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MORVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Morville Parish Council held on

Monday 12 October 2026 at 7:00pm in Morville Village Hall

Present: Councillors BriggsThomas, G. Brown, R. Brown, Bullock, Davey, Moxon-Jones, Wilkes, and Yuille

Shropshire Councillor Hollyhead

Also present: Clerk

26/165 WELCOME
The Chair welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

26/166 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor Cantrill. The Chair also reported that Councillor Pitchers had resigned, leaving three vacancies.

26/167 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)
Councillor Moxon-Jones declared an interest in planning application 26/03696/FUL concerning adjoining land. She did not take part in relevant voting.

26/168 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION
No members of the public were present and no matters raised.

26/169 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2026
It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record.

Proposed by: Councillor Yuille
Seconded by: Councillor Bullock

26/170 CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 14 SEPTEMBER 2026 NOT INCLUDED ELSEWHERE ON THIS AGENDA
There were no matters arising.

26/171 REPORTS

a. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
Shropshire Councillor Hollyhead reported that consultation on the Local Transport Plan was open until 16 November 2026. Councillors were invited to forward issues for submission or direct follow-up.

A dedicated planning enforcement officer had recently been appointed following a period without one.

The Council was also informed of opportunities for parish councils to meet Shropshire Council's Chief Executive, Tanya Miles, through ward visits; interest was expressed in raising planning matters.

b. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported attendance at South Shropshire SALC meeting, at which the Local Transport Plan had been a principal topic.

c. CLERK'S REPORT

Road safety and pedestrian crossing

A resident has contacted the Council about difficulties crossing the A458 and requested consideration of a pedestrian crossing. The Clerk has investigated the general costs associated with installing crossings to inform the Council's consideration. These are indicative costs; the feasibility and cost of a local proposal would require a site-specific assessment.

Police and Crime Commissioner grant

The Clerk has researched the new Police and Crime Commissioner grant opportunity and its potential relevance to local road safety concerns.

Consultation responses

No contributions have been received from councillors for the Police and Crime Commissioner or Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel consultations.

Historic PAYE matters

Following the HMRC correspondence reported at the September meeting, the Clerk has contacted HMRC and checked historic records to investigate the outstanding PAYE amounts. The outcome of these enquiries and any remaining action will be reported to members.

Financial reporting

The Clerk has discussed the proposed financial spreadsheet with Councillor Pitchers, who agreed to its use for the Council's financial records and reporting.

Bank mandates

Lloyds has confirmed removal of the former Clerk, Sarah, from the Council's account. Confirmation from NatWest remains outstanding.

Governance documents

The Clerk has prepared or adapted revised Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and a Data Protection Policy for the Council's consideration. This work forms part of the response to the internal audit recommendations and the continuing review of the Council's governance arrangements.

Website development

New pages have been created for roads, environmental projects, and biodiversity. Content has been added to the roads page; content for the environmental projects and biodiversity pages remains to be prepared.

Broken bus stop sign

The Clerk has contacted the bus team about the broken bus stop sign. No response yet.

Letter of thanks

The letter thanking the resident for cleaning the bus shelter, signs and white gates has been written but has not yet been sent. Clerk gave it to Councillor Yuille to pass on.

26/172 FINANCE

a. Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitoring

Following the previous meeting the Clerk had consulted with Councillor Pitchers, and he had no objections to the new format of financial record.

RESOLVED: To use the new financial record format henceforth.

Proposed by: Councillor Bullock
Seconded by: Councillor Wilkes

b. Consider Recommendations for Council Banking Arrangements (Appendix B)

Members considered savings options, emphasising security, straightforward administrations, and ready access to funds.

RESOLVED: To open an instant-access savings account with Unity Trust Bank.

Proposed by: Councillor BriggsThomas
Seconded by: Councillor Moxon-Jones

c. Payments for Approval:

i.	Clerk Salary	September	£505.53
ii.	Jason Gough	M.O. 365 License – September (Invoice SI-127381)	£13.76
iii.	MedUK Group	Battery for Defibrillator (Invoice 15187)	£252.00

The Clerk informed the Council that the payment listed at the September meeting for HMRC to resolve PAYE 2025-26 amount owed was amended as noted in 26/157(c) to £127.54, rather than the expected c.£48.46 and was paid.

Members reviewed the payment schedule.

RESOLVED: To approve the payments listed above.

Proposed by: Councillor Bullock
Seconded by: Councillor G Brown

d. Bank Signatories

Following Councillor Pitchers resignation, the Council discussed ensuring sufficient authorised signatories, including cover for absence. Councillor Bullock indicated willingness to assist. Clerk to confirm existing signatories and requirements for additions, and report back to the next meeting.

26/173 COUNCIL INFORMATION AND GOVERNANCE

a. Review and approve new policy documents

i. Standing Orders (Appendix C)
ii. Financial Regulations (Appendix D)
iii. Data Protection Policy (Appendix E)

Consideration of the documents was deferred to the next meeting to allow members more time to review the documents.

26/174 CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION 26/03696/FUL

Members considered the proposal for an agricultural building and the earlier permission granted in 2019, which had lapsed in 2024. Concerns raised included the increased size of the proposed building (reported as approximately 20% larger than the previously approved proposal), the proposed concrete-block and box-profile-sheeting materials compared with the earlier application's Yorkshire boarding, its position near the Shropshire Hills protected landscape, and the effectiveness of proposed screening. Concern was raised that the proposed hedge appeared to obstruct an existing gateway giving access to adjoining land. Biodiversity and ecological information, including the previous ecological appraisal, were also discussed.

RESOLVED: To object to the application, drawing attention to the building's scale.

Proposed by: Councillor Yuille
Seconded by: Councillor BriggsThomas

26/175 ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE

a. Proposal for use of CIL Funding – Ashbridge Flooding Mitigation Update

Consideration was deferred to the next meeting.

26/176 BIODIVERSITY

a. Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) Report

It was reported that the need for a third cut-and-collect operation remained uncertain. It was suggested that unspent funds should be carried forward. No formal decision was taken. The project report would be published on the Council website in due course.

b. Community Flood Group Report

There were no updates.

c. Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Update

There were no updates.

26/177 ROAD SAFETY

a. Resident Request to Consider Road Crossing on A458

Members considered a resident's concern about a child crossing the A458 to reach school transport. The Clerk reported indicative, non-site-specific costs of approximately £50,000-£100,000 for a zebra crossing and £125,000-£200,000 or more for a signal-controlled crossing, with ongoing maintenance liabilities. Members considered these costs beyond the Council's resources. A Police and Crime Commissioner grant of up to £30,000 had been identified, but its 7 November deadline was considered too soon for the necessary approvals. Members supported raising the issue with Shropshire Council, potentially through proposed meeting with its Chief Executive.

b. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) Update

Members discussed the potential installation of further devices, including at Weston, and the need to settle sites, installation arrangements, and associated costs before purchase. Information from previous quote was to be found and updated costs obtained for the next meeting.

c. White Gates Update

The cleaning of the White Gates was acknowledged. No further decision was taken.

26/178 FOOTPATHS

a. Committee Report

The Clerk confirmed receipt of before-and-after photographs of bridge works. They would be added to the Council website.

b. Acton Footpath Access and Other National Trust Footpath Matters

It was reported that efforts continued to secure improvements to a National Trust footpath and that further correspondence might be required.

26/179 EMERGENCY BRIEFING FILM FOLLOW UP

The briefing event had taken place with 53 people attending. Follow-up information was circulated to attendees.

26/180 BROKEN BUS STOP BY THE ACTON

The Clerk had located earlier correspondence, forwarded it to the relevant contact, and requested an update. A response was awaited.

26/181 CONSIDER EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public for the following confidential item.

Proposed by: Councillor Moxon-Jones
Seconded by: Councillor BriggsThomas

26/182 EMPLOYMENT MATTER

The Clerk reported continuing enquiries into historic PAYE liabilities and associated record-keeping, including discussions with HMRC, and clerks of other affected councils. Members considered the need to establish the documented facts, understand any outstanding liability, and ensure appropriate accountability and transparency regarding public funds. It was recognised that historic records were incomplete and that some matters could not yet be verified. Clerk would continue proportionate enquiries, investigate available options, and bring a factual report and recommendations to a future meeting.

26/183 PROPOSE ANY PARISH MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

NEXT MEETING: 9 November 2026.

The meeting was declared closed at: 20:15.