

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th MARCH 2026

AT THE ACTON (The Council were unable to access MVH)

Present: Cllr K BriggsThomas, Cllr P Davis-White, Cllr L Moxon-Jones, Cllr A Pitchers,
Cllr G Wilkes, Cllr P Yuille

In Attendance: Sarah D Skurr - Clerk to the Council
Members of the public: 4

26/41 WELCOME - The Clerk advised the Council that in the absence of Cllr J Davey, Cllr A Pitchers would chair the meeting. The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

26/42 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES - Cllr G Brown, Cllr R-L Brown, Cllr C Bullock, Cllr J Cantrill, Cllr J Davey, Shropshire Councillor G Hollyhead

26/43 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS - None

26/44 PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public addressed the Council to speak about a forthcoming planning application for change of use to his barn in Morville. Cllr K BriggsThomas asked if there had been any attempt to rent the barn for its original intended purpose; the owner confirmed that the proposed change was a business decision. The council will await the planning application.

26/45 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

To receive and agree the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 9th February 2026. Cllr P Yuille proposed, Cllr P Davis-White seconded. All in favour.

26/46 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - None

26/47 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Page 4
Read by Cllr A Pitchers as acting Chair

26/48 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Acting Chair Cllr A Pitchers expressed his disappointment at the lack of interaction with the Southern Planning Committee when presenting the Council's objection to the proposed Tasley Garden Village development. Full report pages 5-6

The Council thanked the Chair for his diligence in producing and presenting the report.

26/49 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk advised the council of a further communication from SC re the broken bus stop flag in Morville. A work order will be raised and the flag replaced and timetable updated.

26/50 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The council were provided with clerk timesheets, a supplier payments list for February transactions, a summary of transactions and a notice of bank reconciliation for February. Proposed by Cllr G Wilkes, seconded by Cllr K BriggsThomas. All in favour except Cllr P Yuille who abstained.

26/51 STANDING ORDERS

The council had been provided with the NALC Model Standing Orders template 2025 revision. Cllr P Yuille proposed the following changes be made by the clerk and re-distributed to the council with the changes highlighted:

- 3f “the period of time for public participation at a meeting shall not **exceed 15 minutes** unless directed by the chair of the meeting”
- 3g “subject to standing order 3f, a member of the public shall not speak **for more than 5 minutes**.”
- 3x “a meeting shall not exceed a period of **two and a half hours**.”
- Draft Minutes must be circulated to all councillors **within 2 weeks of the meeting**.

26/52 ROAD SAFETY REPORT

- a) **SID’s** - The council thanked Cllr P Davis-White and Mr Coll MacDonald for their hard work in facilitating the proposed installation of the second SID in Morville and proposed that the new post be erected and SID installed ASAP. It was suggested that this take place over the Easter break when the school is closed. Cllr A Pitchers proposed, Cllr K BriggsThomas seconded. All in favour.

Cllr P Davis White and Cllr L Moxon-Jones were sure that the proposed site at Weston was suitable for a SID so it was agreed in principle that a third SID be purchased and erected there. It was noted that no suitable site had been identified for a second SID in Weston.

It was also agreed that s Cllr P Davis White and Cllr L Moxon-Jones should look into the feasibility and added cost of buying and erecting a fourth SID at Monkthopton with a view to this being debated and voted on at the next parish council meeting. The clerk will send to previous costs for Morville SID’s for comparison to new costings.

- b) **White Gates** – No further plans at this time

26/53 BIODIVERSITY UPDATE

- a) No update on RSVP at this time.
b) Report - Page 7

26/54 COMMUNITY FLOOD GROUP

At the second meeting on 03/03/26, the group Cllr P Yuille agreed that it would be useful to meet with Cllr A Pitchers and Shropshire Cllr G Hollyhead to discuss flash flooding, sewage disposal and BNG in relation to the TGV development. Cllr P Yuille will facilitate. The group is also contacting landowners along the Mor Brook corridor.

26/55 FOOTPATH COMMITTEE – Update at next meeting.

26/56 MACE

Cllr K BriggsThomas advised the council that some nominations for the MACE award have already been received.

All stallholders were contacted early; some have still yet to reply.

Posters for the event will go up in April and the event will be posted in the Parish Newsletter.

26/57 IT & WEBSITE

Cllr P Davis-White advised the council that he will meet with Cllr J Davey on his return from annual leave.

26/58 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS - No Comment

26/59 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr K BriggsThomas has received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the removal of the white lines on the A458 through Morville. It was noted that these were originally removed when the road was resurfaced but there was not an intention to reinstate. Another member of the public has offered to attempt to contact Nick Newton from SC Highways dept.

25/60 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- The clerk will distribute the revised Standing Orders to be accepted at the next meeting.
- To discuss the condition of the Monkhopton and Morville notice boards.
- The clerk to provide information on bank accounts with good interest rates.
- Viability of installing a SID in Monkhopton

NEXT MEETING – Monday April 13th 2026

Meeting ended – 8.20pm

Signed

Date:13/04/26

Chairman

Cllr George Hollyhead - Shropshire Councillor's Report

1. At last month's Full Council meeting, the budget was approved, including an 8.99% increase in Council Tax.

I voted against the budget as while I understand the financial pressures the council faces, I'm concerned that even with this significant rise, service levels could remain unchanged or potentially decline. This is unacceptable for residents, who deserve better value for their money and real assurances that essential local services will be properly protected.

2. I have finally been able to organise a meeting with Andrew Keyland who is our area rep on Highways. This meeting will take place every 2 months. He has asked me to prepare a list of the top Highways priorities in my ward so that they can prioritise repairs. Could you please prepare a list for me of the main Highways issues in Morville that I can pass on to Morville.

3. Like you all I was very disappointed in the decision taken by the Southern Planning Committee in regard to Tasley Garden Village. In my allotted time I raised numerous issues with the development and pointed out where it contradicted various planning rules and regulations and yet this was completely ignored in the debate by my colleagues.

I want to report that Cllr Anthony Pitchers spoke very well and put forward a number of issues that could have led to a refusal and yet none of the voting members even asked him a question when he had finished.

It worries me that the decision was seemingly taken to satisfy the housing requirement for Shropshire Council rather than factoring in the impact on Bridgnorth and the surrounding areas. It sets a dangerous precedent for South Shropshire.

I'm happy to help out with any further action you wish to take.

Councillor A Pitcher – Chair’s Report

Tasley Garden Village – Southern Planning Committee Meeting

Report to MPC 9 March 26

On Tuesday 24 February I had the misfortune to attend the meeting of Shropshire Council’s Southern Planning Committee when the outline planning application for the so called Tasley Garden Village was due to be discussed.

As you know, prior to the meeting, numerous written objections to the development had been received by Shropshire Council including unanimous objections from Bridgnorth Town Council, Tasley Parish Council and Morville Parish Council, the three councils whose residents would be directly affected by the development. The common elements of nearly all the objections were

- the size of the development, both residential and employment land and whether or not it met the needs of Bridgnorth
- the location of the development
- the cumulative effect of the proposed development and that of the Tasley Gateway development
- the impact the development would have on the town
- the impact on the roads not just in and around Bridgnorth but also those leading to Shrewsbury, Telford, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Kidderminster
- whether or not the infrastructure could cope with such a large development

I had naively expected that the committee would discuss these issues and ask the council officers to provide evidence to support the application. Councillors Rachel Connolly (who represents Bridgnorth West and Tasley Green) and George Hollyhead (who represents Brown Cleve which includes Morville) each gave a vigorous statement as to why the planning application should be rejected. Amazingly no questions were put to the two councillors and no information was provided to allay the concerns that they had raised. The same pattern applied to those called to make a statement to the committee.

Unfortunately the two Shropshire councillors were not allowed to take part in the open discussion that followed all the submissions so they were unable to question the council officers or respond to comments made by the remaining committee members. A pity as the impression given was that they were the only councillors who had read the planning application and the various objections that had been submitted.

The lack of interrogation of the content of the planning application and the triviality of the discussion gave one the distinct feeling that the decision had been agreed before the committee meeting took place.

Sadly, having approved the planning application and together with the Tasley Gateway development, we have been left with a situation whereby the population of Bridgnorth will increase by 40% and the amount of employment land doubled with no evidence provided that this meets the needs of the area or is sustainable. The developer has stated that this will be good for Bridgnorth as it will provide more footfall in the town. I hope this is correct but I fear the opposite will be true and Bridgnorth will become a ghost town as it will be too difficult to get into and retailers will flee to out of town locations.

I still find it extraordinary that the Southern Planning Committee approved the application with little or no examination of the issues and with no holistic plan for Bridgnorth and the surrounding area or with any consideration of the likely long term consequences, either intended or unintended. No attempt was made to even try to allay the fears of all those who submitted objections. The fact that the committee took no notice of the concerns raised by the Town and Parish Councils on behalf of their parishioners and were not even prepared to justify the statements made in the application does leave the democratic process in a parlous position.

The future does not look bright.

Biodiversity update – Cllr P Yuille

b. RSVP

The first “Cut & Collect” of 2026 is scheduled for w/c 23rd March, grass cutting to go onto the Rowleys’ muck pile so long as all litter is removed first.

Pam is arranging a voluntary litter-pick for 20th March, starting at 0900 and Paul has put it on the website and Katie on Facebook.

The Rowleys are kindly allowing us to put the bags of litter on their yard for collection by Shropshire Council but Juan Hernandez has so far failed to fulfil his promise to organise this.

It was therefore agreed that Pam email him again and, if she has not received a satisfactory answer, should bring it up at the RSVP conference on 13.3.2026 which is being chaired by David Vasmer, Portfolio Holder for Highways & Environment. This RSVP project has repeatedly suffered from lack of support from Shropshire Council so she will also discuss the best way forward with George Hollyhead.

Cllr A Pitchers proposed that Cllr P Yuille writes a letter of complaint, Cllr P Davis-White seconded. All in favour.