that the defibrillator stored in Morville telephone box and maintained by the Village Hall Committee had been stolen with the storage box damaged. It was noted that this is one of a number of units stolen in the area. Efforts were being undertaken to replace the unit.
- (iv) **Village Hall Charges:** Councillors noted that a query had been raised in relation to the invoice for the use of the Hall in 2022 and that an amended invoice was awaited. It was also noted that a query in relation to previous years had been referred by the Hall Treasurer to the Village Hall Committee Chairman and a response was awaited.

### **22.102 CLERK'S REPORT**

- (i) **Agreement between Morville School and the Parish Council over Playing Field and Car Park:** The Locum Clerk confirmed that feedback was still awaited from the Solicitor to the clause amendment.
- (ii) **Councillor Email Boxes:** The Locum Clerk advised that he would seek to progress the setups.

### **22.103 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Councillors noted there had been no further progress in filling the vacant seat for Morville.

### **22.104 COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Councillors noted that there was nothing to be updated on but it was agreed that this topic remain a standing item on the agenda.

### **22.105 ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE**

Councillors considered the tasks and activities fell within the scope of the Parish Council and what had been set out in the Minor Highway and Environmental Maintenance Grant. Councillors considered whether maintenance of the War Memorial at Monkhopton was in scope and Cllr L Moxon-Jones agreed to check with the Church Warden on his understanding.

Councillors agreed that requirements needed to be clearly established and it was agreed that the use of parish maps would benefit discussions. The Locum Clerk would make enquiries with Shropshire Council Highways whether they have maps that could be shared. Discussion was held on whether appointed contractors required to maintain their own levels of insurance in terms of tasks undertaken as opposed to volunteers where it may be that cover is maintained by the Parish Council to address their activities.

Councillors considered the merits of applying for the Grant to cover the current year but discussion was held on the level of funds that required to be returned to Shropshire Council where these were not used.

### **22.106 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (i) Councillors noted no further recent applications had been received for consideration.
- (ii) Councillors noted the decision by Shropshire Council to grant permission to application 22/04179/FUL for the erection of single storey rear extension at Greenacres The Smithies, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4TE.
- (iii) Councillors noted the decision by Shropshire Council to grant permission to application 22/00301/FUL for the creation of vehicular access to include visibility splay and removal of hedgerow at proposed development land Northeast of 2 Beacon Hill, Monkhopton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.
- (iv) Councillors noted the developments in relation to an enforcement matter within the parish.

### **22.107 COUNCILLOR EMAILS**

Councillors noted that this item had been addressed within the Clerk Report.

## **22.108 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councillors noted that work continues to be undertaken to obtain online access to the bank accounts to enable the required changes to be made. Increasing concerns were shared over the challenges being presented to complete this activity and an alternative option required to be considered.

Councillors noted that Lloyds Bank offered a Treasurer Account facility with the function to enable authorised Councillors to facilitate payments. Councillors considered the merits of opening such an account in the event the current banking issue could not be resolved.

**Proposed by Cllr S McDermott, seconded by Cllr P Yuille and it was unanimously agreed that, if required, the Council proceed to apply to Lloyds Bank to open a Treasurer account with online access to enable two of the proposed three Councillors of Cllr R-L Brown, Cllr J Cantrill and Cllr A Pitchers to authorise payments.**

## **22.109 BUDGET/PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2023/24**

The Locum Clerk presented to Councillors a first draft schedule of projected expenditure for the next financial year. Councillors agreed that the amounts allocated to Grants and Contingency be doubled from £500 to £1,000 for each item.

Councillors noted that further work was required and an updated schedule would be sent by the Locum Clerk.

The Locum Clerk advised Councillors that projected expenditure can benefit from being linked to strategy, thereby cementing objectives for Councillors to deliver to the community. It was agreed that consideration be given to the creation of a strategic plan for the Parish Council and community.

## **22.110 INFORMATION ITEMS**

Councillors noted the correspondence that had been forwarded in relation to boundary reviews. No opinions were expressed.

## **22.111 PARISH MATTERS**

Councillors agreed that in light of the considerable discussions taking place in relation to planning matters within the parish, a member of the Planning Team within Shropshire Council should be invited to attend a future meeting of Council.

## **22.112 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- (i) Budget/Precept Requirements
- (ii) Locum Clerk to be advised of any items to be added.

## **22.113 NEXT MEETING**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:00pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:52pm.

## Appendix 1: Chairman's Report for November 14<sup>th</sup> 2022

On Friday, I represented Morville PC at the SALC AGM, held via Zoom. It included a presentation by Pippa Mills, the Chief Constable of West Mercia – she came across as competent and approachable.

Most of the rest of the meeting was taken up by routine formalities, such as election of officers for the coming year, but Chris had warned me that there would be a proposal to significantly increase the affiliation fees collected annually from Parish Councils. When this was proposed, I asked the Chairman about the level of reserves held by the Association, and although none of the Officers was prepared to state the sum, I already knew that this figure was currently just short of £103,000. One of the other councillors also knew this, and interjected with the figure. I made the point that this was rather a lot, and perhaps it might be unnecessary to increase the fees.

However, the proposal was put to a vote, and carried by 54 votes to 1.

I was happy to be the 1 who voted against it.

Sadly, I have to report that the defibrillator that was in the Morville phone box, which had been provided by the Village Hall committee, has been stolen. The metal case that contained it was damaged when it was levered open.

Several other defibrillators have also been stolen recently in the area.

With regard to the Village Hall, we have received an invoice for the hire charges that we have incurred since the beginning of December 2021 – it was for £180, for ten meetings.

However, earlier this year, I had received notice from the Treasurer that the charge for each of our meetings would be increased, from September, from £14 to £16 – I agreed with her that we were happy to pay this.

I contacted her after receiving the invoice, and we amicably agreed that the correct figure should be £146, and I asked her to send a revised invoice.

I also queried the situation regarding our bills for previous years, at which point the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Mr Caine, intervened to instruct her not to communicate any further until he had 'put together a suitable response'. I have heard nothing from him since then...

.....  
Chairman

9<sup>th</sup> January 2023